

COURSE OVERVIEW – AP LANGUAGE/11th GRADE

2016-2017

Mr. Cole
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Room 162/ Office 141
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Advanced Placement classes are designed as college-level courses. Please keep this fact in mind as we work our way through the school year and prepare for the AP exam in Language and Composition. I expect a high level of effort, motivation, participation, and achievement from everyone enrolled in this class. According to The College Board, AP English Language and Composition “engages students in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Both their writing and their reading should make students aware of the interactions among a writer’s purposes, audience expectations, and subjects as well as the way generic conventions and the resources of language contribute to effectiveness in writing.” Our course emphasizes rhetoric and argumentation.

Literature:

Our first-semester reading plan includes the following titles:

Native Son (Richard Wright)

One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest (Ken Kesey)

The Princess Bride (William Goldman)

Numerous essays, columns, and articles

Writing:

Writing and peer evaluation are a major focus of this class. Much of the writing will be geared toward helping you pass the AP Language test, but, as writing is a lifetime skill, argumentation, narration, and exposition will all be included in our writing assignments. The nature of the assignments will be more complex than you may have encountered in previous English classes. Be prepared to think, revise, and control your writing. Expectations are intentionally high.

Only timed, in-class writings may be reassessed and only after a timely conference with the teacher outside of class time. The second grade will always stand regardless of change.

All compositions must follow manuscript form (either typed or written neatly in blue or black ink on one side of the paper with a proper heading in the upper right-hand corner). I may require that some writing assignments be submitted to turnitin.com. I reserve the right to refuse submissions that do not meet these criteria.

Academic Support:

Academic support is available for all students. Be responsible for your own learning; do not wait for me to recommend support. Academic Support is available in room 174 during 5th and 6th lunch and after 7th/8th period Monday through Thursday. I am generally available before school and during both lunches, Monday through Thursday, in room 141. Once football ends in December I will also be available after school. Please try to arrange an appointment in advance.

Vocabulary and Grammar:

Vocabulary and grammar are included specifically to improve student’s comprehension of sophisticated texts and to enhance the stylistic maturity of their writing. We will also be working with a vocabulary text regularly.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

General Information:

- Our work will promote discussion. Join in, but also listen to others. I insist upon civility.
- Students are expected to come to class prepared and on time.
- I will dismiss the class when it is over. Do not pack up in anticipation of the bell.
- You may bring a drink to the classroom as long as you clean up after yourself.
- Bathroom and grooming needs should be addressed before or after class.
- Attendance is taken every day.
- Due dates will be announced. Writing assignments received by the next class meeting (deadline) will be accepted for a 10% reduction in grade. Writing assignments received after the deadline will receive either partial or no credit, depending on circumstances. Bring special circumstances to my attention promptly.
- Violation of testing procedures will result in a failing grade.
- Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Plagiarized work will result in a zero and will not be eligible for reassessment.
- Students are expected to use a three-ring binder to maintain control of notes and handouts.
- Students should purchase *Cliffs AP English Language and Composition* (most recent edition). Strunk and White's *The Elements of Style*, an invaluable resource, is available online at <<http://www.bartleby.com>>. Students should use both texts whether or not we use them in class.

Grades:

- **Not Eligible for Reassessment in All Tasks:**
(Tests and reading quizzes, summer reading essay, untimed essays, writing assignments toward the end of the quarter)
- **Eligible for Reassessment in All Tasks:**
(Timed writings and selected activities)
- **Class work and homework: 10%**
(work done for practice in and out of class)

Montgomery Blair uses Edline at <http://edline.net>. Grades will be posted by the teacher in a timely fashion that is proportionate to the complexity and type of an assignment. Class assignments and objectives will be posted regularly on Google Classroom.

Reassessment:

Students seeking to reassess any assignments must see me for permission and a conference.

Absence policy:

A student who misses a test or quiz because of an excused absence must arrange to make it up within three school days after returning to school. A student returning to school on a test day must take any previously announced test with the class. Special circumstances must be brought to my attention promptly.

I have read and understood the Overview and Policies and Procedures for AP Language.

(Student signature and date)

(Parent signature and date)