

Advanced Placement Language and Composition

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Room 524

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Course Overview

*Taken from College Board AP – Course Description, Updated 2014

An AP English Language and Composition course cultivates the reading and writing skills that students need for college success and for intellectually responsible civic engagement. The course guides students in becoming curious, critical, and responsive readers of diverse texts, and becoming flexible, reflective writers of texts addressed to diverse audiences for diverse purposes. The reading and writing students do in the course should deepen and expand their understanding of how written language functions rhetorically: to communicate writers' intentions and elicit readers' responses in particular situations. The course cultivates the rhetorical understanding and use of written language by directing students' attention to writer/reader interactions in their reading and writing of various formal and informal genres (e.g., memos, letters, advertisements, political satires, personal narratives, scientific arguments, cultural critiques, research reports).

Course Philosophy:

As an AP course, this is rigorous college-level course. The reading is often challenging; the writing is frequent and requires an independent mind. We will function as a community of learners. If you are committed to the work as well as to listening and learning from each other, this class will ultimately become one in which we are all teachers and students. Each member of the class will have a voice. We will learn from each other, read our writing aloud, work collaboratively on revisions, and share our thoughts, ideas, and observations with one another.

General Learning Objectives

Upon completing the AP English Language and Composition course, students should be able to:

- Analyze and interpret samples of purposeful writing, identifying and explaining an author's use of rhetorical strategies.
- Analyze images and other multimodal texts for rhetorical features.
- Use effective rhetorical strategies and techniques when composing.
- Write for a variety of purposes.
- Respond to different writing tasks according to their unique rhetorical and composition demands, and translate that rhetorical assessment into a plan for writing.
- Create and sustain original arguments based on information synthesized from readings, research, and/or personal observation and experience.
- Evaluate and incorporate sources into researched arguments.
- Demonstrate understanding of the conventions of citing primary and secondary sources.
- Gain control over various reading and writing processes, with careful attention to inquiry (research), rhetorical analysis and synthesis of sources, drafting, revising/rereading, editing, and review.
- Converse and write reflectively about personal processes of composition.
- Demonstrate understanding and control of Standard Written English as well as stylistic maturity in their own writing.
- Revise a work to make it suitable for a different audience.

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Students will have the opportunity to experiment with various types of expression. Students should expect to be both reading and writing with great frequency. Other types of assignments include: 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 English and composition courses.

This course is dependent upon your keeping up with the rigorous reading and being prepared each day for discussion. Without adequate preparation you not only hinder the achievement of the class, but your own individual acquisition of knowledge.

Grading Policy

Each assignment will be given a point value. Students' grades will be based on how many points they have earned out of the total points possible. I am available to discuss grades every day before class, after school, during tutoring times and on some occasions at lunch. Since this is an AP course, students will receive an augmented grade. Students will not earn an A just for showing up and doing work. All work must be high quality in order to earn an A. Students and parents can always reach me by email and can expect a response as per NP policy of communication.

Textbooks:

Students will be using teacher made collection of readings taken mostly from textbooks called The Language of Composition and Everything's an Argument. I will make copies available to each student for check-out if they were absent or if assignments require homework. In addition to the many non-fiction readings, we will be reading a few fiction pieces. These novels or plays, will need to be purchased by the students. These are the titles that I am considering for this year. Please DO NOT Purchase these items until directed to do so; I will give you plenty of warning. Titles being considered are: House on Mango Street; Othello (for the seniors) Hamlet for the Juniors; The Great Gatsby. There will be a synthesis project which entails a choice of non-fiction works. You will receive details in the first few days of the quarter.

Participation:

Much of what we learn in English 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 texts, be thinking of comments or questions that you can bring to class.

Homework:

You can count on having homework most every night. 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! You need to check your grade several times a week. Check your grades and check for assignments when you are absent. While, it is true, you get two days to make up what you missed, we did not press pause and wait for your return. Students who miss class, without keeping up on the missed work, find that their grades suffer.

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Late Work Policy:

Students are required to turn in work on time for full points. You are expected to turn in your assignments upon entry to the class. There will be a basket for each group or at the front of the row. You are expected to put your assignment in it on your way into the class and before you take your seat. If you did not complete your assignment, a PINK SLIP must be placed in the folder/basket. This needs to be done before the Tardy Bell rings. I will collect the folders or baskets and those assignments/and or PINK SLIPS not in the folder or basket will be marked Tardy. Please get your assignments turned in immediately. If you are on campus any period of time, you must turn in your assignment or it will be considered late. Late is after an assignment has been called for and collected. If you are tardy and I have already collected the work, your work is tardy too. You will not receive full credit on assignments that are late.

Additional Course Information:

As per the NP Student Handbook students enrolled in an AP course are required to take the AP Language Exam in May.

Extra Credit:

No “unique” extra credit will be given upon student request. Opportunities for extra credit will periodically be announced in class. Students may have the ability to earn extra points on exams, certain assignments, and for extra class participation.

Plagiarism/Cheating: Any assignment that is not your own work is plagiarism. Assignments found to be plagiarized will receive no credit. “Working together” resulting in the same or similar answers is not acceptable and considered cheating. When you are not thinking about what you are writing down, you are not learning. Copying someone else’s thoughts is not going to result in learning. We are striving to develop strong brains not strong hands. There are many online sources that can provide you with “the answers”; I am not interested in reading these responses. I will not give you credit for work that is not your original work. Please note: looking for assistance is okay, on occasion but you will find that the struggle that takes place in thinking about your answer is what builds a strong, thinking brain. It is this process that will lead you to greatness in this course and beyond. Students who complete to assignments with original thought and detail are prepared for the AP exam. Students who fail to put forth the effort required in an AP course are not going to gain the skills that the course was designed to provide. You must be “all in” for every assignment.

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 for make up work for each day that he/she is absent. Special circumstances may require special arrangements. Please notify me if any special circumstances arise. The late policy applies to the make-up work. No make-up work is given for unexcused absences. When a student misses a test, that test is to be taken at the next tutoring session. You have two days to take the test. If a student does not make-up a missed test, no points will be given for the missed test. When you are absent, email me and or communicate with a friend to get the assignment.

Missed Assignments: (from the NP Student Handbook) “It is the responsibility of the student to complete any missing assignments or tests due to an excused absence as follows:

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Make-up work-- a student has two days for each absence to complete missing assignments. Make-up privileges shall not exceed one week without written administration approval. Missed Test--scheduled test will be administered during tutoring. You have two days to complete the test. Missed Quizzes: Pop or announced quizzes will be made up at the teachers' discretion.

Absence Due to Activity: You are responsible for making up any assignments that are assigned during your absence due to activity or for any reason. If you are experiencing difficulty due to these activities, please talk to me about the situation and we can come up with a plan to help you get caught-up on your work.

Tardy Policy

Tardiness is unnecessary! When a student is in high school, SCHOOL IS A JOB. Being late to a job is unacceptable. Students will model behavior that reflects societal expectations. If a student is tardy, your assignment is tardy, and points will be deducted. If you are tardy, and you don't turn in your work on time, it is considered late, and will be graded accordingly. There is no make-up work for unexcused absences and or "tardies". Detention will be assigned if the student is late to class. Please see North Pointe Student Handbook for clarification.

Credits: Students who fail a semester core course are required to attend Academic Friday School from 12:15 to 3:30 PM the following semester to make up credit. Students who fail to attend Academic Friday School are subject to disciplinary action.

Once enrolled, North Pointe does not accept course credit from other high schools or online institutions.

Graduation/Awards: (see NP student handbook) Seniors who are not passing courses necessary for graduation by the end of the first school day in May will not participate in North Pointe's Senior Awards Night or Graduation even if they are passing the classes on the last day of school.

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
- Be Prepared
- Do Your Best Work
- Maintain an Environment for Learning
- Keep a Positive Attitude
- Take Responsibility
- Dress Appropriately
- Use Your Time Wisely

Here are a few of Ms. Richards' Rules: I think this about covers it all...

- Be gentle
- Respect the Truth
- Try to forgive
- Learn to love

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- Laugh often

Materials

Students must be prepared for class daily. Being prepared means bringing a pen and a pencil, a highlighter, lined paper, resources being used that day (books, handouts, etc.), homework, and a binder specifically for English. If a student is unprepared, it will directly impact his or her ability to do well in the class.

List of Materials: These items are not optional. You must have these items in order to complete assignments in this course.

1. A large three-ringed binder. This needs to be large enough to accommodate the course work for an entire year. (2-3 inches) This cannot be substituted.
2. Dividers for the binder. You will need to have 8-10 dividers in binder. The labels will be: Essential Handouts, Readings, Rhetorical Analysis, Argument, Synthesis, Readings, Test Prep, Fiction, Misc.
3. Several blue/black ball point pens. You must use blue or black ink pen on the AP test. You will complete all essays in blue or black ink.
4. Post-it notes for marking important passages
5. Hi-lighters (3 colors: Green, Pink, Yellow)
6. 1-2 compositions books or spiral notebooks (1 to begin with)
7. Note cards: Many find them helpful for making student aids for vocabulary and rhetorical terms, etc.
8. The reading material that we are currently working with (novels, plays, reading packets)

Classroom materials and books: Please note that many of the resources in the room are my personal property. I have gathered these materials so that we would have the most resources to enhance the learning environment. Please respect the materials and do not mistreat them.

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

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Parents: I am pleased to have the opportunity to teach your child AP Language and Composition. I look forward to a fabulous year. I hope that you will feel free to email me with questions and concerns regarding the course. If I can be of assistance in anyway throughout the year, please email me. Please look through the course expectations and sign and return this page to school.

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 _____

Class period _____

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