

AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

Ms. Michelle Ruiz

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COURSE OVERVIEW

AP English Language and Composition is a college-level course that focuses on the analysis and composition of nonfiction texts. Here, you will learn to read critically, think analytically, and communicate effectively in writing. The course emphasizes rhetorical analysis, argumentation, and synthesis of information from multiple sources.

This class prepares you not only for the AP exam but also for the kind of writing and thinking you will encounter in college and beyond. Through close reading and frequent writing, you will deepen your understanding of how writers use language to inform, persuade, and entertain.



STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- ❑ Analyze rhetorical strategies in a variety of nonfiction texts.
- ❑ Understand and apply rhetorical terms and concepts.
- ❑ Write evidence-based arguments that are clear, cohesive, and well-developed.
- ❑ Conduct synthesis using multiple sources to support a central claim.
- ❑ Engage in timed writing, revision, and peer review to improve their writing fluency.
- ❑ Prepare for the AP English Language and Composition Exam in May.

TEXTS AND MATERIALS

You will read a wide range of nonfiction and a few selected works of fiction to understand rhetorical strategies across genres. Texts may include but are not limited to the following:

Core Readings:

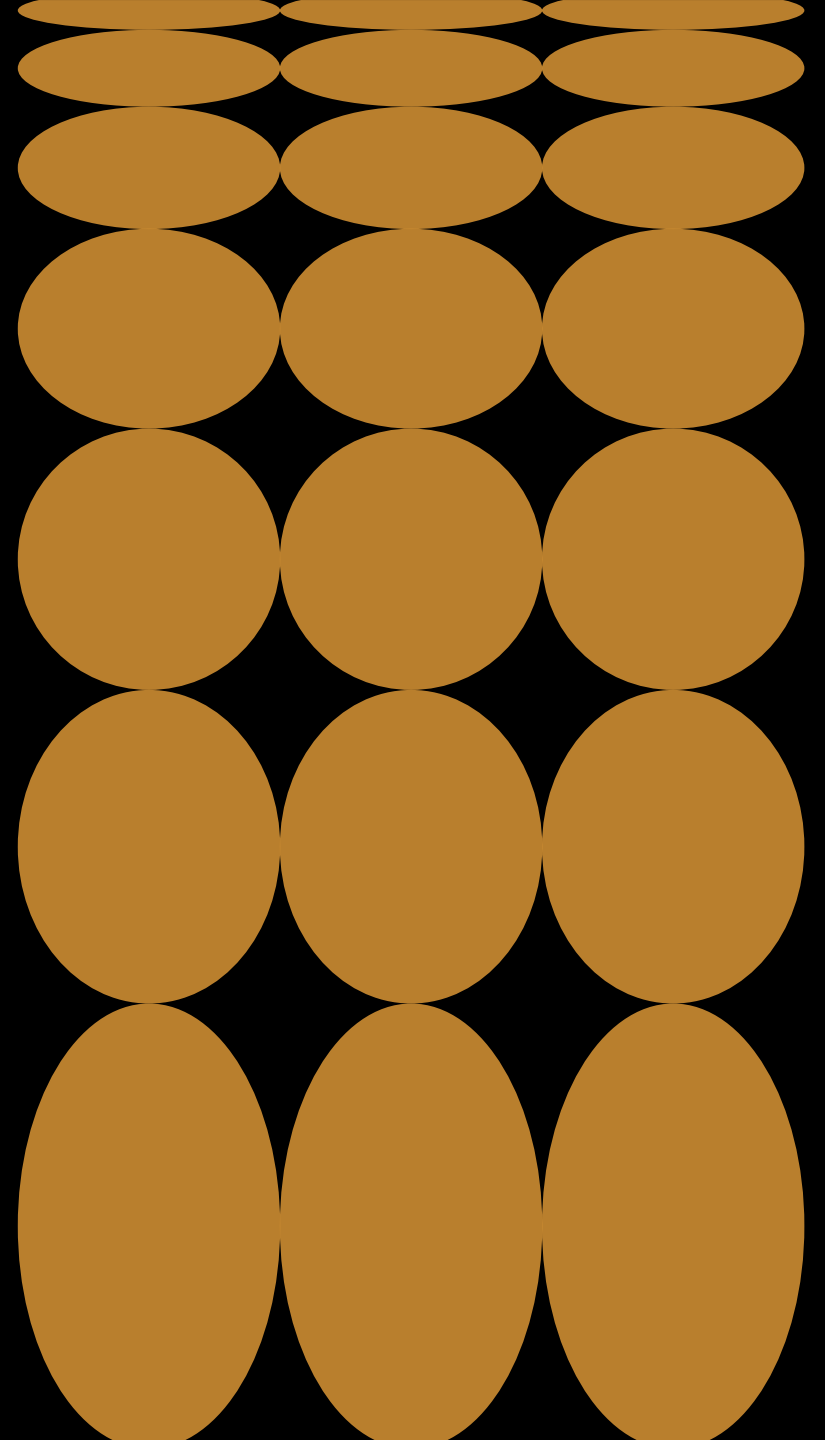
- ❑ The Language of Composition (Shea, Scanlon, Aufses)
- ❑ Essays and speeches by authors such as Frederick Douglass, Audre Lorde, Joan Didion, Zora Neale Hurston, David Foster Wallace, and James Baldwin
- ❑ Excerpts from longer works such as Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell, Nickel and Dimed by Barbara Ehrenreich, and Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates
- ❑ Visual rhetoric: advertisements, political cartoons, photography, TED Talks, and documentaries

UNITS OF STUDY

- ❑ Introduction to Rhetoric and Close Reading
- ❑ Rhetorical Analysis: Essays, Speeches, and Visual Texts
- ❑ Argument and Persuasion: Claim, Evidence, and Line of Reasoning
- ❑ Synthesis: Research, Source Evaluation, and Documentation
- ❑ Language and Style: Diction, Syntax, Tone, and Voice
- ❑ AP Exam Practice: Timed Essays and Multiple-Choice Prep
- ❑ Contemporary Issues and Personal Voice

ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS

- ❑ Timed rhetorical analysis, argument, and synthesis essays
- ❑ Formal revised essays with peer and teacher feedback
- ❑ Socratic seminars and class discussions
- ❑ Rhetorical and stylistic annotation of texts
- ❑ Multiple-choice practice (AP-style)
- ❑ Visual and multimedia analysis projects
- ❑ Final exam and mock AP exam

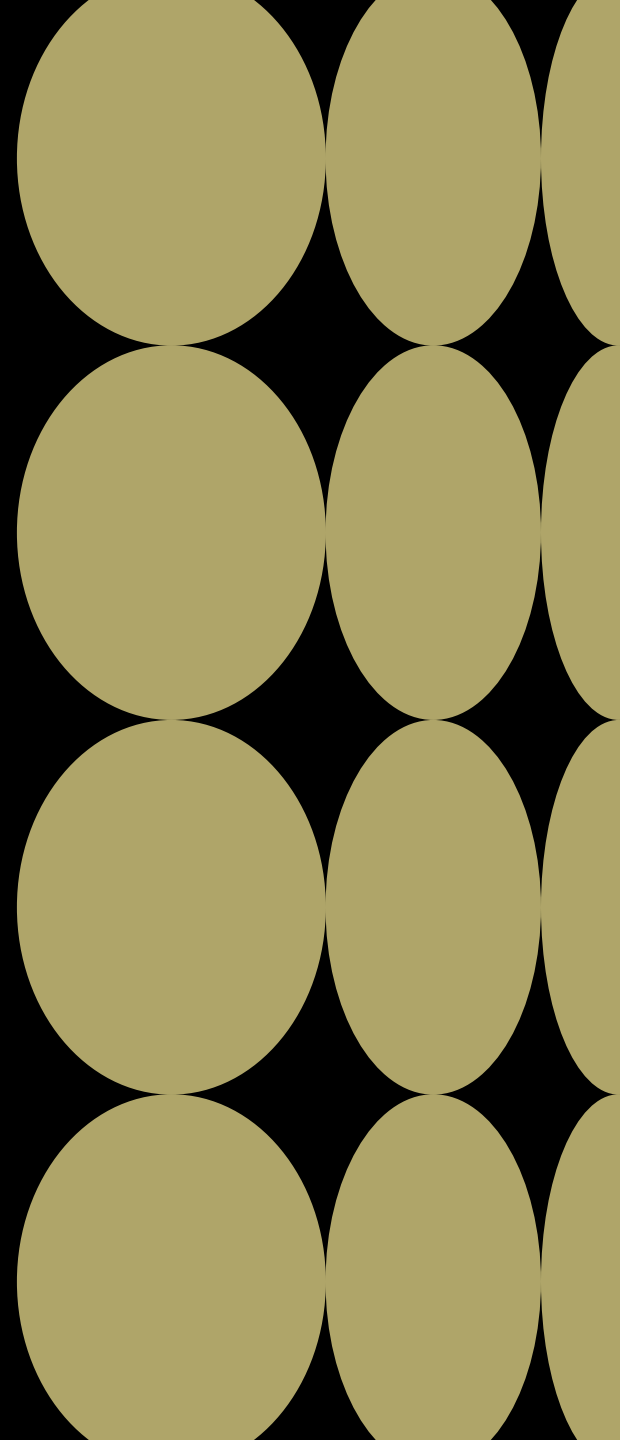


GRADING POLICY

The majority of your grades will be made up of the following:

- ❑ **Essays and Major Assessments, timed or not:** 3 grades
- ❑ **Discussions:** 2 grades
- ❑ **Annotations:** 2 and sometimes 3 grades depending on the length and involvement of the piece
- ❑ **Quote Reflection:** minimum of two grades but could result in multiple grades (at teacher's discretion)
- ❑ **Current Events:** minimum of two grades but could result in multiple grades (at teacher's discretion)

Grades should not be a surprise. I typically post comments along with grades providing students with feedback on their assignments, or they can simply request the assignment, and the commentary will be there as well.



LATE WORK AND MAKE-UP WORK

Timeliness and accountability are essential to your success in AP Language and Composition. Due to the timed and in-class nature of many assessments, it is important that you are present and on time to fully engage with the work and practice exam conditions. Please read the following policy carefully:

Timed Writes & Multiple Choice (MC) Exams

Unexcused Tardiness/Absence:

Students who arrive late to class without an excused tardy pass will not be allowed to make up any timed write or multiple-choice exam given that day. These assessments are structured to simulate AP exam conditions and must be taken in full and within the allotted time.

LATE WORK AND MAKE-UP WORK

Excused Tardiness/Absence:

If a student is late or absent with an excused pass or note, they must make arrangements with Ms. Ruiz to complete the missed timed write or MC exam before school or during another class period within one week of the original assessment date.

- ☐ Timed Writes will be completed in a single 40-minute sitting.
- ☐ Multiple Choice Exams vary in length and may take anywhere from 10 to 60 minutes depending on the number of questions.
- ☐ Students are responsible for ensuring they have enough time to complete the exam in one sitting.

Students should be proactive in scheduling their make-up assessment. Missed assessments that are not made up within the designated (one week) time frame may result in a zero.

General Late Work

Any assignments turned in late may incur a grade penalty resulting in a grade no higher than a C unless the student has an excused absence or a documented accommodation.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

We're taking it back to the 90's in here—pens, pencils, paper, and brainpower. All notes will be taken by hand, and all assignments will be handwritten. Laptops and tablets will only be used during formal assessments (MCQs and FRQs). Cell phones should be silenced and out of sight unless I specifically say otherwise—this goes for tablets and laptops as well. If your devices become more interesting than class, it'll earn a vacation in my desk until the end of the period. Remember that while you're in room 1108, you're in training for the big game—the AP Exam.

Headphones and earbuds should be put away during lecture notes, reading, and class discussion. I need your ears (both of them) during these very important moments in our class. Once we move on to independent work and I give you the OK, you use them. Until then, please keep them out of sight and out of your ears.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

- ❑ Come prepared and ready to engage each day.
- ❑ Respect diverse opinions and voices.
- ❑ Uphold academic integrity at all times.
- ❑ Actively participate in discussions and group work.
- ❑ Take responsibility for keeping up with reading and deadlines.
- ❑ Do the hard work.
 - ❑ The value is in the struggle. You (we) want things to feel valuable. Literature is valuable. Art is valuable in its many forms. When you struggle to get through it and when you struggle to achieve meaning, this adds value. And when you begin to recognize the struggle of the writer to create it, it will deepen the value.
- ❑ Be a community—a group of people who agree to grow together. We grow through struggle and having a shared goal—to appreciate and understand literature and how it reflects the human condition.

THANK YOU

Ms. MICHELLE RUIZ

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I TYPICALLY WILL RESPOND TO EMAILS RECEIVED AFTER 2:20 ON THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS DAY, IN THE MORNING. I AM VERY GOOD ABOUT RESPONDING TO EMAILS RECEIVED DURING WORK HOURS BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THE SAME DAY THE EMAIL WAS RECEIVED, UNLESS I AM OUT OF THE BUILDING.

