



Advanced Placement English Language and Composition 2012-2013

Teacher/Adviser:

Contact Information: (619) 262-0763 ext.4212

www.sandi.net/Domain/9762

Required Texts: McCuen, *Readings for Writers, Eleventh Edition*
Peterson, *The Norton Reader, Shorter Eleventh Edition*

Course Description: This class will focus on helping students become skilled readers and writers of non-fiction prose. Active, analytical reading will be encouraged as we tackle a variety of texts, including graphics and visual images, written and created for a variety of purposes. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the rhetoric and use of language as well as the relationship among purpose, audience, and subject. Students will develop skills in writing in a variety of forms, with a variety of purposes, for a variety of audiences, learning how to use effective vocabulary, vary sentence structure, organize effectively, and balance generalizations with effective illustrative detail. An emphasis will be placed on helping students achieve stylistic maturity. Teacher-student conferences will occur frequently to help students effectively revise and rewrite and strengthen organization and rhetorical structures.

Students will be required to take the Advanced Placement English Language exam in May, with an opportunity to receive college credit.

The year will be organized into the following units, each dealing with a major aspect of American life and culture.

Semester 1

Unit 1: Introduction to Rhetoric

- Wallace, "Consider the Lobster"
- The rhetorical triangle
- Aristotle's 5 canons of rhetoric
- Ethos, logos, and pathos

- The major rhetorical structures: compare and contrast, division and classification, cause and effect, and examples
- The terminology of rhetoric
- Steps of the writing process (including teacher-student conferences) and strategies for revision

These concepts and strategies will be retaught, revisited, and reviewed in each of the successive units.

Unit 2: The Individual and Society

- Writers include: Henry David Thoreau, Anna Quindlen, James Baldwin, Fredrick Douglass, Plato
- Writing focus: organizing the argument; balancing generalizations with details

Unit 3: Division and Unity

- Writers include: Martin Luther King, Jr., Jonathan Swift, S.I. Hayakawa, Brent Staples, Abraham Lincoln, Amy Tan
- Documentary: *Waiting for Superman*
- Writing focus: organizing the synthesis essay

Ongoing:

- Vocabulary development
- The parts of a sentence (clauses and phrases)
- Kinds of sentences
- Personal statements for college applications

Semester 2

Unit 4: Technology, Industrialization, and Nature

- Main texts: Thoreau, Rachael Carson, Barbara Kingsolver, John Steinbeck
- Documentary: *The Eleventh Hour*
- Writing focus: the rhetorical analysis

Unit 5: Crime and Punishment

- Main Texts: Dave Barry, Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner, David Sheff, Truman Capote
- Documentary: *Bowling for Columbine*
- Review: coherence and organization

Ongoing:

- Vocabulary development
- Sentence variation
- Multiple choice practice
- Extended style analysis research paper on a writer of each student's choosing
- The EAP essay

Grades: Earning an “A” requires at least 90% of the total points possible; “B,” 80%; “C,” 70%, etc. The final semester grade will be based on cumulative points and according to the following three weighted categories.

- **Writing Assignments (50%)**

Students will write at least one major multi-draft composition, which relate to the theme and/or one or more of the major texts, at the conclusion of each unit. At least one of these essays will be a research paper which will require the writer to find, evaluate, use, and cite primary and secondary sources. Process writing assignments will require proceeding through several stages of drafts after receiving peer and teacher feedback. In addition, each unit will require one or more timed writings. In both situations, students will be required to write in several forms including narrative, expository, analytical, and argumentative essays. Rewrites will also calculate into this portion of the grade. As a general rule, all writing assignments will be graded on organization and the ability to balance generalizations with specific, illustrative detail.

Writers in this class should keep all compositions, even well after they have been “finished” and handed in—some pieces may be revised and resubmitted multiple times after conferencing with the instructor or learning new rhetorical techniques which may strengthen older pieces. Writers in this class should view their writing assignments as constantly evolving, as they add and take away arguments, reorganize, add transitions, and improve syntax and diction.

- **Exams (25%)**

This category is comprised of reading comprehension quizzes and tests, tests over rhetorical terminology necessary for the AP test, general vocabulary tests, and, if necessary, quizzes over grammatical sentence problems.

- **Miscellaneous Assignments (25%)**

In addition to formal, graded essays, students will develop their thinking and writing skills in less formal contexts, such as journal writing, imitation exercises, and collaborative writing. Also

factored into this category are graded Socratic seminars, 4 corners debates, presentations and discussions, as well as graphic organizers and small reading-related assignments.

Students will also each research a different major writer, completing an annotated bibliography according to Modern Language Association standards.

All students and parents are encouraged to use *Student Connect* and *Parent Connect* to view grades, as well as to check assignments and attendance. Both sites require a username and password. Please refer to the *Student/Parent Handbook* for detailed information about using these sites and obtaining login information.

- **Student Connect website:** <https://dwa.sis.sandi.net/studentconnect/>
- **Parent Connect website:** <https://dwa.sis.sandi.net/parentconnect/>

Policies:

- **Absences and Tardies:** Because of the nature of the course, the pace, and the depth of understanding required, any missed time will be detrimental. Students are responsible for knowing all of the material and completing every assignment whether in class or not. Tardy students coming in during or after a quiz or test will not be able to make up the test.
- **Homework:** Work is due on the day indicated at the beginning of class. NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED, PERIOD. Students struggling with an assignment who approach the teacher for help ahead of time will most likely be given extra time. However, an email sent at 2:00 am the day before the assignment is due pleading for an extension will not result in extra time; it will result in no credit! In the case of an excused absence, one day will be allowed for each day missed.
- **Honesty:** No forms of cheating, even those considered “minor” or “commonplace,” will be tolerated. One instance will result in a zero on the assignment and an “F/U” for the grading period. A second transgression will mean semester failure.
- **Distractions:** Because much of the literature in this course is so challenging to read, no unnecessary distractions—phones, iPods, etc. should be out during class. If it happens once, the student will be asked to put the distraction away. If it becomes a pattern, the distraction will be confiscated. Foods are also a distraction—students should take care of nutritional needs before coming to class.

Expectations and keys to success: Incoming juniors and busy seniors often have a difficult and frustrating time meeting the demands of AP classes. However, students do not receive low grades because the material is too difficult. Rather, lack of success comes from poor time

management and poor organizational skills. In Advanced Placement English Language, students will be responsible for mastering several different categories of skills—critical reading, multiple writing formats, vocabulary, and grammar, among other things. Students will be most successful if they keep a neat three ring binder which organizes all of their materials into their appropriate categories. Since revision and redrafting are important components of this class, students should **KEEP EVERYTHING, AND BRING ALL OF IT TO CLASS EVERY DAY.** They also need to keep track of due dates and tests in advance to ensure enough time to master the material. Failure to do either will result in wasted time and effort, and students must be as efficient as possible during this very important year.

Please sign, detach, and hand in the following form.

-I have read, and I understand, the expectations and grading policies for Advanced Placement English Language and Composition.

Print student name: _____

Student signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent signature: _____

Date: _____