

AP Language and Composition

Lee County High School

2020-2021 Class Syllabus

Contact Information

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Room 212

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Course Description

This course provides an opportunity for advanced high school students to pursue and receive credit for college-level coursework completed at the high school level. Accordingly, the rigors of the course are intended to be commensurate with introductory college-level rhetoric and composition courses. Students will be trained to be excellent critical thinkers, readers, analysts of language, effective writers, and creative, cogent producers of argument. Students will also focus on the writing skills needed to be successful in the course, on the AP Language test in May, and in their later college work. Students will write effectively for a range of audiences and a variety of purposes, demonstrate mastery of the conventions of standard written language, and use the steps of the writing process as needed. Furthermore, students can expect to read various selections of American literature with special attention being paid to nonfiction pieces, the primary vehicles for our study of language and rhetoric.

Required Texts*

Buck, Pearl S. *The Good Earth*

Capote, Truman. *In Cold Blood*

Chesnutt, Charles W. *The House Behind the Cedars*

Seaver, James E. *A Narrative of the Life of Mrs. Mary Jemison*

*Some texts can be found online for free; however, the hard-copy version is always preferred. In addition to the novels, each student will also be provided with a copy of *The Week*, a news digest magazine that offers a comparison of news coverage and commentary on the political and social issues of the past week from major news sources around the world.

Course Policies and Procedures

1. **Be prepared.** Students will need the following materials for the course:
 - Three-ring binder
 - Dividers
 - Pens and pencils
 - Loose-leaf notebook paper
 - Required novels (see previous section)
 - Copy of *The Week* magazine
2. **Be polite.** Failure to be polite may result in detention or administrative intervention. At minimum, students should
 - follow teacher instructions
 - refrain from participating in personal conversations during tests, class work, or teacher/leader explanations
 - remain in their seat during teacher explanation
 - refrain from consuming food and drinks in the classroom
 - respect others' feelings, personal space and belongings
 - refrain from cell phone/personal electronic device use.
3. **Be proactive.** Keep the following procedures in mind when planning how to succeed in this course:
 - Unless otherwise noted, work submitted electronically is due at 11:59 pm.
 - Work submitted in person is due to the assignment box upon entry of the classroom.
 - Late work will be accepted up to one day late for a maximum of a 70. Work submitted later than one day will not be accepted.
 - Work that has been plagiarized will receive a grade of "o" and may not be made up nor replaced by another assignment. (See section below for more information on plagiarism)
 - Students are responsible for gathering makeup work because of excused absences. Missed quizzes must be scheduled for after school or during PRIDE. Under no circumstances will students be able to work on makeup work during normal class time.
 - All work submitted must conform to 8th edition of MLA formatting.

Grading Information

Your grade will be broken down into the following categories/percentages:

Test Preparation*	15%
Routine Writing	30%
Weekly Formative Assessments	20%
Major Presentations, Essays, & Tests	35%

*Assignments in this category are specifically targeted to prepare students for the AP Language and Composition Exam.

AP Exam Requirement: All students enrolled in this course are required to take the AP English Language and Composition Exam in May. The exam fee is to be paid by the student to the main school office. Exam payments may be made from August through March 2017. A late fee will be assessed for overdue payment.

Assignments and Assessments

The final assessment of student performance and assignment of grades will be based on the following:

Test Preparation Assignments (TPs) — Assignments in this category will largely consist of AP multiple-choice practice; sample AP rhetorical analysis, synthesis, and argumentative essays.

Routine Writing (RWs) — Throughout the course, students will engage in various types of routine writing intended to enhance the students' language facility through the careful consideration of different types of texts. Routine writing assignments will often be reflective in nature and based on novels and articles from *The Week*. However, writings in this category may also take an argumentative or persuasive slant.

Weekly Formative Assessments (WFAs) — Assignments in this category will largely consist of weekly vocabulary quizzes. Far from merely memorizing definitions, vocabulary assignments in this course will ask you to consider the linguistic and etymological perspectives of words; therefore, students should prepare for quizzes accordingly. Moreover, students will also be periodically quizzed over domain-specific vocabulary related to rhetoric, linguistics, critical theory, etc. If the instructor feels that students are not reading the assigned novels outside of class, reading check quizzes will be given and will fall into this category also.

Major Presentations, Essays, and Tests (MPETs) — Assignments in this category will largely consist of longer argumentative essays that require students to cogently support a primary claim with reliable, peer-reviewed research. Students will also be expected to take these essays through multiple, recursive drafts. Specific requirements for each essay will be given well

in advance of the essay's due date. Research-based presentations and major tests will also help to comprise this category.

Grading of Writing

The overall grade given is not a subjective impression but a summary of a student's performance on any given assignment's criteria. While many writings will be also be scored using the analytical AP rubric, general descriptions of each letter-grade follow:

- Writing that earns an A is distinguished by clear, thoughtful, and significant ideas expressed with an awareness of audience; logical, detailed, and relevant development; coherent and effective organization that supports the development; sophisticated style (varied, readable, and skillfully constructed sentences, as well as diction that is fresh, precise, economical, and idiomatic); correct grammar; and correct format.
- Writing that earns a B is distinguished by most of the qualities listed above. However, it may be distinguished by somewhat less insightful ideas and occasionally less pertinent and detailed development for an audience; some paragraphing and transitions that may not aid the audience as they might; style that is competent but not distinctive; generally correct grammar; and generally correct format.
- Writing that earns a C is characterized by generally clear but conventional ideas; overly general development; clear but mechanical organization; unremarkable style (restricted vocabulary and sentences that lack variety); occasional problems in grammar that hinder the writer's purpose; and minimal adherence to correct format.
- Writing that earns an F is characterized by unfocused ideas expressed with seemingly no concern for the audience; little or no development; little or no organization; frequent incoherent sentence structure and inappropriate word choice; frequent grammatical errors that make the writer's purpose impossible to achieve; and little or no adherence to correct format.

Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism:

Definition: The intentional misrepresentation of one's work to deceive for personal gain, when in fact said work is not that person's (or assisting another to do the same). Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to: cheating, **plagiarism**, and fabrication. Plagiarism is taking someone else's work and passing it off as your own in whole or part.

Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

1. Copying and Pasting
2. Changing a few words from another source.
3. Claiming the *ideas* of another as your own without giving proper credit.
4. Turning in a work written by someone else you know even with that person's permission.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. As previously noted, plagiarized work will receive a grade of "0" and may not be made up nor replaced by another assignment. In an effort to combat plagiarism, much of what we do in this class will be submitted to Turnitin.