



Phone: 713-688-1361

Website: www.houstonisd.org/waltrip

Advanced Placement English IV- Literature and Composition Syllabus 2021-2022

Instructor: S. Seewald

Email: sseewald@houstonisd.org

Room: 2103

Tutorials: Tues 4:15pm – 5:15pm

COURSE OBJECTIVE:

The Advanced Placement English IV Literature and Composition curriculum is a rich, integrated study of literature, with an emphasis on composition. AP Senior English is a year-long college preparatory class that leads to the administration of the national Advanced Placement Examination in English Literature and Composition at the end of the second semester. College credit will be determined by the student's college of choice.

In AP, students will read extensively in multiple genres of literature (drama, poetry, fiction, literary criticism, etc.) for analysis and interpretation. We will also focus on the use of literary terminology in analyzing narratives, poetry, and drama. Students will compose numerous analytical essays which emphasize the precise use of literary terms and concepts, the use of textual evidence, and are stylistically and grammatically sound. By the end of this course, the student will have mastered the reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills as written in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for English IV, as well as The College Board English/Language Arts Standards for College Success.

- Students will learn to:
 - Write well-developed essays under pressure in timed sessions.
 - Recognize the use of literary techniques employed by authors.
 - Use analytical terms to describe drama, poetry, fiction and literary criticism.
 - Write with clarity and precision
 - Recognize literature as a reflection of culture and a vehicle for social commentary.
 - Prepare diligently for the AP exam.

- The most important goal of the AP English class is to produce writers and thinkers who will be life-long readers. The ability to express yourself clearly will benefit you in all of your future endeavors.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS:

This course will require extensive reading and writing that will demonstrate understanding and

comprehension of the literature that we read, including informal response essays, annotation of texts, and abstracts. Formal essays will include timed in-class and out-of-class expository, analytical essays that will require students to draw upon details in the text to craft an extended interpretation of the text. Students will learn to evaluate texts from both an analytical and cultural perspective. Students may submit a first draft of formal essays that will be evaluated for organization, coherence, appropriate grammar, sentence structure, style, transitions and appropriate use of varied vocabulary. Additionally, students will provide supporting textual details that support their assertions.

**Note:* You will often have the opportunity to revise essays or submit the best of in-class essays for a grade. Peer evaluation and self-evaluation are essential elements in the AP process, and the ability to examine your own writing (and others) critically will contribute to your success on the essay portion of the AP exam. We will evaluate many model essays (good and bad) to develop these critical skills.*

In order to achieve our goal of excellence in literary analysis and to master the skills of writing, students in this course are also expected to be present, be prompt, be prepared, be polite, and be productive. Each student will be held accountable for class work, homework and tests.

SATURDAY STUDY SESSIONS:

There will be three Saturdays (dates to be announced in class) throughout the 2021-22 school year during which time NMSI expert teachers from across the United States will lead Study Sessions for Waltrip High School and HISD AP students. Collaborating with Waltrip and HISD teachers, the expert teachers will work with students on specific course topics, which will prepare them for the AP Literature/Composition exam in May. All sessions are provided at no cost to students and families.

Attending Saturday Study sessions is an extremely important part of the NMSI program and will significantly help students prepare for and succeed on AP exams. **All students enrolled in NMSI and AP courses are strongly encouraged to attend these sessions.** Research shows that students who succeed on AP exams are **3 times more likely** to graduate from college in 4 years with a diploma or certificate than students who do not succeed on AP exams. Additionally, the college remediation rate among students who take AP exams is significantly lower than among students who do not take AP exams. **Students who score a 3 or above on an AP exam will receive a stipend with two study sessions!**

RULES & REQUIREMENTS

- (1) Students should keep all coursework, especially graded work, in a notebook or folder. This should be organized and saved until the end of the year.
- (2) Students must bring a hard copy of any homework due for class. I cannot print homework.
- (3) Students should be on time and in their seat when the bell rings. If a student is late without an excuse they will receive a late grade for any homework or assessment collected or distributed during the time that you have missed. Additionally, after that student's third instance of being late without an excuse, they will be assigned an absence.
- (4) Students should be respectful at all times and treat others as they would like to be treated.
- (5) In compliance with school policy, hall passes will not be issued during the first 15 or the last 15 minutes of class. Therefore, students should make every effort to take care of water and bathroom visits before or after class.
 - In the event that a student needs to use the restroom, they may excuse themselves and take the hall pass to the restroom one at a time. I maintain the right to revoke this privilege. Accordingly, a student should not abuse their access to the hall pass. If a student uses the hall

pass, it is their responsibility upon returning to catch up with the class without interrupting instruction.

- (6) In compliance with school policy, unauthorized use of electronic devices during class will result in the immediate collection of the electronic device.
- (7) Students and parents should feel free to see/contact me about any questions or concerns they have regarding this class. My main concern is to provide a challenging yet supportive educational environment that will allow all students to succeed.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Students are expected to come to class prepared and with the required materials. Failure to do so will result in wasted class time, slower learning, and possible disciplinary action. Please have the following items with you every day. (Certain items may be kept in the classroom and are not required until we return to school*).

Composition Book	*1 box Kleenex
Notebook paper	*1 pack of colored printer paper
Blue/ Black Ink Pens and Pencils	*Folder with 2 pockets
Multicolored Highlighters	*1 bottle hand sanitizer
Independent reading book	Charged Power-up laptop

TEXTS:

The textbooks for the course are as follows:

- The College Board's *Springboard: English*
- Pearson's *My Perspectives Literature*, grade 12
- Norton's *Introduction to Literature 13th edition*
- Various fictional texts, some of which students may wish to purchase

HOMEWORK REQUIREMENTS:

Homework will be assigned regularly as the AP curriculum requires intense outside reading and writing. Consistent failure to complete homework assignments will result in slower learning, below level mastery of objectives, poor grades and parent/teacher/student conferences.

GRADING SCALE:

Grading of student work is based on state and district-required learning standards (Objective) and should provide clear expectations for **mastery** (Closing Product). Expectations for grading should be clearly defined through rubrics, criteria charts, or other evaluative tools. Grades will be provided to students and entered into PowerSchool gradebook in a timely manner. A minimum of 2 grades should be recorded each week and at least 1 Test/Project/Quiz grade every two weeks. Your grades should be monitored to ensure grades are current. The following grade weights will be used to determine six-week grades:

Classwork/Homework	50%	(min 6)
Test/Project/Quiz	30%	(min 3)

Daily/Participation 20% (min 6)

ABSENCE AND MAKE-UP LEARNING POLICY:

If you are absent, you are required to make up the **learning** that you miss. There is no way to recover the time lost when a student is not class. In an effort to keep your learning on track when returning from an absence, I may require one or both of the following: time in my classroom after school, work/reading to be done at home. These measures are the sole responsibility of the students to initiate and must be **completed within one week of the absence(s)**.

LATE WORK

Assignments are **late if they are not turned in at the beginning of class**. If you attend school at any time during the day you are required to bring me your assignment. Field trips are not excuses for not turning in your work. Students will be given at least one opportunity to submit late work following an absence. Grade penalties and the amount of time allowed to complete the assignment are as follows:

Advanced Placement classes are intended to prepare students for collegiate academic environments. As a result, students will be expected to adhere to similar policies. In the event that a student fails to submit an assignment by the posted deadline they will be given a zero for the respective assignment. Afterwards, the student will have five business days (school days) to complete the assignment and submit it for evaluation. If the student successfully submits the assignment within the five business day grace-period then they will be entitled to a maximum grade of seventy.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Except during designated group work, you are expected to complete homework, class work, and tests on your own. If you use someone else's work—even a phrase—in an essay or assignment, or talk during a NO TALKING assignment, such as a quiz or test, you will receive a ZERO and your parents will be notified of what has occurred. If you copy or otherwise cheat, you will receive a ZERO and your parents will be notified of what has occurred. In the event that this should happen, you will also be assigned detention. Cheating is morally unacceptable and will not be tolerated, but more importantly, cheating does not prepare you to make it on your own.

TEACHER INFORMATION:

As the 2021 school year begins, your student begins a new chapter in their academic career: their senior year of high school. I would like to introduce myself as your child's AP English Literature and Composition teacher. I have been an English teacher for thirteen years and an AVID college readiness teacher for one year which totals to 14 years of teaching experience. I hold a journalism degree from The University of Texas at Austin and my teaching certificates are in English, Reading, Journalism, and History from The University of Texas at Dallas. I have Pre-AP and AP training from the National Institutes for Math and Science, Rice University, and the University of Houston. Furthermore, I am AVID, College Board/Spring Board and Naviance trained; all of which are college and career readiness programs. Finally, I am a mother of two children educated by the HISD IB Program. My daughter and son have graduated from college and are currently employed. Thus, I have been through these chapters of life that you are or will be experiencing.

I want to let you know that I am here to support your child in their academic endeavors. Please feel free to contact me at sseewald@houstonisd.org and I will respond within 48 hours. As a parent, you can

easily access your student's grades and even set up text alerts for notifications on the HISD website Parent/Student Connect.

12th Grade AP English Lit – Syllabus 2021-2022 Acknowledgements

PLEDGE

I, Ms. Seewald, pledge to uphold my responsibility as a teacher by providing a rich learning environment for all my students. I pledge to follow all the guidelines and policies set forth by this syllabus, by Waltrip High School, by HISD, and the TEA. I will make every effort to keep parents informed of their student's progress in my class.

I, _____, have read and I understand the Course Syllabus for

PRINT STUDENT'S NAME

Ms. Seewald's Advanced Placement Literature and Composition. I understand these policies, requirements and expectations and agree to abide by them. I further commit to:

1. Fulfill the requirements of the course as outlined in the syllabus.
2. Diligently prepare for the AP Literature and Composition exam throughout the year.
3. Maintain a high level of academic integrity.

I understand that if I fail to fulfill any of these commitments, I may be dropped from the course and the AP course will not appear on my transcript.

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE

DATE

I, the **parent/guardian**, have read the course syllabus for AP Literature and Composition and I have discussed its contents with my son/daughter.

PARENT'S SIGNATURE

DATE

Please read, sign, date, and return this page. **This signed syllabus is a grade.*