

# AP Language and Composition Syllabus

## Mr. Alwardt

### Course Description:

AP English Language and Composition encourages students to become skilled readers of non-fiction prose in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts and to compose for a variety of purposes. In this course, students will compose in a variety of forms—narrative, exploratory, expository, argumentative—and on a variety of subjects from personal experiences to public policies, from imaginative literature to popular culture. Students will examine the expository, analytical, and argumentative writing that forms the basis of academic and professional communications and the personal and reflective writing that fosters writing facility in any context. "It is the responsibility of informed citizens and consumers to understand how rhetoric works, so they can be wary of manipulation and deceit, while appreciating effective and civil communication" (*The Language of Composition*).

The course work is much more than the expected high school load because AP Language and Composition is a college-level course. Students will have daily and weekly homework assignments, which include varying writing assignments, vocabulary study, speeches, readings, viewing, frequent quizzes and examinations. The course will also emphasize skills related to the ACT.

Students have the option to take the Advanced Placement English and Composition Exam and may receive college credit if the exam is passed.

### Introduction:

Welcome to AP Language and Composition. This will be an interesting year of study; hopefully, you will be challenged and inspired. I look forward to working with you and learning with you. I expect you to always do your best as your success in this course will be measured by your efforts.

**Teacher Email Address:** [alwardjo@lc-ps.org](mailto:alwardjo@lc-ps.org) Please e-mail if you have questions about assignments after school hours or if you were absent and need clarification. Please consult the course Weebly site for further information on emailing and course assignments.

### Units of Study:

Quarter One: Theme - Success; Main Text: OUTLIERS

Quarter Two: Theme - Politics & War; Main Texts: ANIMAL FARM & PERSEPOLIS

Quarter Three: Theme - Education; Main Text: THE OVERACHIEVERS: THE SECRET LIVES...

Quarter Four: Theme - Pop Culture; Main Text - TBA

### Required Materials:

Please bring the following to class daily:

- One inch, three-ring binder
- Dividers with tabs (six)
- Pen or pencil
- Copy of assigned text (you may use the school borrowed copy or purchase your own for annotating purposes)
- Highlighters (optional)
- Post-It Notes (for annotating purposes)

**Course Assignments and Homework:**

- Homework assignments are due at the start of class; any work not submitted when collected is late.
- Late work is not accepted; you will receive a zero.
- If absent on the day an assignment is due, please submit the assignment upon your return to class. NOTE: If the absence(s) are NOT excused, the assignment is considered late = no credit for the assignment.
- If you are absent for class, check the class Weebly for the assignment or contact another student from class. *You are responsible for keeping yourself informed!* The assignment is due upon your return to class. If extenuating circumstances apply, please see or contact me about additional time to complete the work.

**Final Essays, Presentations, Quizzes and Tests:**

- \* Essays that follow the writing process must be typed (double spaced) or written in blue or black ink (double spaced).
- \* Timed essays (for ACT and AP) are written in ink and single spaced.
- \* All essays/presentations must be original work; any type of plagiarism will result in a loss of credit for the work (NO EXCEPTIONS).
- \* If absent on the day a final essay/presentation is due, please see the above course assignment/homework policy.
- \* If absent on the day of a quiz or test, please make arrangements with me to complete the assessment within one class period of your return to class. NOTE: *You are responsible for making said arrangements; forgetting to do so will result in a loss of credit for the quiz or test.*

**Academic Integrity:**

Cheating and/or plagiarism of any type will result in failure for the assignment, quiz or test. The appropriate consequences will follow.

**Classroom Guidelines:**

1. Follow the Golden Rule: Treat yourself and others with respect and dignity during class.
2. Maintain an open mind to the possibility of multiple perspectives during class discussions; your truth might not be that of another person; however, respect still applies.
3. Fun and hard work can complement each other; that will be the approach of the class.
4. Always do your best - even when you might not care; I do!

*Please share this with a parent or guardian. A copy of the next page was distributed in class. Please complete and return by \_\_\_\_\_*

## AP Language and Composition Syllabus

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To access the course syllabus please visit the course web site at <http://lcnaplanguageweebly.com>. This site serves as a communicator for students and parents throughout the school year. Please add this site as a favorite on your computer and check frequently.

*This completed page of the syllabus is due on \_\_\_\_\_.*

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (student name), along with my parent/guardian, have read and understand the course requirements and provisions.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Student must complete the bottom (parent/guardian please discuss and review with student):

My goal(s) for this course is/are - please put some thought into this and create worthy goals:

How will you achieve this/these goal(s):

Will your work/study habits need to change in order for you to achieve your goal(s)?  
Yes/No - Why?

Any concerns or comments you feel necessary to share about the course and/or your learning?