

# ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION [BRITISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION] DOE CODE 23.04300; ONE CORE CREDIT

**Purpose:** To provide a college-level seminar-style environment where students can formally and informally analyze major themes and rhetorical techniques employed in fiction and nonfiction writing as well as media. Class includes a study of British literary time periods with an emphasis on often neglected non-fiction reading.

**Prerequisites:** At least a B in two high-school-level language arts classes and consultation with instructor. Students will take British Literature and Composition as well as attend AP Lang seminars twice monthly.

## Texts and Resources:

- *England in Literature (Medallion Edition-Hamlet)*. Tucker, GA: Scott Foresman and Co., 1979. Purchased, ISBN 0673129225.
- Summer reading books, some required and some optional. Reading list is available at teacher's website. Brit Lit adds *Frankenstein* in spring.
- Visual art such as political cartoons, paintings, and photography, which all pack a message.
- Nonfiction selections from various essay collections, such as those by George Orwell and Dr. Martin Luther King. Many of these are available through legally available handouts and internet downloads.
- Teacher-provided instructional handouts and practice AP tests from College Board-sponsored teacher education classes and websites, to be collected by students in binders.
- *AP English Language: Reading and Writing Analytically: Special Focus* from AP Professional Development handbook, summer AP institute 2010. The article by Bernard Phelan, "Teaching Analysis of Nonfiction Prose as Language Landscape," provides a rhetorical framework for unit plans in this course. Instructor provides this to students.
- Online MLA research guide: OWL at Purdue University.
- Visiting scholars who assist students in exploring context and philosophy of various works.

## General Course Objectives:

1. The student will be able to summarize characteristics of each major British literature time period.
2. The student will explore rhetorical pathways to enter fiction and nonfiction material with application of terminology such as pathos, ethos, logos.
3. The student will learn to locate, define, and analyze elements of writing style in literary works.
4. The student will identify persuasive elements of visual art.
5. The student will do scholarly research on primary and secondary levels and write expository essays in MLA/research style (non-timed) or short essay style suitable to college writing (timed).
6. The student will improve writing skills by revision and correction, and will practice using rubrics and peer commentary to evaluate success.
7. The student will defend his stances orally and in writing, in small groups as well as individually.
8. The student will analyze literature not only through traditional analytical writing, but also by dramatic interpretation, journaling, debate/Socratic discussion, "creative writing," and formal research using primary and secondary sources.