Course Title: AP Language and Composition

Course #: 1263-1264

Course Description: In accordance with the College Board’s AP description, this year-long course enables “students to read complex texts with understanding and to write prose of sufficient richness and complexity to communicate effectively with mature readers.” This course explores the complexities of writing in America with the goal of making students critical thinkers and readers of ‘culture.’ Although the course includes poetry and fiction prose literature, the course emphasizes readings in oratory, visual argument (including advertising), and non-fiction prose literature. As a composition course, this offering will require frequent expository, analytical, argumentative, and personal writing through which students will learn to express themselves convincingly in a variety of contexts.

Students are strongly encouraged to take the AP Exam in May.

UC/CSU Approval: “b” approved

Grade Level: 11

Estimated Homework Per Week: 5 Hours per week, depending on the type of assignments and student’s reading/writing stamina

Prerequisite: Completion of English 2 or 2 Honors with a grade of B or higher

Recommended Prerequisite Skills:
- High-level reading comprehension
- Time management and organizational skills
- Confidence in writing a multi-paragraph essay
- Willingness to keep an open mind when reading and analyzing texts that may contradict personal beliefs and values

Course Grade Categories:
- 60% - Formal Writing
- 20% - Reading, Informal Writing, Quizzes
- 20% - Final Exam

Major Assessments/Units/Topics:
Unit 1: Boot Camp: Introduction to the exam, essay types, and rhetorical terms.
  Major Assessment: Position Essay on Long Non-Fiction
Unit 2: Rhetorical Analysis: Analyze and interpret samples of purposeful writing, identifying and explaining an author's use of rhetorical strategies.
   Major Assessment: In-Class Rhetorical Analysis

Unit 3: Position Essay: Create and sustain original arguments based on information synthesized from readings, research, and/or personal observation and experience.
   Major Assessment: In-Class Position Essay

Unit 4: American Romanticism: Respond to different writing tasks according to their unique rhetorical composition demands, and translate that rhetorical assessment into a plan for writing.
   Major Assessment: Process Essay

1st Semester Final Exam - In-class AP Style Rhetorical Analysis and Position Essay

Unit 5: Synthesis Essay: Create and sustain original arguments synthesized from readings, research, and personal observation
   Major Assessment: Synthesis Essay

Unit 6: American Realism and Naturalism: Reading complex imaginative literature (fiction, drama, and poetry) appropriate for college-level study
   Major Assessment: In-class essay

Unit 7: American Modernism; Test Preparation: Writing that proceeds through several stages or drafts, with revision aided by teacher and peers
   Major Assessment: Process Essay

Unit 8: Postmodernism; Test Preparation: Writing an interpretation of a piece of literature that is based on a careful observation of textual details, considering the work's structure, style, and themes; the social and historical values it reflects and embodies; and such elements as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone.
   Major Assessment: AP Style Essay Exam (RA, Synthesis, Position)

2nd Semester Final Exam - On-demand literary analysis essay: Writing an interpretation of a piece of literature that is based on careful observation of textual details, considering the work's structure, style, and themes; the social and historical values it reflects and embodies; and such elements as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone

Material covered in most if not every unit:
- Collaborative Writing Processes
- Writing Workshops
- Peer Editing and Review
- Research for Exposition
• Grammar, Revision, Proofreading techniques
• Rhetoric and style: practice using rhetorical devices in essaying (such as alliteration, analogy, allusion, metaphor, exaggeration, irony, parallelism, imagery, etc.).