**Proposal to Separate the AP Literature Exam from ENGL 1023: Composition II**

**and Pair it with ENGL 1213: Introduction to Literature**

The move to separate the AP Literature exam from Comp II is prompted by the apparent misalignment between the skills assessed by that exam and the skills cultivated in our first-year composition courses (ENGL 1013 and ENGL 1023). The separation also enables the establishing of Comp I as a pre-requisite for Comp II. The establishment of the pre-requisite is subject of a separate academic programs proposal, and it is only feasible if the AP Literature exam is not a stand-in for ENGL 1023.

* In addition to the curricular misalignment between an exam that focuses on close-reading of literary material and a composition course that focuses on writing in the disciplines, the separation is warranted by an increasing enrollment in Comp II of students who have not taken Comp I here or elsewhere. The Office of Institutional Research places that number at 11.5% (71/616) this semester. Because Comp I is not currently a pre-requisite for Comp II, students who have not benefitted from Comp I may enroll directly in Comp II even though the Catalog of Studies explicitly describes Comp II as a continuation of Comp I. Such enrollment places an undue burden on our instructors and likely contributes to student underperformance to the degree that those students lack the foundational skills covered in Comp I.
* Given that the AP Literature exam is not aligned with the skills targeted in the current iteration of Composition II, and it is not entirely aligned with the broad literary corpus reflected in our first-year World Literature courses, the course that seems better aligned with the AP Literature exam is ENGL 1213. The latter affords students 3 hours of Humanities credit within the State Minimum Core, thus offering students a further incentive to take the AP Literature exam.
* If the move proceeds, and in keeping with the policy established by the Arkansas Course Transfer System, we will continue to award transfer-credit for homologous first-year composition courses from in-state accredited academic institutions of higher learning in so far as that equivalency is established by shared course descriptions and expected learning outcomes.
* Students who have already completed the 6 hour English University Core requirement through exemption of one of the two required first-year composition courses (Comp I and Comp II) will not be required to complete the other course as a result of establishing Comp I as a prerequisite for Comp II (the prerequisite requirement will affect only those students who are admitted one year after the proposal has made its way through the review process and has been codified in the Catalog of Studies).
* The Program in Rhetoric and Composition can absorb the increase in enrollment in Comp II that will result from matriculating students who would have otherwise been exempt on the basis of the AP Literature exam. The consistent pattern of under-enrollment (relative to Fall numbers) in the Spring semesters, when the PRC offers the greater number of Comp II sections, allows us to accommodate this foreseeable demand. (Note: Despite overall increases in University enrollment in the last few years, first-year composition has continued to see a decline in enrollment across both fall and spring terms.)