**AP English Language and Composition Syllabus**

Ms. Riley Stewart

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Room 319

Plan: 3rd/5th Hour

Building Phone: 314-773-0027

**Course Description**:​ Advanced Placement English Language and Composition provides 11th grade students the opportunity to master college-level reading and writing skills. Students analyze nonfiction’s rhetorical modes to improve their critical reading and thinking skills. By covering various subjects such as science, history, journalism, biography, and politics, students increase their ability to read for a variety of purposes. While nonfiction is the primary focus, works of fiction supplement the themes and stylistic techniques of the studied nonfiction. After careful analysis of the literature, students use the studied literary strategies to produce their own stylistically mature prose. Students write a variety of essays similar to the rhetorical modes being studied: narrative, descriptive, expository, analytical, investigative, and persuasive. ​Students are expected to take the AP Language and Composition exam upon completion of the course.

**Rationale:** Because Advanced Placement English Language and Composition emphasizes postsecondary reading and composition skills, the reading, writing, and speaking activities reinforce the rigor and challenge of an advanced course. The variety of nonfiction studied and essays composted provides students multiple opportunities for improving their skills.

**Course Objectives:** Students will become proficient in the following areas:

1. Rhetorical Situation—Reading: Explain how writers’ choices reflect the components of the rhetorical situation.

2. Rhetorical Situation—Writing: Make strategic choices in a text to address a rhetorical situation.

3. Claims and Evidence—Reading: Identify and describe the claims and evidence of an argument.

4. Claims and Evidence—Writing: Analyze and select evidence to develop and refine a claim.

5. ​Reasoning & Organization—Reading: ​ Describe the reasoning, organization and development of an argument.

6. Reasoning & Organization—Writing: Use organization and commentary to illuminate the line of reasoning in an

argument.

7. Style—Reading: Explain how writers’ stylistic choices contribute to the purpose of an argument.

8. Style—Writing: Select words and use elements of composition to advance an argument.

**General Expectations:** ​Your instructor expects you to be responsible for your learning by bringing what you need for class, always preparing for assignments on time, taking notes, asking questions, contributing to class discussions, and remaining attentive and organized. Your close reading, daily discussions, and writing are essential to your academic success. There will be frequent checks of your learning throughout the year.

* Come to class on-time, prepared with all materials, assigned readings, homework completed
* Always be open to hearing others opinions and ideas
* Be respectful of your classroom community.
* Advocate for yourself and your needs.
* Do your best.

**Due Dates/Late, Incomplete, Revisions, and Missed Assignments:** The goal of this course is to produce organized, diligent, and mature learners. Late work will not be accepted, unless a student has asked for an extension and received verbal or written approval from me before the start of the school day. During this conversation, we will agree upon a new due date. All assignments will close on teams at the due date.

Students are allowed and encouraged to revise major assignments (with the exception of end of semester exams) **for full points.** However, in order to revise, **you must arrange for a sit-down meeting with me to discuss how you will make improvements to your revised work.** Revisions will not be accepted until a conference has taken place.

**Absences/Make-Up Work:** We are all bound to be absent at some point this year, and my expectation is that students will meet with me or email me the day they return to school to discuss make-up work (even if they don’t have my class that day). If you do not reach out to me the day that you return, late work will not be accepted.

**Phone Policy:** The school policy is No Cell Bell to Bell. If a student is using their phone during class time, they will receive a verbal warning. If the phone use continues, they will then receive a written email to parents, and finally a referral and detention.

**Academic Integrity: ​** Academic misconduct is cheating or plagiarizing (intentionally and unintentionally). All students committing academic misconduct will receive a zero on that assignment, will receive an email or phone call home, and will have a meeting with me. This assignment will not be open for revision. This includes works created using artificial intelligence.

**Required Materials:**

1. Laptop
2. Assigned text (will be provided by the instructor).
3. Note Taking materials (can be digital or physical).
4. AP College Board account (we will make this together)
5. St. Louis Public Library account

**Required Texts**: All required texts will be provided to students as physical copies, or as digital copies posted to our teams pages.

**Grading:** Grades will be a reflection of students’ mastery of specific language arts learning targets that incorporate elements of reading, writing, critical thinking, research, speaking, and listening skills. The grading breakdown is as follows:

Classwork: 45% of overall grade.

Assessment: 55% of overall grade.

| 90 - 100%  = A | 80 - 89%  = B | 70 - 79%  = C | 60- 69%  = D | 0 - 59%  = F | No Attempt  = 0 |
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**Written work**: This is an English class, and we will be doing lots of writing. The expectation for each written assignment is that you follow MLA format, meet the length requirement, and proofread your work to the best of your ability. Rubrics will be provided for all major writing assignments.

**Discussions:** ​This is an essential part of the class and is often how we study a text. Every student is expected to take part in discussion - whether informal and small group, or whole group assessments. If you have concerns about class discussions or need additional support, please meet with me to discuss.

**The Advanced Placement English Exams**: ​In May, students will be expected to register for and take the Advanced Placement English Language and Composition exam on Wednesday, May 14, 2025. More information will be provided through the College Board website and resources.

***“The first thing I want to say to you who are students, is that you cannot afford to think of being here to receive an education: you will do much better to think of being here to claim one”***

***Adrienne Rich***