

AP English Language and Composition
2022-2023
Syllabus and Course Description
Ms. Prior| room 212

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is a college level course. In this course, students will focus on three types of writing (argument, synthesis, and rhetorical analysis) to prepare them for the AP exam in May, 2023. Additionally, we will read a variety of texts including novels (from the AP Literature list), poems, songs, and articles, and engage with a variety of media in the discussion of current topics such as identity, the marginalized experience, family, satire, and rhetoric.

AP EXAM:

The AP Exam this year is May 9, 2023. The exam is in two parts. Part 1 is 45 multiple choice questions in 60 minutes. These questions are related to rhetoric, language use, and some grammar. Part 2 is two hours and 15 minutes. The 15 minutes is a reading period at the start of Part 2, where students will read all of the stimulus material for the three essays. Then students have 2 hours to write a synthesis essay, an argument essay, and a rhetorical analysis essay in response to the stimulus materials. The essays are scored using a scoring rubric from the College Board and this rubric will be used to score all essays written during the school year. The exam is scored out of 5 points, with part 1 being 45% of the final score and part 2 being 55% of the overall score.

EXPECTATIONS:

1. This is a college level course, meaning reading materials, discussion topics, and expectations for behavior and performance are college level.
2. Get comfortable with discomfort. As this is a college level course, some of the topics could be viewed as controversial. Rather than shying away from these topics, we discuss them carefully and inclusively, such that all views are welcome and encouraged in discussion.
3. Students are encouraged to participate in discussion, but not required. Students are NEVER required to share their opinion or to agree with opinions that are shared in class. Everyone is entitled to their own thoughts and opinions and discussions focus on the ideas. Attacking other students or their views will not be tolerated. We focus on interrogating the ideas shared in class.
4. You will read and write a lot. Be sure to manage your time wisely such that all outside reading gets done, and come prepared to write full essays in a single class period. Additionally, be prepared to make changes to your writing.
5. You will not always earn an A on every assignment. The writing is always scored using the AP scoring rubric, which is not always forgiving. Be prepared to make improvements to your writing and evolve as a writer throughout the year.

6. The class is the class and the exam is the exam. Earning an A in the class does not ensure a 5 of the exam. They are two different things. Also, your score is your own and is reflective of your class preparation as well as your outside of class preparation.

GRADING: grades are weighted in the following ways.

Writing: 50%

Discussion: 30%

Test Preparation: 20%

POLICIES:

Attendance: Come to class daily, on time, and prepared to participate fully in class activities. If you are absent, please check the daily slide for what you missed.

Reading: Please do the reading. We read novels chosen from the AP Literature book list as a means of helping you be better prepared for AP Lang AND AP Lit next year. A variety of support and suggestions will be offered to help you accomplish all of the reading.

Missing Work: Please turn in missing assignments as soon as possible. If you are having issues turning in work on time, please communicate with me.

Missing Essays: We write a lot of essays in this class. Unless we are reading a play in class, we will write a timed essay every week. If you miss a timed essay every so often, you will be excused from the essay. If you tend to miss class every time we have a timed essay, you will be asked to make up the missing essays or earn a score of 0 in the gradebook.

UNITS and Books:

Unit 1: Rhetoric

- *Textbook: Everything's an Argument

Unit 2: The Marginalized Experience

- The Jungle by Upton Sinclair
- When the Emperor was Divine by Julie Otsuka

Unit 3: Identity

- *"Othello" by William Shakespeare
- *"The Merchant of Venice" by William Shakespeare
- The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Unit 4: Satire

- *"The Modest Proposal" by Jonathan Swift

Unit 5: Family

- *"King Lear" by William Shakespeare
- *"Rime of the Ancient Mariner" by Samuel Taylor Coleridge
- Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

Books, plays and poems with a (*) will be provided to you. Other books will need to be acquired. You are not required to purchase any of the materials this year. You may purchase them new or used, if you choose to. However, you can borrow them from a friend or the library, if you do not want to purchase them.