



## Intermediate English (Introduction to Fiction, Poetry and Drama)

**Instructor:** Colette Bailes [colette.bailes@gmail.com](mailto:colette.bailes@gmail.com)

**Readiness:** (College-bound students grades 8 through 10). Following this course students will have the needed foundation to succeed in a Pre-AP English class. The course is aligned with skills and content covered in both AP English Language and AP English Literature. This course will also help prepare students for the critical reading passages on the SAT college entrance exam and SAT Subject Tests.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Web-ex Lectures/Discussions:** When live, these will be held **Wednesday 6 PM - 7 PM EST**. Other course lessons will be recorded and available for students to playback at their convenience.

**Description:** This English class will give students the opportunity to improve and practice skills that will enable them to succeed in future Pre-AP and AP classes. This class will expose students to the activities required by the AP program. As students are introduced to these activities, they will also become familiar with the expectations of the exam.

Students will learn to critically read narrative prose, narrative nonfiction, and several varieties of poetic literature. Analysis will include elements of literature such as plot, author's structure and style, arguments and themes, characterization, point of view, symbols, allegory and fantasy. Students will learn literary terms and apply that terminology through class discussions and on individual written and performance assessments. Students will learn various aspects of poetry including denotation and connotation, imagery, figurative language, allusion and tone. They will learn how to approach the reading of poetry in order to decipher the possible meanings and impact of the poem. Drama and its unique elements will also be introduced.

- Open to students in 8th-10th grade
- College-preparatory class leading to Pre-AP class and future AP English coursework
- Students should be ready to begin working toward college level reading and responsibility
- Weekly assignments and class notes posted Fridays.
- 34 weeks. Course begins week of August 29, 2011
- To apply, request a student application from the instructor

**Readings:** (any edition is acceptable)

*Beowulf* translated by Seamus Heaney (recommend the illustrated edition)

The Romance of Tristan & Iseult retold by Joseph Bedier translated by Hilaire Belloc and completed by Paul Rosenfeld

Excerpts from the *Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer translated by David Wright

*Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley

*A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens

*The Pearl* by John Steinbeck

*Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury

*Invisible Man* by H. G. Wells

*Saint Joan* by Bernard Shaw

*Our Town* by Thornton Wilder

*The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros

*The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother* by James McBride

**Writings:** Writing is a key component that will extend throughout the entire course. Students will learn different aspects of writing and assignments will focus on incorporating the critical analysis of literature by implementing the writing elements necessary for a convincing essay. The course requires students to write narrative, expository and argumentative essays. All essays should be typed and follow MLA guidelines. MLA formatting will be taught in this course.

**Tuition:** \$480

**Collaborative Groups:** Collaboration on several assignments and in an extended group project will help students foster a learning community and the critical thinking necessary to carry them to the next level in the AP study of literature. Students will have focused discussions about particular aspects of their readings; as well as, collaborative text summarizations.

**Communications:** Course instruction occurs through e-mail, the website and my contribution to the forums. I also post podcasts and short video clips explain course concepts as needed. I am available to students through g-chat and Skype.

**Technical needs:** Google Account. Broadband, high speed Internet and an e-mail account that accepts large files. Weekly assignments are downloaded as PDF files from the website.

**Time Commitment:** The qualified student will spend 5-7 hours per week on this class. This includes time for reading the assigned texts, answering review questions, and discussing class work and reading assignments with others in the forums.

**Class Meeting Time:** Students do not "meet" at a scheduled time, but all homework is due via e-mail by Friday evenings, midnight (your time zone). I update the website

syllabus and send out weekly class updates via e-mail on Fridays.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is the use of another's words or interpretations without giving credit. Proper documentation style will be covered thoroughly in class; therefore, students will know how to avoid this grave offense.

**Major Project:** Students complete a major project/essay each grading period. The students will be required to produce a multimedia promotional campaign for a movie or television miniseries about a book. This will include their cast choices for the film version. The presentation will involve text and graphics using available technology. There will be no specific software requirements; students may use ANY software available to them.

**Required Texts:** It is in the best interest that students purchase the texts so that they may annotate them.