Deer Valley Unified School District

Mrs. Melanie Hallock
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AP Language & Composition

623-376-3149
https://www.dvusd.org/Domain/7523
Room E119

Course Description:
AP English Language and Composition cultivates the reading and writing skills that students need for college success and for intelligently 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 (AP English Language & Composition Course and Exam Description 2019). The course is organized according to the requirements and guidelines of the current AP English Course Description, and, therefore, students are expected to read critically, think analytically, and communicate clearly. Students in this introductory college-preparatory course read and carefully analyze a broad and challenging range of fiction & nonfiction prose selections, deepening their awareness of rhetoric and how language works. Through close reading and frequent informal and formal writing, students develop their ability to work with language and text with a greater awareness of purpose and strategy, while strengthening their own composition abilities. Students prepare for the AP English Language and Composition Exam and may be granted advanced placement, college credit, or both as a result of satisfactory performance.

Course Objectives: By the time the student completes this course of study, the student will know or be able to:
- Critically analyze texts of varying form and purpose, as well as rhetorical strategies and stylistic devices, in fiction and non-fiction literature.
- Formulate and develop arguments with clear and coherent claims, citing strong and thorough evidence to support implicit inferences from the text, and implementing valid and logical reasoning.
- Synthesize information from a variety of similar texts to discuss cultural paradigms and shared commonalities.
- Express understanding through a variety of writing experiences, focusing mostly on rhetorical analysis, synthesis, and argumentation.
- Develop close reading skills on 16th century texts to modern-day texts.

Disciplinary Consequences: If you are unable to abide by the course rules, your consequences will follow suit in a succeeding manner: verbal warning, conference with teacher and/or parent phone call, or administrative referral and parent phone call. Major violations will warrant an immediate referral.

Grading:
- Grades are based on a percentage of all possible points: (100%-90%=A, 89%-80%=B, 79%-70%=C, 69%-60%=D, 59% and lower=F).
- Grades are cumulative for the semester. The first and second semester grades will be weighted as follows: 80% assessment, 20% coursework
- Per district mandate, no extra credit will be given.

Power School Online Access:
Grades and attendance may be accessed 24 hours a day online with your Power School access code. Access codes are available in the Counseling Office or Front Desk Monday – Friday 7:00 AM– 3:30 PM. You may check student progress regularly on the PowerSchool site using the same login for one or more students. For Mountain Ridge parents/guardians without home computer access, a computer with guest log-in capability is available in the Counseling Conference Room.

Academic Assistance/Office Hours: Academic assistance/office hours will be posted in classroom, please email teacher for availability.

Test Retakes: If re-assessment is approved, the student will complete another assessment addressing the same learning targets. The assessment to be retaken may be in the same format or a different format and will be at the same difficulty level. The higher of the two scores will be entered in the gradebook.

To earn a retake opportunity, a student must complete all of the following:

- Consult with the teacher within 5 school days of the assessment score being posted.
- Teacher and student create a reassessment plan, if required by the teacher
- The reassessment plan may include all formative coursework related to the content/skill assessed

Classwork Policy: In-class assignments may be due by the end of the class period.

The Deer Valley Unified School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. For any inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies contact the Superintendent's Department, 20402 N. 15th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85027. (623) 445-5000.

Ridge

AI Statement

In Deer Valley Unified School District, we are committed to providing our students with the best possible education while ensuring their safety, privacy, and well-being. As part of our ongoing efforts to enhance learning experiences, we may incorporate the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the classroom for students. However, it is important to approach this technology with caution and adhere to responsible data privacy practices.

DVUSD has determined that the use of Large Language Models (LLMs), such as ChatGPT, is prohibited unless clearly specified by your teacher. Specific guidelines will be provided in the assignment details. If you are unsure if the tool or website you are using is an LLM or if it is permitted on a specific assignment, please contact your teacher before submitting your work.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism and/or cheating of any kind will not be tolerated and the student(s) will receive an automatic zero for the work, a call home, and be written up for the act of academic dishonesty. This is your warning. It should also be noted that you CANNOT use or submit any work that you may or may not have used for a previous class or course.

Late Assignment Policy: Mountain Ridge students have within the current unit of study to turn in assigned work for full credit, as determined by the teacher level, and or department (a unit is typically 1 week in length).

Make-Up Quizzes and Tests: If you have an excused absence on a quiz or test day, **you must reschedule with me upon returning to class**. If you do not schedule a day and time to make up the missed test/quiz the day you get back, you may be required to complete an alternative assessment. My office hours are by appointment only.

Daily Device Use: Students should come to class with their devices charged and ready to use in each class every day. Devices may not be used to record or take photos of other people without their consent. Consequences for classroom disruptions and misuse of devices will follow a progressive discipline model.

Class Novels: In addition to the required summer novel, Malcolm Gladwell's *Outliers*, all students will be responsible for reading and purchasing a copy of *The Scarlet Letter*, *The Great Gatsby,* and *Unbroken*. Students may choose to access these texts in whatever fashion works best to support their learning. I recommend that students obtain their own traditional hard copy in order to annotate and read actively. If you are unable to acquire a physical copy of one of the novels please contact me.

Additional Reading: Because wide reading as well as sophisticated analysis is important to a deeper understanding of rhetoric and non-fiction, students will be assigned other texts to read/view outside of class. It is our expectation that they do so before the due date so that they can participate in the class activities the following day(s).

Homework: Since this is a rigorous college preparatory course, performance expectations are appropriately high and the workload is challenging. Students (depending on their skills, work ethic, and additional commitments) could be expected to commit to working on assignments and long-term projects outside of class. Often, this work involves long-term research-based writing and reading assignments; effective time management is crucial.

Classwork: There will be many timed assignments that are **due by the end of the class period**; these may include quizzes, tests, timed writes and workshops – these assignments are **Aligned AP Prompts and questions** that are not eligible for additional time and will not be accepted for credit after the deadline. **These assignments that are handwritten will be written in pencil or blue or black ink only.**

AP Language & Composition Test Fee:
The Fee for AP Language and composition is **$96** and the exam is scheduled for **Tuesday May 14th @ 8:00am**.

Recommended Supplies for this Course:
- Standard materials, including paper / blue or black pens ONLY / highlighters - at least three colors / pocket folder
- It is recommended that you have a binder specifically dedicated to AP Language & Composition to store work throughout the year.
- DVUSD issued iPads and chargers

Ridge

Student Name:_____ **Period:**_____

Please Note: Students should download the MRHS app on their iPad and/or cell phone to access the MRHS Handbook and other important school documents and resources.

AP Language & Composition

Mrs. Hallock

Please read the syllabus for this course, which can be accessed at: https://www.dvusd.org/Domain/7523.

I have read and understand all of the guidelines set forth in the syllabus for this class. I have also reviewed the novels/plays that will be read and discussed in this class and have no concerns at this time.

Student Name (Printed): _____ Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Email:_____ **Parent Cell #:**_____





