

AP English Language and Composition

Course Description: The AP English Language and Composition course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to become skilled readers and writers in diverse genres and modes of composition. As stated in the Advanced Placement Course description for the English exams, the course's purpose is to "enable students to read complex texts with understanding and to write prose of sufficient richness and complexity to communicate effectively with mature readers." Students will become aware of their own composition process through self-assessment and evaluations by peers and the instructor. These skills will enable students to read critically and write effectively in different modes in the college classroom and beyond. **Students in AP English Language and Composition are prepared for and expected to take the national AP examination in May.**

Course Objectives-

Students will:

- Become skilled in composing for different audiences and purposes through the process of reading, writing and discussing texts.
- Learn to understand the diverse ways authors make meaning in both oral and written texts.
- Be able to identify literary structures and conventions and effectively use them in their own writing.
- Learn to identify and evaluate the choices that they and their peers have made in the composition process and increase their revision skills.
- Judge the validity and persuasiveness of different works through discussion on various social and current events.
- Become familiar with the essay and multiple-choice aspects of the AP exam.

Language and Composition Texts:

- Muller, Gilbert H. *The McGraw-Hill Reader*. 8th Edition. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2003.
- Memering, D. and Palmer, W. *Discovering Arguments: An Introduction to Critical Thinking and Writing with Reading*. Upper Saddle, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2002.

In addition to these core texts, students will be reading a variety of novels and plays, most of which will be provided by the school. Because of the wide variety of literature the course requires, it may be necessary for students to purchase their own copies of certain works. Some of the major works we will be reading are *Pygmalion*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Frankenstein*, and *1984*. Every student may not read each of these titles, and there are other novels/plays that students will have the opportunity to read.

Evaluation:

The ultimate aim of this course is to prepare each student to succeed on the AP English Language and Composition exam in May. Beyond the exam, however, is the actual class and everything that goes in to it. Points are assigned to various projects depending on the complexity and value of the work involved. Absolutely **NO** assignments will be accepted late for any reason other than an excused absence. If a student misses class, but is in school that day, it is his/her responsibility to turn in the assignment before 1:55 p.m. that day. Any assignments not received on time will receive a 0%.

Essays- 50%**Homework- 15%****Tests/Quizzes- 15%****Classwork/Participation- 20%**

It is important to remember that an “A” for the course will not necessarily translate into a “5” on the AP exam. Conversely, a student who receives a “D” in the class could score extremely well on the exam. It is my hope that success in the classroom will result in success on the exam, but one never knows.

Classroom Procedures/Expectation:

- Arrive to class on time and ready to work.
- Respect the personal space and opinions of your classmates. This class will not run effectively if we do not have an open forum.
- Be ready to WORK. You will be reading and writing a lot. Some of the material will be easy to grasp, and some will be rather difficult. You will not enjoy everything you do, but each thing we do in class is designed to help you do well on the AP exam.
- Open your mind. You will be exposed to ideas and styles with which you are unfamiliar. Don’t shut them out. Look at this class as a chance to grow personally and intellectually. The more experiences to which you are exposed, the better you will do on the AP exam.
- Expect success. One of the keys to doing well is expecting to do well. You have over eight months to get ready for the AP exam. You are all smart individuals, so that is plenty of time to get ready for success.

Academic Honesty:

It is expected that all students complete all assignments individually, unless otherwise instructed. Any student who violates the Academic Honesty Policy will receive a 0% for the assignment and be referred to the appropriate administrator.

Student

Parent/Guardian

