***AP English Language and Composition***

(5 Credits)

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**Course Prerequisites:**Literature and Composition I & II, and one literature course at the honors level

**Prerequisite Reading:** *This Boy’s Life*, a memoir by Tobias Wolff

***Course Description*:** This course is designed and operates as a college level English class. It focuses mainly on a wide variety of non-fiction texts: journal articles, memoirs, newspapers, historical speeches, essays, visual texts, documentaries, statistical data, and even photographic images. Though the core of AP Language is non-fiction, other types of text that do not fall into this genre are analyzed as well: novels, short stories, poetry, and additional fictional texts and visual pieces.

It is not required for students to take the corresponding AP exam that is offered in the spring, but it is highly recommended by colleges and high schools alike. By earning a score of 3 or above (out of a possible 5 points) on this test, students are eligible to skip their first sequential English course once in college. As this indicates that AP Language and Composition is the equivalent to a three-credit college course, students should expect and be prepared to work at the college level.

Primary Texts:

* *AP English Language and Compositions: Analysis, Argument, and Synthesis*(Brassil, Coker, Glover)
* *The Language of Composition* (Shea, Scanlon, Aufses)

Additional Course Texts:

* *The Elements of Style, Everything’s an Argument; With Readings, MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, The Bedford Reader, 50 Essays, Themes in American and World Literature, The Craft of Revision*, and others.

Literature and other selections of fiction and non-fiction:

* *The Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold
* *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter* by Carson McCullers
* *Julius Caesar,* William Shakespeare
* Selections from: *The New Yorker*; *Atlantic Monthly*; *National Geographic*; Times; and many other news sources and appropriate media.
* Selections of short stories, essays, and political speeches will also be included.

***Course Expectations*:** There are four main pillars of this course, which together represent the heart of AP Language: close reading, rhetorical analysis, synthesis, and argument. Students will learn to examine written and visual texts closely and with an analytical eye for detail. They will be encouraged to explore the basis of an author’s claims and arguments, as they learn to break apart the three corners of Aristotle’s Rhetorical Triangle. Within the triangle, students delve into context, becoming aware of the ethos, pathos, logos and purpose of a text. Here students will be asked to strive for understanding of not only how a writer says what he/she does, but how the construction of his/her argument is effective.

**Course Assignments**: There will be a variety of written, verbal, visual, and digital assignments that will be given throughout the semester, including but not limited to the following:

* Practice AP English Language and Composition Exams – all sections
* Timed writing assignments
* Multiple-choice practice sessions for the AP exam
* Tests and quizzes on literature, vocabulary, and the four main pillars of AP Language
* Essays (one per thematic unit is to be expected)
* Synthesis tasks – including writing an original synthesis question with sources

***Evaluation and Grades:*** Your success in this class begins and ends with your participation in your own education. Your overall grade will be determined by a combination of factors including: class participation, a number of quizzes and tests, informal and formal writing, and creative assignments. A *general* breakdown of what to expect in regards to points is as follows:

In-class assignments/Reading Checks/Quizzes – 10-20 points

Small Projects – 25-50 points

Essays (1-3 pages) – 50-75 points

Longer Essays (3-8 pages) – 100 points or more

Projects/Presentations – 100 points or more

*Your class participation grade will be counted as 10% of your overall grade for each term.*

***Student Expectations:***Be on time. Be ready to learn. Students are expected to be enthusiastic members of the class, as well as determined learners who care about the quality of their written, verbal, and even visual work. Students will be treated as first-year college students, so it is their responsibility to keep up with the reading and course work independently. We have a great deal of information to get through, so please make sure that you find a quiet place at home, at school, or around town to read and work efficiently for about 5-10 hours a week outside of class. Coffee shops, library corners, or under the desk in your room are all fine locations!

**Class Participation:** All students are expected to participate to the best of their abilities at all times, whether it is a full class discussion, small group work, or individual tasks. Participation also includes listening and responding to others so remember that this classroom is a place where all students should feel safe, welcome, and capable of learning. Respect yourself. Respect those around you. If you respect your ability to learn and your ability to support others, you will earn their respect in turn.

**What to do if you are absent:** It is your responsibility to ascertain the work that you missed while you were out of class. If an assignment is due on the day you are out, you should contact me about the work missed. Also, remember that you are missing an hour and a half of work per class that you miss, and seeing as a lot of what we do here is discussion based, this is difficult to make-up. This does not mean that I want you to work while you are sick, but you should be aware of what you missed while you were absent. Please check the class website for updates about daily assignments and discussions as well.

**Late and Make-up work:**

* Late homework will NOT be accepted.
* Essays and other take home assignments will incur a 10% deduction for every day that they are late. There are no exceptions to this unless otherwise approved by myself. After 5 days (the weekend counts as 2 full days) the paper or assignment will no longer be accepted.
* HARD COPIES of assignments on the due date are expected. If you arrive in class with a digital version only of the assignment, it is considered one day LATE. Only if you are ill and unable to come into class, or under other extreme circumstances will digital copies be acceptable.

***Written Work Expectations:*** The following rules should be applied to all writing that you complete in this course unless otherwise stated or assigned. It is your responsibility to find and ascertain the information you may need to correctly format your work.

* All written work, unless completed in class, should be typed.
* MLA format and heading is required for all formal writing assignments.
* Hard copies of work must be submitted for all typed assignments unless permission is ascertained before the due date.

***Academic Integrity:*** Do your own work. You will never know how intelligent you are until you do. Plagiarism is serious and will not be tolerated here or in any other classroom.

***\*\*If at any point during the semester you feel that you are falling beyond or are “lost” for any reason, please let me know as soon as you know! I am here to help and the last thing I want to happen is for you to feel that you cannot keep up so you give up.***

***AP Language and Composition Syllabus Contract***

I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, certify that I have read and understood the course syllabus for

 (Print Student Name)

*AP Language and Composition* that was provided to me on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and I agree to

 (Today’s date)

abide by all rules, guidelines and regulations as they are stated above. In addition, I certify that I will complete all course work in an ethical manner, maintaining a high regard for the work of others by always giving credit where it is due. I will come to class prepared, actively participate, and take responsibility for all work required of me. I understand that this is a meant to be a college level course and I will treat it as such.

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Please carefully read the course syllabus and contract above.***

***Then sign and return this page no later than September 6, 2013.***