



UNION GROVE HIGH SCHOOL  
Course Syllabus

**Instructor: Mr. Portwood Room #:111**

**Year: 2021-2022**

**Course Name and Code: Advanced Placement Literature and Composition**

**Textbook Used: DiYanni**

**Supplementary Texts or Special Materials: Online sources and select novels**

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**Course Description:** Advanced Placement Literature and Composition is a college level course that will focus on critical reading and writing from various genres of literature including novels, poetry, short stories, and drama. The students will learn the importance of understanding how writers use language to create meaning.

**Course Outline and Content:** The class is primarily designed to prepare the student for the AP Literature Exam in May. To this end, students will write one of three types of essays on the exam approximately every two weeks. These will serve as summative assessments. On the alternate weeks, students will write thoroughly over the elements of literature in discussion questions and quizzes. Most of these formative assessments will cover reading assignments done at home, the primary homework for the class. The students' writing will be graded according to a writing checklist as well as a writing rubric that clearly defines expectations for the students.

Please always be mindful that it will never be appropriate for students to use *Spark Notes*, *Cliff's Notes*, or other types of summaries or analysis for this class. Whereas these aids have been useful in the past for teaching students the ideas and structure behind analysis, the students have now reached a level where such analysis should be original and creative on their parts. We will work on this together in class.

**Special Assignments and Projects:** Aside from the exam, students will be assigned two research projects to prepare them for what they will experience in college. Grammar will be taught on a primarily individual basis depending on the needs of the student. After the AP Exam in May, we will cover Anglo-Saxon and Medieval literature which are not part of the AP curriculum.

**Classroom Rules and Discipline Procedures:** All students must adhere to the rules and expectations outlined in the Henry County Schools student handbook and the Union Grove High School student handbook addendum.

**Hall Pass Policy:** Students are required to utilize and display the standard issued UGHS pass at all times while out of the classroom, failure to do so will result in disciplinary consequences. Students are also required to fill out the Google form prior to leaving the classroom and document their return time on the same form. Teachers will not give out hall passes during the first ten minutes or last ten minutes of class. It is the teacher’s discretion to allow or deny a hall pass request.

**Chromebook Policy:** It is an expectation for students to have their charged Chromebook with them every day. Failure to do so will be regarded as “not being prepared for class.”

**Make-up Policy:** According to the student handbook, the number of days a student has to make up his work will not exceed the number of days the student has been absent.

**Grading System:** Tests and Essays will count 40% (Assessment tasks), quizzes will count 40% (Practice work), and the final exam will count 20%. Grades are now done by semester rather than year-long.

**Cell Phone/Electronic Device Policy:**

The cell phone/electronic device policy begins when students enter the designated classroom area. All students will place all cell phones/devices in the teacher assigned caddy. During this time, cell phones must be turned off. Additionally, all smart watches or other electronic devices connected to the phone must be caddied until the end of class. Cell phones/devices will remain caddied until the end of class. Students will NOT be allowed to take their phones/devices out of the room when they have a hall pass to the restroom, media center, etc. Students will be allowed to use cell phones/devices before first period, during lunch, and during class transition.

**On Time Policy:**

In order to be considered “on time” to class, the student must be across the threshold of the classroom or designated classroom area by the end of the tardy bell.

**Remote Learning:**

Students participating in remote learning are expected to actively participate in daily instruction and follow all guidance provided by HCS, UGHS, the classroom teacher, and this syllabus. This includes but is not limited to grading policies, attendance, and preparation for class.

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*Unity*      *Grit*      *Helpfulness*      *Self-Respect*

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**I have read and understand all of the objectives, requirements, and expectations for the course AP Literature and Composition taught by M. Portwood**

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**Student signature**

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**Date**

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**Parent signature**

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**Date**