



AP English 11 – Language and Composition

Dr. J. Spiegel

Room 110

Welcome to AP English 11! This course is designed to prepare you for the Advanced Placement Language and Composition test while providing you with advanced skills valuable in the collegiate realm. This course is also a college in high school course through Seton Hill University and meets all the requirements for those seeking college credits from this institution for this course. The attached pages provide you with a **tentative** course syllabus of some of the readings we may do, but not necessarily in that order. Specific due dates for each unit will be provided later.

Topics to be covered

This course will focus heavily on reading, writing, and rhetoric. You will be required to read and analyze, verbally and in writing, works of fiction and nonfiction, art and graphic illustrations, and many other media. You will study rhetorical devices used by authors and analyze their effectiveness in establishing the authors' tones and delivering their messages. All novels in the course will be pieces of American Literature, while the origins of materials from our primary text, *The Language of Composition*, will be varied. All items listed are in this primary text except those marked with an asterisk. They will be provided separately. Units are organized thematically and may include, but are not limited to, the following:

Unit 1: Journeys(summer novels)

- Novel: *Huckleberry Finn*– Twain*
- Novel: *The Secret Life of Bees*– Kidd*
- Classic Essay: *Lily's Rebirth* – Harken (reprint) *
- Central Essay: *Huckleberry Finn and the Problem of Freedom* –Pinsker (reprint) *
- Visual Text: *The Jolly Flatboatmen* *
- Visual Text: *Worse Than Slavery**

Unit 2: Reading and Rhetoric

- Text Reading: Chapter 1 – Introducing Rhetoric: Using the “Available Means”
- Example: From *Hillbilly Elegy*– Vance
- Example: From *Slow Food Nation*– Waters
- Example: From *The Checkers Speech*– Nixon
- Visual Text: *Rosa Parks* cartoon – Toles
- Text Reading: Chapter 2 – Close Reading: The Art and Craft of Rhetorical Analysis
- Example: *Letter to Thomas Jefferson* – Banneker
- Example: From *Speech on Child Labor*– Kelley
- Example: From *People and Peace, Not Profits and War*– Chisholm
- Visual Text: *It's a Big Fat Juicy Cheeseburger in a Land of Tofu*– Dodge advertisement
- Text Reading: Chapter 3 – Analyzing Arguments: From Reading to Writing
- Example: *Why Investing in Fast Food May Be a Good Thing*– Domini
- Example: *Star Wars*– Ebert
- Example: *The C Word in the Hallways* – Quindlen
- Example: *The Declaration of Independence*– Jefferson
- Example: *Letter to a Southern Baptist Minister*– Wilson
- Example: *How Covenants Make Us* - Brooks
- Visual Text: *Migrant Mother*– Lange
- Visual Text: *Crazed Rhetoric*– Toles

Unit 3: Community

- Novel: *The Scarlet Letter* - Hawthorne*
- Play: *The Crucible*– Miller*
- Text Reading: Chapter 3 “Analyzing Arguments”
- Central Essay: *Letter from Birmingham Jail*– King
- Classic Essay: *Where I Lived, and What I Lived for*– Thoreau
- Essay: *Speech to Mt. Holyoke College*– Quindlen (reprint) *
- Visual text: *Freedom from Want* - Rockwell

Unit 4: Critical Research with Fiction – Developing a Synthesis Essay

- Text reading: Chapter 4 “Synthesizing Sources: Entering the Conversation”
- Example: *The Dumbest Generation*– Bauerlein
- Example: *Is 'Screen Time' Dangerous for Children* – Gopnik

- Example: *The Illusion of Knowledge* - Carr
- Example: *This Is How the Internet Is Rewiring Your Brain*– Howard
- Example: From *Interview: Clive Thompson's Smarter Than You Think*- Agger
- Example: From *Stop Googling. Let's Talk.* – Turkle
- Example: *Are We Getting Our Share of the Best*- Simpson
- Visual Text: *Americans' Cell Phone Use During Social Activity*
- Novel / play by chosen author from list*
- Additional novel, play, or short story (at least one) written by said author
- Critical essays from library research chosen by student

Unit 5: Popular Culture

- Nonfiction Book: *Fast Food Nation*–Schlosser*
- Central Essay: *Hip Hop Planet*- McBride
- Classic Essay: *Corn-pone Opinions* – Twain
- Essay: *High School Confidential: Notes on Teen Movies*– Denby
- Visual text: *Myths*- Warhol

Unit 6: Money

- Novel: *The Great Gatsby**
- Novel: *Of Mice and Men**
- Classic Essay: *A Modest Proposal* - Swift
- Central Essay: From *Serving in Florida* – Ehrenreich
- Essay: *The Gospel of Wealth*- Carnegie
- Visual Text: *Night of the Rich* - Rivera
- Visual Text: *Panama Papers Paris*- Florez

Unit 7: Gender

- Novel: *The Awakening*– Chopin*
- Central Essay: *In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens*– Walker
- Classic Essay: *Professions for Women*– Woolf
- Essay: *Women's Brains*- Gould
- Essay: *I Want a Wife*– Brady
- Visual Text: *We Can Do It!*– Miller
- Visual Text: *The March*– Swartz

Materials Needed Daily for Class

Three-ring binder (containing materials for this class only)
Pencil or pen (pen preferred)
Textbook
iPad

You May Also Want

Post-it notes and highlighters for close reading

Course Binder

You should keep all notes, handouts, and homework in your binder for each nine weeks. They will be needed for the mid-term and final exam later in the course. The mid-term and final exams are cumulative – replicating what you will experience in the college environment. These materials will also be helpful for studying for the AP exam.

Writing

Several types of writing will be done in this course. You will write critical analysis papers, research papers, precis, journals, and short written answers to provided text questions. As per the AP test, you will also write Free Response Questions (FRQs). These will require you to 1) analyze an author's form, structure and/or tone, 2) argue a position, and 3) synthesize information from multiple sources to prove a position. Each FRQ assignment will be graded holistically using the AP Exam rubric and will be timed as per College Board standards.

Tests and Quizzes

Tests and quizzes may be given via Canvas. When they are given in this format, YOU ARE NOT PERMITTED TO TAKE THEM ON ANY ELECTRONIC DEVICE OTHER THAN YOUR SCHOOL ISSUED IPAD. Any student who does not have a charged, district-issued iPad in class during the test will take the test/quiz on paper. Any student absent the day of the quiz or test will also take the paper make-up. Canvas will

automatically populate a 0 for your test, but do not worry. As soon as you make up your quiz on paper, I will override your score manually and without penalty. Students are not permitted to take a quiz/test anywhere or anytime other than in my classroom while being supervised by me.

Course Journal

You will complete monthly journal assignments for class using Canvas online. Your journals will provide your own critical analysis of pieces published in credible national newspapers. I will provide you with standard rubrics and directions that will be used for every post before your first post is due and a list of acceptable newspapers we can all access.

Participation

This is an AP level course where your participation is expected daily. You should be prepared to present information individually, as part of a group, or in Socratic Seminar discussions. Working on other homework during class is NOT acceptable and it is expected that you will take appropriate notes each day as you would in a college course.

Attendance

Excused tardy / absence

Work made up in amount of days missed

Get work in advance when possible

This includes days missed for school activities

Unexcused tardy / absence / class cut

No credit for work completed on that day

Class cuts also receive disciplinary action

Late to Class

Three unexcused = detention after school with me

Tardy To School / Early Dismissal / Field Trip

If you come to school late, leave early, or attend a field trip, you are in the school building and are expected to deliver any homework due that day to me that day or upload it to Canvas as instructed. You may also leave it in the AP English basket in my classroom or to Canvas online depending on the assignment's requirements. Feel free to ask for assignments in advance, as I am usually prepared weeks or months ahead.

Classroom Behavior

This is an AP level course that requires rigorous amounts of reading and writing both in and out of class and will also require speaking both formally and informally in class. Since literature is interpretive, many of you will develop opinions about the authors and works we study. Some of your opinions will be different than your classmates and that is ok. Please respect the opinions of all parties in the classroom and do not speak out of turn or interrupt others as they discuss their points of view. Everyone will be afforded the opportunity to speak in turn.

In addition, please respect the following BRAVE standards of behavior:

Be safe: Listen to staff and maintain personal space.

Respect others: Be on time, be polite, and use appropriate language and tone.

Be accountable: Be prepared, be honest, do your own work, use electronic devices only when permitted.

Be victorious: Do your best work and celebrate academic success.

Be enthusiastic: Have a positive attitude and take ownership of learning.

Grading

All grading will be done according to the district's grading scale. Each assignment will have an assigned point value. Check your grades frequently online. See the guidance office if you do not have a password.

Homework / Assignment Standards

All work should be neatly written or typed. Use blue or black ink. All hand-written work should be completed on 8 1/2 by 11 sheets of lined paper. MLA Style must be used. 10 % will be deducted from work not meeting these standards and from any assignment that does not have the provided grading rubric. See individual assignment directions for details.

Late Work

All work must be completed on time. Late work will be accepted for seven days after the assignment due date with penalty. This includes work late for the following reasons: work forgotten at home or elsewhere, work not completed due to after school job, activity, or other extracurricular responsibility. Regardless of reason, the penalties are as follows:

- work worth 30 points or less will receive ½ credit.
- work worth 31 points or more will lose the point equivalent of one letter grade per day until the value is 50%.

After seven days, assignments on Canvas will close and WILL NOT be reopened. No late work will be accepted after seven days.

Academic Integrity - Plagiarism and Cheating

It is **absolutely unacceptable** to copy material from another student or from another source (i.e.: internet sites). You are not permitted to "work together" on assignments unless I have given you specific permission to do so. If you are found plagiarizing work or cheating in any way, you and any other student (s) involved will receive a zero on the assignment, project, or test. Texting, using other electronic devices, or leaving Canvas

during an exam will also result in a zero. You will NOT have the opportunity to make up the work or do the assignment again. This includes any work produced by AI that is then claimed as your own. This includes all assignments and compositions - no exceptions. This is pursuant to the district policy. Please see the current edition of Student Handbook for more information.

In addition, please keep the following in mind:

- Accurately cite all sources.
- Accurately represent your sources.
- Read all assigned readings to assure accuracy.
- Do not copy another person's work.
- Do not give your work to others.
- Do not write a paper for one course and turn the same paper in for another course.
- Proofread your work to assure accuracy.
- Include a list of works cited for all compositions.
- Do not download a composition from the internet.
- Do not make up quotes that are not in the text you have read.

Cell Phone / Electronics Policy

PEDs "are permitted to be used . . . AT TEACHER DISCRETION FOR INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSES IN THE CLASSROOMS." This is the current district policy regarding electronic devices. Please put your phones where directed at the start of class. If you are using a cell phone during class without permission, I will follow the district policies and provide the appropriate consequences. Please observe this policy. It is inappropriate to use a cell phone when you are expected to be doing academic work. **It is unprofessional and down right rude to use a cell phone while the teacher or another classmate is talking.** Courtesy is required in this classroom. If you are distracted by a device, you are not academically present in the class. Most of all, you are missing valuable information, interaction, and instruction that cannot be repeated. You may use your iPads when it is appropriate to do so. I will give you a verbal "ok" to use them. If I have asked for them to be removed and put away, please do so.

Success In This Course

According to district policy, you must receive a cumulative percentage of 60 to pass this course. Effort goes a long way in this course. Attending school regularly, keeping up with all notes, readings, and assignments, and asking for help when needed will ensure your success.

Communication with Teacher

Voice Mail

Dial (412) 896-2300 extension 7810

Email

Address: jspiegel@efsd.net

Students should keep the first three pages in the front of their binders for reference. The final sheet should be returned to the teacher at the beginning of the school year. Feel free to download copies of this from the school district website at www.efsd.net from the English Department page or from Canvas.



Signature Page
Please return to Dr. J. Spiegel
Room 110
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Please take this home and review it with your parent or guardian. Have a parent or guardian sign on the line below to indicate that he or she has reviewed the AP English 11 course syllabus information.

A signature below earns 5 out of 5 points for the student if returned by the due date.

X _____ student name (PRINT)

X _____ student signature

X _____ parent / guardian signature

Date: _____

Parent Information

Should I ever need to contact you, please indicate below your preferred method of communication and provide the information needed.

Email address: _____

Daytime phone: _____

Name of parent to be contacted (print): _____