

# Introduction to Literature Course 2023-24

## (Regular or Honors Track)

amy.ruff@outlook.com

Amy Ruff's Home School Tutorials

(919) 219-4338

**Prospectus:** Amy Ruff will lead this journey into some of the most **beloved works of literature**. From **heights of joy to depths of despair**, literary adventure awaits us!

- We begin by traversing a few **dense & intense thematic heights & cultural ravines** with some historically vivid works: C.S. Lewis's medieval retelling of the Cupid & Psyche myth in *Till We Have Faces* & Kelly's Newberry portrayal of thirteenth-century Poland in *The Trumpeter of Krakow*.
- Thanks to **PlayMakers Repertory Co.**, we'll experience **high-quality dramas** at **UNC-Chapel Hill** during their educational matinees which are still to be announced.
- We'll **launch the New Year** with a fun & informed **lit-analysis competition** in January after winter break; whether the toe-to-toe action pits guys against gals or team A against team B, **everyone is a winner** on the **collaborative-presentation fronts of tracing plot, dissecting conflict, identifying theme, & analyzing characters** in Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre* & Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*.
- In the **bliss of spring**, we'll **turn our hearts toward love** with Shakespeare's consuming romantic tragedy, *Romeo & Juliet*.
- To keep up our energy on this literary journey, we will find **respite & sustenance** during **5 Poetry Intensives**—spaced at **timely intervals throughout the year**. From sweet & savory to spicy & sour, choice poetic selections will please every literary palate!
- Our **year will end** with a **deeply psychological study** of *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles, giving us **much to reflect upon** before saying our goodbyes.

**Testimony:** I'm currently teaching student #5 of 5 from a lovely family—whose eldest child wrote this testimony:

*Mrs. Ruff's English classes **prepared me exceptionally well** for the **writing demands of Harvard**.*

*I thrived in my required freshman writing course, earning an A.*

*Specifically, I found **my ability to structure a paper to far exceed that of my peers**.*

*Now, **as a senior**, I am **known among my peers as an excellent editor** and have edited several senior theses....*

*However, to say Mrs. Ruff's courses improved only my writing ability would be insufficient.*

*The **benefits of her courses have extended beyond English classes**. All courses at Harvard require the ability to think clearly and formulate a sound argument.*

***I attribute my success at Harvard, in large part, to Mrs. Ruff's development of my critical-thinking skills.***

~ K.V., **Harvard** (Majors in Economics and Computer Science)

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**Course Unit Value & Student Age:** Unweighted 1 unit English/language arts for 7<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Fine Print on Which Track to Take:** Though listing regular & **honors** assignments below, **Mrs. Ruff defers to parents about what HW a student completes**, believing that parents are **in charge of** & have the **final say about the student's homeschool experience**; therefore, **any assignment on the syllabus may be omitted or customized as the parent sees fit or the student's schedule necessitates.**

**Regular Track (RT):** Work for RT students includes the following.

1. In response to paper-prompt options, **write 2 papers of 3-5 pages** in length for which **students are amply prepared by Amy Ruff's in-class Writing Workshops.**
2. Create several **quick writes (QWs)** in response to specific **lit-analysis prompts.**
3. Take **2 quizzes on lit works.**
4. Take **2 lit exams** which are **preceded by in-class Review** with the **aid of exam study guides.**
5. Follow the class **syllabus.**
6. **Read all lit works** by their due dates.
7. Take **class notes** in order to engage in **spirited class discussion** & easily accomplish 1-6 above.
8. **Follow regular-track directions** on the **Summer Reading PDF.**

**Honors Track (HT):** In addition to 2-7 above for RT, work for **HT students** includes the following.

1. In response to paper-prompt options, **write 3 papers of 3-7 pages** in length for which **students are amply prepared by Amy Ruff's In-Class Writing Workshops**; however, **if the average of papers 1-2 = 95+%, then the HT student is excused from writing Paper #3—unless the parent decides otherwise.**
2. **Lead a few small-group QWs**, practicing **collaborative analysis** via **Google Docs.**
3. **Lead the January *Jane Eyre* team-analysis presentation.**
4. **Maintain a 90+% average.**
5. **Follow directions for HT students** on the **Summer Reading PDF.**

**Materials:**

1. All registered students will receive the **Summer Reading PDF**, detailing summer-reading options.
2. All registered students will receive a PDF of **Introduction to Lit Works of Study** which includes:
  - **Title/ISBN** of our little, loaded **poetry anthology**, used during **Intro Lit's 5 Poetry Intensives**
  - **Other lit-work titles** for study that:
    - Students **ideally purchase as new/used** or may find **online as a PDF** for reading/analysis;
    - Students should **bring to class on the dates** of study **detailed on the syllabus**;
    - Students are encouraged to **annotate/write in** freely **while reading** on their own as well as **during in-class analysis, discussion/debate, & critical-thinking exercises**;
    - Students will use to **complete homework (QWs, lit-analysis papers, & quizzes/exams).**
3. All registered students will receive the **following teaching docs**:
  - **Intro Lit Syllabus**      • **Quick-Write (QW) Prompts**      • **Outlines for the 5 Poetry Intensives**
  - **Prompts for Longer Lit-Analysis Papers**      • **Outlines for the In-Class Writing Workshops**

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### **Bio:**

**Amy Ruff** lives next to her **beloved alma mater, Duke University**, & enjoys teaching, tutoring, & test prepping students **in person** as well as **online** in her areas of specialty: **literary analysis; writing & composition; Spanish; psychology; philosophy & religion; SAT, ACT, & APs; executive-functioning & study skills.**

Having completed her **BA at Duke University with double majors in English & religion**, Amy also earned a **Certificate in Duke's rigorous interdisciplinary Women's Studies Program**. While an undergraduate & after graduation, Amy worked in **editing for the Duke University Press & continues to freelance edit.**

**Intuitive and seasoned at identifying & developing the potential in her students**, Amy's **energetic & engaging style** enables students to **grow in their knowledge of subject matter** while also **honing their critical-thinking skills & elevating their character.** Having **homeschooled her own children** through high school, Amy continues to **support the homeschooling community by offering group-class tutorials.**

Counseling students to **align self-understanding with their envisioned future**, Amy has aided many to **make wise choices** for their **post-high-school paths**. She has assisted students to **succeed on test prep & applications for acceptance** into a range of schools. From **Harvard, Duke, & Stanford** to **UNC & NCSU** to **community colleges across NC**, Amy's students **thrive in diverse academic, artistic, athletic, trade, & professional pursuits.**

Of **Argentine-Italian descent & hailing from Italian roots in Pittsburgh, PA**, Amy attended boarding prep school on a **full scholarship & received a college scholarship from the Spanish National Honor Society**. Amy continued her **Spanish studies at Duke** & served on **short-term missions as a Spanish interpreter**. From the **rudiments of grammar & vocabulary** to encounters with **cooking & dancing**, Sra. Amy's students **learn to love Latina language & culture!**

Always eager to serve the local & global community, Amy is a supporter of two **overseas NGOs**, grad of **REI (Racial Equity Institute) training**, & volunteer with **The Honor Foundation** (helping special-ops retirees, like Amy's deceased big brother who was a decorated Navy SEAL).

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### Class Time/Location/Dates:

- Intro Lit is **Tues 145-245 PM 8/22-12/12/23 & 1/9-5/14/24** with **10/10/23 fall & 3/12/24 spring breaks.**
- Intro Lit is at **Grace Church in room #118:** 200 Sage Rd, Chapel Hill, across from Lowe's near 15-501/I-40.

### Registration & Tuition:

- The nonrefundable **registration & tuition** are based on the track the student chooses to follow & should be paid (as friends if applicable) via one of the following preferred **platforms.**
  - Venmo** [www.venmo.com/Amy-Ruff-8](http://www.venmo.com/Amy-Ruff-8)
  - Zelle** under Amy's cell 919-219-4338
  - CashApp** [https://cash.app/\\$AmyRT3](https://cash.app/$AmyRT3)
  - Snail mail a check to** [amy.ruff@outlook.com](mailto:amy.ruff@outlook.com) 1101 Anderson Street Durham NC 27705
- The **registration** is due in spring 2023, & **tuition** is due as  $\frac{1}{2}$  in **August** &  $\frac{1}{2}$  in **January:**
  - \$75 reg/\$700 tuition regular track
  - \$100 reg/\$750 tuition honors track**
  - \$125 reg/\$800 tuition AP track**
- With payment, please include pertinent details as below: name(s), class(es), track, contact.

Email or Mail Form to [amy.ruff@outlook.com](mailto:amy.ruff@outlook.com) • 1101 Anderson Street • Durham NC 27705

Names: Student's \_\_\_\_\_ Parents' \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_ Age \_\_\_ Emails: \_\_\_\_\_

Phones: Student's \_\_\_\_\_ Parents' \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Introduction to Literature Tues at Grace Church 145-245 PM</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Track \$75/700 <input type="checkbox"/> Honors Track \$100/750	
<b>Spanish I</b> <b>Tues at Grace Church 12-1 PM</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Track \$75/700 <input type="checkbox"/> Honors Track \$100/750	<b>Spanish II</b> <b>Tues at Grace Church 830-930 AM</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Track \$75/700 <input type="checkbox"/> Honors Track \$100/750
<b>American Lit Tues at Grace Church 1045 AM-12 PM</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Track \$75/700 <input type="checkbox"/> Honors Track \$100/750 <input type="checkbox"/> AP \$125/800	
<b>Introduction to Psychology Tues at Grace Church 930-1045 AM</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Honors Track \$100/750 <input type="checkbox"/> AP \$125/800	
<b>Middle School Composition on Tues at Grace Church 1-145 PM</b> <input type="checkbox"/> One Track Reg/Tuition \$100/750	
<u>Times for Amy's 2023-24 Classes on Tues – Hybrid offerings of each class are conducted <b>in person &amp; via Zoom (student preference):</b></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tues/830-930 <b>Spanish II</b> (regular &amp; honors tracks)</li> <li>Tues/930-1045 <b>Psychology</b> (honors &amp; AP tracks)</li> <li>Tues/1045-12 <b>American Lit</b> (regular, honors, &amp; AP tracks)</li> <li>Tues/12-1 <b>Spanish I</b> (regular &amp; honors tracks)</li> <li>Tues/1-145 <b>Middle School Composition</b></li> <li>Tues/145-245 <b>Intro Lit</b> (regular &amp; honors tracks)</li> </ul>	<u>Academic Calendar for Amy Ruff's 2023-24 Classes:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>8/22/23</b> First Fall Tues 2023 Class</li> <li><b>10/10/23</b> NO Class for Fall Break</li> <li><b>12/12/23</b> Last 2023 Tues Class</li> <li><b>1/9/24</b> First 2024 Tues Class</li> <li><b>3/12/24</b> NO Class for Spring Break</li> <li><b>5/14/24</b> Last 2024 Tues Class</li> </ul>