

AP English Language and Composition 2013-2014 Course Syllabus

Texts: Various print and electronic sources

Course Description: This Advanced Placement Writing and Composition course is designed to teach college writing and rhetoric, and it follows the requirements in the AP English Course Description. The purpose of this course is to prepare students for the load and academic level of college writing, in addition to allowing students to experiment with rhetorical theory, style, find their voices as writers, and learning to use the English language to express themselves and others' points of view. It will also focus on thinking and writing critically about the things around them and the literature and experiences they have. One aspect of this course will be the completion of a portfolio of writing that includes various drafts re-worked over the year as well as new pieces with a critical thinking reflection written for each piece. Another aspect, to keep students writing for different purposes, will be a 2000 word per week writing exercise called a "Daybook."

Expectations: All course information can be found on the school website. Students will be required to have the following materials in class every day: pen or pencil, notebook, any necessary books, and computer. Students who have missed class need to check with the teacher for their assignments. Parents are encouraged to check the class website (<http://mrsingramrocks.blogspot.com>) and the Parent Connect site regularly. Homework not turned in at the beginning of the period will be considered late. Missed quizzes or tests are the student's responsibility and must be made up during tutorial time on the day the student returns to school or within one week if assignment was made while the student was absent.

All assignments should be turned in electronically and in hard copy.

Plagiarism: Any instance of plagiarism will result in a zero for the assignment. No makeup assignments will be given. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to: copying as little as four words of someone else's writing and claiming it as your own (by not using quotation marks and citations in the correct places). Students who write documents *for* other students are also participating in plagiarism by willingly allowing another student to claim credit for that work. That student will also receive a zero for the assignment.

Grading: The following weights will apply to the final grades for this course, and a final exam worth 20% of the semester grade will be required of all students.

Homework 20%

Papers 50 %

Tests 20%

Quizzes 10%

This course uses the school-wide grading scale.

A 96-100
A- 93-95
B+ 90-92
B 87-89
B- 84-86
C+ 81-83
C 78-80
C- 75-77
D+ 72-74
D 69-71
F 68 and below

Course Design:

Class lessons will be based around multiple methods of instruction. Students will be required to read and write nearly daily, and units will vary in length. Homework will be assigned almost daily. Tests will generally be in essay form and test multiple concepts covered. Quizzes will occur randomly, decided by the teacher. Students may speak with the teacher about opting out of final exams. Students should expect to write 2-3 papers each week that should clock in around 3 pages each (double spaced) in addition to their daybooks and daily reading assignments. This writing will range in purpose, audience, creativity, and level of academia. Students will also be required to complete a portfolio of work, and they will be given the list of work and the breakdown of points.

Students will be given a copy of the “approved” syllabus when approval comes through from AP.