

Dan S. Kostopoulos  
Humanities Department  
Arkansas School for Mathematics and Science  
Hot Springs, AR

Syllabus for AP (British) Literature 1999-2000

### **Required Texts:**

*The Norton Anthology of British Literature*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed.

*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen

*Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley

*Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë

*Jude the Obscure* by Thomas Hardy

*Ulysses* by James Joyce

*James Joyce's Ulysses* by Stuart Gilbert

*Waiting for Godot* by Samuel Beckett

### **About the Course:**

AP (Advanced Placement) Literature is designed to give secondary school students to pursue and receive credit for college-level course work completed at the secondary school level. It is based on the premise that college level material can be taught successfully to able and well-prepared secondary students. Although over 100,000 students take the AP exam in Literature and Composition each year, each AP course is unique, as is each student's knowledge and understanding of literature. Nevertheless, the one common element in the entire AP experience is the examination that will be given in May. While preparing you for this exam is at the heart of this course, it is not the only objective. Rather, I want you all to learn to read, appreciate, and interpret great literature.

### **General Course Objectives:**

1. To develop the ability to interpret a literary work—that is, to perceive in it an idea that one then proves by the use of compelling literary evidence; the idea to be single, clear, and controversial but **not** necessarily definitive.
2. To recognize and use the four kinds of literary evidence: direct quotes, paraphrases, summarized actions and events, and the opinions of competent critics.
3. To master good skills of literary discussion—speaking and listening.
4. To sharpen skills in close reading by perceiving patterns of language such as motifs, symbols, imagery, tone, and metaphor.
5. To recognize and appreciate the socio-political and cultural contexts in which literature is written.
6. To discover and confront issues and questions that are important to you and your peers, thus allowing you all to grow in your respect for the life of the mind and intellectual endeavor.

### **About the Class**

The focus of this class will be entirely on English literature (though that is a very broad category) and we will cover every genre and time period in depth. We will also watch some films. You will also be expected to read a novel or two over the Christmas break and be prepared to discuss them at the start of the next semester.

Nearly every class session will begin with a five point reading quiz. This may consist of five 1 point questions, one 5 point question, or three 2 point questions. No make-up quizzes will be given. Rather, the missed quiz will simply not be figured into your average. Naturally, this does not apply if your absence is unexcused, or if you are late for class. It is important that you always be prompt, prepared, and that you keep up with your reading.

In addition to the quizzes, there will be roughly one 100 point exam per nine weeks, one 200 point literary analysis per semester based on a work of literature read outside of class, and I may randomly call on people to prepare an oral report on an author or subject that we are covering in class. This will be worth 25 points. There will also be other random assignments such as web pages and short essays spaced throughout the course. There will also be a comprehensive final exam at the end of each semester.

Some of you may find the amount of work in this class overwhelming (I certainly do!), and some of you read and comprehend literature better than others. It is not impossible, however. I want this to be an enjoyable experience for all of you. Nevertheless, this is not a class for those who find the study of literature a frivolous endeavor, nor is it for those who simply wish to pad their transcripts with AP credit. Please understand that I have high expectations of all of you.

### **General AP Literature Information**

The AP English Literature and Composition exam tests the student's ability to read selected poems and prose passages analytically and to write critical or analytical essays based on poems, prose passages, and complete novels or plays. The exam is three hours in length and consists of 60 minutes for multiple choice questions followed by 120 minutes for essay questions. Performance on the essay section of the examination counts for 55 percent of the total grade, while performance on the multiple choice is 45 percent.

While the taking of AP exam in May is the culmination of this course, it is strictly optional and is not a requirement. Nevertheless, I encourage all of you to take the exam. You will have two choices for days on which you can take it. I will pass the dates along to you as soon as I know them.

The test will be given here at ASMS. Registration for the test will occur in February. The fee for the exam is \$75, however, a \$22 per exam credit is available to qualified students who show acute financial need. If you register for a test and do not take it, you may be charged an additional \$11 in fees. Please be aware that the cost of the exam should not be a factor as to whether or not you take it. There are a lot of ways to pay for it if you can not. This is something to see Ms. Branch or Ms. Arms about.

AP Literature

Unit One

First Nine Weeks

**Beginnings to circa 1616**

Week One: Introduction; Background Information

Week Two: *Beowulf*; *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

Week Three: Arthurian Myth

Week Four: Chaucer; English Mystery Play

Week Five: Marlowe; Intro to Shakespeare

Week Six: Shakespeare

Week Seven: Shakespeare

Week Eight: Shakespeare

Week Nine: Wrap-up Shakespeare; Mid-term examination

AP Literature  
Unit Two  
Second Nine Weeks  
**1616 to circa 1818**

Week One: Donne

Week Two: Milton and Seventeenth Century Poetry

Week Three: Restoration and Eighteenth Century Poetry

Week Four: Romanticism (Wordsworth)

Week Five: Romanticism (Coleridge, Byron, and Shelley)

Week Six: Romanticism (Keats)

Week Seven: Romanticism (Marty Shelley)

Week Eight: Review Week

Week Nine: Final Examination

AP Literature  
Unit Three  
Third Nine Weeks  
**1814 to 1900**

Week One: Austen

Week Two: Austen

Week Three: Brontë

Week Four: Brontë

Week Five: Victorian Poetry (Browning, Tennyson, C. Rossetti)

Week Six: Hardy

Week Seven: Hardy

Week Eight: Conrad

Week Nine: Science Fair

AP Literature  
Unit Four  
Fourth Nine Weeks  
**Modernism, Post-Modernism, and Irish Literature**

Week One: Yeats

Week Two: Joyce

Week Three: Spring Break

Week Four: Joyce

Week Five: Joyce

Week Six: Beckett; Contemporary Irish Literature

Week Seven: AP Exam preparation

Week Eight: Review week

Week Nine: Final Examination