

Mrs. Marks

Classroom: D-106

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Phone: (409) 927-3100 ext. 3254

Conference Period: 1st Period (7:05-8:00am)

Remind101: Text @marks-ap3 to 81010

Tutorials: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:50-3:30 in D106/virtually, or by appt.

AP Language & Composition Syllabus

"The role of a writer is not to say what we all can say, but what we are unable to say."

~Anaïs Nin

Welcome and Course Description

Welcome to AP English Language and Composition! This is a year-long, college-level course which deals with higher-level analysis of fiction and non-fiction literature and includes frequent writing; close readings of a variety of materials; and higher-level, analytical discussions. We will work extensively on preparing for the AP Language and Composition Exam given in mid-May. This class will not be easy by any means; however, if you work hard, utilize the available resources, and abide by the rules, you should be successful.

Faculty Information

I grew up in Santa Fe and am a Santa Fe High School alumna, class of 2009. After high school, I attended Texas Christian University (Riff Ram and Go Frogs!) where I received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Theatre in 2013. I later received my teaching certification through Texas Teachers in English Language Arts and Reading 7-12 and English as a Second Language. I am excited to be back at Santa Fe High School for my fifth year as an English teacher.

Virtual Expectations

Synchronous activities: students will be expected to log on to their virtual classroom in Canvas each day during their normal class period time (i.e. 1st period students will meet from 7:05-8:00 AM). We are required to use the TEAMS platform for all virtual meetings. Students should automatically join the virtual classroom with microphones muted and video on. (Students will not be required to keep video on, but at some point they need to be seen.) Please keep your video as stationary as possible and position yourself away from as many noises/distractions as possible. Additionally, students are expected to participate in all full-class discussions and small (break-out) group activities. We will use these break-out groups frequently, and I will be popping into each small group periodically to answer questions and monitor participation, just as in the regular classroom. As always, students should use appropriate language in both video and chat discussions. (Please note: class meetings will be recorded.) I will review proper procedures for raising hands/reacting and asking questions at the beginning of the school year.

Asynchronous work: will mostly consist of reading in preparation for the next class meeting and/or small written assignments. Written assignments will get lengthier as the school year progresses.

#1 Rule = RESPECT. Respect your classmates and all instructors throughout all classroom activities.

Remind App

The Remind app is incredibly necessary in this era for students (and parents) to communicate quickly and directly with teachers. Students will be able to ask individual questions asynchronously, and I will frequently send out reminders and important information. All students are **highly recommended** to join my class on Remind. Information is kept private, and there is no way for me to ever know a student's personal number or vice versa.

To join: Text @marks-ap3 message to the number 81010.

Textbook

The Language of Composition: Reading, Writing, Rhetoric 2nd edition, Shea, Scanlon, and Aufses. Bedford St. Martins, 2012.

*Students will not be responsible for maintaining a copy of this book. Material from the book will be provided as needed.

Snapshot of Works Covered

This is a sampling of the materials that will be covered throughout this course. It is by no means a complete list of everything we will read. Think of it instead as a snapshot of the types of materials we will touch upon. The works we study were chosen for their classic nature, for the author's recognized style, and for the work's frequent appearance on the AP exam (both the AP Language exam this year, and in preparation for the AP Literature exam next year). Because this is a college course, students are expected to handle sophisticated material with maturity and grace.

- ✓ Nonfiction (The Declaration of Independence, Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address, Queen Elizabeth I's Speech at Tilbury, Florence Kelley's labor speech, various speeches by JFK, and a nonfiction novel of choice from a predetermined list)
- ✓ Novels (*The Great Gatsby*, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, *Fahrenheit 451*)
- ✓ Essays and short stories ("Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God", Walden Pond", A Modest Proposal", "A Good Man is Hard to Find", *and much more!*)
- ✓ Research (Occasional Papers, major argumentation paper, etc.)
- ✓ Plays (*The Crucible* or *Death of a Salesman*, if time permits)
- ✓ Poetry (Poetry is not a focus in this class, but various pieces will be included if time permits.)

Class Activities

1. Rhetorical Analyses, Argumentation – specific texts and topics – weekly
2. Vocabulary—taught through reading and assigned lists – periodic quizzes
3. Grammar—focusing on using a variety of sentence structures
4. Writing Assignments—will culminate each unit; will include analysis, description, comparison/contrast, and persuasive essays
5. Timed Writings—administered frequently for major and minor grades to prepare for the AP exam
6. Multiple Choice/Close Readings—AP exam preparation
7. Current Events—world, national, and local

Supply List:

- Mask (these are required for in-person learning)
- Power cord for your laptop
- Texts we are reading (bring to class as necessary, digital copies accepted)

Optional:

- 1-subject composition notebook (composition recommended due to metal detectors)
- Folder (binders are not recommended due to metal detectors)
- Pencils & pens (bright colored/felt tip pens are acceptable as these will be for personal use)
- Highlighter

*Optional/in-person only: Kleenex/Germex/Clorox wipes (please just bring what you can if you can find any). (If you bring your own small, personal containers, it will cut down on the "community use" supplies.)

*Please be advised that the majority of what we do will be digital this year, and in order to speed up going through the metal detectors students are advised to bring as few items as possible to school.

A note on novels: We have sufficient copies of most (but not all) novels for each student, so students are *encouraged but not required* to seek their own copies. I will recommend online versions whenever possible, and e-books (Kindle versions, etc.). I also recommend checking local libraries, Half-Price Books, amazon.com, prior students, etc. for cheaper physical copies. *It is not necessary for students to have the same copy of the novels that the school has purchased.*

*Having personal copies of novels will also allow students to annotate (write notes the margins) their novels, which can be extremely useful for study for the AP Exam, or future coursework in college.

Grading Scale

Major: essays, projects, and tests/exams:	60%
Minor: quizzes, shorter timed writings	30%
Daily: homework:	10%

***Late work** will be assessed in accordance with the district grading policy. (Students have three days to turn in late work with a 25 pt. penalty assessed (i.e. the maximum grade a late assignment can receive is a 75). After three days, late work will be accepted *only at teacher discretion* (translation: not at all unless there are extenuating circumstances that have been clearly discussed between student and teacher).

***Missing work** will be entered in the grade book as a zero with “missing” checked until the assignment is submitted. A zero is not an indication of a final grade unless the grading period has ended.

***Testing:** students in AP courses are allowed one re-test per nine weeks (for up to a 70). Test corrections are allowed on all other tests for up to 10 points back (up to a 70). (Test corrections that occur as part of a set lesson will not count toward this point system.)

***Semester exams** will count for 20% of the final semester grade. At this time there will not be any exam exemptions

Important Resources

Bookmark these resources for use throughout the year.

Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) for all MLA style-related questions:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html

PBS – “The Great American Read” for book suggestions: <https://www.pbs.org/the-great-american-read/books/#/>