



**HONORS/AP
INFORMATIONAL
MEETING**

May 21, 2008



Why take AP/Honors Courses?

- **Prepares students for the rigor of college level courses**
- **Provides a challenge for gifted and motivated students**
- **Allows a student to pursue a strong academic interest, e.g. science, with more intensity and focus**



A Quiz for Parents

- 1. True or False:**
 - a) APs + Honors = Admission to the college of my choice**
 - b) The most important aspect of high school is my child's academic achievement**

- 2. My child's strengths are in Social Sciences. He has no interest in Physics. I should**
 - A. Insist that he enroll in AP Physics**
 - B. Encourage him to enroll in regular Physics**
 - C. Tell him not to bother with Physics since you are sure he will not like it and/or it will be too hard.**



It's all about . . .

- **Balance**
- **Knowing your child**
- **Taking your cues from your child**



ENGLISH

- **HONORS FRESHMAN ENGLISH**
- **HONORS SOPHOMORE ENGLISH**
- **AP LANGUAGE & COMPOSITION**
- **AP LITERATURE**



Honors Freshman English

- **Honors Freshman English is an advanced, standards-based course that focuses on understanding the rich relationships among reading, thinking and writing.**
- **The rigorous intellectual demands of reading and writing assignments and class discussion reflect the our desire to encourage independent critical thinking, intellectual growth, and organized, clear expression.**
- **Concurrent enrollment in Honors Biology is required.**

Honors Freshman English

Expectations



- **Reading assignments focus on full-length texts, including essays, novels, plays, and poetry. Students are expected to read closely and actively, seek to make connections as they read, and study how texts produce meaning.**
- **Students are expected to practice all types of writing, initially focusing on the personal narrative. As the year progresses, their efforts will involve increasing levels of critical analysis.**
- **The time commitment required to complete outside assignments at this level varies, but generally requires an average of 5 hours per week.**



Honors Freshman English Grading

Assessment in Honors Freshman English is rubric-based using a 4-point scale for all assignments. There is no extra credit.

Letter Grade	Rubric Grade	Percentage
A	3.5-4.0	87.5 - 100
B	2.7-3.3	67.5 - 87.4
C	2.0-2.5	50 - 67.4
D	1.3-1.7	32.5 - 49.9
F	0-1	0 - 32.4



Honors Freshman English Summer Assignment

- **Intended to keep students actively engaged during the summer months so that upon their return in the fall, they will be ready to participate at the level of difficulty required in an honors level course.**
- **Involves reading a full-length novel and completing related internet-based and written learning activities including assignments that integrate biology and language arts.**
- **Should take approximately 30-35 hours to complete, but will vary according to reading speed.**



College Prep vs. Honors Sophomore English

College Prep

- **Concurrent enrollment in World History**
- **No summer assignment**

Honors

- **Concurrent enrollment in AP World History**
- **Summer assignment required:**
 - **Read two novels and complete a Marzano comparison matrix with textual quotes.**
 - **Will be used as a pre-write for a compare/contrast essay during 1st triad.**
 - **About 2-3 weeks' work**



College Prep vs. Honors Sophomore English

College Prep

- 2-3 hours of homework, depending on students' ability to complete work in class.
- 6 major assignments (2 novels, 2 plays as well as short story and poetry units from the adopted textbook. Extended novels read as time permits).

Honors

- On average 4-6 hours of homework, depending on what class is studying.
- 13 major assignments (8 novels, including 2 summer texts; 3 independent reading books; excerpts of 1 biography, 1 novel and several websites for research paper)



College Prep vs. Honors Sophomore English

College Prep

- **6 (reflective, persuasive, narrative, expository, response to literature and research paper); 2 major projects. Emphasis on persuasive writing.**

Honors

- **12 (1 essay for each of the 11 novels [types of writing include: reflective, persuasive, narrative, expository, response to literature]; 1 project for every independent reading book; 1 research paper). Emphasis on persuasive writing.**



AP Language & Composition

- **Rigorous college level course material**
- **Designed to prepare students for college writing**
- **Designed to prepare students for AP Composition Exam**
- **Mature subject matter**



AP Language & Composition

Student Expectations

- **Strong study habits**
- **Strong vocabulary, grammar, usage, and punctuation skills**

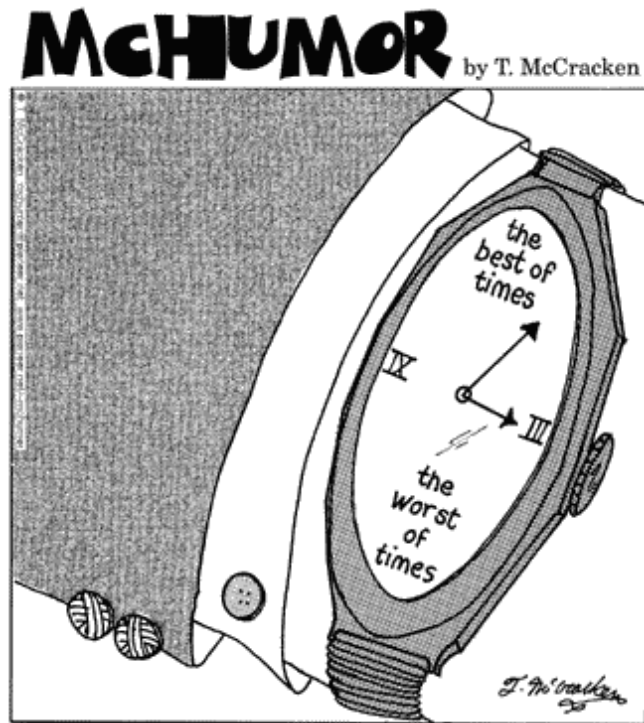


AP Language & Composition Course Expectations

- **Read critically advanced fiction and nonfiction, related to an array of topics written by featured authors**
- **Learn and understand rhetorical and linguistic strategies and devices**
- **Read and write extensively for specific purposes**
- **Create argument research paper using Modern Language Association (MLA) documentation style**



AP Literature Expectations



Dickens' Counterfeit Rolex.

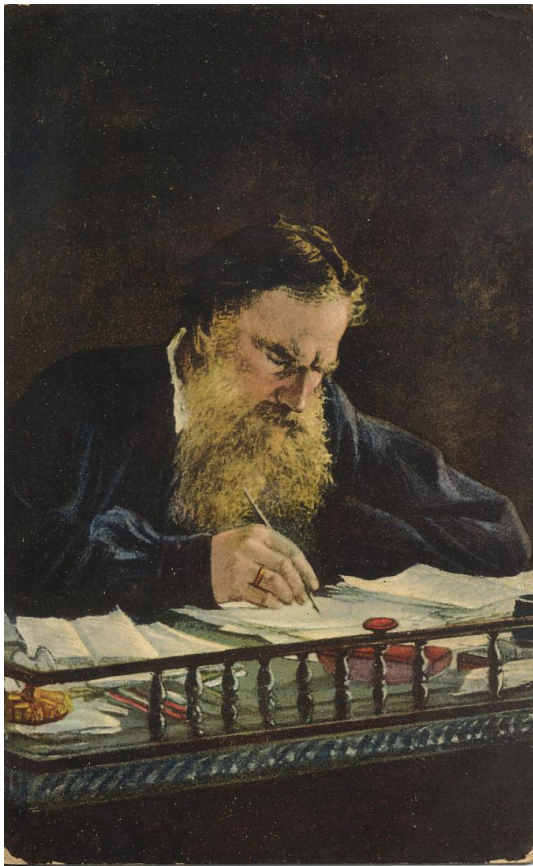
- Both semesters of Junior English with an A or both semesters of AP Comp with a B or better
- Students will come prepared to participate in class discussion, having done the assigned reading and writing
- Workload is comparable to a college course



AP Literature

Summer Assignment

War and Peace



- **Finish the novel**
- **Part I of assignment due July 31--character analysis and online Socratic Seminar**
- **Part II due Sept. 3--extended abstract essay (3 pgs.) and mini-lesson idea**
- **Time commitment depends on reading speed--1 to 2 hours per day.**



AP Literature

More Demanding Yet Rewarding

- Close readings, critical strategies, preparation for passing AP exam
- *War and Peace*, Tolstoy
- *How to Read and Why*, Harold Bloom
- *The Scarlet Letter* and/or *The House of the Seven Gables*, Hawthorne
- Short stories/essays by Hawthorne, Emerson, and Thoreau
- *Emma*, Austen
- *King Lear*, Shakespeare
- Sonnets, Shakespeare
- Metaphysical Poets (Donne, Marvell...)
- Camus, *The Stranger*
- *Song of Solomon*, Morrison
- Short stories—Hemingway, Faulkner, Melville, Kafka, Camus, Marquez, John Irving, Salinger...
- *The Bell Jar*, Plath
- Selected Poetry and Essays, T.S. Eliot, Ezra Pound, Plath and Hughes
- *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, Joyce
- *Crime and Punishment*, Dostoevsky
- Selected novels, essays, epics, poetry, short fiction, film, and hypertexts...



FOREIGN LANGUAGE

- **HONORS SPANISH 2**
- **HONORS SPANISH 3**
- **SPANISH 4 (AP)**
- **FRENCH 4 (AP)**
- **GERMAN 4 (AP)**



Expectations

- **All AP and Honors courses are rigorous, fast paced, and conducted in the target language.**
- **There is an expected high level of proficiency in reading, writing, listening, speaking and cultural understanding/participation.**
- **Students will demonstrate higher levels of critical thinking skills applied in the target language.**
- **Students will demonstrate proficiency through projects and performances.**



Workload/ Time Commitment

- **Students can expect 4-6 hours per week of homework, practice and review, and test/quiz prep.**



Honors vs. College Prep Courses

- 1. Higher level of rigor, much faster paced, more time commitment**
- 2. More homework and classwork**
- 3. Higher level of critical thinking assignments and assessments**
- 4. More student created projects and performances with less teacher guidance**
- 5. More opportunities for application to real life situations.**
- 6. More instruction in target language (grammar explanations, etc.)**
- 7. Higher level re-integration of language concepts.**



Summer Assignment

- **Honors Spanish II: No assignment**
- **Honors Spanish III: Students entering from regular Spanish II will have an assignment to catch them up to students who are entering from Honors Spanish II.**
- **AP French, German and Spanish courses all have a summer assignment.**
- **AP French: Assignment will be turned in 1st day of class in Fall**
- **AP German: Assignment due by August 15**
- **AP Spanish: First part due by July 31**



MATHEMATICS

- **HONORS GEOMETRY**
- **HONORS ALGEBRA II**
- **HONORS PRECALCULUS**
- **AP STATISTICS**
- **AP CALCULUS AB**
- **AP CALCULUS BC**



EXPECTATIONS

- **Students in Honors/AP Mathematics classes cover topics in more depth.**
- **Honors PreCalculus prepares students for AP Calculus BC.**
- **AP Calculus AB and BC have summer assignments.**



SCIENCE

- **HONORS BIOLOGY**
- **AP BIOLOGY**
- **AP CHEMISTRY**
- **AP PHYSICS B**
- **AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE**



Honors Biology Expectations

- **This is a full year lab course that is designed to prepare and challenge the college bound student. This course also seeks to improve the student's science skills and thinking abilities.**
- **As an Honors Level course, students are expected to perform at the highest level. Class time will be utilized to go over major and/or difficult concepts, perform laboratory experiences, participate in activities that explore relevant topics and answer student questions.**
- **Preparation for quizzes, tests and exams will require independent reading and studying for all students.**
- **Concurrent enrollment in Honors Freshman English is required.**



Honors Biology

Expected Workload

- **Honors Biology covers the California Life Science standards, especially concentrating on the Claremont Unified School District's essential science standards.**
- **Honors Biology covers these standards in a deeper and more intense manner than the college prep course of the same subject.**
- **Assessments in this course will involve more than quizzes, tests and exams. Laboratory work, group work, and independent work (including a science project) will also be evaluated, as well as class participation in discussions and other class activities.**



Honors Biology

Time Commitment

- **Students will be expected to read and review outside of class in order to stay current with Biology topics. An average of 5-7 hours per week should be expected.**



Honors Biology

Summer Assignment

- **Honors Biology will have a summer assignment that ties into the Honors English assignment. Students will be reading a novel and part of their follow up assignments will include Biology topics.**
- **Students will be expected to keep an Interactive Notebook of both English and Biology topics.**
- **The time commitment will vary, but 15-20 hours of reading, processing, and writing would be an average time for most students.**



Advanced Placement Expectations

- 1. Claremont High School's Advanced Placement Science courses are designed for students that have a strong interest in, or desire to pursue a career in, the sciences.**
- 2. AP Science courses are designed to offer students topics that are covered in a freshman science course at the university level.**



Advanced Placement Expectations

- 3. Students desiring to take AP Science courses should have a solid foundation in that science discipline, especially for AP Chemistry and AP Biology.**
- 4. One of the major functions of an Advanced Placement course is to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Exam, which is given in May each year in various subject areas.**



Advanced Placement Expected Workload

- **AP Science courses are dense, fast paced, and challenging.**
- **These courses will make heavy demands on students' time and energy.**
- **There is an intensive amount of reading from college level textbooks.**
- **Students are expected to be self-motivated, self-paced learners.**



Advanced Placement Time Commitment

- **The amount of work outside of class depends upon the student and his/her background.**
 - **Students enrolled in AP Science courses typically report spending an average of 5-7 hours of study time outside of class each week depending on the specific course and unit of study.**



Advanced Placement Summer Assignment

- **Summer assignments will vary depending on the specific course. Examples include:**
 - **AP Biology: Summer course “Foundations of Ecology” is suggested; An alternate, written summer assignment is offered for those who cannot take the summer school course.**
 - **AP Chemistry: Students should spend 12-15 hours of general chemistry review to prepare for course.**
 - **AP Environmental Science: Written assignment is offered for prospective students.**



SOCIAL SCIENCE

- **AP WORLD HISTORY**
- **AP US HISTORY**
- **AP ECONOMICS**
- **AP GOVERNMENT**



Honors/AP Course Expectations

- **Students are highly intrinsically (self) motivated**
- **Students have the ability and *time* to read approximately 20-40 pages each night in a college level textbook. Students reading at grade level may find the text inaccessible; students will need to read a 13th or 14th grade level text.**
- **Students have exceptional writing skills including the ability to develop a clear thesis statement, write a traditional five paragraph essay and use college level vocabulary accurately.**



AP Courses vs. College Prep

- **Increased rigor in the assessment process.**
- **Assessments generally require retention of more details than College Prep Level Courses which pay closer attention to the “Big Picture.”**
- **Usually formal assessments (tests) at the AP level require students to write an in-class essay.**
- **Essays are graded for content as well as general mechanics.**



AP Courses vs. College Prep– Con't

- **Homework will take more time.**
- **A student taking an AP course in one of the Social Sciences will have 20-40 pages of reading each night as well as tasks to complete to check for understanding (short answer questions, notes, a visual organizer etc.)**



AP Courses vs. College Prep– Con't

- **Students must be prepared for class participation the following day. Class participation requires *retention* of the material from the night before and the ability to engage in a class discussion, participate in an activity, or provide information when called upon at random.**
- **Advanced Placement courses are more fast-paced than college prep level courses and will cover more material. Less time will be spent on each unit.**



Specific Examples

- **Advanced Placement Economics (both macroeconomics and microeconomics) requires the student to complete on average 100 short-answer problems (with graphs) per week.**
- **AP World History, students are expected to not only meet California State Standards which require mastery in world history primarily from the Age of Enlightenment to the present day, students will also need to meet the AP requirements of achieving mastery of world history from the *Paleolithic period* to the present day.**



Summer Assignments

- **AP World History**: The summer assignment will involve reading the map work, identifying key terms and people from the first several chapters, as well as identifying key aspects of 5 civilizations.
- **AP United States History** – Read the first five chapters in the American Pageant and complete an assessment activity (typically short essay questions). The teacher estimates that it will take students approximately 20 hours to successfully complete the assignment.
- **AP Macro/Micro Economics** – This topic does not easily lend itself to a summer assignment.
- **AP Government** – There is no summer assignment at this time. This is a one semester course.



FINAL THOUGHTS

- **Summer assignments will be available in early June.**
- **Information will be on the announcements and in the daily bulletin.**
- **Remember to pay close attention to deadlines.**
- **Enrollment in an Honors/AP course is based on completing the requirements as well as space availability.**