

AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

Instructor: Lilianna Meldrum Serbicki

Course fee: \$599 before July 1st, 2014; \$649 after July 1st, 2014.

Please complete and email the application to lserbickiap@gmail.com. Once I have approved your application you may registration. Thank you for your interest!

Suggested Grade Level: This course is open to 10th, 11th and 12th graders.

Length of course: Tuesday, August 26, 2014 through the AP exam in May of 2015.

Required Texts:

Drama:

Macbeth by William Shakespeare

Pygmalion by George Bernard Shaw

Fiction:

Persuasion by Jane Austen

Brave New World by Aldous Huxley

A Room with a View by E.M. Forster

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Short Stories:

“The Open Boat” by Stephen Crane (available online; I will provide)

“Bernice Bobs Her Hair” by F. Scott Fitzgerald (available online; I will provide)

“Everything that Rises Must Converge” by Flannery O’Connor (available online; I will provide)

“The Cask of Amontillado” by Edgar Allan Poe (available online; I will provide)

Poetry:

Various poems by T.S. Eliot, William Shakespeare, Dylan Thomas, W. B. Yeats, John Donne, Emily Dickinson, and others (all available online).

Reference:

5 Steps to a 5 AP English Literature (2013-2014 Edition) by Estelle Rankin.

The Elements of Style by Strunk and White (any edition)

Reading Like a Writer by Francine Prose (any edition)
Scholarly articles, nonfiction pieces, and resources that I will provide.

Optional Summer Reading from our reference list:

Chapters 1-2 of *Reading Like a Writer* by Francine Prose
The Elements of Style by Strunk and White (any edition)

LIVE Course Meeting Time: LIVE meetings via the WebEx Meeting Center will occur every other week on THURSDAYS AT 2PM EST. These meetings will consist of lecture material AND interactive discussion time with fellow students and myself. All course meetings are optional and will be recorded for your listening convenience. Approximately 70% of my AP Literature students attend live meetings; the rest listen to lectures asynchronously to fit their schedule. Students who are unable to attend live lectures may also participate in group discussion on the course website forum. Flexibility is the goal of this course!

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This class is intended for 10th, 11th and 12th graders who possess a love of story and energetic discussion. While this course is designed to prepare students to successfully take the Advanced Placement English Literature exam, the material is structured to encourage an ongoing love of composition through story. I believe the best way to develop writing structure and style is through the study of narrative. Humanity connects and communicates through stories, characters, and imaginative worlds. The pieces chosen for this course reflect a wide variety of tastes and themes; there is something here for a lover of any genre and style, from classic drama to biting satire, from gritty realism to nuanced explorations of interpersonal relationships. I have chosen classic works of fiction from a variety of time periods and backgrounds to help students explore a three-dimensional, vibrant scope of humanity.

While we prepare for AP Exam concepts throughout the year, the final 8 weeks of class are geared toward intense exam preparation.

My goals in AP English Literature are to:

1. *Guide students as they master a wide breadth of literary analysis concepts and elements that help us to interpret and enjoy the narratives we read.*
2. *Help students pursue knowledge and creativity in an active manner.*
3. *Create a community of rich discussion and exchange of ideas.*

I work to achieve these goals through many activities, including but not limited to:

- Hosting OPTIONAL live, interactive chats every other week via the WebEx conferencing program.
- Providing in-depth written feedback on every essay assignment. I provide regular instruction and feedback in areas such as depth of analysis, organization and structure, balance of generalization and specific detail, effective use of literary elements, correct syntax and grammar, and correct use of a wide-ranging vocabulary and diction.
- Guiding students as they complete assignments that prepare them for each concept and section of the AP Exam.
- Providing optional creative writing assignments to help students “get involved” and enjoy writing! I have a background in Creative Writing instruction; over the past three years, my students (including all course and tutoring students) have won eight Silver Keys and four Gold Keys in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards.
- Moderating an interactive, week-long “Dinner Party” project each spring. This is a lively website forum discussion that involves students “interacting” as authors and characters we’ve encountered throughout the year – from *Macbeth*’s title character to Professor Henry Higgins from *Pygmalion*. Students interact “in character” and discuss many issues that involve analysis and creativity. This is an excellent way for students to practice their research skills and develop their ability to see from the point of view of a fictional character – or a classic writer. This is wonderful preparation for the AP Exam!

This class is designed to be rigorous and exciting, while still flexible.

Weekly assignments may include:

- An optional live discussion (every other week) or recorded lecture.
- Interactive discussion of course texts and concepts in our web forum.
- Short essays and multiple choice quizzes in preparation for the AP exam in May. These assignments are designed to develop the specific skills your student needs!
- Reading assignments ranging from approx. 30-100 pages.
- Optional bonus assignments and an in-depth extra credit vocabulary prompt of the week.
- Longer writing assignments, including a mandatory 10-page midterm literary analysis paper.

TECHNICAL DETAILS:

- Homework will be assigned/due weekly on our course website. I will also send out a weekly homework update email to both students AND parents!
- Students will read regular handouts, posts, and activities on the website.

- All homework will be submitted and critiqued via the website.
- REQUIRED: High speed internet and Microsoft Office (or equivalent word processing capabilities). You must have the ability to read Word Documents and PDFs.
- Headset or microphone capabilities suggested, but not required.
- LIVE meetings via the WebEx Meeting Center will occur every other week on THURSDAYS AT 2PM EST.

Hours of study each week:

8-10 hours, depending on the week and the amount of bonus material the student chooses to cover. This includes required reading, extra credit, group discussion, short essays and multiple choice questions.

Citation and formatting:

Students cite sources using MLA (Modern Language Association) formatting style in this course. I provide MLA resources with guidelines for in-text citation, quotation, Works Cited pages, etc.

Instructor Qualifications:

I am a graduate of the Franciscan University of Steubenville with a BA in Communication Arts and a Minor in Philosophy. From 2009-2011 I served as the Web/Sales Coordinator for WTOV9, the NBC affiliate in Steubenville, OH. My work included managing web traffic, designing and writing copy for web ads and creating effective commercial scripts. I joined the AP Homeschoolers team in 2011, and have taught both AP English Literature and AP English Language for the past three years. I also have three years of experience teaching Creative Writing for Debra Bell's Aim Academy and many years of experience providing individual student tutoring in areas of writing and mechanics. Over the past three years, my students (including all course and tutoring students) have won eight Silver Keys and four Gold Keys in the National Scholastic Arts and Writing Awards.

Student and Parent Testimonies:

“This has possibly been the best course I have ever taken. While I have a personal predilection for the subject of literature, Mrs. Serbicki not only encouraged my interest but also helped me to expand my literary taste and improve my analytical skills. She skillfully balanced the reading of high-quality works, the writing of essays on challenging but thought-provoking topics, and the discussion of insightful questions, with a few creative projects thrown in for good measure. I

found a new outlet, rigorous and demanding but never frustrating or dull, for my favorite work of reading, writing, and reading some more!" – Jamie W. (student)

"I enjoyed writing the essays the most. It was fun to think of the different viewpoints of the characters and reflect on the themes of the various books. There was a wide enough variety of genres and time periods to keep things interesting. For me, the quizzes were the most helpful. I feel that actually practicing on something very similar to the AP Exam really gives me a better chance of getting a good score!" - J. L. (student)

"I want you to know that (my daughter) has LOVED this class. She continually tells me that it is awesome and she appreciates all the feedback and encouragement you give to her. Just today, she told me how wonderful you were for replying so quickly to an email...you are doing a fabulous job of inspiring my daughter." - Janet M. (mom)

"Mrs. S was prompt, considerate, and organized, and went over and above duty on many occasions to spark our interest, keep us on track, and help us grow as writers. The coursework was thorough and challenging, but I never felt overburdened...in fact, I had a lot of fun! Mrs. Serbicki's course prepared me very well for the AP Lit exam." - K.M. (student)

"Mrs. Serbicki created an absolutely marvelous class that truly prepped me for the AP English Lit Exam. When I walked into the room on test day and opened up my booklet, I wasn't in for any surprises - everything had been beautifully covered. The rigorous writing assignments were especially helpful in preparing me for the 120 min of essays, while the literary device projects really aided me in the MCQs. Thanks to Mrs. Serbicki's excellent preparatory work, I was able to breeze right through both of them. Also, if you're planning on taking any SAT II Subject Tests this is a fantastic prep course for the Literature SAT (I waited to write this review until my 6/2 test date so I could add this!). All in all, this course was so wonderful, complete, and lush that I was able to prep for not one but two tests and feel very confident about my performance on both!" - C. G. (student)