



Advanced Placement English Language and Composition A & B Grand Haven High School



Course Number: B92 [A&B]
Grade Level: 11th and 12th Grade
Credits : 0.5 Credit [for each semester]
Prerequisite Courses : English 9 and English 10

Course Description

An AP course in English Language and Composition engages students in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts, and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Both their writing and their reading should make students aware of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, and subjects as well as the way conventions and the resources of language contribute to effectiveness in writing.

Therefore in this class we will attempt to...

- A. Analyze all the language choices that a writer, speaker, reader or listener might make in a given situation so that the text becomes more meaningful, purposeful, and effective.
- B. Look at specific features of texts, written or spoken, that cause them to be meaningful, purposeful, and effective for readers or listeners in a given situation.
- C. Incorporate intentional choices into students' own writing to create a more purposeful writing.

The course will require students to write in a variety of forms - narrative, exploratory, expository, argumentative, analytic, comparative - and on a variety of subjects from personal experiences to public policies, from imaginative literature to popular culture.

Course Objectives

AP English Language and Composition is meant to mimic a college freshmen level class, hence your time and effort must mirror this comparison, as will the teacher's expectations and grading.

As in the college course, AP Language's purpose is to enable students to read complex texts with understanding and to write prose of sufficient richness and complexity to communicate effectively with mature readers.

The course is also designed to help students achieve a passing score (3-5) on the College Board's Advance Placement English Language and Composition Exam in the spring.

Building Behavioral Expectations

TEAM GH ... One Team, One Family, One Grand Haven. Be Kind. Always.

It is our expectation that ALL GHHS students, staff and parents will ... always give their best **EFFORT** in everything that they do, work hard to be **INCLUSIVE** of each other, show **RESPONSIBILITY** in class, the hallways, cafeteria and at events, and **WORK TOGETHER** at all times!

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Student Expectations

AP English Language and Composition should help students move beyond such programmatic responses as the five-paragraph essay; students will be expected to place their emphasis on content, purpose, and audience and allow this focus to guide their organization. When students read, they should become aware of how stylistic effects are achieved by writer's linguistic choices.

There is a summer assignment which is due on the first day of school.

Communication

See "Language Arts" in the "Staff" link on Grand Haven High School's website.

Grading Policy

See ELA Department link for the English Language Arts Grading Scale

A.P. Language Assignment Category Weights:

Summative Assessments (Product) - papers/essays, timed writings... -70%

Formative Assessments - (Process) - "informal writings," quizzes,
homework, in-classwork... - 30%

Scope and Sequence

Course Methodology:

This course will be taught using a variety of instructional techniques, including lecture, small and large group discussion, in-class improvisational writing and speaking, and individual instruction through conferencing and tutorials.

Reading:

The reading for the course will be demanding and rigorous. You will need to read carefully and analytically, not just leisurely

Comprehension is of paramount importance. You will be expected to know what you have read well enough to discuss the text in a sophisticated manner - this should not be limited to a regurgitation of surface level information or plot lines. Students should be aware and make judgments about authors' purposes, motives, and techniques.

It is imperative that you keep pace with the assignments and that you are an "active reader."

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Classroom Participation:

Expect to feel a sense of responsibility to make this class work. Participate in discussions. Make sure that your “voice” is heard – participation can play a role in your understanding.

Writing:

Writings for this class will be of either an analytical or argumentative nature. Prepare to think, form opinions, and present ideas logically.

*Formal Papers – Units will culminate in a major paper. You will be required to produce multiple drafts of each paper, and utilize in-class writing workshops to revise and edit your papers with your peers and your instructor. All formal/outside of class papers are required to be typed, be formatted in MLA style, and include a copy of a rough draft.

*Timed Writings - For most of the course’s units, you will complete an in-class, timed writing. These writings will encourage you to engage, analyze, evaluate and/or synthesize (but not regurgitate) the key themes and arguments of the unit in an organized, thoughtful and articulate way. These writings will be considered a “major writing piece” for a unit.

Assessments:

There may be tests and quizzes for units of study. These “assessments” will take many forms; including papers, essays, matching, short answer, passage recognition, and multiple choice. Quizzes may be given as deemed necessarily, which may include without prior warning.

There will be end of semester exams.

Vocabulary/Grammar/Literary Terms and Techniques:

We will complete vocabulary units and grammar units. A strong vocabulary is important primarily because it enables you to express your thoughts more precisely.

Periodic English grammar review will be an ongoing part of the course. You will be held accountable for spelling, punctuation, and basic writing conventions in your writing. Additionally, students will be expected to learn the definitions and identify examples of common literary devices.

AP Practice:

In addition to the unit-based, instructor designed timed writings, you can plan on AP Exam practice in the form of multiple choice selection tests modeled on the AP exam, and actual practice multiple choice and free-response questions released by the College Board.

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