

Class Syllabus

Class Work & Homework. All assignments are a mandatory component of students' grades and are expected to be completed on time. Consistent progress in assignments is imperative to success in this class! *AP tests are difficult and require extensive preparation for success!* Simply following along in class is not a sufficient means to earn a passing grade. Working with other students is very helpful, but copying is not tolerated. Any academic dishonesty will result in an automatic zero.

Homework assignments, including reading assignments, are extremely important. Remember, *this is a college level class*, and at this level, one hour in class demands two or three hours of extra class work outside of the classroom. Just as in college, students are expected to have completed the appropriate reading assignments *before* the topic is introduced in class.

Final Exams & Mock AP Exams. ALL exams are mandatory and are administered and graded according to the AP format. The final exam is cumulative. The grades earned on all exams will be used to determine whether or not a student will be recommended to take the AP Exam in May.

Make Up Work. Make up work is a student's responsibility. Students are allotted five (5) calendar days to make up missing work. No make-up work will be accepted during the last week of each six-week grading period. Late work will be penalized 10 points for each day the assignment is late, per district AP grading policy.

Writing Assignments: This course heavily emphasizes writing. In addition to small writing assignments given throughout each grading period, each six weeks, students receive a major paper assignment. Students are expected to type all major papers in MLA format, use proper grammar and show a mastery of the English language.

Grading Policy.

70% Major Grades: Tests/Papers/Projects

30% Daily Grades: Homework/Quizzes/Participation

Grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

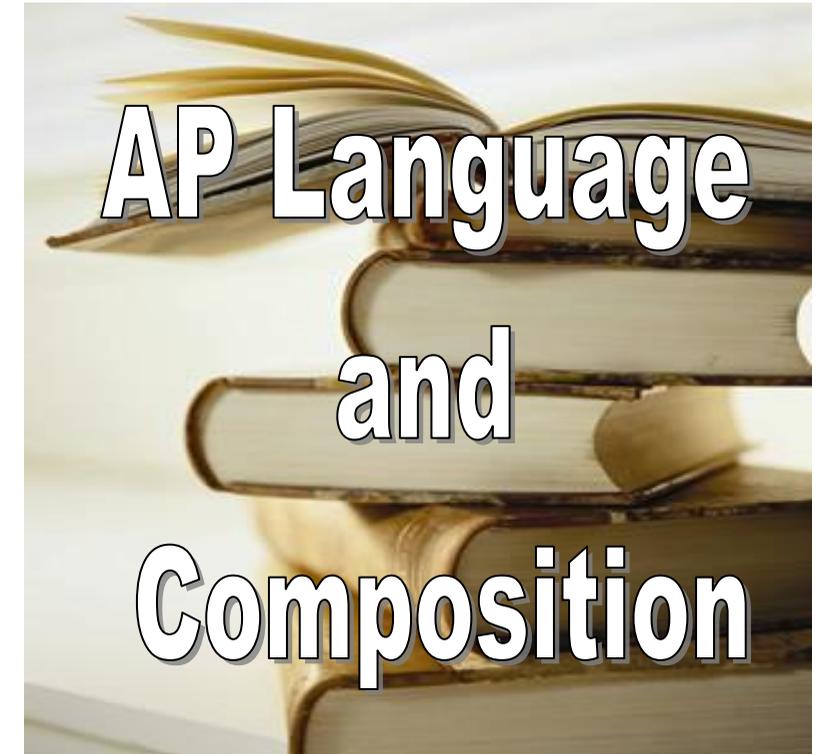
- A: 90-100%
- B: 80-89%
- C: 75-79%
- D: 70-74%
- F: < 70%

Problems with English Language?

Tutorials. Tutorials will be offered after school on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays and before school by appointment.



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AP Language and Composition is designed to be equivalent to a freshman college English course, as stipulated by the AP English Language Curricular Requirements. This course is offered to secondary school students who wish to earn college credit in a secondary school setting.

English Composition course credit is generally required of all incoming college freshman, regardless of field of study. This course allows students the opportunity to earn the appropriate credits prior to entering an academic institution.

The Course

The purpose of the AP Language and Composition course is to introduce students to rhetoric and argumentation. Students will have the opportunity to read a variety of pieces and explore the strategies that make a strong argument. In general, students will focus on the following areas:

- Area 1: Elements of Argument
- Area 2: Memoirs as Argument
- Area 3: Philosophical Rhetoric
- Area 4: Everything is an Argument
- Area 5: The Rhetoric of Poetry and Cinema
- Area 6: Fiction and Nonfiction Connections

Students who successfully complete the course and exam may receive credit, advanced placement, or both for freshman-level Composition.

Why take the AP Exam?

The benefits of AP courses are both academic and financial. Students can potentially earn college credit for completing an AP course and earning a passing score on the subsequent AP Exam. Successfully completing an AP course allows students to get a head start on college. Due to the selective admission requirements of many prestigious universities, a student who has successfully completed an AP course is usually considered to be a very desirable candidate.

Course Requirements

The AP Language and Composition course follows an open enrollment policy and, as such, any student wishing to challenge him or herself is invited to do so.

Students who were previously enrolled in Pre-AP English II will be at an advantage entering this course, but all students are welcome to join.

Who should enroll?

- * Students who want to earn college freshman composition credit during high school.
- * Students seeking a career in the humanities or social sciences: writer, sociologist, historian, journalist, social worker, anthropologist, translator, etc.
- * Students who need the English credit for graduation and wish to take an upper-level course.



The AP Exam

The AP Language and Composition Exam seeks to determine how well a student has mastered the concepts and techniques of the subject matter of the course. This three-hour paper-and-pencil exam consists of:

- * **Section 1 (45%): 100 Multiple Choice questions** - Students have 60 minutes to answer questions designed to test proficiency in a wide variety of rhetorical topics
- * **Section 2 (55%): 3 Free-response essays** - Students have 120 minutes to answer three open-ended essay questions: a general argument, a rhetorical analysis and a synthesis essay.

The AP Exam Scores

AP exam scores are awarded on a 5-point scale:

- 5: *Extremely well qualified*
- 4: *Well qualified*
- 3: *Qualified*
- 2: *Possibly qualified*
- 1: *No recommendation*

There is no official *passing* grade on the exam. Many colleges give course credit for grades of 3 or better, but others require a 4 or 5 for credit.

The essay section of the exam is based on a nine-point holistic score. Student responses must be thorough and address the prompt with accuracy. Answers that are not well-developed and do not show a knowledge of rhetoric and argumentation may be penalized.