

Advanced Placement Syllabus  
2007 – 2008

*“We know what we are, but not what we shall be.”*

Introduction to Course

College / Scholarship Essay. Due \_\_\_\_\_

Extended essay / term paper. “Philosophy of Life” Due \_\_\_\_\_

Unit I: Establishing the Basics

Symbols and Archetypes

Key Literary Terms

A.P. Multiple Choice Methods

A.P. Timed Writing Methods

Unit II: Early England through King James.

History of the English Language & The Medieval Period

King James Bible

Henry VIII – Elizabeth I

Shakespeare – Hamlet

Unit III: In Search of Self

Crime and Punishment. Fyodor Dostoevsky [Russian]

Waiting for Godot. [French] Samuel Becket

Christy. [American] Katherine Marshall

Unit IV: The Subtle Art of British Humor

Emma [film] and Pride and Prejudice. [English] Jane Austen

The Importance of Being Earnest. [English] Oscar Wilde.

Unit V: Carpe Diem!

Dead Poet Society. [Film] If time! ☺



## **Literary Selection Rationale**

### **History of the English Language & Early Society.**

Herein lie the roots of our American language and culture. By understanding our roots, we can better appreciate the language we speak and the culture in which we live.

### **King James Bible**

Whether one regards this work as God's Word or as a secular masterpiece, knowledge of the Bible is a given to understand Western history and literature. While we can't begin to cover it all, we will do background information, the book's organization, and a selection of basic stories which our literary selections will allude to.

### **Hamlet**

A literary classic, considered Shakespeare's greatest play. We will explore the issues of loyalty, power, love, and revenge. While written in the 1600's, the situations are surprisingly "today."

### **Crime and Punishment**

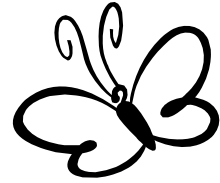
In this Russian classic, we will continue exploring life's big questions. This time, the underlying conflict revolves around the idea of the UberMann – or superman – who believes he (or she) is above the law. Also, we will explore the idea of redemption and renewal.

### **Christy**

For a change of pace, we will read a modern American novel set in the mountains of western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee. We will deal with life's "big questions." Things such as how we can best help others, why bad things happen to good people, and the nature of God or a higher power. We will also gain insight into Appalachian Mountain music and culture.

### **Waiting for Godot**

This existential play is weird. You will either love it or hate it – or just be totally perplexed by it! Wait and see what issues it addresses – or doesn't.



### **Emma and Pride & Prejudice**

In the interest of time, we will view a very accurate film of Austen's greatest work, Emma, and then read the ever-popular Pride & Prejudice. Austen is considered one of England's finest novelists. Her writing is droll and witty, with understated British humor. While there are only a few "deep" issues here, the stories will be challenging and entertaining.

### **The Importance of Being Earnest**

This popular play features humor based on puns, word play, and distorted situations. While entertaining, it is also challenging. Underlying important themes? There really are none, other than the challenge of "getting" the humor. Good for the brain! Enjoy.

### **Basic Rules and Procedures**

Electronic gear will be picked up, labeled, and made available for pick up the next day at designated location. If this will annoy you, then keep it tucked away, earphones included.

Make up work may, at teacher's discretion, be different from what the class did, but will be of comparable difficulty. Obviously, this will cut down on the temptation to just copy a friend's work!

Late work will be given a maximum score of 69%. Once we have gone over the work it is late, unless you have an excused absence. In that case, school policy will apply.

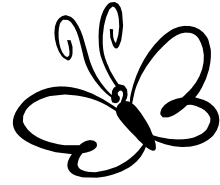
Be prepared to be up front presenting, reading, and acting – usually with the support of a group! As future leaders and pacesetters, you need all the practice you can get being in charge. If you're shy, we'll work it out! ☺

All work **MUST** be turned into the wooden box on front table. Do **NOT** put it on my desk, as it may get misplaced. **THE BOX!**

You chose to be in this class; therefore, behavior problems will be non-existent. Likewise, when a work proves difficult, I can only suggest using as many study aides as possible along with some hard work. Enjoy!

### **Odds and Ends**

Work for each unit will include film clips, poetry study, artwork, AP multiple choice selections, AP timed writings, seminars and quizzes / tests.



Suggested supplies include a large loose-leaf binder with section tabs, yellow highlighters, a paperback dictionary, and personal copies of the selected works so you can mark them. Oh, yes – Cliff or other study aides will be of great value!