**Coach White**

**Classroom:** D103

**Conference Period: TBA**

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**Tutorials**: Advisory: Mondays and Fridays (9:52-10:27)

After school: By apt.

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*

**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.

**Textbook**

*The Riverside Reader*, Alternate Edition, Trimmer & Milliet. Houghton Mifflin Company. 2009.

\*Students will be responsible for bringing this book to class *periodically* throughout the year.

**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,” various speeches by JFK, *and many more!*)
* Novels (*The Scarlet Letter, Fahrenheit 451, The Great Gatsby, Their Eyes Were Watching God, In Cold Blood, The Bluest Eye* and possibly *Devil in the White City*)
* Essays and short stories (“A Modest Proposal”, “A Good Man is Hard to Find”)
* Research (diagnostic essay, 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. Statement Analyses – quotes, specific 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 literature unit; will include analysis, description, comparison/contrast, expository, and persuasive essays
5. Timed Writings—administered approximately every other week in the fall for a quiz grade; more frequently in the spring for an essay grade to prepare for the AP exam
6. Multiple Choice/Close Readings—AP exam preparation
7. Current Events—world, national, and local

**Supply List:**

* 1-subject notebook
* 3 ring binder w/ dividers (at least 1 inch thick)
  + Note: students will receive numerous handouts that they will need to reference throughout the year, so it is highly recommended that students get a binder rather than a folder!
* Pencils & blue/black pens (please no red unless we are grading together)
* Loose leaf paper (You will need it nearly every day.)
* Highlighter(s)
* 1 package of EITHER: markers/crayons/colored pencils (for personal use on projects…these will not be necessary to bring every day, and if you have some from last year, use those!)
* Textbook (as necessary – I will warn you in advance to bring this.)

\*Optional: Kleenex (not a requirement, but please feel free to donate a box for the classroom to help when those nasty winter colds hit!) ☺

**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 recommend checking local libraries, Half-Price Books, amazon.com, half.com, prior students, etc. for cheaper copies. Online versions, podcasts, or e-books (Kindle versions, etc.) are also options! *It is not necessary for students to have the exact 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**

Essays, projects, and tests/exams: 60%

Quizzes: 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).

\***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).

\***Semester exams** will count for 20% of the final semester grade.

\***Semester Exam Exemption Policy:**

11th grade: three exemptions per semester (i.e. three in the fall AND three in the spring)

* Criteria:
  + no more than three absences
  + no more than three tardies
  + *semester* average of at least an 80 in the course

(AP exam participation in May is highly encouraged, but it is not tied to exemptions.)

**Classroom Policies**

#1 Rule = RESPECT. Respect your classmates and all instructors throughout all classroom activities. The “rules” are spelled out in more detail on my wall. I do not foresee us having any problems with this. ☺