

## Advanced Placement English Language and Composition

Mrs. Ruff

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### Course Overview

AP English Lang and Comp is a college course, not a college prep course. The AP English Lang course aligns to an introductory college-level rhetoric and writing curriculum. Students who pass the AP exam in May receive college credit for the course. Therefore, it is challenging and rigorous. The focus of the course is argumentation, rhetorical analysis, and synthesis. The course will be weighted 1.1 times.

The AP English Lang course focuses on the development and revision of evidence-based analytical and argumentative writing, the rhetorical analysis of nonfiction texts, and the decisions writers make as they compose and revise. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Additionally, they read and analyze rhetorical elements and their effects in nonfiction texts from a range of disciplines and historical periods.

The majority of required readings will come from the textbook. We will read some of the following plays and novels:

- *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller (in the textbook)
- *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald (classroom set available)
- *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer (students need to obtain a copy)
- *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote (classroom set available)
- *The Overachievers* by Alexandra Robbins (students need to obtain a copy)

### The Exam

A major objective for the course is to prepare for the Advanced Placement exam, which will be Wednesday, May 13. Students will practice both test procedure and subject matter. The exam is three hours and fifteen minutes long and consists of two sections:

- Section 1 is multiple choice. There are 45 questions presented in five sets with short passages. This section lasts one hour and counts for 45% of the exam score. 23-25 of the questions will be rhetorical analysis questions, and 20-22 of the questions will be composition questions that ask students to “read like a writer” and consider revisions to texts.
- Section 2 is free response. There are three free-response questions scored using analytic rubrics. This section lasts 2 hours, 15 minutes and counts for 55% of the exam score. The three types of essays are synthesis, rhetorical analysis, and argument.

AP exam scores will be released in early July. Scores are calculated 0-5, with scores of 3-5 considered passing.

## AP Classroom

### Grading Policies

Essays will be scored on a scale from 1-6, just as they are on the AP exam. These score then translate into the following grading scale:

6 -- 93-100

5 -- 85-92

4 -- 78-84

3 -- 70-77

2 -- 65-69

1 -- failing score

### Grading Scale

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| · Daily (quizzes, homework, AP practice) | 10% |
| · Informal writing (in-class essays)     | 10% |
| · Exam                                   | 20% |
| · Unit tests                             | 60% |
- Ten points will automatically be deducted from essays or projects turned in late, with ten additional points deducted each subsequent day. If an essay is due on Friday and turned in on Monday, the highest possible score is 60. **Work turned in at the end of your block or the end of the day is still late. Work is due at the beginning of your block.**
  - All writing assignments must be typed in MLA format unless otherwise specified. You may email me your writing assignments, but they must be emailed in a .doc format and must be emailed **before your class begins on the day the assignment is due.** Any assignment submitted in a format that can not be opened is considered late. If you have a printing problem, computer crash, or other technical disaster, you must still turn in the assignment on time. You may bring a flash drive to me or email it to me before class begins.
  - **Cheating is not accepted.** The school considers cheating a Level 3 offense, and colleges are even more strict about this offense. Cheating will result in an automatic zero on the assignment with no chance to make up the points. The incident will also be a discipline referral to the administration. **Cheating includes copying someone else's work, allowing someone to copy your work, or plagiarism of any kind.**