

Advanced Placement Language & Composition / 11th Grade Honors English

Tesla STEM High School ~ 2018-2019

Mrs. Sheffels ~ Email: jsheffels@lwsd.org ~ Room 127

Office hours: Tues-Fri 7:00-7:30a ~ Tues/Fri 2:25-3:55 ~ *appointments recommended*

Course Description:

The English Language and Composition class is based on critical reading, reading and writing skills, and argumentation. Our texts will build these skills using American literature, literature related to STEM, and a variety of primary and secondary sources and documents that support the students' understanding of rhetoric. Students, in agreement with the College Board's course description, will "synthesize material from these texts in their own compositions and [learn] to cite sources." Works we will study could include:

- *The Language of Composition* by Shea, Scanlon, and Dissin-Aufses
- *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain
- *Hillbilly Elegy* by JD Vance
- *Between the World and Me* by Ta Nehesi Coates
- *Night* by Elie Wiesel
- Holocaust, Civil Rights, Japanese incarceration, and human rights excerpts, articles and essays
- Selected columns, articles and essays from various authors
- Documentary films
- Current events, pop culture, and commentary via magazines, newspapers, video, and audio
- Supplemental political cartoons, advertisements, film clips, artworks, websites, poems, graphs and charts
- Released items from previous AP Language exams

This class is grounded in analysis and argument of frequently controversial subjects. We will look at both historical and current events and examine all sides of issues. The goal is not to come to consensus, but to understand how to listen, analyze and argue in an intelligent and effective way. In a year when the political rhetoric has become so polarizing, there are bound to be discussions that are somewhat controversial in nature. We will learn to look at context, evidence, frames of reference, and counter-arguments. At all times, and in agreement with the district's parameters, I require civility and inclusivity in discussions.

Supply list:

College-ruled composition book
3x5 notecards
#2 Pencils
Sticky notes

Red, blue, and black ballpoint pens (+ one extra color of your choice—NOT purple)
Highlighters (3 colors)
College-ruled paper (loose-leaf)

Course Objectives:

Throughout the year, you will work to develop skills important to Language and Composition. These are adapted from the College Board and include:

- Defining and using a wide-ranging vocabulary appropriately and effectively
- Demonstrating stylistic maturity in writing by utilizing logical organization, a variety of sentence structures (subordination and coordination), effective strategies, and specific techniques to increase coherence, such as repetition, transitions, and emphasis
- Reading a variety of nonfiction selected to effectively identify and explain and author's use of rhetorical devices and strategies
- Analyzing and interpreting graphics and visual images both in relation to written texts and as alternative forms of text themselves
- Composing in several forms, including analytical, narrative, expository, and argumentative, both formally and informally about a variety of subjects and including a balance of generalization and specific, illustrative detail

- Producing compositions that introduce a claim and developing them with appropriate evidence drawn from primary and/or secondary sources, cogent sources and cogent explanations
- Revising a work to make it suitable for a different audience, to mimic a different style, or to effectively use tone, voice, diction, and sentence structure
- Developing research skills and demonstrating correct APA conventions and style
- Creating and sustaining arguments based on readings, research, and/or personal experiences

Expectations for All Students:

You are expected to be respectful, responsible, cooperative, and participative at all times. You are also expected to come to class with our current class novel or assignment and your district-assigned laptops. It is your responsibility to daily check PowerSchool, the online Learning Management System (LMS) adopted by the Lake Washington School District. In addition to the calendars in the classroom, assignments with due dates are regularly posted on PowerSchool, along with relevant handouts and resources. Assignments due the next day are usually announced in class, but any later additions will be posted to PowerSchool no later than 4 pm the day before they are due. There may be times during the year when you will also be required to post work to this website (this is a closed site; your work is only able to be viewed by other students in my class and their parents.)

Students must check their cell phones in at the beginning of class to their assigned numbered pocket. I take attendance from the pocket chart; no phone=unexcused absence. Personal electronics are not to be used in class without explicit teacher approval and will result in the loss of your device until the end of the school day. Computer or cell phone games are NEVER allowed in class.

Expectations for AP Students:

AP English Language and Composition is a college-level course and will require reading and writing assignments at the level which is expected for STEM students who are frequently assigned technical nonfiction in other classes. You must be prepared to contribute intellectually by thoughtfully completing reading and writing assignments, giving your best effort, having a good attitude, and keeping an open mind. AP students will need to sign up for and take the AP Language and Composition Exam on Wednesday, May 15, 2019. Information will be available in class or through the school counselor.

Assignment Policies:

You are expected to come to class with your assignment completed (and/or printed or uploaded, if required) on the date it is due. Homework is due at the beginning of class and is a valuable part of the learning process. Because you will miss out on discussions and be unable to adjust your work on assignments if they are not done when due, late assignments are not accepted. Use a planner, check PowerSchool, or find a system that works for you to keep track of your responsibilities. If your first plan of attack doesn't work, work on your problem-solving skills, and develop a Plan B. If you cannot print, you can email it to me by 7:30 a.m. on the day that it is due. It is your responsibility to verify that PowerSchool or Turnitin.com has received your assignment. You should be able to view your submissions in PowerSchool. Turnitin offers a preview screen to confirm and sends a confirmation email. Make sure you received that email or can confirm your upload is in your library in order to avoid late penalties.

Parent Access:

Skyward is the primary source of information for assignments, grades, or missing work. Please set up automatic emails for missing assignments by following these instructions: <https://www.lwsd.org/help/parent-access-support/setting-up-automatic-emails-for-missing-assignments>. Parents have access to PowerSchool and should occasionally view class calendars and assignments. Student quizzes or dropbox assignments can also be viewed there. I encourage you to get your student's login and password for Turnitin.com so you can view his/her submissions. Also, if your student saves his/her class OneNote as a local copy on your home computer through a login you can access, you will be able to view his/her OneNote assignments throughout the year.

Student absence/Make-up policy:

You are responsible for finding out what you missed when you are absent—even if the absence is for a school field trip or academic competition. You should check PowerSchool for assignments and due dates when you are gone and check with a classmate for discussion notes. Handouts can be found on PowerSchool or hardcopies are often on the

front table in the classroom. Homework is due on the day you return unless you have notified me of an illness or made other arrangements. Make-up quizzes/tests are due within two (2) days of returning to school—these are YOUR responsibility to schedule and must be made up during office hours—not during class. Short absences will not extend the due date of long-term papers or projects. In order to maintain your grade, it is crucial that you make up all work in a timely manner and that you do not have excessive absences or tardies.

Grading Policy:

You will receive a progress report after the 1st and 3rd quarters, but quarter grades are cumulative throughout each semester. Grades are based on the following percentage system:

A = 90-100%	B - = 80-82%	C = 73-76%
B+ = 87-89%	C+ = 77-79%	C - = 70-72%
B = 83-86%		NC = 69% and below

Academic Honesty:

In this class, you have opportunities to share ideas and collaborate on projects. However, you are entirely responsible for your own work. All forms of cheating, plagiarism, or fabrication, including submitting any work product that the student misrepresents as his or her work product for the purpose of fulfilling any assignment or task required as part of the student’s course of studies is considered dishonest. This includes the unauthorized use of electronic devices, the use of unauthorized material or unauthorized communication of any kind during testing, and the aiding and abetting of academic dishonesty of others. If you choose to disregard these guidelines, you will receive a zero on the offending assignment or test. If the behavior continues, you will not receive credit for the course. Please ask me or another teacher if you are concerned about correctly citing sources or if you are concerned about appropriate times and/or ways to share/collaborate your work with others. Throughout the year, you will be required to submit most projects/papers to www.Turnitin.com.

Communication/Office Hours:

As juniors, you need to develop the skill of communicating with your teachers. You may always contact me by e-mail, jsheffels@lwsd.org, regarding any comments, questions, or concerns. I will respond within 48 hours during the work week. I do not access voicemail. I am also available to meet by appointment during office hours. Please do not wait until you are overwhelmed to meet with me. Together we can develop a plan to help you get on track; I am here to help you get the most out of my class. I recommend that you make an appointment if you’d like dedicated time with me. All appointments take priority over walk-ins.



Please read and discuss these expectations carefully. Then provide your signature below. Return this lower, signed slip to Mrs. Sheffels by Friday, September 7. Keep the remaining expectations sheets in your notebook for any future reference.

Mrs. Sheffels

AP Lang & Comp / 11th Grade Honors

Syllabus 2018-2019

STUDENT NAME (print)

My signature below indicates that I have read and understand the course description and expectations for AP Lang & Comp/11th grade honors English at Tesla STEM. I agree to abide by the policies and procedures outlined herein. I understand I am responsible for my own actions, behaviors, and academic performance, and I will monitor the same through the available online platforms described herein.

STUDENT SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

PARENT SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____