



AP LANGUAGE & COMPOSITION

Teacher Name: Nichole Murray, NBCT

Teacher Email: npmurray@madisoncity.k12.al.us

Course Description:

From the AP English Language and Composition Course and Exam Description, 2019: 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 College Board©. (2019). AP Language and Composition. *Course and Exam Description*. Instructional Approach. Controversial Textual Content. V. 1, pg. 11.

Course Objectives:

The intense concentration on language use in this course should enhance the student's ability to use grammatical conventions both appropriately and with sophistication as well as to develop stylistic maturity in their prose.

Stylistic development is nurtured by emphasizing the following:

1. a wide range of vocabulary.
2. a variety of sentence structures.
3. a logical organization, enhanced by specific techniques to increase coherence such as repetition, transition, and emphasis.
4. a balance of generalization and specific illustrative detail.
5. an effective use of rhetoric, including controlling tone, establishing and maintaining voice, and achieving appropriate emphasis through diction and sentence structure.

Controversial Content

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Classroom Expectations:

You are expected to conduct yourself in a respectful and productive manner. In addition to all the rules and expectations listed in the student handbook, I expect you to have a positive attitude, treat others with respect, practice self-discipline, and demonstrate responsibility. If



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these conditions are not met, you can expect one-on-one meetings with me, parent/instructor conferencing, and administrative action, if necessary.

Concerning the use of cell phones and other electronic devices:

Devices should be on silent and kept in your purse, backpack, or pocket during class unless otherwise instructed. You may not place it on your desk. Parents, guardians, and other family members should call the front office in case of emergency.

If you violate this rule, you can expect the following consequences:

- *First offense* – The phone or device will be placed in a phone chart at the front of the room. You may pick it up at the end of class.
 - *Second offense* – The phone or device will again be placed in a phone chart at the front of the room until the end of class and a parent/guardian will be notified.
 - *Third offense* – This is defiance and I will notify an administrator.
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Grading Policy:

Major assessments will count 70 percent of your grade. Homework and classwork will account for 30 percent of your grade. Grades will be updated weekly in PowerSchools. Each grading period will consist of nine weeks.

Make-up Work Policy:

Make-up tests will **only** be given to a student who has an **excused absence**. **The student must make arrangements with the teacher to take a make-up test. Tests may be taken during Patriot Path with prior arrangement from each teacher.** A student only has two chances (the next two Patriot Paths after the absence) to make up a test. All make-up tests will be administered in the designated classroom on the Patriot Path session roster.

Homework/Classwork: Students who are absent for **excused reasons** will be permitted to make up missed work. **It is the student's responsibility to get their work assignments the day upon return to school and complete the assignments according to a time frame determined by the teacher within two weeks of the date of the last absence.** Grades of zero will be assigned for assignments missed because of unexcused absences.

Text and Other Required Reading:

Ideas in Argument: Building Skills and Understanding, and selections from all or some of the following: *Of Mice and Men*, *How to Read Nonfiction Like a Professor*, *Just Mercy*, *The Crucible*, and *The Great Gatsby*. Additional nonfiction literature may be announced at a later date as well as the College Board AP Classroom multiple choice practice and instructional videos. Students will complete outside reading assignments to reinforce AP Language skills and prepare for the argument, rhetorical analysis, and synthesis prompts on the exam. During the semester, students will follow current events, complete close read assignments, and DIDLS assignments on the outside texts.



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Materials and Supplies Needed:

One three-ring binder with dividers (7), college-ruled, loose-leaf paper, pens (blue or black and red)/pencils, and highlighters (blue, green, yellow, pink, and orange). Most of the books will be available in class. If students would like to have his/her own copy to make notes in or read at home, students will want to consider purchasing the novel(s) on their own. All handouts are provided on Schoology through our class page. The AP English Survival Guide (**Yellow Pages**) is available on Schoology as well. This document needs to be at the students' fingertips at all times.

Laptops

Concerning laptop utilization: 1. Student laptops should not be hard-wired to the network or have print capabilities. 2. Use of discs, flash drives, jump drives, or other USB devices will not be allowed on Madison City computers. 3. Neither the teacher, nor the school is responsible for broken, stolen, or lost laptops. 4. Laptops and other electronic devices will be used at the individual discretion of the teacher.

Turnitin Notice

The majority of writing assignments in this course will be submitted to Turnitin via the Schoology learning platform. Turnitin generates a report on the originality of student writing by comparing it with a database of periodicals, books, online content, student papers, and other published work. This program will help students discern when they are using sources fairly, citing properly, and paraphrasing effectively - skills essential to all academic work.

Students will have the opportunity to review their Turnitin originality report and will have the opportunity to make revisions before submitting their work for grading. Once their work is submitted, teachers have the opportunity to view the student/s originality report and grade accordingly.

Accommodations

Requests for accommodations for this course or any school event are welcomed from students and parents.



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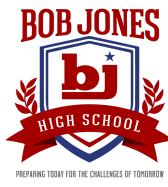
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18- WEEK PLAN*	
Weeks 1-4	Unit 1 and 2: Communicating an Idea and Appealing to an Audience - Introduction to class expectations – <i>Of Mice and Men</i> -Steinbeck and <i>How to Read Nonfiction Like a Professor</i> -Foster-Anchor texts; examination of the rhetorical situation, argument, and synthesis, claims and evidence, reasoning and organization, language and style, ideas in American culture, composition workshop, and exam prep; (DGP weekly and vocabulary bi-weekly)
Weeks 5-8	Unit 3 and 4: Understanding Context and Analyzing Purpose- <i>Just Mercy</i> -Anchor text; PSA research project; examination of the rhetorical situation, argument, and synthesis, claims and evidence, reasoning and organization, language and style, ideas in American culture, composition workshop, and exam prep; (DGP weekly and vocabulary bi-weekly)
Weeks 9-11	Unit 5 and 6: Creating Coherence and Establishing and Evaluating Credibility- <i>The Crucible</i> -Anchor text; reader’s theater project; examination of the rhetorical situation, argument, and synthesis, claims and evidence, reasoning and organization, language and style, ideas in American culture, composition workshop, and exam prep; (DGP weekly and vocabulary bi-weekly)
Weeks 12-14	Unit 7 and 8: Comparing Perspectives and Explaining Complexities- Former AP prompts and multiple choice practice, examination of the rhetorical situation, argument, and synthesis, claims and evidence, reasoning and organization, language and style, ideas in American culture, composition workshop, and exam prep; (DGP weekly and vocabulary bi-weekly)
Weeks 15-18	Unit 9: Joining the Conversation- <i>The Great Gatsby</i> -Anchor text; chapter presentation project and college essay; examination of the rhetorical situation, argument, and synthesis, claims and evidence, reasoning and organization, language and style, ideas in American culture, composition workshop, and exam prep; (DGP weekly and vocabulary bi-weekly)

***This is a tentative plan and may change at the discretion of the teacher.**

AP English Language and Composition Essay Scoring Guide-Mrs. Murray

Grade	Weeks 1-10	Weeks 11-18
6	100	100
5	95	90
4	85	80
3	75	70
2	65	60
1	55	50



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Please initial and sign below to acknowledge that you have received, read, and understood the syllabus.

_____ **We have read the syllabus** for Mrs. Murray's AP English Language and Composition and understand the expectations for the course and classroom policies explained therein.

_____ We know AP students **will have homework**, and we will support our student in making this rigorous academic year a successful one!

_____ We also know that Mrs. Murray will contact us about any concerns or class information via the information supplied on the **Parent Contact Google Form**. **We will scan the QR code below to complete this form, so Mrs. Murray has the correct contact information. {If a parent completes this form, the student will receive 5 bonus points on the test grade of their choice in the first weeks of school.}**

Student name: _____

Student signature: _____

Parent/guardian name: _____

Parent/guardian signature: _____

Parent/guardian, please provide two ways for me to contact you (email address, phone numbers):

Parent/Guardian Email:

Parent/Guardian Phone number:

QR Code for Parent Contact Form {Remember, if this form is completed by a parent, the student will receive 5 bonus points on the test grade of their choice in the first weeks of school.}

