

Spring 2010

Dear Parents and Students,

The Elkins English Department will once again offer AP Literature and Language to all interested seniors for the fall of 2010. AP English is more demanding than College Now English and much more intense and difficult than advanced English. We expect students to devote more time and energy to it than they would in either of the other levels.

In order to enroll in the course, students and their parents need to sign this contract, agreeing to the workload and to the commitment to stay in the class for the entire first semester.

**Please read the following carefully and discuss it.**

1. Homework: The daily average for homework will be approximately 45 minutes per night. Assignments will be made at the beginning of each 9 weeks. Students will be able to plan ahead when other activities require their attention. Students will always know of major assignments at least a week if not more before due date.

2. Core reading list for summer and the school year:

Summer Reading: Read two of the three. One will be your research project title.

*THE POISONWOOD BIBLE* --Barbara Kingsolver

*THE GRAPES OF WRATH*—John Steinbeck

*WUTHERING HEIGHTS*—Emily Bronte

Titles covered during the year:

Beowulf--sections  
Grendel  
Heart of Darkness  
The Things They Carried  
Macbeth  
Hamlet

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead  
Gulliver's Travels (sections 2 and 4)  
Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man  
Zoot Suit  
The Awakening  
Hedda Gabler

All works will be read out of class. Class time is spent discussing and writing about these works and working with poetry and short prose selections.

3. It is important that AP students realize the following:

The main goal of the course is to prepare for the May AP test.

Success of the test depends on students' taking responsibility for their work.

AP students will be dealing with several different activities/works/assignments at a time.

4. AP students complete a major research project the first semester based on their summer readings. This activity requires both individual and group sections, requiring extensive planning and coordination and computer/internet access.

### 5. Writing:

The majority of the grade for each nine weeks will be based on written work.

Essays (in and out of class) are a major part of the course. Students will do at least one writing on each piece of literature we discuss. Out of class papers receive major grades and all in class writings count as two daily grades.

These are analytical literary essays. We do not do creative writing in AP.

The only objective questions used will be AP style multiple-choice based on new reading material and under timed situations to simulate the AP test.

The tests that we do have are all essay.

A's are not impossible, but expectations are high and do not change during the year.

### 6. Teacher recommendations for change

The teacher may recommend that a student be re-programmed into an advanced class if that student is encountering great difficulty with the workload of the higher level thinking of the course. This change would take place at the semester.

### 7. Please refer to the other handout with more specific information about the class procedures.

If you would like to enroll in AP Literature for the fall, sign the contract on the next page and return it to your current English teacher. This form must be completed and on file before you are scheduled for the class. Please retain this page for your reference during the next year.

If you have any questions please call your counselor, current English teacher or the English department chair between 7:30 and 2:30.

### **A special point to consider: College Now.**

If you are not sure or will have major time commitments next year but have previously been in preAP or AP classes, you seriously need to consider College Now. It will be too late to enroll in college now once school starts. If you have any hesitation about AP, please do the registration process for College Now.

The forms and exact instructions for registration may be obtained in room 101 from Mrs. Jay. This course is limited to the first 55 students who sign up. Registration deadline is August 1.

If you make a 2 or your junior AP test, you need to take College Now. If you have a 3, consider carefully. If you have 4 or 5, you absolutely need to take AP. Ask your current English teacher for advice.

Thank you,

Paula Jay  
English Dept. Chair  
Elkins High School

We have read the AP English Contract and agree to work for the best educational experience for our student.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (please print neatly)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Name (Please print neatly)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
date

**Parent Contact Information:**

Daytime Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

COURSE REQUESTING: \_\_\_\_\_