



AP Language and Composition Course Syllabus 2021-22

Mrs. Orth

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Course Description

This course uses traditional and contemporary non-fiction as content for teaching close reading, critical thinking, and advanced writing skills, deepening students' awareness of rhetoric and how language works. Through close reading activities and frequent writing, students will develop their ability to work with language and text with a greater awareness of purpose and strategy, while strengthening their own composition skills. Students who successfully complete the course and pass the exam may earn college credit, be granted advanced placement, or both, as a result of satisfactory performance, depending on the policies of the college they plan to attend.

Goals for Student Learning

The following course objectives are in line with those of the College Board, which states that students who have completed the course should be able to:

- Analyze and interpret samples of good writing, identifying and explaining an author's use of rhetorical strategies and techniques
- Apply effective rhetorical strategies and techniques to their own writing
- Create and sustain arguments based on readings, research, and/or personal experience
- Produce expository, analytical, and argumentative compositions that introduce a complex central idea and develop it with appropriate evidence drawn from primary or secondary sources, cogent explanations, and clear transitions
- Move effectively through the stages of the writing process with careful attention to inquiry and research, drafting, revising, editing, and review

Textbook

AP Language and Composition does not formally incorporate a textbook. Rather, students will engage with *non-fiction* texts of various lengths, topics, and levels of difficulty. Texts in the course range from seminal historical documents, famous letters, personal essays, memoirs, speeches, and articles. Additionally, some non-print texts used in the course include film clips, commercials, TEDtalks, and podcasts. This year, Mrs. Blackburn and I will be incorporating "Book Clubs" in which students will choose which longer works they would like to read with a small group of their peers. More info to come!

Materials

REQUIRED:

- Laptop and headphones
- Spiral notebook or composition book
- Writing utensil
- Folder or binder to organize handouts

RECOMMENDED:

- Highlighter and/or colored pencils for color coding
- Tabs/Post-its for annotation

Course Outline

All AP English Language and Composition courses must follow the standards outlined in the College Board's CED (Course and Exam Description), however, courses may offer different unit topics, texts, etc. All AP Language and Composition courses focus on 4 "Big Ideas" as established in the CED. The "Big Ideas" are as follows:

- **Rhetorical Situation**- Individuals write within a particular situation and make strategic writing choices based on the situation.
- **Claims and Evidence**- Writers make claims about subjects, rely on evidence that supports the reasoning that justifies the claim, and often acknowledge or respond to other, possibly opposing, arguments.
- **Reasoning and Organization**- Writers guide understanding of a text's lines of reasoning and claims through that text's organization and integration of evidence.
- **Style**- The rhetorical situation informs the strategic stylistic choices that writers make.

Unit titles this year will include many of the following:

- The Power of Perspective: The Author and Audience
- The Power of Evidence: Claim, Evidence, and Commentary
- The Power of Controversy: Argument and Storytelling
- The Power of Nature: Analysis 101
- The Power of Influence: Research, Claims, and Citing Sources
- The Power of Education: Claims, Evidence, and Style
- The Power of the Written Word: Diction, Style, Mechanics, and Structure
- The Power of Beauty: Visual Rhetoric
- The Power of Winning

Assessments and HCPS Grading Policy

Assessments may include the following: personal journal responses, short written responses, timed writings, full-process academic essays, unit tests/quizzes, class seminar discussions, small group discussions, and creative projects.

All assignments receive a label of **product, process, or practice in HAC**. Grades are weighted according to the following categories:

Examples of Product, Process, and Practice		
PRODUCT (50%) <i>Culminating Demonstration of Knowledge</i>	PROCESS (30%) <i>Addressing Specific Short-Term Learning Outcomes</i>	PRACTICE (20%) <i>Building Attitudes, Habits, and Skills</i>
Does it measure how well students achieved specific learning goals, standards, and/or competencies?	Does it provide feedback to students regarding growth towards the attainment of specific learning goals, standards and competencies?	Does it allow students to practice skills and/or reinforce content learning?

Examples of Product, Process, and Practice		
PRODUCT (50%) <i>Culminating Demonstration of Knowledge</i>	PROCESS (30%) <i>Addressing Specific Short-Term Learning Outcomes</i>	PRACTICE (20%) <i>Building Attitudes, Habits, and Skills</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Primarily completed in presence of teacher ✓ Rubric aligned to standards ✓ Accuracy graded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Primarily completed in presence of teacher ✓ Rubric aligned to standards ✓ Accuracy graded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Graded for completion and participation

Absent Work Policy (For excused absences)

All assignments should be submitted on time. Students will be given the number of class periods equal to the number of *lawful* class periods absent to turn in completed make up assignments *without penalty*.

Late Work Policy

All assignments should be submitted on time to earn full credit. Any assignment, (*product, process, or practice*) may be turned in late for one letter grade deduction from the grade a student earns on the assignment. **To earn credit for late assignments, students must submit assignments by the end of the day on Wednesday (except for the last week of the quarter) following the designated HAC update. Students are only able to submit assignments that have an established due date within the grading window before the designated HAC update.** Assignments that are turned in for late credit will be identified by a footnote in HAC to include a statement about the deduction of a letter grade due to the lateness of the assignment.

Grading Window	Designated HAC Update	Late Work Due Date
September 8- September 24	September 24	September 29
September 27- October 13	October 13	October 20
October 14- October 29	October 29	November 5 (Friday)
November 8- November 19	November 19	November 24
November 22- December 10	December 10	December 15
December 13- January 13	January 13	January 21 (Friday)
January 24- February 11	February 11	February 16
February 14- February 25	February 25	March 2
February 28- March 11	March 11	March 16
March 14- March 25	March 25	March 31 (Thursday)
April 1- April 22	April 22	April 27
April 25- May 6	May 6	May 11
May 11- May 20	May 20	May 25

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is taking responsibility for the quality and completion of one's own work. Academic dishonesty is taking someone else's work and claiming it as one's own. Students at Bel Air High School are responsible for knowing what is considered to be Academic Dishonesty and the subsequent consequences. More information can be found in the BAHS Student Planner.

Cell Phone Policy

- Students will place their cellphones in a teacher designated area as they enter each classroom. Teachers will review with students the specific location for each room. The phones will remain in the teacher designated area unless teachers explicitly tell students to take out the phones for instructional use.
- Cellphones will remain in the teacher designated area during bathroom visits, assemblies, and trips to the nurse/counseling office/main office.
- Cellphones will be retrieved from the teacher designated area at the end of class at the direction of the teacher.
- School-appropriate cellphone use is permitted during class changes and lunch. Students are not permitted to make phone calls during school hours.
- If the cell phone policy is violated, it is a referable offense.

Mrs. Orth's Simple Classroom Rules and Procedures

- ✓ Be prompt.
- ✓ Be prepared.
- ✓ Be polite.
- ✓ Be a participant.