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Advanced Placement English

SYLLABUS rev. 2009

NOTE: This course requires “summer reading.” You are required to read four novels, actively read the text, and do extensive note-taking. You will be given an AP exam on two of the books the first week of class as well as evaluated on the quality of your active reading and note-taking.

1. [A Prayer for Owen Meany](#) by John Irving
2. [Things Fall Apart](#) by Chinua Achebe
3. [Tale of Two Cities](#) by Charles Dickens
4. [Pride and Prejudice](#) by Jane Austen

I. Course texts

- [A Norton Anthology of English Literature](#), Volume 1, 6th edition, edited by M. H. Abrams, W. W. Norton and Company, 1993.
- [Literature: The British Tradition](#) (published by Prentice Hall)
- [English Writing and Skills](#) (Complete Course, Coronado edition)
- [Beowulf](#) (either translated by Burton Raffell or Seamus Heaney)
- [Grendel](#) by John Gardner
- Chaucer’s [Canterbury Tales](#) (translated by R. M. Lumiansky) by Geoffrey Chaucer
- [Hamlet](#) (Signet Classic edition) by William Shakespeare
- [Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead](#) by Tom Stoppard
- [Things Fall Apart](#) (Fawcett Crest edition) by Chinua Achebe
- [Heart of Darkness](#) (A Case Study in Contemporary Criticism Series edition) by Joseph Conrad
- [Arcadia](#) (Samuel French, Inc. edition) by Tom Stoppard

II. Course content

- Course Introduction and Philosophy, Summer Reading, and Building a Class Foundation
- Familiarization with the AP Literature and Composition:
- Phrases and clauses in composition
- Rhetorical strategies
- Practice exams
- Cultural Literacy Tidbit *research paper*
- Poetry terminology and poems—including some classics from the 17th century (1625-1660) through the 20th century.
- *Evaluation paper: Literary Theories paper*
- Anglo-Saxon and Medieval 450 AD – 1485)
 - Historical background & History of the English Language
 - [Beowulf](#)
 - [Grendel](#)
 - Chaucer’s [Canterbury Tales](#)
- *Narrative paper: Twenty-first Century Prologue*
- English Renaissance (1485 – 1625) [Hamlet](#)
- Modern reaction to Hamlet: [Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead](#)
- Joseph Conrad’s [Heart of Darkness](#) – analysis and criticism
- Chinua Achebe’s [Things Fall Apart](#) – analysis and criticism
- *Literary Analysis paper (comparison of two novels)*
- Tom Stoppard’s [Arcadia](#)
- *Position paper*
- Course final: “Meeting of the Minds”