

AP English Literature and Composition  
Student Contract  
J. Todd

An AP course in English Literature and Composition is a rigorous course that should engage students in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. Through close reading of selected texts, students should deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers.

1. Close Reading—This course includes in-depth reading of texts drawn from multiple genres, periods, and cultures. Close reading involves three key elements: experience, interpretation, and evaluation. Students will read and respond to selected works in class discussion, quizzes, informal compositions, and essays. They will analyze literary works in order to understand their multiple meanings. They will assess the quality of artistic achievement as well as social and cultural values of a literary piece.
2. Writing—Writing is an integral part of this course comprising a significant percentage of a student’s average for the class. The AP Examination is weighted toward student writing about literature. Writing assignments focus on the critical analysis of literature and include expository, analytical, and argumentative essays. Critical analysis is the objective of most of the writing assignments rather than creative writing. The writing that students produce reinforces their reading.
3. Attendance—Attendance is necessary to the successful completion of this course. If students must be absent, they should handle make-up work in a timely and responsible manner being aware that they have two days for each day absent to make up and turn in assignments; however, **long-term assignments are expected to be turned in by the due date.**
4. Plagiarism—Students should be aware that plagiarism is cheating and is unacceptable. Students will receive a zero for work that has been plagiarized **and will not be allowed to resubmit the work.**
5. Writing Conferences—From time to time, students may be asked to stay after school or arrive early for a few moments for a writing conference. This is an effort to help students with problems they may be experiencing with their essays. Students are encouraged to request writing conferences if needed.
6. Website— The website is designed as both a *supplemental* and *accountability* tool for parents and students. Visiting the site will be a required component of the class. All assignments are posted on the web in advance as well as links to much of the literature covered in class. Students and parents will also find many handouts pertaining to AP Exam preparation. If students are not in class, they should visit the website to find out what was covered in class on any given day.
7. Late Work—All papers and projects are to be turned in to me by the beginning of the class period on the day they are due or they will be considered late. If you must be absent on the day an assignment is due, turn it in early or have someone turn it in for you. **Late work will receive a grade no higher than a C.** This is a college level class and will be treated as such.
8. Participation—Class discussion of literary works is vital to fostering students’ appreciation for and understanding of complex material. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a cooperative manner showing respect for the opinions of others, even though they may disagree with them.
9. **Students are expected to take the AP Exam which will be administered at SHS in early May.**
10. **Per system policy, students must have earned a C or higher average by the end of first semester in order to remain in Advanced Placement classes for second semester.**
11. **Because students receive college credit for Advanced Placement courses, the material covered in this class is meant to equal that at the university level. Therefore, some works covered in this class may be considered adult in content and/or broach what may be considered controversial or offensive subjects. All works covered in this class are approved by The College Board and chosen because of their frequent appearance on the AP English Literature exam. There will be no substitution of texts.**

I have read the information above and agree to do my best to meet all of these requirements.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student’s Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student’s Signature

I have read the above information and understand what will be expected of my child in this course.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian’s Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian’s Signature

I will do my best to provide the instruction and support necessary to help students succeed.

Joshua Todd

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher’s Signature