


AP LANG

contact
mr. ray

 JLRAY@TCSS.NET

 205-342-2755

 NORTHSIDE-
HIGH.TCSS.NET

follow

 MRRAYSCLASSES
AND RAMS_HS

 MRRAYSCLASSES
AND RAMS_HS

 FB.ME/NHSRAMS

remind

 @APLANGNHS TO
81010

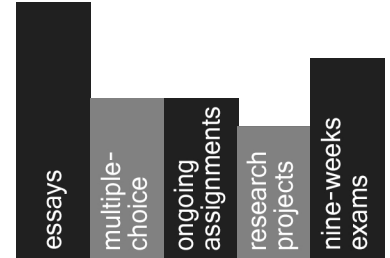
what is ap lang?

Put simply, AP Language and Composition is a college-level course dedicated to studying the art of persuasion. Whereas most English courses focus on fiction and aesthetic, Lang focuses on non-fiction and rhetoric. The other item that differentiates this course is a cumulative examination that will take place on **Tuesday, May 10, at 8:00 am (and a mandatory mock exam whose date is TBA)**. Taking this test is required for each student if that student wishes to receive weighted credit in his or her GPA. This is also the test that will determine whether or not students receive college credit for the course.

In this course, students must be self-motivated, realizing that they will only get as much from the course as they put into it. There will be a substantial amount of reading and writing required of AP Lang students, and students who try to "skimp by" on minimal effort will only experience a minimal product at the end of the year.

A NOTE TO PARENTS

This is a **difficult, college-level course** that is meant to challenge students and help them grow academically. In other words, your student's grade may be lower than that to which you are accustomed. Don't panic right away, grades typically level off by the second semester.



GRADE BREAKDOWN

CLASS SUPPLIES (FOR IN-CLASS INSTRUCTION)

REQUIRED	SUGGESTED
Blue or Black pens	Earbuds (stereo jack)
Pencil	Index cards
Composition Notebook	Cheap dictionary
One-inch binder with paper*	White-out
Highlighters (three colors)	
Jump-drive^	
Three-ring folder	
^ can share with other classes * should be dedicated to ap lang	

As you have heard many times, this school year will push us all past our comfort zones and challenge all of our notions of what school should look like. Please make sure to be understanding and fluid when it comes to classwork, and **MAKE SURE TO STAY ON TOP OF YOUR ASSIGNMENTS! DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE!**

read a book!

It may seem elementary, but there is no way around the fact that you cannot be "smart" and not read. Along those lines, BRING A BOOK WITH YOU TO CLASS EVERY DAY, as we will start class each day by reading for 10-15 minutes, no exceptions.

ANOTHER NOTE TO PARENTS

Because this is a college-level course, we will be reading college-level texts that present different viewpoints in different mediums, many of which students will find alien. Many of these works will also contain mature elements (themes, scenes, language, etc.) which are not taught in the traditional high-school classroom. I encourage parents or guardians to scrutinize the texts that we read and discuss them with their students. Any parents or guardians who wish for their child to read an alternate text may request for them to do so but must make that request no later than one week before the first reading assignment for that piece is due.



THE NOT-SO-FUN STUFF

Class Expectations

1. Be respectful of everyone.

By signing up for this course, you are making a commitment to me, to your classmates, and to yourself. You are committing yourself as a vital part of the success of the course. This means that you have to be **PRESENT** during class (focused, not on your phone or working on another class's work, participating in the discussion, etc.). This also means **ENGAGING** with other students' opinions, whether or not they are different from your own. This class is based on **CIVIL DISCOURSE**, which requires civility and doubt. We'll discuss this further in the next few days.

2. Be prepared to engage.

What point is there in taking a college reading and writing class if you're not going to do the reading and writing or if you're just going to put minimal effort into the reading and writing by doing it last-minute. I promise that **EVERY** assignment you are given serves a purpose, whether it is to further you as a reader and writer or to prepare you to succeed on the exam.

3. Be a decent person.

Although this has already been mentioned in other areas, it bears repeating. Be decent to your classmates. No matter how well you know or don't know them, they will push your boundaries and beliefs, which is a **GOOD** thing. Disagreement is the greenhouse of academia. We can never grow without resistance, so expect and welcome it. Disrespect toward someone else (or yourself for that matter) will never be tolerated in my class.

4. Be honest.

One of the biggest concerns of academia is plagiarism, which is presenting someone else's work or thought as your own. This does mean copying and cheating, but this also includes Sparknoting texts instead of reading them or allowing someone else to just "tell you what happened." Any form of plagiarism will be punished with zero credit for the assignment and parental / office involvement. I understand that things can get overwhelming. **PLEASE**, if they do, come speak to me about getting an extension on an assignment rather than just cheating yourself, your classmates, and me by plagiarizing.

late and absentee work

Assignment deadlines are firm without a prior arrangement. All minor assignments (readings, current events, etc.) will receive no credit for being late. Major assignments will receive half-credit if they are turned in one day late. Anything turned in after that will not receive credit.

Work done in-class and missed because of an excused absence can be turned in within two days of the student's return to class.

on-going expectations

Each week, students will be responsible for presenting on that week's current events. You will sign up for these presently.

Students will also receive an independent reading project assignment for each nine weeks. More info to come.

Finally, students will be expected to continuously study the list of vocabulary terms that they are given. Quizzes on this vocabulary can be given at any point and can be announced or unannounced.



Why do this to yourself?

You may be asking yourself this question: Why put yourself through the Language ringer when so many of your classmates take easier classes that don't require so much effort? Besides the growth you'll experience as a person, you will also receive college credit if you make a qualifying score on the AP exam. That's a savings of over \$1700 depending on where you go to school. I know it will get tedious at times, but it's worth it; I promise!!

