

Advanced Placement
LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

North Pointe Preparatory

Mrs. Witz

Course Expectations 2020-2021

AP LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION COURSE DESCRIPTION

Course Description

Contact Information:

Email: twitz@pointeschools.org

Student Office Hours: TBD

Parent Appointments: please email for appointment

Course Description:

The Advanced Placement class in English Language and Composition is designed to provide students with the equivalent of a year's worth of college-level classes in composition and rhetoric. One of the goals of this class is for students to pass the AP exam in the spring, which can provide them with the actual college credits.

As the Course Description from the College Board explains, AP Language and Composition "engages students in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines and rhetorical contexts and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes."

Objectives: Upon completing AP English Language and Composition, students will be able to:

- analyze and interpret samples of good writing, identifying and explaining an author's use of rhetorical strategies and techniques;
- apply effective strategies and techniques in their own writing;
- create and sustain arguments based on readings, research, and/or personal experience;
- write for a variety of purposes;
- produce expository, analytical, and argumentative compositions that introduce a complex central idea and develop it with appropriate evidence drawn from primary and/or secondary sources, cogent explanations, and clear transitions;
- demonstrate understanding and mastery of standard written English as well as stylistic maturity in their own writings;
- demonstrate understanding of the conventions of citing primary and secondary sources;
- move effectively through the stages of the writing process, with careful attention to inquiry and research, drafting, revising, editing, and review;
- write thoughtfully about their own process of composition;
- revise a work to make it suitable for a different audience;
- analyze image as text; and
- evaluate and incorporate reference documents into researched papers.

(Objectives taken from College Board's Course Description, May, 2007; May, 2008)

Units:

- Introduction (1 week)
- The Art of Rhetoric (6 weeks)
- The Elements of Style and the Synthesis Essay (6 weeks)
- Tropes and Schemes (5 weeks)
- Remember the P.A.S.T. -- Matching Purpose and Audience to Style and Tone (5 weeks)
- Letters (4 weeks)
- Writing a Life -- Notebooks, Journals, Diaries, Biography, Autobiography, Memoir (3 weeks)
- Putting it All Together (3 weeks)
- AP Exam

Homework: Students should expect homework for every class. Typical assignments include reading and annotating texts, 40-minute essays, and imitation exercises. All homework assignments are graded.

Evaluation: The primary components of student grades are homework and essays; the latter are graded holistically in accordance with the grading methods of the College Board (students will receive training on this method). A semester exam and a final exam are also required.

All assignments are accorded a point value; grades are determined based on points achieved divided by points possible.

The school grading scale is as follows:

- 93-100 = A
- 85-92 = B
- 77-84 = C
- 70-76 = D
- Below 70 = F

Attendance: Students are, of course, expected to come to class. If a student knows in advance that he or she will miss a class, it is the student's responsibility to see me in order to receive assignments and discuss due dates. After an unplanned absence, students must also see me during office hours to receive work and information that the student missed. Tardies or unexcused absences will result in referral to the office.

Classroom Rules:

- 1) Be on time and ready to learn -- this means having all class materials and being in your seat before the period begins.
- 2) Do not talk when the teacher or a fellow student is talking.
- 3) Do not eat or drink during class.
- 4) Participate in all in-class activities.
- 5) Do not work on materials from other classes.
- 6) Electronic devices may not be used during class without teacher permission.
- 7) Follow all school rules. (See student handbook for rules and consequences.)

Consequences:

- 1) Verbal warning
- 2) Conference with student
- 3) Detention/parent communication

4) Referral to administration

Course Grading Policy

The primary components of student grades are homework and essays; the latter are graded holistically in accordance with the grading methods of the College Board (students will receive training on this method). Two semester exams are also required, and they will account for 10% of each semester grade. All assignments are accorded a point value; grades are determined based on points achieved divided by points possible.

Reading Assignments

Since this is an advanced literature class, student should expect reading assignments on most nights. Students are required to read closely and annotate the texts, considering such literary elements as language, imagery, diction, details, syntax, symbols and theme. Students will also be expected to keep a vocabulary journal. Reading assignments will be assessed through evaluation of annotation, journal entries, and class participation.

Writing Assignments

Writing is an integral part of the class. Students will write informally about their responses to the literature through in-class quick writes and response journal entries. Students will write analytically about the literature through timed essays and extended papers. Students will also write occasional creative pieces based on style imitation, form imitation, and structural changes in order to appreciate and better understand authorial choices. Extended papers will be taken through all the steps of the writing process, including peer editing and revision designed to strengthen skills in using appropriate textual evidence, embedding quotations, and improving organization, voice, tone, diction, and sentence variety. Specific exercises will target improving word choice, incorporating vocabulary found in the reading, using effective syntactical devices, and avoiding grammatical errors. Note: Forty-minute essays and annotations should be handwritten in blue or black ink. All other assignments must be typed in proper MLA format.

Participation

Discussion is an important element of a successful literature class, so students must be prepared to share ideas and questions about the texts being studied. Students will also be expected to work collaboratively and give occasional presentations. Participation will be graded based on frequency and quality, and students who miss classes will lose opportunities to obtain points.

Late work

Minor assignments will be accepted up to one day late for half the work's graded value. Major assignments will be docked a full letter grade for each day (not class) they are late. Students are expected to turn in major assignments that have been announced a week or more in advance even if a student misses a class in the interim or is not present on the due date. Students should similarly expect to take tests even if they have missed a class before the test; they should also take the test the day they return if they miss the test date.

Academic Integrity

It is vital that students only present and turn in work that is their own. Therefore, students must be aware to avoid plagiarism by always correctly citing any words or ideas that are not their own. This means that any collaborative efforts must also be acknowledged -- putting only one's own name on an assignment states that the work has been produced by only that student. Of course, copying annotations, answers, or assignments from another student is considered cheating, as is sharing information about assessments with students who have not seen that assessment. Any violation of academic integrity will result in a zero for the assignment or assessment and a referral to the administration.

Grades will correspond to the following scale, as established in the Parent-Student Handbook:

A = 93 – 100 %	C = 73 – 76%
A- = 90 – 92%	C- = 70 – 72%
B+ = 87 – 89%	D+ = 67 – 69%
B = 83 – 86%	D = 63 – 66%
B- = 80 – 82%	D- = 60 – 62%
C+ = 77 – 79%	F = 0 – 59%

HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS

Due to individual differences in learning styles and work habits, time spent on homework each night will vary from child to child. **In order to receive full credit, assignments should be completed neatly, accurately, and on time.**

LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Notebook/binder
- College-ruled notebook paper
- Pens (black or blue ink)
- Highlighter
- Strunk and White, Elements of Style (You can print out the .pdf, but this is a little book that will serve you well in college.)

TUTORING

As per the NPP student handbook, students who are not passing their current class with at least a minimum grade of a C are required to attend tutoring. Tutoring for Literature and Composition will be held Monday and Wednesday from 2:30pm – 3:30pm once we are on campus. Prior to that, students may arrange a time by emailing twitz@pointeschools.org

Once enrolled, North Pointe does not accept course credit from other institutions.

TEACHER/PARENT COMMUNICATION

You may contact me at the following email address: twitz@pointeschools.org, I try to answer emails as promptly as I can. I usually answer emails within a 24-hour period. You may also write a note and send it with your child to school.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

I trust that each student will maintain high standards of academic honesty and ethical behavior. All assignments submitted in fulfillment of course requirements must be the student's own work. All

assignments, except those designated as “group,” are meant to represent the effort of each individual student. Group projects and assignments should represent equal efforts by all group members. It is essential that every student understand the standards of academic honesty and how to avoid dishonesty by proper acknowledgment of intellectual indebtedness.

Drawing on the ideas of others as you develop your own is an essential and exciting component of intellectual work. Whenever you use other writers’ ideas, however, you must acknowledge your sources. Doing so allows you to distinguish between your ideas and those of others; it directs your readers to relevant sources, and it allows you to give credit where credit is due.

Any student in violation of this policy will face loss of credit and disciplinary consequences.

I look forward to working with your child this year, and I appreciate your efforts at home to ensure a quality education and a positive learning experience for all.

Preferred Contact Method of Parent/Guardian

In order to facilitate the easiest back and forth between parents/guardians and the teacher, I would like to know what method you prefer to be contacted at during the day should the need arise.

E-Mail: _____

Primary Phone: _____

Secondary Phone: _____

Other Contact: _____

Preferred methods in order:

Primary _____ Secondary: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature:
