



# 2021 - 2022 COURSE SYLLABUS

## AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

(EZS328-EZS329; 10 total credits)

**Mr. Gleason**

Room C-314

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Main Platforms: Google Classroom / AP Classroom

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

In Advanced Placement English Language and Composition, you are a reader and writer, honing your skills on 3 fronts: rhetorical analysis, argumentation, and synthesizing sources. These 3 approaches help you think deeply about how ideas are crafted into writing, and also about the people and purposes behind those ideas.

As a critical reader, you analyze how an author deliberately plans and arranges their work – using rhetorical choices like diction, syntax, figurative language, etc. – to shape the text’s meaning and purpose. You read from a wide-range of mostly non-fiction works because non-fiction has high stakes in real society: persuasion, legislation, justice, culture, and so on. Genres include long-form essays, speeches, historical documents, journalistic articles and editorials, visual compositions, advertising copy, etc.).

As a writer, you combine insight and course information from readings, lecture and class discussion – including numerous questions from previous AP Exams – to frame essay responses that analyze the rhetoric and arguments of others. You also practice crafting your own arguments about a variety of topics.

The AP Exam for English Language and Composition is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 10, 2022**. Although your results do not affect your class grade, a passing score indicates that you have capably completed the equivalent of a college-level freshman composition course. The exam consists of a multiple-choice section and 3 AP Free Response Questions (FRQs). Responses will be scored using the rubric introduced in 2019 by the College Board – the total points for each

FRQ is 6, consisting of three sub-scores: *Thesis* (1pt.), *Evidence & Commentary* (4pts.), and *Sophistication* (1pt.). **COVID Note: Due to COVID, the 2020 AP exam was greatly shortened. The 2021 AP exam was standard length, but administered digitally. It's too early to guess the extent, if any, the exam in 2022 will need to be modified.**

### **TEXTBOOKS, READINGS**

- *The Language of Composition, Third Edition* (Bedford, Freeman & Worth Publishers) c. 2018, Shea, Renee; Scanlon, Lawrence; Aufses, Robin; Pankiewicz, Megan.
- *Reading the World: Ideas That Matter, 2nd Edition* (W.W. Norton & Company) c. 2010, Austin, Michael.
- Literary non-fiction: various pieces used to demonstrate and illuminate authorial style, expression of purpose, argumentation, persuasion, topical analysis
- *Vocabulary Power Plus for College and Career Readiness, Level Three.* (Prestwick House) c. 2014, Reed, Daniel A.
- *Write Source, Grade 11* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) c. 2012, Kemper, Dave; Sebranek, Patrick; Meyer, Verne.
- Imaginative literature: Novels, poetry, and works of short fiction available for check-out to engage individual reading or whole-class instruction.

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

Please ensure you have the following items throughout each of the four quarters of the school year:

dark blue or black ink pens    2+ highlighters (2 colors, min.)    binder paper    pencil

## GENERAL COURSE OUTLINE

Below is a general map of the main concepts during the year. Although these strands are categorized separately, they don't operate in isolation from one another.

Strand 1	<b>Rhetorical Analysis</b>	A Writer's Choices The Rhetorical Situation Effectively Achieving Purpose
Strand 2	<b>Argumentation</b>	Claims & Evidence Thesis Matters & Argument Structure Using Perspectives
Strand 3	<b>Synthesis / Style</b>	Using Sources Evidence & Commentary Developing Arguments
Strand 4	Grammar & Vocab	<b>4 Levels of Grammar</b> <b>Vocab Analysis</b> <b>Words in our World</b>
Strand 5	<b>American Literature &amp; Poetry</b>	
Strand 6	<b>College &amp; Career Prep</b>	

[Please refer to this supplement for a more detailed matrix of reading and writing skills.](#)

Fiction and poetry studies, though secondary in the AP curriculum, focus largely on American literary works. This allows us to follow the interwoven historical, social, and philosophical threads that inspire America's literature, the styles of successive literary periods, and the evolution of "America" as interpreted, debated, and celebrated by its many voices over time.

Junior year is also a time to plan seriously for life and learning after graduation. We will be visited by Cal-SOAP to discuss college and career preparations.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES & GRADING POLICY

The class is an opportunity to gain knowledge together, to hone your process as a student, and to apply your practice to demonstrate your learning – and to feel as though your skills have grown. Categories used in *Infinite Campus* are listed below.

	INFINITE CAMPUS CATEGORY	INFINITE CAMPUS SUBCATEGORY	EXAMPLES OF TASKS
<b>25%</b>	<b>Routines (Skills &amp; Labor)</b>	<i>Homework (HW)</i>	Reading/annotation Short-form analysis writing, etc.  Individual or small-group work that hones both process & product
		<i>Classwork (CW)</i>	Assertion Journal Short-form analysis writing  Grammar/Writing Notes, activities  Discussions, sharing-out, ad hoc presentations (solo or group)
		<i>Practice Free-Response Question (FRQ-P)</i>	An essay prompt, but focused only on a certain section or element of the writing, using pre-discussion and communal skills for practice.
<b>35%</b>	<b>Assessments</b>	<i>Quiz (QUIZ)</i>	A tool to assess reading comprehension, key concepts, vocabulary, language conventions
		<i>Socratic Seminar (SOCR)</i>	Socratic Seminars & other scheduled discussions requiring research, preparation
		<i>Free-Response Question (FRQ)</i>	Essays assigned to be completed during class (approx. 45min.); prompts may be previously seen and discussed, or may be new to students
		<i>Final Exam (FINAL)</i>	End of 1st, 2nd Semester: Written analysis and multiple-choice
<b>40%</b>	<b>Projects</b>	<i>Essay (ESSAY)</i>	Any multi-stage (“process”) essay devised and completed over 1-2 weeks
		<i>Presentation (PRES)</i>	Presentations (solo or group) requiring research, preparation

## HOMEWORK POLICY & LATE ASSIGNMENTS

You are expected to complete your homework on a timely, consistent basis. Access Google Classroom to track any missed assignments or assessments. Late assignments are only accepted when a valid reason is proven. If you plan to be absent, please email the work ahead or have someone else deliver your work. Track your progress using *Infinite Campus Student Portal* – and thanks in advance for your patience as I score assignments and essays. In the gradebook online, each scored assignment will show points earned, each missing assignment will be marked ‘0’, and each yet-to-be-scored assignment will show a blank space.

## CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS -- VIRTUAL OR OTHERWISE

I’m looking forward to a productive, insightful, and enjoyable school year working with you. As in most working collaborations, some days can be better than others, so we learn to “do the work even on a bad day” and persevere. My role is to engineer opportunities for academic discovery for all students; that process will require habits of mind for critical thinking, habits of heart for respectful interaction, and the patience and stamina needed to fight through setbacks and frustrations.

### Behavior

The class involves everyone’s needs for enrichment and advancement; therefore, classroom time means shared time with equal stakes for all. You are expected to respect and maximize this shared time without disruption. Don’t waste class time. Please also understand that your personal needs – while important to you – cannot overtake the class agenda. Refer to the *John F. Kennedy High School Discipline Policy Handbook* for campus-wide rules for behavior and expectations. Take particular note of Kennedy’s policies on plagiarism.

### ✓ READINESS CHECK

<b>Distracted</b>	→ →	<b>Centered</b>
<b>Judgmental</b>	→ →	<b>Curious</b>
<b>Panicked</b>	→ →	<b>Prepared</b>
<b>Unkind</b>	→ →	<b>Thoughtful</b>

### Attendance & Tardies

As they say: Get up, dress up, show up. Missing multiple days of class in a semester, whether excused or unexcused, can endanger earning course credit. As the bell rings, you are expected to be situated with necessary materials, ready to start. If you arrive late, be polite and enter quietly without distraction. Absences and tardies erode your participation potential and leave you stranded on the runway while everyone else takes off.

### Addenda

- Food and drink can be distracting -- please don’t flex your feasts.
- Plan ahead when possible for bathroom needs so you don’t miss too much.

## **TECHNOLOGY & DIGITAL TOOLS**

Be truly present. Your mobile devices need to be kept out of reach and out of sight, unless I specifically allow their use in a lesson. Internet connections and platforms like Google Classroom can be laggy, glitchy, and temperamental, so let's all remember our patience and grace through those frustrating moments.