

AP English Language and Composition

		Description of Average Weekly Outside Requirements	
<p>Main Topics (What main ideas/concepts will be covered?):</p> <p>Critical Thinking Close Analytical Reading Rhetorical Strategies Argument and Persuasion Source Synthesis MLA Documentation Responsible Research Reading Visual Texts Writing with Style and for Effect</p>	<p>Rationale (Why should a student take this course?)</p> <p>This course teaches students to read texts, especially nonfiction texts, with care. In order to understand the messages we receive from government, entertainment sources, advertisers, digital media, and others, we must understand the tools writers use to convey or manipulate meaning and feeling. In addition, in order to make academic and creative writing as effective as it can be, we must learn how to apply these same tools for maximum effect on our audiences.</p>	<p>Reading (Text, document, etc.):</p> <p>Students read from a variety of sources, including plays, novels, and a range of nonfiction sources. Students can expect to read in and out of class on a daily basis, ranging from one page to 30 pages a day. Longer assignments receive more time but must be carefully scheduled by students. It is important to note that reading in this class goes far beyond reception of content and may therefore take more time than equivalent-length reading assignments in other classes. Expect 1 hour of reading nightly, which can pile up if not responsibly scheduled.</p>	<p>Written</p> <p>Students can expect almost daily writing, ranging from annotating texts assigned in class to full-length, multi-draft formal essays. The focus of writing is on clarity of thought and expression.</p> <p>There are three major formal papers and 10-20 in-class timed writings through the course of the school year.</p> <p>Out-of-class writing most frequently takes the form of two-page (typed) journal responses focusing on critical thinking about and analysis of class reading. Many out-of-class assignments must be turned in online to turnitin.com.</p>
<p>Grade Composition (How are grades determined?):</p> <p>30/40%* Classwork/Homework 30% Timed Writings/Essays 30% Tests/Quizzes</p> <p>*During the 1st quarter, Summer Reading is worth 10%</p>	<p>Skill Development (What skills are developed in this course and how?)</p> <p>Students learn how to decode the intentional use of language to produce a desired effect. Students also learn how to produce effects through the manipulation of language in their own writing. Critical thinking is emphasized as an approach for viewing texts, self, and the world.</p>	<p>Sample Textbook Excerpt:</p> <p>“But if one holds these high principles clearly before one’s eyes and compares them with the life and spirit of our times, then it is glaringly apparent that mankind finds itself at present in grave danger. I see the nature of the current crises in the juxtaposition of the individual to society. The individual feels more than ever dependent on society, but he feels this dependence not in the positive sense, cradled, connected as part of an organic whole; he sees it as a threat to his natural rights, and even his economic existence. His position in society, then, is such that that which drives his ego is encouraged and developed, and that which would drive him toward other men—a weak impulse to begin with—is left to atrophy.</p> <p>“It is my belief that there is only one way to eliminate these evils, namely, the establishment of a planned economy coupled with an education geared toward social goals. Alongside the development of individual abilities, the education of the individual aspires to revive an ideal that is geared toward the service of our fellow man, and that needs to take the place of the glorification of power and outer success.”</p> <p>-Albert Einstein, “An Ideal of Service to Our Fellow Man”</p>	
<p>Student Expectations (What skills are necessary to be successful in this course?)</p> <p>Advanced Reading Comprehension Critical, Analytical, and Abstract Thinking Organization and Time Management Maturity, Accountability, and Commitment Receptiveness and Communication</p>			