**AP Language and Composition 11 Students**

Course Description

Advanced Placement Language and Composition is a college-level course designed to develop skills in critical reading and writing. Students will be carefully analyzing a broad and challenging range of nonfiction, fiction, poetry, and drama, working to deepen their awareness and understanding of rhetoric (the art of persuasion using compositional techniques). **Although students will read a variety of texts, there is a strong emphasis on nonfiction.** This course is designed to prepare college-bound students for the AP exam; the class is taught with this in mind, assuming all students are planning to take the exam. As this is an advanced class, performance expectations are appropriately high, and the workload is challenging. Students will study the structure, meaning, and value of representative works. Students will complete writing assignments that focus on the critical analysis of literature (close-reading) that help students understand the resources of language (rhetorical devices and style). This course requires students to become skilled readers of prose written in a variety of rhetorical contexts and skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Both their reading and their writing should make students aware of a writer’s purpose, a reader’s expectations, and an author’s argument, as well as the genre conventions and the resources of language that contribute to effective writing. A significant component of this course requires students to engage with outside sources in reading, writing, research, and speech. **This course also requires reading a nonfiction text over the summer and then word processing three short responses and answering five discussion questions about the book. This summer reading assignment is due the first day of school in hard-copy form. During the first days of school, students will also be required to submit the summer writing assignments to www.turnitin.com.**

Student Expectations

Expectations for the student include reading assignments weekly (up to 35 pages each night), homework 4-5 times each week, paragraph and essay writing, research, presentations, group and individual work, and small and large group discussion. It is recommended that Honors English 10 is taken prior to this course. **Students taking this course should be intrinsically motivated. Because this is a fast-paced, college-level course, students should be able and willing to dedicate the required amount of time outside of class to successfully complete all assignments on time. Work ebbs and flows—depending on projects or essays—so nightly homework ranges from 15 minutes per night to 1+ hour per night.**

Tips for Success

* Check the teacher’s blog daily
* Ask questions frequently and schedule time with the teacher to get help if needed
* Turn in work on time and use Turnitin.com and Office 365 account
* Use outside resources (i.e. research databases, OWL Purdue-Online Writing Lab)
* Manage time appropriately