

Syllabus must be read and signed by both the student and his/her parent/guardian. Deadline: 9/2

Welcome to AP Language and Composition 2011-2012

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Course Overview

The purpose of AP Language and Composition is to “enable students to read complex texts with understanding and to write prose of sufficient richness and complexity to communicate effectively with mature readers” (*The College Board* 2010). Through close readings and focused written assignments, students become more aware of an author’s purposeful use of language. As the course progresses, students become more readily able to incorporate similar rhetorical tools into their own prose as they cultivate individual writing styles. The skills developed in this course will allow students to read critically and write effectively in different modes in the college classroom and beyond.

AP Language focuses on primarily nonfiction works featuring an array of authors from diverse time periods and backgrounds.

Course Expectations

This is a college-level course and will be treated as such. The expectations are appropriately high.

- Be in class before the late bell rings. If you are not, you are late.
- Bring all English materials. You cannot participate without them
- All assignments must be typed or written in ink (blue or black).
- Be respectful of everyone and everything in the classroom.
- Be alert and contribute to the class. Learning is an active process.
- Ask questions when something is not clear.
- Come in for extra help when you need it.
- Be honest with me and yourself. We both know what you need to do to succeed.
- Have a positive attitude and an open mind when you walk through the door.
- Take responsibility for your learning and behavior.

Supplies (needed in class every day)

- A loose-leaf notebook or section for English
- A **separate** AP Language journal
- (composition book, spiral notebook, etc.)
- Lined paper **without** ragged edges
- Pens (blue or black)
- #2 pencils and erasers (for Scantron tests)
- Multi-colored highlighters, pens, or pencils

Vocabulary

Every two weeks, students will receive 10 SAT vocabulary words. Students are responsible for learning definitions, understanding meaning based on context, and incorporating these words into routine use (verbally, written assignments, etc.). Unannounced vocabulary quizzes will occur. These quizzes will be cumulative (i.e. they will test **all** the words).

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AP Exam

All students are expected to take the AP exam in May. Ordinarily, the exam consists of 60 minutes for multiple-choice questions (52-58 questions), a 15 minute reading period, and 120 minutes for essay questions (3 prompts: prose analysis, rhetoric and argumentation, and synthesis).

Writing

Throughout the year, students will complete timed essay questions from past exams, which will be graded on the 9-point rubric used for the actual exam (revision of first draft encouraged). Additionally, there will be major essays in each unit that will require students to show appropriate drafting, revision, and rewriting. Rough drafts will go through peer edits and self-review before submission to the teacher. The essay prompts are challenging and numerous. Teacher expectations for student writing are high. Success in the course depends upon the student's willingness to meet these challenges.

Edline and Grading

All students are expected to access Edline regularly for information about class assignments, homework, tests/quizzes and grades.

Work will be graded as follows:

Homework: 10% Formative: 50% Summative: 40%

Assignments in the formative category are generally reassessable Homework and summative assignments are generally not reassessable.

Due Dates and Deadlines

Due dates and deadlines will be established for all assignments. Work submitted after the due date, but before the deadline will be penalized by 10%. Work submitted after the deadline will receive no credit.

Important: All homework assignments, tests, and quizzes will have a deadline that is the same as the due date. This means that if you have an unexcused absence on the due date you have also missed the deadline. You will not receive credit on the assignment.

Attendance Policy

- Regular, on time attendance is mandatory.
- If you have an unexcused absence, you will receive a zero for that day's assignments (tests, quizzes, homework, classwork, etc.).
- If you have 3 unexcused absences you will receive a failure warning. **If you have 5 unexcused absences, you will automatically receive a failing grade.**
- Three unexcused tardies will equal one unexcused absence. If you are unexcused late to class, you will not be permitted to make up any work you missed (warm ups, quizzes, submitting homework, etc.)
- If you have an excused absence, you must submit a note to the Attendance Office within 3 days of your return to school.
- It is your responsibility to check Edline and speak with Ms. Battle to get all missed assignments when you are absent. If you do not complete missed assignments, you will receive a zero (even if the absence is excused).

Classroom Passes

In general, passes for bathroom, locker, etc. will not be issued. Take care of your personal needs before or after class.

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Electronic Devices

Cell phones, iPods, MP3 players, and other electronic devices are not allowed in the classroom. If at any time one of these devices is seen or heard in the classroom, it will need to be surrendered to a member of the Security team.

Extra Help

You are expected to come for help as needed. Do not wait until the end of the quarter to try to resolve problems. I am available for extra help every day during lunch EXCEPT Mondays, and I am available after school every day. You may also email me any time at Tamara_M_Battle@mcpsmd.org.

Detach and Return by Friday, September 2

Parent and Student Signature of Acknowledgement

I have read and understand the course requirements, policies, and expectations outlined in the above syllabus. I also recognize that if I have any questions regarding this class, they should be directed to Ms. Battle at 301-929-2077 or Tamara_M_Battle@mcpsmd.org.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Signature