**Advanced Placement Literature and Composition**

Mrs. Gardner – Academy for Technology and the Classics

Course Expectations

**Course Overview:**

Welcome to your senior year at ATC, and welcome to AP Lit and Comp. As described by the College Board, this course is designed to engage students in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. Students will deepen their understanding of how authors use language by analyzing a work’s structure, style, and themes as well as elements such as figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone. In this course, we will study representative works from various genres and periods, concentrating on works of recognized literary merit. We will read. We will write. We will read and write a great deal. Writing assignments will focus on the critical analysis of literature, though the occasional creative writing assignment will help students experience how literature is crafted, thus making them more able readers. Discussion will be an essential element of this course as we challenge one another to achieve greater depths of understanding. This will be a safe place to explore ideas and share our mental wanderings and wonderings. **All students should plan to take the AP test for this course.**

**Major Course Readings:**

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|  **Drama** |  **Novels** |  **Poetry/Poets** |
| *Hamlet* by Shakespeare | *Frankenstein* by Shelley | Sonnets: Shakespeare & Spenser, |
| *A Raisin in the Son* by  | *Wuthering Heights* by Bronte | Donne, Marvell, Pope, Blake,  |
| Hansberry | *Heart of Darkness* by Conrad | Wordsworth, Coleridge, Byron, Shelley |
|  | *Song of Solomon* by Morrison | Keats, Yeats, Tennyson, Stevens |
|  **Short Stories** | *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* by Kesey | Whitman, Browning, St. Vincent Millay, |
| D.H. Lawrence, Thomas Hardy |  | Wilbur, Senior, Oliver, etc. |
| Kate Chopin, Alice Walker,  |  |  |
| Amy Hempel, etc.  |  |  |
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**Class Expectations:**

* Students are expected to come to class on time every day, prepared to work, with all assignments completed. This means having writing utensils, paper, assigned reading material, and a positive attitude.
* Students will be required to keep a neatly organized notebook. This notebook will not be graded, but being organized and taking responsibility for your own work is an important life and college skill. Sections I would recommend include the following: Notes, Essays, Tests and Quizzes. You will want your notes section to be organized primarily around the novels we study in a manner which will allow for focused review prior to the AP exam.
* We will be using notecards to track important quotes in the works we read so that we have them at-the-ready when it comes time to compose essays. You’ll find this to be an extraordinary time-saver now and in college. Plan for a way to organize and transport them.
* Work must be your own. You have so many valuable things to say. Do not plagiarize. This will not be tolerated.
* Our one class behavior rule is to **be kind and thoughtful**. That pretty much takes care of everything.

**Homework Policy:**

We will follow ATC’s homework policy. Homework is due when assigned. English homework at ATC is, with limited exceptions, due on Wednesdays and Fridays. Reading homework can, and generally will, be assigned every night. Late work will be worth 60% of the grade earned. Students will have the same number of days absent to make-up work for each excused absence (e.g. A student who is excused absent two days will have two additional days to make up work missed). Work missed due to unexcused absence will follow the late-work policy. **Two important notes:** (1) All essays turned in on time may be rewritten for up to full credit if submitted within a week of receiving the initial grade and feedback. (2) I do grant extensions when requested prior to 4:00 the day prior to a due date. I will always be fair and human with you. I DO NOT accept emailed assignments. **Print them out.**

**Grading:**

We will use a standard grading scale of 90%-100% = A; 80%-89% = B; 70% - 79% = C; 60% - 69% = D; and 59% and lower = F. There is no grade weighting. Essays are worth 9 points each. Again, essays turned in on time may be rewritten for full credit.