

Norwood Public Schools

Junior AP English Curriculum Overview

Description (including primary objectives and outcomes):

This program for highly skilled and motivated students of English is the first half of a two-year freshman college English course. The major goal of instruction is to prepare students to take the AP examinations in English. Students must write with stylistic maturity and an effective command of sentence structure, diction, and organization. Class work is predicated on independent, insightful reading of challenging, thought-provoking works. Most lessons demand constructive participation in class discussions, by supporting assertions through specific textual references, raising pertinent questions, and making connections to students' lives and other literary works. American poetry is studied throughout the year. Typical reading assignments are 25-30 pages per night. Grades will be based on assessment of both oral and written work. In addition to the major works studied in the school year, during the summer students must read and write about designated works. Assessment of all grade 11 students includes the department-wide midyear exam and the grade 11 final exam.

Learning Experiences:

Typical reading assignments are 25-30 pages per night. Particular emphasis is placed on an appreciation of the "underlying" text. Much of class time is devoted to focused discussions of assigned readings. Frequent and varied writing assignments are integral to the AP curriculum. Discussion and writing should reveal an insight beyond simple identification or recognition of literary devices. The AP student should demonstrate a passion for literature. Explanation and practice is given for both AP and SAT exam preparation. There is a midyear exam and a final exam. Students are also required to write an independent research paper. Additional class time is spent on evaluating and writing the college application essay.

Content Outline:

Major literary works are chosen from the Advanced Placement Curriculum Guide, for example: Beowulf, The Canterbury Tales, Civil Disobedience, Crime and Punishment, Death of a Salesman, Deliverance, A Doll's House, The Dubliners, An Enemy of the People, The Great Gatsby, Hamlet, Macbeth, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, The Inferno, Native Son, Paradise Lost, Waiting for Godot, Slaughterhouse Five, Things Fall Apart, Antigone, Oedipus Rex, The Things They Carried

Resources Used:

Beyond texts and anthologies, various online sites such as AP Central, NY Times, The Guardian, and Poetry Foundation are used. The Princeton Review is used for SAT preparation.