

2010 APSI English Literature & Composition
Syllabus for New AP Teachers
July 26 – 30, 2010

Institute Overview

Participants will discuss and practice strategies for creating and maintaining a student centered learning environment through close reading strategies and careful analysis of written text. Because there will be a variety of experience levels in the class, we will utilize all methods we bring to share, including the following:

- ✓ How much and what genres we should include in the course
- ✓ How we get students to better assess their own products
- ✓ How to give written feedback and coach our students to do the same
- ✓ How to help students learn to read and think carefully and critically

Consultant Background



Gretchen Polnac taught AP literature and film for 31 years in the Austin Independent School District in Austin, Texas, where she received numerous teaching awards. She now teaches full time at The University of Texas in UTeach Liberal Arts, guiding pre-service teachers through their professional sequence of methods courses. Gretchen's undergraduate work was completed at The University of Texas and her graduate work at Texas State University and The University of Texas. She is a consultant for both AP Literature and Language and reads the literature exam. In January 2010, Gretchen participated in *The Professor's Study Tour with The Anti-Defamation League Echoes and Reflections Program* in Israel.

Institute Preparation

Teachers should bring the following to the institute:

- ✓ A Best Practice lesson with which they have had success (copies for all participants if possible)
- ✓ A read copy of *Mr. Pip* by Lloyd Jones (in order for us to progress through effective AP strategies, it is necessary to know a common text before participants arrive)
- ✓ Sticky notes
- ✓ 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

- AP Handbook (in depth)
- 2010 AP Literature Test-a deconstruction

Tuesday

- Prose: short cuttings
- Prose: short stories
- Poetry (In depth look at selected canonical poets)

Wednesday

- Poetry (modern influences)
- Novel: Mr. Pip

Thursday

- Novel, continued
- Sharing Best Practices

Additional Information

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