



Online Courses for High School Students

1-888-972-6237

AP English Language and Composition

Course Description:

AP Language and Composition is a course which explores the relationship between what authors say and how they are trying to say it. The literary component of the course provides a range of genres, including nonfiction, fiction, drama and poetry, and in the analysis of these works students are exposed to the analysis of both style--the more language-based approach to exploring meaning--and rhetoric--the analysis of author argument and structure. In terms of style, students will explore how elements of language--such as tone, diction, syntax--influence the overall meaning. In terms of rhetoric, students will examine various appeals, aspects of writer s credibility, irony, and the overall use of logic to explore how effectively an author presents her/his position. In any aspect of analysis, students are obliged to consider what the author s overall theme is. By understanding the purpose of a piece of writing, we recognize the elements of language as an integral tool with which authors develop their work. Writing assignments cover both the expository and argumentative aspects of writing. In addition to the exploration of American and global themes of literature, students will discern how styles of writers have evolved over the last several centuries, as course content includes, but is not limited to: Socrates Meno, Shakespeare s Measure for Measure, F. Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby, Zora Neale Hurston's Their Eyes Were Watching God and Anne Fadiman's The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down. The academic objectives of this course adhere to those outlined by the College Board in preparation for the Advanced Placement Exam in Language and Composition, which is offered each year to students during the month of May.

Key Assignments:

1. Socratic dialogue and essay of definition.
2. Timed writings that incorporate the argumentative, stylistic and rhetorical objectives of the course, based on the kinds of topics students have seen on the AP Language and Composition exam.
3. Multiple choice tests that require close reading and understanding of author form and purpose, based on the kinds of questions students have seen on the AP Language and Composition exam.
4. Original research paper and PowerPoint project on a local controversial school issue and an awareness of the case history.
5. Creative writing which emulates the syntax of studied authors, such as an original essay modeling the writers of our nonfiction unit.
6. Poetry exam which asks students to contextualize an era of American poetry.
7. Film to text media where students compare the portrayal of schools in both nonfiction and in film.

8. Regular reflection on attainment of course objectives.
9. Regular work with Argument Points, whereby students become conversant with taking current events and/or issues and presenting a cogent discussion on these issues or events.

Instructional Methods and/or Strategies

Instructional methods used include:

1. Independent reading
2. Journaling
3. Teacher feedback on writing
4. Teacher presentation/instruction/lecture
5. Peer review
6. PowerPoint presentation
7. Research via the Internet
8. Timed Writings and Multiple Choice tests in preparation for the AP exam
9. Class discussions on selected topics

Assessment Methods and/or Tools

Assessment methods include, but are not limited to:

- Journal work = 10%
- Timed Writings = 10%
- Multiple Choice tests = 10%
- Original essays = 20%
- Research project = 20%
- Reader responses = 10%
- Classroom Discussion = 20%
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Course Objectives:

- Students will write both impromptu and process papers that both analyze author style and form, as well as demonstrate their synthesis of author technique into their original prose.
- Students will complete a multi-step research project, using the Internet, as a means of understanding how research allows us to develop an informed opinion.
- Students will read from a variety of texts, including: fiction, nonfiction, poetry and drama, in order to understand how the elements of argumentation are integral to all aspects of writing.
- Students, in small groups and with partners, will complete several assignments whereby they will successfully interact in the process of peer review and original writing.
- Students will acquire familiarity with the AP Language and Composition course goals, as outlined by the College Board, in preparation for the AP Language and Composition exam.

Prerequisites: None

Course Length: One Semester

Required Texts:

- The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- Meno by Plato
- The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down by Ann Fadiman
- Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston

Independent fiction choices (select one):

- Foxfire by Joyce Carol Oates
- In the Lake of the Woods by Tim O'Brien
- Wide Sargasso Sea by Jean Rhys
- Four Letters of Love by Niall Williams

Independent nonfiction choices (select one):

- There Are No Children Here by Alex Kotlowitz
- Savage Inequalities by Jonathan Kozol
- Gatekeepers by Jacques Steinberg

Selected essays:

- A Modest Proposal by Jonathan Swift
- Civil Disobedience by Henry David Thoreau
- How it Feels to be Colored Me by Zora Neale Hurston
- The Way to Wealth by Ben Franklin
- Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God by Jonathan Edwards

Selected American Poems by:

- Ann Bradstreet
- Walt Whitman
- Emily Dickinson
- Robert Frost
- E.E. Cummings
- W.H. Auden

Selected Supreme Court cases on Educational Law

Selected Internet sites for Educational Law history and research

Selected videos to complement independent nonfiction unit

Photography by Alfred Stieglitz to complement the 1920s unit

Materials List:

Following is a list of books that we will be reading for the year. These are divided into two semesters. These books are available at your local library, and some may even be found online. The ISBN numbers follow each title.

Semester 1

- Meno by Plato 0-02-360770-X
- The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald 0-7432-7356-7
- The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down by Ann Fadiman 0-374-52564-1
- Selected essays and poems by American authors

Course Outline:

Unit 1: Introduction

- Introduction
- Development of original arguments
- Exploration of own literacy history

Unit 2: Socrates

- Read Meno; review rhetorical strategies
- Write original dialogues and essays of definition

Unit 3: Transcendentalism

- Read the Thinking Skills materials
- Understand the nature of transcendentalism
- Learn about syntax
- Study essay technique and syntax of Emerson and Thoreau
- Complete writing assignment

Unit 4: Exam Week 1

- Synthesis of Units 2-3 into timed writings and multiple choice questions, modeled on the AP Language and Composition exam

Unit 5: The American Dream

- Read *The Great Gatsby*; introduce 1920s
- Learn to use pictures as text replacement
- Focus on points of view, bias, and organization
- Analysis of juxtaposition to create mood

Unit 6: Exam Week 2

- Synthesis of Unit 5 into timed writings and multiple choice questions, modeled on the AP Language and Composition exam

Unit 7: Nonfiction

Unit 8: Nonfiction and AP Exam Week 3

Unit 9: Coming to America

- Read *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* by Ann Fadiman
- Modern perspectives of the American Dream Focus: comparison, creation of bias, author credibility

Unit 10 American Poetry

- Read selected American poets, including Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, Robert Frost, Anne Bradstreet.
- Focus: determine the historical and literary trends of American poetry, as well as the key stylistic and rhetorical features of this poetry

Unit 11: Independent Reading--Fiction

- Select individual title from list
- Focus: explore non-linear structure
- Literary Analysis essay--process paper

Unit 12: The Harlem Renaissance - Narrative

- Read Poetry and Prose from the Harlem Renaissance
- Read *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston
- Multicultural Awareness
- Focus: alternate forms of language
- Incorporation of narrative elements into original memoir
- Character development

Unit 13: AP Exam Week 4

- Synthesis of Unit 11-12 into timed writings and multiple choice questions, modeled on the AP Language and Composition exam

Unit 14: Portrait of Young Adults/Teens

- Select from independent nonfiction list
- View selected films on schools
- Essay of comparison, bias in educational reporting

Unit 15: Satire

- Read "A Modest Proposal" by Jonathan Swift; write original satire

Unit 16: Research Project:

- Educational Law Sources: Internet, Supreme Court decisions
- Topic: Local controversial Issue
- Focus: Higher Order Thinking Skills

Unit 17: Final Review

- Incorporation of prior objectives into final timed writings and multiple choice exam questions