

**Palm Bay Magnet High School**  
**AP Literature and Composition Syllabus**

Mrs. Dattoli

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## I. Objectives

- ❖ Students will read and analyze texts that represent both classical and contemporary literature in a variety of genres.
- ❖ Students will generate writings which demonstrate their ability to analyze and evaluate print and non-print texts.
- ❖ Students will deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers.
- ❖ Students will prepare for the Advanced Placement Examination in English Literature and Composition.

## II. Major Works

The core of this class is the literature. Our primary text is *Perrine's Literature Structure, Sound and Sense*. This text will help us explore poetry, essays and short stories. We will also read and discuss a wide range of novels and plays from the established literary cannon. (*Note: I reserve the right to select these texts as the year progresses.*) They will be thematically paired with ancillary readings, which may include short stories, poetry, art, music, and biographical and critical texts.

**\*\*This is a college-level class and the literature is both challenging and mature in nature. \*\***

There may be times when you will have to purchase a book. In most cases, an inexpensive paperback edition (or an even more inexpensive E-book) is available. I will give sufficient advance notice. Digital texts are welcome. I will do my best to make this a rare occurrence.

## III. Assignments

The following is a general description of the types of assignments you may expect.

Reading, reading, and more reading: You will read textbook chapters, ancillary instructional materials, short stories, poems, plays, novels and literary criticism. **You MUST keep up with the assigned reading in this class.**

AP Practice: These activities simulate the timed writings and/or multiple choice items like you will see on the actual test and will be graded in the same manner as the test. You will be required to take at least two practice tests during the year, which will require time outside of the regular class.

Essays and Response Papers: You will write both in class and at home. All submitted papers will be typed in MLA format, or they will not be accepted.

Quizzes and Tests: You will be tested on each major work and the ancillary materials related to it.

Vocabulary Development: You will develop knowledge of nomenclature necessary to analyze literature and to be successful on such tests at the SAT, ACT and AP exams. We will have vocabulary quizzes on a weekly basis.

Projects: You will complete both group and individual projects. These will help broaden your reading experience and deepen your literary analysis skills. The projects often (but not always) contain a presentation element.

Exams: There will be both a mid-term and a final exam. **All students will sit for a 3 hour practice exam the month before the actual AP exam. This is a mandatory part of your final exam grade.**

#### IV. Policies

Because this is a college level class, my policies are similar to what you will encounter in college. The purpose of these policies is to prepare you for success now and in the future.

1. **Assignments are due on the due dates!** (I will accept work up to two days late, and you will be penalized one letter grade per day.) “Due” means that the work is complete and printed and/or uploaded BEFORE class begins. Do NOT come to class on a due date attempting to print, upload or email an assignment. If it is not READY on the due date, it is considered late.
2. **Your reading must be done on time.** You must do the reading in order to contribute to the class or to gain anything from it. I use “reading-check” quizzes to keep you on your toes. I do not announce these. If I have assigned a reading, assume that there will be a quiz!
3. **You must contribute to class discussions!** This is primarily a seminar-based course. Your benefits from this class will be commensurate with your effort and participation. Discussions ARE a GRADED component of the class.
4. **You** must take steps to make-up any missed work due to an **absence**. If a quiz is scheduled in advance for the day after you were absent, you will be expected to take the quiz. In addition, if you are absent the day of a reading check quiz, you must make it up the day you return as these are long-term assignments and you were aware of the due date before the absence. **For all other assignments, you must make up missed work within one week.** I am available before and after school for make-up work. ALWAYS check the Content Library in your digital notebook.
5. **Plagiarism** is a serious offense, one which could result in expulsion from colleges and universities. Plagiarism will **NOT** be tolerated! **NO CREDIT** will be given for any plagiarized work and it will be attached to a referral and sent to your dean’s office for appropriate disciplinary action.
6. You are required to sit for the AP examination. The date of the AP Literature exam is **May \_\_\_\_, 2020!**
7. Understand that you will need to purchase several books throughout the year.
8. You **and** your parents must sign the AP Literature contract by the end of the first week of school.
9. You must **actively seek support** from me if you are struggling! **I am here to help!**
10. Have an open mind; be willing to listen to others’ ideas and to respond in a mature and thoughtful fashion.