**AP English Literature & Composition Master List of Terms** (Note: for terms

with multiple meanings – for example “conceit” – look for the literary definition;

literary/rhetorical terms dictionaries are recommended.)

abstract language

accent

act

allegory

allusion

alliteration

ambiguity

absurdism

anagnorisis

analogy

anaphora

anecdote

antagonist

antithesis

aphorism

apostrophe

archetypal lens

aside

assonance

asyndeton

atmosphere

bildungsroman

blank verse

blocking

catharsis

character (dynamic, flat, round, static, complex, stock)

characterization (direct, indirect)

chronology

complex sentence

compound sentence

compound-complex sentence

conceit

concrete language

connotation

consonance

couplet

critical lens

denotation

deus ex machina

dialogue

diction

double

ellipses

end-stop

enjambment

epigraph

epigram

epiphany

ethos

Existentialism

Time Line:

Renaissance (1500-1670)

Elizabethan Era (1558-1603)

Enlightenment (1700-1800)

Romanticism (1770-1850)

Realism (1820-1920)

Naturalism (1870-1920)

Transcendental Movement (1830-1860)

Victorian Period (1837-1901)

Modernism (1910-1965)

Existentialism (1850—Today)

Post-Modernism (1965-Today)

euphemism

farce

feminist/gender lens

figurative language

flashback

foil

foreshadowing

formalism

fourth wall

frame narrative

Freudian/psych lens

free verse

genre

gothic

haiku

hamartia

hubris

hyperbole

iamb/iambic

iambic pentameter

idiom

imagery

impressionism

inference

interior monologue

invective

inversion

irony (verbal, dramatic, situational)

juxtaposition

logos

malapropism

metaphor

Marxist lens

meter/metrical verse/feet

metonymy

monologue

mood

motif

nihilism

ode

onomatopoeia

oxymoron

paradox

parody (distinguish from satire)

pastoral

pathos

peripeteia

personification

point of view (including omniscient/limited omniscient, 1st person, 3rd-person, etc)

paraphrase

plot (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, denouement)

polysyndeton

prose

protagonist

proverb

refrain

rhetoric

sarcasm (distinguish from irony)

satire

scene

simile

simple sentence

soliloquy

sonnet (English)

stanza

stream-of consciousness

style

syllable

symbol/symbolism

synecdoche

synesthesia

syntax

theme

thesis

tone

tragic hero/heroine

tragicomedy

trope

understatement

unreliable narrator

volta