**A.P. English Language and Composition**

**Mrs. Bedard**

**Syllabus**

**Aims and goals:**

The aim of this course is to prepare you for the reading and writing you will do in college. The course objectives are aligned with the *AP English Course Description* published by the College Board. During the semester, you will write for yourself and for others, analyze others’ texts as well as your own, argue, reflect, and research. We will spend time deconstructing, discussing and developing the writer’s voice. You will become a close/analytic reader of any given text. Although non-fiction drives our course, we will explore novels, and drama together. Our texts function as models of how authors use language to forward and enhance purpose. Regardless of the genre, from this day forward you will read as an active reader, always with a pen in your hand.

**Primary Texts:**

Baker, Sheridan. *The Practical Stylist. 8th ed.* New York: Longman, 1998.

Stubbs, Marcia, Sylvan Barnet, and William E. Cain, eds. *The Little Brown Reader.*

*10thed.* New York: Longman, 2006.

**Consumable Fiction / Nonfiction:**

*The Glass Castle ($), The Great Gatsby, Catcher in the Rye, The Merchant of Venice ($), Crime and Punishment ($)*

**The AP Exam:**

The AP exam will take place in May and will drive most of the curriculum for the course. Through scoring a three or better on this test, you will receive college credit. I will provide you with ample practice and preparation regarding this test. While you are not required to take the AP exam, all students must take the practice AP English Language exam (on a date before AP Exam day). The practice exam emulates the actual exam atmosphere, and the score will be calculated as part of the final grade for the class. The A.P. test measures your understanding of many of the concepts we cover in class, concepts that are also included in a college English course, therefore the AP test will play a prominent role in our class.

The exam consists of:

* Section I: One hour (45 percent of total score)

50-60 multiple choice questions

* Section II: Two hours and 15 minutes

Three essay questions (55 percent of total score)

1. Essay 1: Synthesis: an argument for or against an idea presented in a short passage incorporating provided published sources.
2. Essay 2: Rhetorical Analysis: an analysis of the rhetorical techniques used in a passage of nonfiction prose.
3. Essay 3: Argument: an essay commenting on the validity of an opinion expressed in a statement or short passage.

Your score on the test is reported on a scale of 1-5. In general, scores are interpreted to mean that you are:

5 Extremely well qualified

4 Well qualified

3 Qualified

2 Possibly qualified

1. Not recommended for AP credit

A high score on the exam demonstrates a proficiency in English at least on a par with students who’ve passed an introductory college-level course in composition or rhetoric. With that being said, any student who scores a 3 or higher on the AP exam will receive a 95% for their second semester grade. Students who receive a 4 or higher on the exam may receive an A+ for a second semester grade (at the discretion of the teacher).

**Writing:**

The writing you do in class provides me with an accurate measurement of where you are, and how you are progressing, as a writer and thinker. Consequently, you can expect an extensive amount of timed writing. You will also complete several out of class essays ranging from literary analysis and research to personal narrative. You will keep all the writing you do for me within your portfolio. This portfolio will demonstrate your growth as a writer as you use language to demonstrate your capacity to think critically, analyze texts and images, research, and persuade. We will return to this portfolio throughout the year as we scrutinize your development as a writer and thinker.

* All major writing assignments will have a one week due date. In this time, you are welcome to turn in drafts for review.
* All final drafts of major written assignments are to be typed and must adhere to MLA format rules unless otherwise specified.
* All writing assignments must be turned in as a hard copy (no email submissions will be accepted unless you are absent on the due date).
* All major writing assignments must be turned in on the due date—no late essays will be accepted.
* **Cheating and plagiarism on schoolwork will result in a zero on the assignment and could result in suspension.**

**Major Assignments:**

* Compare/Contrast Rhetorical Analysis: In this essay you will read two texts with similar subject matter and compare/contrast how both authors deliver their respective messages utilizing rhetorical devices.
* Rhetorical Analysis Essay: In this essay, you will read a Rhetorical Analysis AP prompt and write a formal response.
* Merchant of Venice Argument: In this essay, you will state your position on a question posed from the play and argue your position.
* Bacon Project: This project is a culmination of the entire first semester. You will work alone or with a partner to analyze a Bacon essay and present your analysis to the class.
* Synthesis Essay: In this essay, you will be given an AP exam Synthesis prompt with 6-8 sources. Your assignment will be to state your position on the prompt and use at least 4 of the sources given to support your claim.
* Argument Essay: In this essay, you will be given an AP exam Argument prompt and write a formal response.

**Grading:**

Each assignment will count as either an assessment or homework. Assessments comprise 85% of your grade, with homework accounting for the other 15%. All assignments must be turned in on the day they are due (absence does not extend due date). If you are absent on the day an assignment is due, it must be emailed by the start of the class period. No late assignments will be accepted. If absent on a test/quiz day, it is your responsibility to make it up the next day (before or after school). If you miss the deadline for making up a test/quiz, you will receive a “0.”

**The Key to Success**

* Successful students will attend class regularly and on time.
* Successful students will demonstrate skills indicative of quality workers by bringing required materials, completing homework assignments, participating in class discussions, and respecting the opinions of others.
* Successful students will demonstrate accountability by listening closely in class.
* Successful students ask questions!! You are responsible for your own learning in this class; if you don’t understand something just ask! I promise I don’t bite!

I love what I do and am very excited to begin our journey together! It is my hope that you will enjoy this course and come away from it with a better understanding of the art and craft of essay writing, close reading, critical thinking, and persuading. This understanding should provide you with an appreciation of what a fine essayist can achieve within the limits of a brief work. It should also enable you to write essays with more confidence and competence than you now possess –whatever your present degree of skill.

**Plagiarism Contract**

Plagiarism can be defined as submitting another person’s ideas, words, images or data without giving that person credit or proper acknowledgement. Plagiarism, a form of academic dishonesty, is tantamount to stealing and will not be tolerated. In order to clarify what constitutes plagiarism, you should be aware that you have committed plagiarism when you:

* Use phrases, quotes, or ideas not your own;
* Paraphrase the work of another even though you may have changed the wording or syntax;
* Use facts of data not considered common knowledge;
* Submit a paper from an essay service or agency even though you may have paid for it (these papers are usually of low quality, so you probably didn’t get your money’s worth);
* Submit a paper by another person even though he or she may have given you permission to use it.

You should also note that plagiarism not only encompasses written work, but also computer data, research, musical scores, video programs, and visual arts.

Plagiarism is a serious issue, especially in an academic environment. Teachers must be able to rely on the integrity of a student’s work in order to maintain a climate for successful learning. Plagiarism reflects on character; therefore, you should diligently avoid inadvertent plagiarism. When you are unsure if acknowledgement is needed, ask your teacher. The penalties for blatant plagiarism include loss of all credit for the assignment with no opportunity for resubmission. This may significantly lower your grade. Furthermore, plagiarism, a form of cheating, can result in suspension according to the Warren Consolidated Schools conduct code. We will discuss methods for avoiding plagiarism as the school year progresses.

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, am aware of the serious nature of plagiarism and will not intentionally use or submit someone else’s work without acknowledgement. Furthermore, I will not misrepresent someone else’s work as my own.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_