**A.P. Literature and Composition FAQ**

**P.R.I.D.E. Night 2014**

**Mr. Davis**

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What is your background?This is my fourteenth year here at Gunderson. I teach English 1-2 and A.P. Literature and Composition. I have taught a wide range of classes, from English Language Learners (E.L.L.’s) and struggling readers to A.P. Literature. I have spent well over 10,000 hours in the classroom. My current academic focus is moving my students beyond the formulaic five-paragraph essay in preparation for sophisticated, and demanding college-level writing. I like to infuse English lessons with connections to rhetoric, history, and philosophy. I differentiate my instruction to allow for my students’ various interests, skill sets, and experiences. I have served as Gunderson’s English Language Development (ELD) Coordinator and as the English Department Chair. I have also served as the site’s head union representative for the San Jose Teacher’s Association (SJTA). I am an avid photographer and voracious reader. I like to photograph low-light scenes, landscapes, architecture, and musicians. My favorite authors are Ernest Hemingway, Kurt Vonnegut, and Phillip K. Dick.

How can you help?Encouraging your son or daughter to read as much as possible would be a great benefit to the class. If they do not already have a public library card, I recommend getting one so that your son or daughter can improve his or her reading ability. If you have email, please give me your address so we can keep in contact.

Course Description:

Advanced Placement (A.P.) English Literature and Composition is a rigorous

college-level course that covers the breadth and depth of British and American literature

with “literary merit” from the 16th century until present.

Students can earn college credit for the course by achieving a score of at least 3

out of 5 on the A.P. test administered in May 2013. It is the school’s policy that all

students enrolled in the course will take the exam.

The A.P. exam consists of multiple-choice questions (60 min., 55 q’s, 45% of

score), and free response questions (3 essays, 120 min., 55% of score) (College Board).

The course is built upon exploring skills and techniques essential to experience, interpret, and evaluate poetry, and prose, such as: critical reading, rhetoric, induction, analysis, and quotation. Over the course of the year we will expand our repertoire of texts, and our ability to respond clearly, and persuasively to free response prompts. Students will regularly rewrite and revise their writing.

Continued on reverse side.

Late Policy: No late work will be accepted.

Reading Requirements: annotation of personal text, and personal vocabulary

development log.

Novels, and plays read that need to be purchased for student annotation:

*Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison, *1984* by George Orwell, *Brave New World* by Aldus Huxley, *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* by

Ken Kesey, *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare, *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller,

*Tortilla Curtain* by T.C. Boyle, and *The Stranger* by Albert Camus.

Semester 1 Course Requirements:

Growth on AP rubric and plus/delta for all requirements

1. Summer work 5%

2. Paper 2: timed write, free response (play) 10%

3. Paper 3: structured response (*Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison) 10%

Critical approaches: Students will construct responses through the framework of historical, biographical, or sociological criticism.

4. Paper 4: timed write, Formalist Critique (*1984*) 10%

5. Paper 5: Out of class writing with revision 10%

(Aldus Huxley’s *Brave New World*)

Students will use textual details to debate the effectiveness of Aldus Huxley’s use of allegory in *Brave New World*.

7. Paper 6: timed write, free response (novel) 10%

8. Final Exam:

a. Multiple choice rep. samples, emphasis on lit. terms, and Biblical allusions 15%

b. Essays: two free response and one open question (poetry & prose)

9. Diagnostic, and practice AP tests, and Annotation of texts 20%

10. Vocabulary development posts to class Wiki 10%

Is there homework?

Homework usually consists of reading approx. 30 pages per night from the assigned text. Student participation is measured by the depth and quality of their notes within the text itself.