

# AP Language and Composition

Lee County High School

2023-2024 Class Syllabus

## Contact Information

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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* (Summer Reading)

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

Cooley, Thomas. *The Norton Sampler*

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby*

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

Shea, Renee, et. al. *The Language of Composition*

\*Some texts can be found online for free; however, the hard-copy version is always preferred. Do not purchase a text until you are asked to do so. Some texts will be supplied by the school.

## 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)
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:
  - This is a college level course, so students must learn to advocate for themselves.
  - 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 not be accepted.
  - Students who are absent on exam days will complete a differently formatted exam.
  - 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 will be responsible for making plans with the teacher to complete work missed from excused absences. 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 unless otherwise noted.

## 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 will prepare students for the two mandatory exams for this course:

**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 2021. A late fee will be assessed for overdue payment.

**EOC Exam Requirement:** There is a state-mandated End-of-Course Exam for American Literature and Composition given in May. The students must take the EOC Exam to receive credit for the course. The EOC Exam constitutes 20% of the student's 2nd Semester grade.

## Assignments and Assessments

The final assessment of student performance and assignment of grades will be based on the following. It's the student's responsibility to keep up with work on the assignments and due dates:

**Test Preparation Assignments (TPs)** — Assignments in this category will largely consist of AP multiple-choice practice; sample AP rhetorical analysis, synthesis, and argumentative essays; and various Milestones EOC preparatory materials, including assignments on USA Test Prep.

**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 various texts and ways of thinking. Routine writing assignments may also be reflective in nature, based on your performance on other class assignments. The majority of your writing will fall into this category because we do best what we do the most.

**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 quizzed periodically 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 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, major timed essays, and multiple-choice practice exams will also 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 scored using the analytical AP rubrics, 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.
5. Using Artificial intelligence software to write your papers - even in part - for you.

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.