

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

DOE code 23.04300; One core credit.

Purpose: To provide a college-level, seminar-style environment where students can formally and informally analyze major themes and rhetorical techniques employed in fiction and nonfiction media, as well as improve their own written and oral communication.

Prerequisites: At least a B in two high-school-level language arts classes and/or consultation with instructor.

Texts and Resources:

- **Primary Text:** Samuel Cohen's *50 Essays: A Portable Anthology*, ISBN-13: 9780312454029, ISBN-10: 0312454023; copyright 2004 by Bedford/St. Martin's.
- Summer reading books, required and optional. Reading list is available at teacher's website.
- Longer works or excerpts include the likes of Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, Martin Luther King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail," Janisse Ray's *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood*, Malcolm Gladwell's *Outliers*, Annie Dillard's *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, and George Orwell's *1984*. Visual art such as political cartoons, paintings, film, illustrations, and photography.
- Teacher-provided instructional handouts and practice AP tests from College Board-sponsored teacher education classes and websites, to be collected by students in binders.
- Online APA research guide: OWL at Purdue University.
- Visiting scholars who assist students in exploring context and philosophy of various works.

General Course Objectives:

1. The student will identify rhetorical analysis features of fiction and nonfiction material.
2. The student will identify persuasive elements of visual art.
3. The student will do scholarly research on primary and secondary levels
4. The student will use APA format.
5. The student will write in timed and non-timed parameters.
6. The student will improve writing skills by revision and correction, and will practice using rubrics and peer commentary to evaluate success.
7. The student will learn methods of self-correction while editing her writing.
8. The student will defend his stances orally and in writing, in small groups as well as individually.
9. The student will analyze literature not only through traditional analytical writing, but also by dramatic interpretation, journaling, informal debate/Socratic discussion, "creative writing," class presentation and mapping, and formal research using primary and secondary sources.