

# AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION SYLLABUS

Margaret Shuman, Instructor; shumanhw@gmail.com

## SEMESTER 1: SEEING PERSUASION

Students understand the ways and whys of rhetorical analysis

- Identifying rhetorical strategies and devices
- Analyzing contexts and judging evidence
- Seeing current and classic trends in persuasion
- Modeling after professional communicators
- Presenting well orally, visually, and in writing

## SEMESTER 2: BEING PERSUASIVE

Students deepen persuasive study and create their own persuasive works

- Continuing extensive rhetorical analysis
- Building a personal writing voice
- Researching and reporting well, using APA and MLA styles
- Analyzing rhetorical humor
- Working creatively and efficiently in small groups

**Primary Text:** Samuel Cohen's *50 Essays: A Portable Anthology*, ISBN-13: 9780312454029, ISBN-10: 0312454023; copyright 2004 by Bedford/St. Martin's.

**Paperbacks:** Malcom Gladwell's *Outliers*, George Orwell's *1984*, Janisse Ray's *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood*

**Additional Materials:** speeches, documentaries, debates, podcasts, news sources, magazines, classic documents, community resources, book excerpts, personal experiences, popular humor, Buster Keaton's movie *The General*, College Board released AP exams and materials for practice

**Summer reading:** General reading is optional and for extra credit. *Outliers* is required for August/September reading. Students registering later in the summer are given grace time to read for extra credit during the fall.

**Late work policy:** Students may miss a deadline each semester for any reason and still have an assignment receive a grade with no penalty. After grace is given once each semester, except for extreme situations, late work can only be submitted if a student arranges a conference that fits the schedule of a parent/guardian, Mrs. Shuman, and the student.

**National AP Lang Exam in May:** This exam is not required to complete the course. There are usually several testing locations available.