

AP English III — Language & Composition

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Syllabus

Course Overview

As an AP class, this is a rigorous college-level course. The texts we read are challenging. Because students should read actively and because the works require careful, close reading, students are expected to purchase their own copies to annotate (e-books are not an acceptable replacement for printed texts). Students will become skilled readers of prose in a variety of rhetorical contexts and skilled writers, composing for a variety of purposes. Course readings feature expository, analytical, personal, and persuasive texts, including essays, letters, speeches, images, and imaginative literature.

Writing is frequent and requires a student to respond to texts that we work with in class as well as texts that have not been analyzed or discussed in the classroom (either an out-of-class text or a cold read). The goal of writing assignments is make students aware of the interactions among an author's purposes, audiences' expectations, and the way genre conventions and the resources of language contribute to the effectiveness of writing. Conferencing and revision will be an important part of the writing process in this class. Students should come to class prepared to interact. Much of the knowledge gained will be from listening and learning not only from the teacher but from each other. As you write, share your product, and revise, it is hoped you will grow as a writer and gain an awareness of how language works and an understanding of what good writing encompasses: a strong focus, logical organization, effective syntactic structure, and textual evidence to support your assertions.

Attendance, Grading, Tutoring

You are expected to be present in class each day, on time, and be working before the tardy bell rings. The class moves rapidly through material. A major difference in AP courses and on-level courses is the pacing. If you must miss class, you are expected to have a buddy that you can communicate with, so you will be prepared for the day following your absence. Do not arrive in class following your absence and ask "did we do anything?"

Most daily instruction is dependent on the preparation you have made for the class, whether it is a reading assignment or a written response. If you come to class without preparation, not only will you be at a loss, but you will diminish the effectiveness of the day's instruction. We are a community, and the lessons are built on the premise that each student is a contributing member. For this reason, **any work not turned in when it is due will receive a zero**. If it is an essay, in some instances you will be able to turn a late paper in for partial credit. Of course, if the assignment is due to an excused absence, you will follow the district policy on makeup work. If you are going to miss class due to a school event, your homework is still due at its assigned time.

Grades are weighted as follows:
Classwork/Homework – 40%
Tests – 25%
Projects – 20%
6-weeks' Test – 15%

Paper/printed progress reports will be issued upon parent request. Grades can be monitored using the DISD Parent Portal. If your grade is 75 or below, you should plan to attend tutoring. Generally, I am available every morning from 8:15-8:45; afternoons are also available by appointment.

Deportment

Courtesy to others and respect for another's thoughts are essential to this AP English class. Each day we will strive to make every class member feel valued and an important part of our community. Coming to class unprepared for the day's work hampers the progress of the whole class and suggests a lack of respect for the community. Together we can accomplish great things. We will listen respectfully while others are speaking, respond respectfully (*even—especially—*when we disagree), and respectfully support our fellow classmates. Please do not enter the class without paper and pen—don't depend on a buddy to supply your needs. If we are working from a text, you should have a copy of the text as well. Distractions such as cell phones or attending to other business while in class are obvious examples of lacking respect. Please put your cell phone out of sight and out of mind prior to walking into the class.

Academic Honesty

All work that is turned in under your name must be your original work. In research assignments, not to properly identify the source of the information is considered plagiarism, a serious breach in academic honesty. If you choose to not honor this academic requirement, the assignment in question will receive a zero with no opportunity to be made up. Academic cheating is a serious offense, and all universities consider such offenses as grounds for dismissal.

Resources/Supply List

There will be a crate with your class period on it by the door of my classroom; this is for your writing portfolio (composition notebook). You will also need a separate composition notebook for you dialectical journals, as well as a three-ring binder for handouts that we will access throughout the year and a place to keep class notes. A ready supply of paper and pens will ensure that you have these for class each day.

AP students are expected to purchase or procure texts not provided by the school. The College Board stipulates that students must have texts that they can annotate. If you need to use a book in which you cannot write, you may devise some temporary system of annotating such as post it notes. A list of texts will be provided separately.

It is the expectation that if you take the AP course, you will sit for the exam. Early in the school year, you will be given the cost of AP exams, so you will know many months ahead the amount you will need to pay in early spring when you sign up and can plan your finances accordingly.

I look forward to our year together. If everyone knows the class guidelines and course requirements and adheres to them, I anticipate a productive, pleasant time. I am eager to share this experience with you. The AP Exam is like any national test such as the SAT and the ACT: the more you know about the makeup of the test, the skills tested, and the more you practice those skills, the more likely you are to find test success. Test success translates to time saved in your university experience and money saved when you earn college credit for successful AP scores. But my real hope is that you will continue to grow in your appreciation of the English language, to discover new books, authors, and poets that will add to your becoming a literate, well-read member of society. After all, this is the real goal of education—the fully realized self. I think we can have a great deal of fun along the way as well!