

AP LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION
SUMMER READING LIST & COURSE DESCRIPTION

Dear Future AP Student,

You are receiving this letter because you have signed up for AP Literature and Composition (also known as AP English IV) for the 2016-2017 school year. Below is a brief course description and information regarding summer reading. Please read this carefully, and if you have any questions, please see Ms. Hoff in D105 before you leave for summer break. Enjoy! ☺

Sincerely,
Ms. Hoff

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The AP Literature and Composition course consists of writing and analysis, i.e. literary analysis, grammar, writing for a purpose, research skills, reading comprehension, etc. The class will address these skills while studying a cursory overview of British literature, focusing heavily on poetry and fiction pieces. Preparation for the AP English Literature and Composition Exam in **May 2017** will be a priority using timed writings and multiple choice-close readings, as well as thematic analysis essays for class discussion.

SUMMER READING

Summer reading is expected of all 2016-2017 AP Literature and Composition students. It is essential that students complete the summer reading assignments, **as there will be an exam given in the first week of school**. Failing the summer reading exam may result in removal from the course!

The summer readings that are required are:

**Hosseini, Khaled. *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. New York: Riverhead Books, 2008.
*ISBN 159448385X***

**Orwell, George. *1984*. New York: Signet Classic, 1961.
*ISBN 0451524934***

*These are the editions I found at **amazon.com**. Any edition of either novel will be sufficient.

Time will **not** be spent teaching the plot; rather, the class will be analyzing the selections for diction, tone, imagery, figurative language, symbolism, syntax, and other literary strategies.

Students are encouraged to purchase their own copies of the books because writing in one's book is a great convenience. Barnes and Noble, Half Price Books, and amazon.com will always have available copies.

If there are any questions, please contact Ms. Hoff by:

-stopping by Hoff's room, D105

-emailing her at: amy.hoff@sfisd.org

-checking Ms. Hoff's website

-calling Santa Fe High School, (409) 927-3100.

Have a great summer! ☺

1984

Characters – Be able to describe the personality and major actions of the following characters.

Winston Smith

Syme

Julia

Parsons

O'Brien

Emanuel Goldstein

Mr. Charrington

Big Brother

Theme – Be able to identify major themes/motifs within the novel and analyze how these themes continue to resonate in today's world. Here are some questions to consider in preparation for your exam

Big Brother is one of the most well-known allusions to *1984*. What role does he actually play in the novel? How does he affect Winston? How is this effect similar to or different from the effect that O'Brien has on him?

There are no laws in Oceania. Why, then, is it such a terrifying place to live? In what ways that the government in Oceania distracts its citizens from their own problems similar to the ways our own government distracts us?

In what way is Winston's fatalism self-fulfilling? What event ultimately breaks Winston's spirit and makes him ready to accept all of O'Brien's truths?

How is technology used to control the citizens in the novel?

How are the objects that Winston finds in the antique store symbols?

What is the most frightening element of Room 101 before Winston actually enters it? Why are Julia and Winston so distant from one another when they meet after their rehabilitation?

A Thousand Splendid Suns

Characters – Be able to describe the personality and major actions of the following characters.

Mariam

Babi (Hakim)

Laila

Jalil

Rasheed

Fariba

Tariq

Mullah Faizullah

Aziza

Nana

Zalmai

Theme – Be able to identify major themes/motifs within the novel and analyze how these themes continue to resonate in today’s world. Here are some questions to consider in preparation for your exam.

Is there a hero in the novel? If so, who is it? What defines a character as a “hero” vs. a “protagonist”?

Trace Laila’s and Mariam’s evolution over the course of the novel. How has each woman changed? What has each woman learned?

At which point in the novel does the climax take place? What effect does this climax have on the conflict and the characters?

Consider Rasheed, Mariam, Laila, and Tariq. Of these characters, which are static (flat) and which are dynamic (round)? What major changes do the dynamic characters experience? Explain using details from the novel.

Explain whether you felt the ending of the novel is appropriate or realistic.

