

AP English Language and Composition

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Course Website: <http://www.genconnection.com/English/ap/index.htm>

Course Description

The Advanced Placement English Language and Composition class is designed as an introductory college-level course in the reading and the writing of critical analyses of a compendium of essays from the human experience. This process involves the understanding of how authors communicate their thoughts through language as a rhetorical enterprise, and it involves the appreciation of the human phenomenon we call language.

The objectives and goals of this course are based on the **College Board's AP ENGLISH Language and Composition Course Description (Fall 2014)**
<http://media.collegeboard.com/digitalServices/pdf/ap/ap-english-language-and-composition-course-description.pdf>

The course focuses on the reading of a rich diversity of essays, the analysis of the genres of essays, the writing of critical analyses as well as personal reflections and responses to these essays which originated from a “variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts.”

Course Planner

Summer Reading

The text required for summer reading:

Devitis, J. L. (2013). Contemporary colleges and universities: A reader. New York, NY: Peter Lang.

Selected readings at:

<http://highschool-esusd.remote-learner.net/course/view.php?id=7>

Fall Semester

Unit 1 – Referenced Expository Writing (6 weeks)

The Fall begins with students taking notes on the summer readings, researching additional sources found in periodicals and websites, and gathering of sources for writing expository papers on the topic of college selection and planning. Students use

the Modern Language Association (MLA) and American Psychological Association (APA) to cite their sources in the writing of the referenced expository essays. Students practice the writing process by drafting and revising several versions of their referenced expository papers. Students learn to “read primary and secondary sources carefully, to synthesize material from these texts in their own compositions, and to cite sources...”

Course Texts

An assortment of non-fiction from the human experience found chiefly online.

Please see online texts and sources:

<http://www.genconnection.com/English/ap/index.htm>

Supplemental text:

Kirszner, L. G. & Mandell, S. R. (2001). *Patterns for college writing: A rhetorical reader and guide*. ed. 8. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's.

Unit 2 – Referenced Argumentative Writing (6 weeks)

The Fall semester continues with the reading and analysis of various genres of essays which include various argumentation and science-based essays. Along with reading examples of these types of essays, students learn to write these essays using the Chicago Manual of Style (CMS) both Notes/Bibliography and Author/Date formats and Council of Science Editors (CSE/CBE) conventions to cite their sources. Students practice analytical writing making arguments from additional sources to support their analysis of the material with fully referenced citations. Students learn to synthesize the arguments from several sources to create an effective essay of their own.

In the composition of their essays, students learn to “place their emphasis on content, purpose and audience and to allow this focus to guide the organization of their writing.” The students use the essays listed above as a model and as a source of inspiration to achieve this focus. Students also learn to synthesize the arguments from several sources to create an effective essay of their own.

Please see assignments at:

<http://www.genconnection.com/English/ap/textbook.htm>

Unit 3 – Referenced Writing Project (6 weeks)

The last part of the Fall semester concludes with the reading, analysis and writing of argumentative essays under the genres of process essays, cause and effect essays, definition essays, and classification and division essays. Students review the use of MLA, APA, Chicago Notes/Bibliography, Chicago Author/Date, and CSE/CBE manuals of style. Students practice argumentative essay writing by investigating additional sources to support their analysis of the material with fully referenced citations.

Please see the most recent iteration:

<http://www.genconnection.com/English/ap/term1.htm>

In the composition of their argumentative essays, students learn to write papers that are “based on reading, not solely upon personal experience and observation.” It is argued by this teacher that every paper written in college makes an argument of some sort. This course emphasizes that “researched argument papers help students to formulate varied, informed arguments.” Thus a heavy focus is placed upon researched argument papers. Students learn to synthesize the arguments from several sources to create an effective essay of their own.

The first semester features Jonathan Swifts’ argumentative essay, *A Modest Proposal*. Students analyze its rhetorical strategies and devices. Then students write referenced argumentative proposals of their own – some modest, others not.

Spring Semester

Segment 1 – AP Exam Practice

With the warming of the weather comes the approach of the month of May and the AP exam season. Direct attention is paid to the components of AP English Language and Composition exam. Students take mock AP exams. They analyze sample multiple-choice questions. Student also practice writing the Synthesis essay, the Rhetorical analysis essay, and the Argument essay taken from previous AP exams. Included among these strategies is visual literacy where students learn to comprehend and analyze graphics and visual images. The students are exposed to published AP sample material such as the released AP English Language and Composition Exams and the downloadable samples from the College Board website. Mock AP exams are given **throughout** the Spring semester until the day of the exam itself.

Segment 2 – Reading and Analysis of a Variety of Essays

Along with AP exam practice, students will still read from a wonderfully diverse compendium of essays. The best way to prepare for the AP exam is to “become aware of how stylistic effects are achieved by writer’s linguistic choices.” This is achieved through the reading and analysis of richly written essays. These essays are read throughout the semester.

Essays read and analyzed in the second semester include excerpts from

Plato: *The Republic*

Sun Tzu: *The Art of War*

Religious Literature from the *Bible, Koran, Bhagavad Gita*

Machiavelli: *The Prince*

Marx & Engels: *The Communist Manifesto*

John Donne: *Meditation 17*

Charles Darwin: *The Origin of the Species*

Ralph Waldo Emerson: *Nature*

Mohandas Gandhi: *Speech to the Indian Congress*

Barak Obama: *Convention Speech 2004*

Epictetus: *The Enchiridion*

Segment 3 – Writing Rich Content and the Use of Rhetorical Strategies

One can hardly separate the reading of wonderful essays from the writing analysis of analytical responses. Through the writing of their own essays, students practice the rhetorical devices and strategies they have read and analyzed. Students write essays, personal reflections, observations; they write formally and informally throughout the Spring semester.

Segment 4 – Review of Writing Conventions and the Review of Citation Styles

Students review “standard English grammar . . . and writing conventions at all levels.” Students also review the citation styles learned in the first semester: the APA, MLA, CSE, and Chicago Manual of Style. This review is performed throughout the second semester.

Segment 5 – Post AP Exam: Looking Forward

The post exam period is spent looking forward to life after high school, namely college, military, and work experiences. Four writing projects are featured: Resume production, annotative bibliography of intended area of interest, a literature review, and a reflective graduation speech.

Student Evaluation

Students are taught to utilize the AP Exams 9 point rubric. From the rubric, points are at time derived to fit the 100%, 90%, 80% etc. grading convention. Both formal and

informal assessments are used. Formal assessments include pre-formative, formative and summative assessments such as journals, exams, quizzes, timed-writings, mock AP exams, vocabulary assessments, peer editing, various projects (both individual and group) and researched/referenced essays. Informal assessments also include pre-formative, formative and summative assessments such as personal reflections and observations, peer editing, personal response system (prs) polling, wiki-writing, blogs, and podcasts/RSS feeds. Informal assessments are also both individual and group designed.

Hybridized Classroom Component

This AP class meets traditionally in a classroom. However, in order to meet individual needs, this course will also hybridized beginning in the Fall 2007 with the use of an online teaching platform, Moodle. Current students are familiar with the classroom use of teacher-made movies, the use of a personal response system (prs), wikis, RSS Feeds/PodCasts, blogs, and of course the Internet where the instructor has posted resources for this class.

Explicit details of each requirement and the assignments mentioned in this syllabus may be found at

<http://www.genconnection.com/English/ap/index.htm>