

2009 Ad Astra Advance Placement Summer Institute
English Literature & Composition Syllabus
July 27 – 31, 2009

Institute Overview

Participants will refresh their AP teaching by reconsidering all aspects of their course: What they teach, how they teach and why. Focus will be on strategies for empowering students to approach challenging texts by improving their skills. Some individual work time will be incorporated to accommodate various levels of teacher experience and to ensure that everyone goes home with at least one new assignment.

Consultant Background



Diana Krauss holds degrees from Colby College and Boston University. She is on the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification. Her professional experience includes 21 years in AP classroom, 10 years as an AP Exam Reader, and 14 years as a College Board Consultant for AP and Pre-AP.

Institute Preparation

Teachers should bring the following to the institute:

- ✓ A Best Practice poetry lesson with which they have had success (copies for all participants if possible)
- ✓ A read and annotated copy of Nora Zeale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, so that we can experience a sample AP class discussion together
- ✓ Eagerness to share and learn from each other

Institute Schedule

Please note that the following agenda is tentative; an effective facilitator will address the needs and desires of the participants and we will proceed accordingly.

Monday: The Big Picture

- ✓ Introductions and statements of purpose
- ✓ A walk through the AP Exam: framing the goals for your course
- ✓ The politics of AP: student selection, screening, grading, parents, administrators, colleagues, to test or not to test, etc.
- ✓ How to construct an AP course, with responsibility to the Exam and to your school's four year sequence of curriculum
- ✓ Syllabi

Tuesday: Course Components I: Writing

- ✓ On-demand writing
- ✓ Drafted writing
- ✓ The use of rubrics
- ✓ How to avoid student burnout: other types of assignments

Wednesday: Course Components II: Reading Prose

- ✓ Close reading strategies
- ✓ Sample AP class: *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

Thursday:**Course Components III: Poetry**

Sharing of Best Practice Materials

The Exam:

- ✓ Sample questions and their use
- ✓ Preparation Strategies
- ✓ Your course / assignment
- ✓ Individual Work Time

Friday: Putting It All Together

- ✓ Presentations of your course proposals /assignments
- ✓ Evaluations

Graduate Credit Option

Participants may also earn three graduate education hours for any of the AP Summer Institutes from Washburn University for a reduced tuition rate and the successful completion of an academic assignment.

Additional Information

Timothy W. Peterson, Ph.D.
Dean of Continuing Education
Washburn University
1700 College Avenue
Topeka, KS 66621
tim.peterson@washburn.edu
(785) 670-1399 voice
(785) 670-1028 fax