

AP English Literature and Composition  
2022–23

Class website: [cheriewalsh.weebly.com](http://cheriewalsh.weebly.com)

Mrs. Walsh  
Office in lower hallway  
Sign up on door to meet  
301 529 5582 (text judiciously)  
[cwalsh@brookewood.org](mailto:cwalsh@brookewood.org)

### Description

AP English Lit is the capstone course for Brookewood’s English program. The course capitalizes on all of the work students have done since they were internalizing the forms of poems in Lower School. AP Lit treats emotionally mature texts that are also stylistically sophisticated: *Hamlet*, (and *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* by Tom Stoppard), *Anna Karenina*, James Joyce’s “The Dead,” a high modernist work such as David Jones’ *In Parenthesis* or Virginia Woolf’s *Mrs. Dalloway*, and *Brideshead Revisited*. The course also features an advanced poetry unit, building upon the introduction in English 10 and touching on concepts and devices also taught in AP Lang. This course prepares students to read closely and well, emphasizing analysis of prose passages and poems, even as it invites students to use texts they have formerly read in order to make an argument about literary craft.

The course introduces its themes and benchmarks of complexity through the summer reading, the amazing *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky. Over Christmas Break, students enjoy synthesizing and finding reinforcement of the concepts of the course while thinking about the project of advanced reading in general through the delightful and pleasantly accessible *How To Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster.

In the run up to the AP exam, students may be asked to attend out-of-class reviews—but as this year the AP class is not nested within a grade-level class, reviews will be limited to the spring.

### Grading

You should know that students revise major papers for AP English Literature and Composition until they meet the standards of the class. Students may have multiple meetings with me as they draft and rewrite—my thinking is that high school is an important time for students to learn academic writing, and this format gives them individual attention that can meet them where they are and allow their skills to grow. Once a student receives a stamp (of approval) in a meeting, she has earned an A on the paper. (Because major papers are a requirement of the class, students must complete them—even if they don’t get the stamp—in order to pass.)

AP students will periodically—at the end of Quarter 1 and Quarter 3—submit portfolios of revised writing assignments that include also reflections on their writing process and on the growth of their knowledge.

The midterm for the class will use the AP Literature exam format to test material we have read. Students who have regularly met the requirements of the AP class and who take the AP exam will be exempt from the final.

### Absences

The revolution will not be televised. Most learning in English class happens at the seminar table, through classroom activities, discussions, and lectures. You are a part of a learning community. Please come to class if it is at all possible for you to do so; please come on time.

If you have to miss class, you should

- hand in homework electronically to keep up, on time if possible
- be able to join the day’s activity upon re-entry
- have the homework that’s due upon re-entry
- use the website and call classmates to get notes, etc.
- ask the teacher what you have missed

If a student knows she has to re-enter unprepared, she must contact the teacher before class to make a plan; otherwise, late work can't receive full credit.

Work that is late for any reason must be handed in electronically to the turn-in in Jupiter.

All work must be labeled properly.

You should use the notes field in Jupiter to explain reasons for lateness or candidly to assert that you merely ran out of time.

#### Submission of work

Most assignments will be able to be submitted through the turn-in on Jupiter.

Emailed assignments and assignments sent as a message through Jupiter are not acceptable, though I will answer your questions and correspond with you generally on email or Jupiter message. You may text me about school business.

All work, typed or handwritten, must be double spaced and follow the basic MLA format for assignments, with a reasonable heading and assignment title, as well as any other orienting information that can help the reader (such as the number of the study question answered).

#### Late work

Late homework receives half credit.

Major assignments submitted late lose one letter grade for each day late. Because of electronic submission, weekend days are part of this calculation.

Watch Jupiter messages for information about what's due in the event of a snow day or other cancelation.

#### Poem memorization

Memorizing poems is important to the culture of Brookewood School K-12. Students who memorize a poem for recitation:

- gain experience with public speaking
- learn to trust themselves
- internalize structures of syntax to increase their understanding of how sentences can work
- internalize patterns of sound
- increase vocabulary in a permanent way

Students in AP Literature will learn some important literary passages by heart and will compete in the school's Poetry OutLoud contest, which links to regional, state, and national competitions.