

Advanced Placement Language and Composition

Mrs. Patrice Smith, Russellville High School

(2018-2019)

Course Overview:

This AP Language and Composition Course is college-level course designed to give students frequent and varied opportunities to analyze complex rhetorical situations, specifically the purpose(s) of diverse authors within the context of audience and subject. Course readings feature expository, analytical, personal, and argumentative texts from a variety of authors and historical contexts. Students will examine and work with essays, letters, speeches, images, and imaginative literature. Students will also evaluate the use of rhetoric in visual media such as photographs, films, and advertisements.

In conjunction with these texts, students will write in a variety of modes to develop their own unique writing style and strengthen their ability to analyze and articulate how language is used within a given text. Through direct instruction, imitation exercises, and teacher feedback, students will utilize a variety of sentence structures to improve structure and variety in their writing. The class will engage in weekly writing workshops to review teacher-generated essay feedback, discuss and address problematic writing trends, and revise writings. During reading, students will learn to use deductive reasoning (moving from general to specific) and inductive reasoning (moving from the specific to the general) in their essays.

As outlined in the College Board's *AP English Course Description*, this course teaches "students to read primary and secondary sources carefully, to synthesize material from these texts in their own compositions, and to cite sources using conventions recommended by professional organizations such as the Modern Language Association (MLA)." Formal writings will include an MLA citation for each source.

The pacing and organization of this course is designed to maximize efficiency and to prepare students for the three modes of writing represented on the AP Exam (rhetorical analysis, argument, and synthesis.)

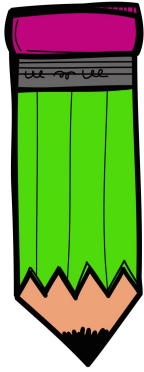
As this is a college-level course, rigor and expectations are high. Students are expected to commit to the course and dedicate a reasonable amount of time outside of class depending on the current subject of study. Typically, this commitment will involve reading or independent research. Every effort will be made to minimize homework assignments. All major writings will be completed in class; these writings will provide the majority of grades in the class.

BOOK LIST:

1. *Julius Caesar* – William Shakespeare
2. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*
by Rebecca Skloot
3. *The Great Gatsby* – F. Scott Fitzgerald
4. *Night* – Ellie Wiesel
5. *Fahrenheit 451* – Ray Bradbury

TEXTBOOKS:

1. *Everything's an Argument*
2. *The Language of Composition*



Student Supplies Needed

1. 1 1/2 or 2 inch three-ring binder and loose-leaf paper of your choice (college or wide ruled)
2. Pens (blue or black ink only) and pencils
3. Composition notebook
4. Copy of the novel or play we are currently reading
5. \$10.00 for purchase of *Scholastic Upfront* magazine which we will use for current events

Grading Policy

Major Grades: 70% Tests, Essays, Presentations, Major Projects, etc.

Minor Grades: 30% Vocabulary Quizzes, Homework, Paragraphs, Journal Entries, Imitation Exercises, Annotation Pages, etc.

Types of grades and their value:

Product Grades- timed writings, final drafts, major tests, Advanced Placement Multiple Choice tests, and projects

Process Grades- quizzes, daily work, homework, in-class responses, and drafts of written assignments

Extra Credit:

Students in need of extra credit may complete the below assignment and turn it in to Mrs. Smith no later than one week prior to the current grading period cut-off date. The extra credit due dates are as follows:

1st Quarter: Friday, October 28

Second Quarter: Wednesday, December 12

Third Quarter: Friday, March 8

Fourth Quarter: Friday, May 17

TED Talks & Articles

1. Login to the TED website at <http://www.ted.com/talks>.
2. Browse through the collection of topics and talks. Choose one or two videos that relate to a topic on our Buzz List. Try to select one you have interest in, and find an online article that provides further insight into this topic.

Create a Google Slides presentation for the two sources. For each source (TED Talk, article) you must include the speaker/author's name, a link to the source, a brief profile of the speaker's thesis, and three examples of evidence used for support. On your final slide, you must include a 2-4 sentence review synthesizing the information/ position presented. An example will be provided upon request.

MAKE-UP WORK:

1. Inform me in advance of or as soon as you return from an absence.
2. Major assignments also known as "product grades" (projects, papers, etc.) are due on the assigned date whether you are present in class on that day or not (field trips, sports events....etc). If you are unable to attend class on the due date, send your assignment with a friend, sibling, or parent. If you are absent due to illness or other excused absences, the assignment should be submitted on the date you return to school. Major assignments are penalized at a rate of 10 points per day, beginning with the day when the assignment is due (the block when you would be in class).
3. Quizzes, tests, and other assessments assigned in advance must be taken on the assigned date even if you are absent the preceding class. In other words, keep up with your **reading** schedule! Unless there are special circumstances (usually approved in the student handbook), absences do not relieve you from your reading schedule.

4. Make-up quizzes, tests, and timed writings must be scheduled within three days upon your return to school. After that point, I will begin to deduct points for late work. Failure to make up work in a timely manner may result in a fraction of the original grade.
5. As in a college course, when you miss class, it is expected that you will obtain any notes or directions you missed from a classmate.

Students will study potentially controversial current events along with the required fiction and non-fiction. The class will be using these works/situations to fuel class discussions, continue our practice in close-reading skills, and build on our literary analysis skills that will prepare students for college and career readiness. RHS has many copies of these works that your student may rent; however, should you want him/her to make annotations in these books during the course of study, then you are welcome to purchase a personal copy of each text for your child.

While these engaging, dynamic, and influential novels, speeches, and essays have been used in classrooms across Alabama and the United States, there are some mature subject matters that are present within these texts. While they touch on mature subjects and situations, these are not the focus. The aim in using these texts is to teach students to deal maturely with difficult topics which reflect the level of texts they will encounter at the college level. As with all material used in our AP Language and Composition class, I strongly encourage parents and guardians to read along with their child. Major assignments will be given to confirm the students' understanding of these texts. Students are responsible with keeping up with weekly chapter readings, meeting project and writing deadlines, and attending tutorials if the student is having a difficult time understanding or completing tasks.

Contact and Connect

By Phone: (256) 331-2110 x. 1014

By Email: Patrice.Smith@rcs.k12.al.us

Website: <https://www.rcs.k12.al.us/site/Default.aspx?PageID=15>

Twitter: @MrsSmith_RCS

Remind: 3rd Block- Text @smithlang3 to 81010 4th Block- Text @smithlang4 to 81010

Please cut along dotted line, sign, date, and return this portion to Mrs. Smith by Monday, August 13, 2018.

**I have read the syllabus and understand the expectations of
 this course, Advanced Placement Language and Composition.**

Student signature

Date

Parent/Guardian signature

Date

Mrs. Patrice Smith
 Advanced Placement Language and Composition
 Russellville High School- 2018-2019