

AP Language and Composition
American Studies: 2023-2024
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Course description: American Studies examines the development of the American character and culture through the study of history and English. The course is interdisciplinary in that students are enriched by an analysis of the American experience from the perspective of both literature and history. The focus of this course is the close, critical reading of nonfiction essays, letters, primary documents, speeches, art, music, film, images, and editorials, as well as the writing of argument essays and employment of rhetorical choice. Students will write rhetorical analysis essays, synthesis essays and their own argument essays. Content and context will follow the AP U. S. History curriculum, thus, material will proceed through a chronological exploration of the history of the United States.

Expectations: Attendance is mandatory. Really. Illness, family conflicts and essential doctors' appointments are excused absences, but extended vacations, personal days and sleeping in are not excusable. Students who miss a class are 100% responsible for contacting classmates for notes, checking the Google Classroom for new information, and contacting the teacher with questions. Students have one day to get caught up on work when they return, unless there are extenuating circumstances. It is expected that students receiving AP credit for a course complete all assignments, including formative assessments; all assignments are due on the assigned due date. Summatives will not be accepted beyond the deadline, which is one week past the due date. Assignments submitted past the due date will not receive feedback. AP courses are college-level courses, and these are all common college expectations. Our goal is to prepare you all for the rigors of college-level academics. That said, we are both kind, caring saps who only want you to succeed. Communication will get you almost anything you need. [We are here to help.](#)

Course outline/ syllabus (specific essays, literature, video, and art will be tba as the course progresses: each unit will include several essays, letters, pieces of literature, diaries, poetry, speeches, film, and/or art)

Week one: *1984*, significance to language, Personal Values statement!

Weeks two and three: Course introduction, introduction to Rhetoric and rhetorical analysis, using Orwell, Douglas, and Alexie's essays on reading and writing.

- I. (1400-1600s) Native Americans, The Puritans and the earliest recorded history! Essays, letters, and primary documents.
- II. (1600s-1750) Colonies, slavery, freedom, and the beginnings of a nation. Dabble in drama: Arhur Miller's *The Crucible*, a play we will read in class.
- III. (1720-1776) A republic, democracy, government, revolution
- IV. (1776- roughly 1800) The Declaration of Independence, The Constitution, Jefferson, Patrick Henry, Hamilton, voices from slavery
- V. (the 1800s) Transcendentalists, immigration, women's rights, The Civil War
- VI. (turn of the century) Native American voices, the move West, pioneers, The Industrial Revolution
- VII. (1900s- WWI) Muckraking, labor laws, reform
- VIII. (1930s- WWII) Jazz, immigration, art and society, racism, emergence of Black artists, musicians, writers, and activists; *The Great Gatsby*
- IX. (WWII, recovery) Japanese internment, Women in the workplace, Americans at war, Americans and the Holocaust. *Night* by Elie Wiesel
- X. (1945-1960s) The Cold War, Civil Rights
- XI. (1960s- 1970s) Racism, Vietnam War, Youth movements of 1970s, role of music, changing culture, *The Things They Carried* by Tim O' Brien
- XII. (1980s- present) Environmentalism, modern white supremacy, modern immigration, consumerism, education, social, economic, and cultural divides, political rifts in patriotism, *Tortilla Curtain* by TC Boyle.

XIII. Test prep: final review of three genres of essays, plus multiple choice. Lots of multiple choice!

General Notes:

While the class is intended to dovetail with AP US History, it will not always do so. At times, we will be residing in different places in history, but we will try to weave the two timelines together.

Our main goals in AP Lang. are:

1. Critical reading and rhetorical analysis, mainly using non-fiction text.
2. Effective academic writing, via three essay genres: rhetorical analysis essay, synthesis essay, and argument essays.
3. Develop a precise understanding of Grammar, and expand our vocabulary to meet the level of "sophistication" required for AP.

Mr. Kendrick and I will do our best to keep the content interesting, while building the skills needed for a robust college prep course, and preparing you for the AP exam.

Language is not just text: it includes art, photojournalism, film, poetry, fiction, and the many genres of nonfiction writing. The goal is for you to develop skills that help you approach information with a critical mind, analytical perspective, and a personal set of values and ethics that help you make informed decisions about life, issues, and where you want to stand in this evolving political, cultural, environmental, and humanitarian world!

In the spirit of helping you all become informed citizens, we will purchase subscriptions to **TIME magazine** for each of you, which we will read and discuss.

In the spirit of maintaining a love of fun literature, we will continue to embrace the practice of **outside reading books**. FOUR during the course of the year, to be exact. We will share what we read in the form of a book talk.

After the AP Language exam, we will write personal essays, with the goal of polishing one **college admissions essay**.

Field trip? YES! We hope to take all juniors in American Lit and AP to Salem after reading *he* Crucible. Stay tuned. Early November is the estimated time frame.

Proficiency Based Assessments:

The Following PBGRs will be taught, practiced, and assessed in AP Language:

Semester One:

Intro to Rhetoric, focus on the three essays

Reading: (intro to the essay genre)

HS 5A: Point of view and purpose

HS5C: Summarize a text

HS5E: Evaluate Argument and analyze Evidence

Writing: (deep dive into the three essays)

HS6C: Argument Essay, (synthesis essay, rhetorical analysis essay)

HS6D: Writing Process

HOS:

Preparedness

Semester Two:

Multiple choice

Reading:

HS5A: Point of view and purpose

HS5B: Words and Phrases

HS5F Inference and Textual Evidence

HS5D: Text Structure

Writing:

HS 6E: Grammar, Usage, Mechanics

HS6A: Narrative Essay (after exam- admissions essay)

HOS:

Preparedness