**ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSTION** **NASUTI**

Ardrey Kell High School

2018-2019 Office: A301

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The goal of AP Language and Composition is to examine the theory and practice of *rhetoric*, the specific features of texts (written, visual, or spoken) and distill the meaning or purpose of those features for readers. We will learn how rhetoric encompasses an understanding of the relationship between audience, purpose, and speaker/writer. As part of our course of study, we will explore how authors use diction, syntax and figurative language with purpose. We will pay close attention to why an author makes certain choices in terms of organization, structure, and style as a means to achieve her end. We will not only pay attention to what an author says, but what the author does in her writing. Further, we will understand how modes of writing shape the conventions and format of writing and learn how to respond to different rhetorical situations. A few things to consider when taking this course:

* The mark of a good paper is not the length but how clearly, fully and soundly it covers the assigned topic.
* The main proof of mastery is not merely the memorization of terms and definitions but applying the principles we learn to your own writing and reading.
* Writing, like any other skill, can be acquired if you are willing to follow instructions, accept criticism and work hard. For some, it is a long and frustrating process; for others, an easy and natural way of self-expression. In any case, it is not beyond the ability of any student admitted to Advanced Placement English.

**ASSESSMENTS**

Ardrey Kell has assigned test dates for all departments and classes.  The English departments test days are Monday and Wednesday.  In order to align our class as closely with the department as possibly, Lang will test only on Monday/Tuesday, Tuesday/Wednesday or Wednesday/Thursday.

* **Formal Assessments: 70%. of a quarter grade (excepting 4th quarter)**
* Tests: 100 points (one per quarter)
* “Bootcamp” FRQ essays: 50 points each
* In-class FRQ essays: 50 points (1-3 per quarter)
* Midterm: 20% of the semester 1 grade
* **Informal Assessments: 30% of a quarter grade**
* Vocabulary and minor quizzes: 15-30 points each
* Homework & Classwork: 5-10 points each
* **Grad Project: 40% of Q4 grade**
* Separate from the essay for the grad project is 50-point formal grade for turning in a complete portfolio

**ABSENCES**

Please note I am a regular google classroom user and will update google classroom daily. You should expect to print various reading and writing assignments from here. If you are absent, have no fear. You will always have access to my agenda, daily assignments and homework. I expect that you will never ask me, “What did I miss?” as you will always come to class ready to participate as if you were present during the previous class.

* Daily HW is due on the day you return from your absence.
* Long term assignments (e.g., an essay or the Grad Paper) should be emailed to me or turned in via courier by 2:30 on the day it is due. This is the only circumstance for which I’ll accept emailed assignments.
* Quizzes and tests should be made up within five days.

**LATE WORK POLICY**

In preparation for college writing courses, students are responsible for finding out what they missed during an absence, and for turning in all work on time. Assume you missed work when you are absent. Check my website or e-mail me for assignments. The policies below apply to all AP English courses at Ardrey Kell High School.  "Work" is categorized as assignments, homework, class work, projects, essays, and papers.  Please note that the work will be evaluated and reductions assessed after the penalties listed below.  Students are accountable for turning in late work regardless of absences that follow the original due date.

* No late work
* One day late = 50% deduction of the assessed value
* If the unit of study from which the assignment was given is assessed before the assignment is submitted, a grade of zero is given.
* If the assignment isn't turned in, a grade of zero is assigned.

**PLAGIARISM**

All work submitted is expected to be the student’s own work. This includes homework. No collaboration (including working with a peer) or outside help is to be received on any assignment unless specifically stated by the instructor. Any opinion or information drawn from an outside source must be documented according to the specifications of the Modern Language Association (MLA). A student who submits work that is either not his own or without clear attribution to the original source is guilty of plagiarism and will receive a grade of zero for that assignment. Other consequences, including a discipline referral, will be assessed based on Ardrey Kell and/or CMS guidelines. This class uses turnitin.com for all formal essays written outside of the classroom.

**CLASSROOM POLICIES and RULES**

This class adheres to all the rules covered in the AK student handbook. This includes (but is certainly not limited to): agenda policy, ID policy, dress code policy, cell phone policy, lock-out policy, food and drink policy. If it is in the handbook, you are expected to abide by it. No exceptions.

**OFFICE HOURS**

I strive to be available to discuss any problems that you may be experiencing or to answer any questions that you may have. I am available to tutor in the morning or afternoon. Please see my website for office hours. E-mail is the fastest and best way to contact me outside of class. I respond to all emails within twenty-four hours. On Fridays, holidays and vacations, I will answer your emails when I return.

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I have read and understood this syllabus. By signing below, I consent to rules, procedures and policies outline herein. I will submit this signed portion of the syllabus to my instructor by the end of the second week of the 2018-’19 school year.

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**REQUIRED TEXTS: Students will need to purchase two novels for the class. Students must have these books in order to facilitate annotations. Please ensure that you have purchased the correct edition (check the ISBN number or follow the links provided) so that you are on the same page as your peers and instructor.**

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| *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald | ISBN-13: 9780743273565 | https://www.amazon.com/Great-Gatsby-F-Scott-Fitzgerald/dp/0743273567/ref=sr\_1\_3?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1528464024&sr=1-3&keywords=the+great+gatsby |
| *Slaughterhouse-Five* by Kurt Vonnegut | * ISBN-13: 978-0812988529 | <https://www.amazon.com/Slaughterhouse-Five-Novel-Modern-Library-Novels/dp/0385333846/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1528463840&sr=1-1&keywords=slaughterhouse+five> |

**OPTIONAL TEXT: Students are encouraged to purchase a copy of the textbook we use in class. Ardrey Kell, unfortunately, does not have enough editions of this textbook for every Lang student.**

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| *Language of Composition*  NOTE: Both Amazon and Chegg Books (you’ll become very familiar with this site in college) have an option to rent the textbook. I am not sure how this works, but it seems like a viable option. | ISBN-13: 978-0312676506  ISBN-10: 0312676506 | <https://www.amazon.com/Language-Composition-Reading-Writing-Rhetoric/dp/0312676506/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1528463273&sr=1-1&keywords=language+of+composition>  <https://www.chegg.com/textbooks/the-language-of-composition-2nd-edition-9780312676506-0312676506?trackid=3fd7f9a5&strackid=612ef81f&ii=1> |

**SUPPLEMENTAL TEXTS: These are not books we will use in class, but they are certainly helpful. Beside the title of each text is a brief description of the text and how students can benefit from purchasing it.**

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| *Five Steps to Five: AP Language and Composition* | A practice book full of test strategies and test items. Extra practice has never hurt in preparing for the difficult AP exam in May. | <https://www.amazon.com/Steps-AP-English-Language-2018/dp/1259862313/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1528465718&sr=1-1&keywords=five+steps+to+a+five+ap+english+language> |
| *The Elements of Style* by Strunk and White | A concise, easy-to-read grammar book. You don’t understand grammar; I understand that. This book will help you understand it better. An updated “simplified and illustrated” version has recently been published. I can’t comment on it (I have never read it), but it’s *Elements of Style*. It *can’t* be bad. | Traditional version:  <https://www.amazon.com/Elements-Style-Fourth-William-Strunk/dp/020530902X/ref=sr_1_3?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1528465855&sr=1-3&keywords=elements+of+style>  Illustrated version:  <https://www.amazon.com/Elements-Style-Simplified-Illustrated-People-ebook/dp/B079M1692M/ref=sr_1_1_sspa?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1528465855&sr=1-1-spons&keywords=elements+of+style&psc=1> |
| *Thank you for Arguing* by Jay Heinrichs | Heinrichs’ simple, everyday language helps make this book enjoyable. It is a tidy summary of rhetoric and its applications. Highly recommended. | <https://www.amazon.com/Thank-You-Arguing-Third-Persuasion/dp/0804189935/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1528466053&sr=1-1&keywords=thank+you+for+arguing> |

**PROPOSED UNITS**

UNIT DATES DESCRIPTION TEXTS

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| Unit 1: Analysis basics | August-September | Students will learn how to approach a text and analyze it. The focus is understanding how a rhetor enters into a relationship with the audience every time they deliver a text to that audience. Understanding how to approach question 2 (the rhetorical analysis) of the AP Lang exam will inform much of what we do in this unit. | Required text:  *Language of Composition*  Supplemental text:  *Five Steps to a Five* (chapters on analysis) |
| Unit 2: Analytical techniques | October-January | Students will examine the specific rhetorical techniques and organizational strategies rhetor’s use. Our focus in this unit will be on rhetorical modes, diction, syntax and tone. Students will read *The Great Gatsby* during this unit. Our approach to the novel will be rhetorical rather than literary. | Required texts:  *Language of Composition, The Great Gatsby*  Supplemental texts:  *Five Steps*, *Elements of Style* |
| Unit 3: Argumentation basics | January-March | Students will learn how to shape their arguments. They will support their argument through a careful synthesis of grounds. They’ll employ the rhetorical techniques they studied in the first two units. The graduation project essay will be assigned during this unit. | Required texts:  *Language of Composition*  Supplemental texts:  *Five Steps, Elements of Style* and *Thank You for Arguing,* |
| Unit 4: Logic and fallacies | March-April | Students will learn how to avoid fallacies by studying basic logic. During this unit, our focus will be fine-tuning how students write arguments. The graduation project essay will be due in this unit. | Required texts:  *Language of Composition*  Supplemental texts:  *Five Steps, Elements of Style* and *Thank You for Arguing,* |
| Review Unit | April-May | Practice AP test strategies before the test in May. Sometimes referred to colloquially as the “drill and kill” unit. | Supplemental text: *Five Steps* |
| AP Lit unit | May-June | Preview of AP Lit. We transition away from rhetorical analysis and look at how to analyze literature. | Required text:  *Slaughterhouse-Five* |