

AP English Language and Composition

Ashville High School - Mrs. Holli Smith

Course Overview

AP English Language and Composition is designed to be a college/university level course. This course will provide the intellectual challenges and workload consistent with a typical undergraduate university English course. Students will explore nuances of organization, structure, form, diction, syntax, imagery, and figurative language as these topics apply to the writing process. Students will synthesize material from multiple sources. Students will conduct research, debate, and write one large research-based argumentative paper following guidelines set forth by the Modern Language Association (MLA). Please be aware that the texts studied in the AP Language and Composition classroom are complex, higher-level texts which may contain mature content and themes. Some of the topics discussed may be sensitive and/or controversial in nature. These texts will be studied through their historical and cultural context. The instructional purpose is to expose students to perspectives unlike or in opposition to their own in order to analyze complex themes and to promote individual reflection, academic growth, and global empathy. The instructor of this course in no way endorses or promotes the ideas present in any text selected for student study- all views expressed in this course are strictly those of the authors, speakers, and playwrights who crafted the texts. Students are expected to behave with the utmost maturity.

Major Works

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson
Thank You for Arguing by Jay Heinrichs
1984 by George Orwell
Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer
Outliers, The Tipping Point, or Blink by Malcolm Gladwell
The Crucible by Arthur Miller
Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom
In Cold Blood by Truman Capote
Zeitoun by Dave Eggers
Hamlet by William Shakespeare
Choice Novels/Memoirs from classroom library

Assessments

Objective Tests
Reading Quizzes
Timed Writings
Formal Papers
AP Multiple Choice Exams
Debates
Research Paper
Group Presentations
Various Homework Assignments
The Final Four – AP Exam Preparation
AP Exam – Required

General Class Information

Grading: 50% = Tests/Quizzes, Essays/Papers, Group Projects
30% = Graded Classwork/Homework, Timed Writings
10% = Participation, Completion Grades
10% = Nine Weeks Exam

Supplies: 3-ring binder, Loose-leaf paper, Pens with blue or black ink only or Pencils

Supply Wish List: Tissues, Hand Sanitizer, Sanitizing Wipes (Please consider bringing these for classroom use!)

Makeup Work: It is the student's responsibility to check the class website (Teams) and ask for any work missed because of an excused absence. The student has two (2) days to complete and turn in any makeup work. Work missed because of an unexcused absence will NOT be allowed to be made up, and the student will receive a zero (0) for the missed work. If a student misses a test and the absence is excused, it is the student's responsibility to schedule a time convenient for both the student and teacher to make up the test. It is important for students to be in class as much as possible since class discussions will be frequent and important for success in this class. Time out of class can be detrimental because these discussions cannot be reproduced.

Assignment Deadlines: Deadlines are a part of life. It is extremely important to manage your time effectively so that you can complete assignments on time. Points will be deducted if assignments are not turned in or made up on time. See the Makeup Work Policy on the attached page.

Contact Information: Phone – (205) 594-7943 / Email – holli.smith@sccboe.org

AP English Language and Composition Introduction & Contract

This course is not a typical high school English class. You are taking a college-level English composition course. That means we will be **reading** and **writing** the majority of the time. It will require you to do much of your reading outside of class so that we can use class time to discuss, analyze, and write. You need to think of yourselves as entering into a decades-long academic discussion about literature, society, and culture. Reading is a way for us to look at the world through another's eyes, to learn more about ourselves and others, and to experience things we might not ever get to experience personally. Being "well-read" is a key to success in this course and in future courses.

Everything that has ever been written and published was written for a purpose. We will be examining the **purpose** of the writings we read and writing about how those writings affect us personally and society as a whole. We will be examining the **style** and **structure** of the writings. We will be discussing **rhetorical strategies**. These may be new to you, but don't get discouraged – we will figure these things out together!

For you to be successful in this class and on the AP Exam, you need to understand and pledge to do the following:

I understand that the work in this class will be challenging.

I understand that I will be required to do most of the reading for this class **BEFORE** class begins.

I understand that my grade will reflect the level of effort I put into my work.

I understand that deadlines are deadlines and work **will not** be accepted late.

I understand that by missing class time, I may be missing important discussions that cannot be reproduced or made up. This might be detrimental to my grade.

I pledge to keep an open mind while reading and throughout class discussions because some of the texts may be controversial. (Remember, this is a college-level course, and you are expected to behave maturely when reading about and discussing sensitive topics.)

I understand that my classmates may not share my personal beliefs, and I may not share theirs, and that's ok.

I pledge to listen to my teacher's instructions and accept her constructive criticism.

I understand that my teacher is doing her best to prepare me for college and for success on the AP Exam. If she is hard on me, she is trying to get me to improve and to reach my greatest potential.

I understand that if I am struggling, it is my responsibility to schedule time with my teacher to discuss my problems with her and to get extra help.