

2017 Summer Literature Courses

Dante's *Inferno*: Summer Seminar With Mr. Andrew and Mr. Schepps

In this class, we will take on Dante's *Inferno*, the first of the Divine Comedy's three parts. This is a 14th century epic poem that escapes our curriculum at ACA but endures as one of the great literary treasures of the western tradition. The poem occurs amidst political upheaval in Italy and precedes the poet's exile from his native Florence. The tale itself begins during Easter week in the year 1300. The reader finds Dante on Good Friday dropped in a dark forest with no discernable path, "Midway upon the journey of *our* life" (*Inf.* I. 1). On this point, Dante is eerily clear: the journey belongs to us. With the great Roman poet, Virgil, for his guide, Dante invites the reader to join him in his descent through Hell.

We'll spend one week with Dante, traveling through the nine circles of the *Inferno*. The class will run from June 19-23, with all sessions held from 9:30AM-12:00PM at ACA. The class is open to all rising 9th, 10th, and 11th graders. We know that many of you established summer plans months ago, but we wanted to make this available to any remaining students with the courage to join us in "this forest savage, rough, and stern, / Which in the very thought renews the fear" (I.4-5).

Beyond compelling conversation, we can promise some manner of authentic Italian pizza celebration at the end of our seminar with the possibility of an *Inferno*-centric field trip sometime during the week. Your student will need to purchase the poem at the beginning of the summer and do a little reading to prepare for the week. We will provide guidance on which translation to purchase and give each students material that will aid their reading of the poem.

We have already received several inquiries about whether this class may be offered at another time because of scheduling conflicts. We are considering leading the seminar a second time in the afternoons from July 24-28. If you cannot make the first seminar, but would be interested in the second, please contact us as soon as possible.

Dates for Summer Seminar: June 19-23
Seminar Registration Fee: \$125

AP Language and Composition: Summer Institute and School Year Supplementary Course

With Mr. Andrew, Mr. Schepps, and Mrs. Moss

After a review of the two English-related Advanced Placement exams, it is apparent that ACA's Literature, History, and Composition courses cultivate many of the necessary skills for students who excel in these humanities classes to succeed on the AP exams. Though we do not plan to alter our curriculum to make classes fully parallel to the AP Course Descriptions, Mr. Andrew and Mr. Schepps are partnering with an experienced AP teacher from Whitefield Academy, Mrs. Doris Moss, to provide a summer institute and

supplemental course that will look to prepare students to take the AP Language exam next year. Mrs. Moss has 11 years of experience helping students score 4 and 5 on the AP exam. In preparation for this course, Mr. Andrew and Mr. Schepps will finish AP Language and Composition training at Woodward Academy's AP Institute.

Mr. Andrew and Mr. Schepps will lead the summer institute: a week-long intensive course introducing the structure of the AP Language Exam and addressing the concepts and rhetorical approaches covered in the course. Expect some informative lectures, some analysis of non-fiction texts, and a little bit of writing. During the fall semester, we will hold one instructional session and supervise one timed writing session. We will also distribute a small number of optional reading materials and writing assignments that may be completed during the semester. After the timed writing session, we will conduct one-on-one conferences with each student to review a graded copy of the writing assignments they have submitted. In the spring semester, we will conduct several instructional sessions and a second day of one-on-one conferences during the lead up to the exam. All classes and conferences will take place on Saturdays. Normal ACA classes will not be discussed during sessions or conference as the AP exam will be our exclusive focus.

This year, we will cover AP Language and Composition with the intention of teaching AP Literature and Composition next year. They are often taken in this order.

If a student is unable to attend the Summer Institute, she or he may still join us for the course during the school-year. We will likely hold a single-day session at the beginning of the school-year to on-board students in this situation.

In addition to the basic instruction provided at summer and school year sessions, much of the value of this supplementary course will be the graded reviews of writing assignments and the private conferences addressing student work. After evaluating the time required to prepare, teach, grade, and conference, as well as the cost of training, we have determined the following fee to be appropriate for the course.

Dates for Summer Institute: July 24-28, 2017

Cost for Summer Institute and Supplementary Course: \$400

Cost for Supplementary Course Only: \$300