

**Saint Basil Academy**  
**AP English Language and Composition**  
**2020-2021**  
**Instructor: Ms. Janet Iafrate**  
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## **COURSE OVERVIEW**

AP Language and Composition helps students learn how to think through and evaluate rhetoric in a more logical way, and how to express themselves to a particular audience as effectively as possible.

The ability to understand the basic elements of rhetoric will help students to respond more rationally to given prompts, and to construct sound, analytical arguments to multiple assignments that relate to:

- **rhetorical analysis** of fiction as well as nonfiction prose to explain the rhetorical strategies the author uses to convey meaning, achieve purpose and create an effect;
- **argument** based on evidence from the student's own experiences, observations and reading to support a thesis; and
- **synthesis** questions that require the student to support his/her position on a given topic using cited sources and quotes.

The rigor of this course is designed to assist the student to achieve a certain level of success on the AP English Language and Composition Exam in May, for which they will receive a score of 1-5. Most colleges and universities offer credit for scores of 3 or higher. Because this is a COLLEGE level course, students should expect that the pace of the course is faster than average and the coursework more rigorous than average. Students are often required to read and complete coursework independently.

Because Saint Basil Academy designates English III for the study of British literature, this class will study a substantial amount of British texts; however, the priority is to cover the skills necessary for a successful completion of the AP course. The course syllabus, therefore, includes texts from a variety of backgrounds and nationalities.

***The AP College Board has updated this course so that students will approach all reading and writing with attention to four components:***

**RHETORICAL SITUATION (RHS)**

Enduring Understanding RHS-1: Individuals write within a particular situation and make strategic writing choices based on that situation.

**CLAIMS AND EVIDENCE (CLE)**

Enduring Understanding CLE-1: Writers make claims about subjects, rely on evidence that supports the reasoning that justifies the claim, and often acknowledge or respond to other, possibly opposing, arguments.

**REASONING AND ORGANIZATION (REO)**

Enduring Understanding REO-1: Writers guide understanding of a text's lines of reasoning and claims through that text's organization and integration of evidence.

**STYLE (STL)**

Enduring Understanding STL-1: The rhetorical situation informs the strategic stylistic choices that writers make.

**Required Supplies**

3-ring binder for AP English only with loose-leaf paper or notebook

- One section for general notes and text hand-outs
- One section should be designated for AP Exam Practice
- One pocket-folder for returned writing and prompts

**Required Texts:** (already purchased/provided through school)

*The Language of Composition: Reading, Writing, Rhetoric*, McMillan Learning  
*Vocabulary Workshop – Level G* - Sadlier Oxford

**Additional Texts:**

These books should be obtained by the students over the course of the year.

**Please do not purchase all texts at one time**, as the syllabus could change depending on the school calendar, weather delays, snow days, etc. Students will always be given at least three weeks' notice to obtain a particular text. We will discuss specific editions in class.

Summer 2020: *Black Swan Green* by David Mitchell

Summer 2020: choice of nonfiction from designated list

2020-2021 School Year:

- *Fahrenheit 451*, Ray Bradbury
- *The Catcher in the Rye*, J.D. Salinger
- *Hamlet*, William Shakespeare
- *Pride and Prejudice*, Jane Austen

## **Assessments and Grading**

Grades will be determined using a cumulative points system. This will include essays, projects, quizzes, tests, reading responses, timed writing prompts, and homework assignments.

- **10-15 Points/each: Worksheets; Reading Assignments and “SOAPS” Responses**

You will have assigned reading pages due on most Tuesdays and Fridays. There will generally be questions or some other short assignment associated.

- **20-30 Points/Each Timed Writing Prompts**

Students will respond to a biweekly timed writing prompt in preparation for the AP exam: argumentative, rhetorical analysis, and multi-source synthesis. Students will receive scores on these prompts that mirror the actual AP essay scoring system.

- **20-30 Points: Quizzes**

Students study LEVEL G vocabulary. Generally, quizzes will be on a B2 day, Thursday. All book-work should be completed by the preceding class day, when we will review answers. Other quizzes might include general concepts covered via short readings and literary passages.

- **(50-75 Points) Objective Tests, Reading Journals, Short Essays**

You will occasionally have a test on specific concepts, or an overall unit test. Dialectical journals will be assigned for each of the four novels and one long nonfiction work.

- **(75-100 Points) Projects and Formal Essays**

Projects and formal essays will be graded according to specific rubrics for individual assignments.

## **CLASS RULES AND PROCEDURES**

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#### **On Entering**

- **First**, please use hand sanitizer at the entrance. Make sure your mask is on and covering both mouth and nose.
- **Next**, please turn off your phone and place it in the designated spot.
- **Finally**, take your seat and read the board for instructions. There will always be something to do during the first few minutes of class, even if it is simply taking out a previous assignment.
- **I DO NOT ALLOW CELL PHONE USE IN CLASS.** Cell phones should be **TURNED OFF**

and placed in the designated spot. If it becomes clear that a student has not surrendered a phone at the start of class, she will need to surrender it immediately, and a detention will be issued.

- If a student is tardy to class without a pass, it will be considered unexcused, and the school procedure for reporting excessive unexcused tardiness will be followed.

### **School Activities & Performance**

A satisfactory grade in English I is required to participate in school sports and other extra-curricular activities. Please refer to the Student Handbook for guidelines.

### **Food and Drink**

Food, drinks, and chewing gum are not allowed in class.

### **Plagiarism and Cheating**

Plagiarism is taking another person's work and presenting it as your own. This includes copying homework assignments, copying from websites without acknowledgement, buying or using paper sites, using essay writing services, allowing parents or others to write papers or complete homework, or copying from a textbook, encyclopedia or other reference work without acknowledgement. Plagiarism is considered stealing in this class and will not be tolerated. Students who plagiarize or are caught cheating on an assessment will receive a zero on the assignment. Please see the student handbook for additional information on plagiarism.

## **COURSE UNITS**

## **Accompanying Novel/Play**

Unit 1: Writing from the Margins

Unit 2: An Enlightened Self

*Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury

Unit 3: Justice and Law

Unit 4: Truth and Guilt

*Hamlet* by William Shakespeare

Unit 5: Youth and the Search for Self

*The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger

Unit 6: Satire and Code

*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen

## HYBRID MODEL POLICIES AND ROUTINES

- If a short homework assignment is given on an in-class day, it will be due that night by 11:59 pm via Teams.
- Off-day assignments will be posted by 8:00 AM at the latest.
- Any work assigned on Friday will be due on Sunday by 11:59 pm.

On Junior Off-Days, you can reach me via Teams Chat or email specifically during 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> periods, approximately 11-11:45 and 2:10 to 2:45.

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Please complete and return this signed page by Tuesday, 9/15, to Ms. Iafrate.

I have carefully read and fully understand Ms. Iafrate's class expectations, routines, and grading policies.

Student's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print parent or guardian's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or guardian's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_