

**2010 APSI English Literature & Composition
Syllabus for Experienced AP Teachers Institute
July 26-30, 2010**

Institute Overview

Participants will begin by reviewing the literary analysis and writing skills needed for success on the AP Literature and Composition Exam. They will then reflect on their own AP curriculums and discuss ways to revise both their curricular choices and their approaches to instruction. We will discuss texts in each genre that work well to prepare students for the AP Exam and approaches to helping students interpret and appreciate literary texts from various cultures and eras. We will share both instructional approaches and specific lessons and units of instruction that engage students' interest and enhance their abilities to interpret, analyze, and evaluate literature.

Topics of Focus

- Selecting the literature to include in the course
- Helping students develop their skills in relating text-to-self, text-to-world, and text-to-text
- Helping students develop their skills in interpretation, analysis and evaluation of literary texts
- Framing writing assignments that encourage critical thinking about texts
- Providing effective feedback on students' written analysis of literary texts



Consultant Background: Maridella Carter has taught AP Literature for 25 years in the Blue Springs School District, a suburban district in the Kansas City area. She earned a B.A. in English at the University of Missouri-Columbia; an M.A. in English at the University of Chicago; and a Ph.D. in American Literature at the University of Texas-Austin. She has taught high school and community college literature and writing courses for thirty years, and she currently serves as the 6-12th grade Communication Arts Instructional Coach for the Blue Springs District, a job which involves curriculum development focusing on vertical alignment of reading and writing skills. She has been an AP Consultant since 2005 and a reader for the AP Literature Exam since 2003, and she teaches an AP Literature course at Blue Springs South High School.

What Participants Should Bring to the Institute:

- An AP Literature lesson or unit plan with which they have had success
- An instructional strategy or approach that works well in AP Literature
- A copy of Kate Chopin's *The Awakening* (any edition will work, but the 1998 Simon and Schuster Pocket edition, ISBN 0-671-01547-8 will be the one the facilitator uses in citing page numbers)

Institute Schedule

Monday: Review of knowledge and skills needed for success on the AP Literature Exam
Using the 2005 AP Exam and student responses to help students prepare for the exam
Discussion of texts to include in an AP course curriculum; structuring the course; and creating viable assignments

- Tuesday: Poetry: what to teach and how to help students interpret and analyze poetry;
comparing and contrasting poems about similar topics/themes;
how to approach essay question #1
Short fiction: approaches to helping students analyze the elements of fiction;
levels of comprehension and critical questions on fiction
- Wednesday: Novel: *The Awakening* –using it as a model for how to approach the reading of a novel;
Essay question 3: how to help students address this question effectively
Writing: Approaches to writing instruction that work well for the AP Exam
- Thursday: Prose: addressing essay question #2 (prose passage)—strategies and approaches
Drama: reading Renaissance Era dramas and poetry
writing about plays in response to essay question #3
- Friday: Sharing lessons, approaches, strategies that work
Using the 2008 AP Lit and Comp Exam and student responses to help students
prepare for the exam

Additional Information

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

Consultant Contact Information

Maridella Carter
mcarter1@bssd.net
(816) 224-1315