

**St. Augustine High School**  
**English 12/AP Course Description**  
**Mrs. Lepe**  
**2007-2008**

**Course Philosophy**

12<sup>th</sup> grade English is a preparatory course based on the study of British literature within historical context. The themes of British literature provide a basis for understanding our own Christian American culture as well as the other diverse influences that are shaping our nation and world today. A close reading of texts of many genres is the springboard for writing and oral communication activities. The course is generally based on the chronological development of the English language and English literature, selections such as the following include: *Beowulf*, *The Canterbury Tales*, and *Macbeth*. Research activities will involve literary analysis supported by literary criticisms and close readings. The reading of longer texts such as novels and plays demand that students put in time outside the classroom in order to be successful in this course. Shorter texts, such as poems will also be analyzed, but the focus this senior year will be sonnets and ballads and will review TPCASTT, meter and forms. The improving of vocabulary, grammar, reading and writing skills are also focal points of this course. In addition, the student will master the archetype and will be able to understand the usage of this particular pattern in literature. Elements of the Narrative such as Deus Ex Machina, Character names and mastery of all prior elements of the narrative (plot, theme, points of view, irony, symbolism, names, and titles) will continually be explored. The learning of Mythology will continue in this, the last grade of high school, with the study of "Part Six/Seven: The Less Important Myths, Mythology of the Norsemen" in Edith Hamilton's *Mythology*. Another focal point in English 12 is the mastery of all the elements of style analysis learned in the prior years which include, but are not limited to: Figurative Language, Figures of Speech, Imagery, Diction, Language, Detail, Characterization, Tone, Attitude, Point of View, Irony, Structure/Organization, Syntax, Phrasing, Dramatic Movements and Emotional Distance.

**First Nine Weeks:**

*Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad (AP)  
*Grendel* by John Gardner  
The Anglo Saxons  
    "Beowulf"  
    "The Seafarer"  
*Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley  
Independent Reading from approved list (AP)  
AP - Writing  
SAT Writing  
SAT Vocabulary  
College Entrance Essays  
Senior Profile  
Senior Portfolio

**Second Nine Weeks:**

The Middle Ages  
    "Ballads" (including contemporary works)  
    "The Canterbury Tales"  
    "Sir Gawain and the Green Knight"  
The Renaissance  
    Poetry Unit (selected works including contemporary)  
Short Story Section  
*Hamlet* by William Shakespeare (AP)  
*Hedda Gabler* by Henrik Ibsen (AP)  
Independent Reading from approved list  
SAT Vocabulary  
Start AP Timed Writing  
Christmas Break Reading Assignment: Animal Farm

**Third Nine Weeks:**

*Othello* by William Shakespeare (AP)  
The Renaissance  
    *Macbeth*  
*Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton  
Poetry Section  
SAT Vocabulary  
AP Timed Writing

**Fourth Nine Weeks:**

Independent Reading from approved list.  
*The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*  
Mythology by Edith Hamilton  
    "Part Six/Seven: The Less Important Myths, Mythology of the  
    Norsemen"  
    "*By the Waters of Babylon*"  
*Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley  
Literary Research Paper  
SAT Vocabulary  
AP Timed Writing

**Note: This syllabus is subject to change.**