

The Advanced Placement Literature and Composition course is designed for the careful preparation and successful completion of the College Board Literature and Composition Examination administered in May of each school year. The Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition course provides those who elect to take it the opportunity to experience a wide range of literary works. Students will have ample time to express themselves with regard to these works both orally, in that each work will be analyzed in depth, and in writing. There will be frequent writing assignments based on the reading, which will be promptly returned to the students. If the need arises, stylistic advice and /or grammar instruction will be provided to ensure that the final copy is of the highest quality. Papers will be scrutinized for effective word choice, sentence structure, effective organization, clear emphasis and excellence of argument, including supportive evidence (i.e. quotations) and clear, persuasive connection of this evidence to the main argument. In addition, shorter written efforts of the open-ended question type will be assigned regularly. These will not necessarily all be handed in, but could be used to encourage discussion or may be developed into a more detailed essay. There will also be an assessment for each literary work – these may include an in-class or take-home test, a detailed essay, an oral report or even a creative project. Students are also required to choose from a list of books and independently read one each semester and write a report on that book on a topic mutually agreed upon by student and teacher. English IV is the culmination of a student's primary and secondary English education and as such, students will demonstrate mastery of everything they have learned. Various forms of assessment (for example daily, weekly, and common cycle assessments), a wide range of reading materials, writing, oral literacy, and collaborative learning strategies will be utilized to address various learning styles and skill sets of students. Students will master more advanced grammar, English, writing, and reading skills along with meeting a range of academic goals.

The exercises in critical reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills will help students develop an understanding of the research process as well as how to identify and evaluate information taken from various sources. Students will also comprehend and apply these skills in writing for a variety of tones, styles, and situations. Throughout the course, students will read, synthesize, discuss, compare and contrast a range of literary works of different periods, genres, styles, and contexts. Students will build vocabulary and develop a clear understanding of language usage. Students will also expand their appreciation of literature and acquire an understanding of the literary features of the classic works being read as well as recognize what makes these works important today.