

Teacher Contact Information:

Ms. Kirsten From

Room: 524

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Welcome to Advanced Placement English Language and Composition. By choosing an AP course, you have signaled your willingness to move at a rapid pace and to engage in thoughtful analysis of various forms of literature.

Students in AP Language and Composition practice writing essays to a prompt as well as reading selections and answering multiple-choice questions in the manner required by the AP exam. Students who do the work will leave this course with enhanced reading and critical thinking skills, improved writing skills, and an enriched vocabulary.

Course Description:

The AP Language and Composition course is designed to engage students in the careful reading and critical analysis of various informational texts. Through the close reading of selected texts, students will expand upon their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide meaning for their readers and/or listeners. Students enrolled in this course will take the AP Language and Composition exam in May. While this course is designed to prepare students for the AP exam, the skills that students acquire will prepare them for future academic endeavors.

Assignments: Readings may include, but are not limited to:

Various famous speeches, informational texts on various topics, and the nonfiction piece Mercy.

Please wait for the teacher to tell you which books to buy. We will discuss this in a few weeks. If buying the reading materials for this class presents a financial burden, notify the teacher in a timely manner so arrangements can be made to secure a copy of the text. It is vital that all students have a copy of the text. It is not possible to pass this course without reading the texts.

Please do not purchase the texts until instructed to do so, as the list may change and the teacher may already have enough copies for the students.

Students will have the opportunity to experiment with various types of expression. Students should expect to be both reading and writing with great frequency (timed writing on average once a week 3 to 5 paragraphs each time). Other types of assignments include but are not limited to: discussions, projects, group presentations etc. It is through the completion of class assignments that students gain the necessary skills to pass the AP exam and to succeed in future Language and Composition courses.

Course Objectives:

To develop independent thought through avid, critical inquiry and to enhance writing skills through frequent, challenging assignments

To create a highly committed, focused, and collaborative community of learners

Grading Policy:

Grades for this course are based upon a total point system. Each assignment will be worth an assigned point value. The total points are calculated at the end of each quarter. The semester grade is the total of both quarters (Quarter 1 **40%** and Quarter 2 **40%**) including the final semester exams. Final exams are worth **20%** of the semester grade. It is important that you make sure that you are aware of your grades at all times. Parents or Guardians, after you have checked Tyler 360, feel free to email me for specific clarification regarding your students' progress. Please see student handbook pg. 15 for the AP percentage scale.

AP Grading Scale:

A \geq 90% 5.0

B \geq 80% 4.0

C \geq 65% 3.0

D \geq 55% 2.0

F $<$ 55% 0.0

Participation:

Much of what we learn in Language and Composition comes from class discussion and interactions with those around us. You will find that many new ideas and inspirations for your writings will come from our class discussions. As you are reading the required speeches, essays, informational texts, and nonfiction novels, be thinking of comments or questions that you can bring to class. **WE NEED TO DISCUSS THE TEXTS!!! THIS IS THE POINT OF THE CLASS.**

Cellphones:

You may not use cellphones in class, unless given permission by the teacher for educational purposes. You will be given 1 warning to put the cellphone away. The second time the cellphone is seen out it will be collected by the teacher. The 3rd time it will be taken and sent to 4A.

Homework:

Homework will be given intermittently throughout the course. Homework may include reading assignments, writing assignments, or simply studying for a test or quiz. You are encouraged to keep track of due dates using a daily planner or calendar. Whatever the assignment is, make sure you are coming to class prepared! Check your grades and check for assignments when you are absent. While it is true, you get two days to make up for what you missed; however, you will need to continue to keep up with the assignments once back from absence. Students who miss class, without keeping up on the missed work, find that their grades suffer. Check with a buddy or email me for assignments when you are absent.

General Policies:

Late work: I accept late assignments; however, it will not be worth the same amount of points as work turned in on time. If turned in within the week due, it will start off worth 10% less than when it was due. If turned in the following week, it will lose at least 20% of the total points. If turned in three weeks or later, it will only be worth 50% of the total points.

Plagiarism/Cheating:

Any assignment that is not your own work is plagiarism. Assignments found to be plagiarized will receive no credit. Common examples of plagiarism are taking information from the internet and using it in your work without citing the source or using another person's work and claiming it is your own. If work is found to be plagiarized there will be consequences not limited to a Zero on the assignment. See student handbook for further information.

Absences:

It is your responsibility to get the work you miss during an absence. You are responsible for getting all missed assignments. Each student is allowed two days to make up the missing assignments for each day the student is absent. Special circumstances may require special arrangements. Please notify me if any special circumstances arise. No make-up work is given for unexcused absences. Please see student handbook for more information.

Absence Due to Activity:

Students who are scheduled to be absent from classes due to athletics, arts, or clubs will be required to turn in all homework due the day after the student returns from their departure. Additionally, these students must take all quizzes and tests that are due on that day during tutor times within the week of the absence, or make arrangements with the teacher prior to absence to make up the tests and/or quizzes during another specified time approved by the instructor.

Credits From Other Institutions:

North Pointe does not accept course credit from other high school or online institutions for currently enrolled students.

Classroom Expectations:

All Pointe Schools Expectations for classroom behavior are to be adhered to at all times: See student handbook for clarification.

- Be on time
- Respect yourself and others
- Be prepared
- Do your best work
- Maintain an environment for learning
- Keep a positive attitude
- Take responsibility
- Dress appropriately
- Use your time wisely

List of Materials:

1. A binder or folder to keep work in
2. Blue or black ink pens
3. Notebook
4. Highlighters
5. May need pencils, plays/novels we are reading in class, and whiteout

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus and schedule as necessary to facilitate the objectives of the course.

Parents/Guardians: I am pleased to have the opportunity to facilitate your child's learning in AP Language and Composition class. I look forward to a fabulous year. I hope that you will feel free to email me questions and concerns regarding the course. If I can be of assistance in any way throughout the year, please email me. Please look through the expectations, sign and return this page to me.

I have read and understand the expectations for AP Language and Composition. I will do my best to help my child adhere to these expectations.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Email Address: _____

I understand the expectations for AP Language and Composition. I will do my best to adhere to these expectations.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____