



RADNOR TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Course Overview



Advanced Placement English Language and Composition
Course # 05010128

General Information

Credits: 1.0
Weighted: Yes
Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation

Length: Full Year
Format: Meets Daily
Grade: 11

Course Description

This college-level course is designed for students with talent and interest in English. Requirements include a superior ability to understand and deconstruct nonfiction and fiction texts in terms of reason, structure, rhetoric, and argument. Reading high-quality, highly challenging works by American authors, along with other important historical and journalistic documents, students will closely consider how authors construct meaning through their syntactical choices and organizational decisions. Underlying each unit is the attention to close reading, purposeful writing, mastery of core knowledge, and especially the intellectual quest to examine assumptions of all sorts. This last item forms the spine of the course, which begins with inquiry into the "myth of America" and progresses through in-depth study of topics such as propaganda, media literacy, irony, and satire. The study investigates author's purpose, the needs of an audience, the demands of the subject, rhetorical strategies, and the resources of language: syntax, word choice, and tone. Speeches, newspaper articles, memoirs, essays, and literary criticism make up the reading list. Writing assignments include essays that call for synthesis, analysis, and argument on specific topics. Assessments are consistent with methods used on the Advanced Placement exam, which is taken in the spring.

Course Objectives:

From the College Board, students will...

1. Write in several forms (narrative, expository, analytical, and argumentative) about a variety of subjects (public policies, popular culture, personal experiences, etc.).
2. Write essays that proceed through several stages and drafts, with revision aided by peers and teachers.
3. Write in informal contexts (journal keeping, collaborative writing, and in-class responses).
4. Write a variety of expository, argumentative, and analytical pieces that are based on various readings representing a wide variety of genres.
5. Read a variety of nonfiction selections (essays, journalism, political writing, autobiographies/biographies, diaries, criticisms, etc.) that are selected to give students opportunities to identify and explain an author's use of rhetorical strategies and techniques.
6. Analyze graphics and visual images, both relating to written texts, and how they serve as alternative forms of texts themselves.
7. Incorporate research skills, and in particular, the ability to evaluate, use, and cite primary and secondary sources in their writing.
8. Cite sources using a specific editorial style (Modern Language Association).
9. Use a wide range of vocabulary words appropriately and effectively, as well as use a variety of sentence structure and organization in their writing.

In addition, students will...

1. Be exposed to and understand great work produced by writers who call and have called America their home
2. Become knowledgeable about a variety of significant American documents
3. Reinforce independent efficient work and study habits and apply them to specific learning tasks
4. Apply conventions of English grammar, syntax, and sentence structure in composition with control complete sentences, use subordinate elements logically and accurately, develop sentence variety, including management of loose and periodic sentences and apply rhetorical techniques
5. Sharpen discussion skills of listening, speaking, and responding to the ideas of others by being able to recognize, interpret, and evaluate rhetorical strategies.

Common Assessments:

Common Assessments (All 11th grade students in all levels)

Close Reading Common Assessment

Students will be given a nonfiction cold passage to read on either the mid-term or the final to test their knowledge of a historical speech given by Sojourner Truth.

Close Reading Common Assessment

Students will be given a short fiction cold passage from a female writer to read on either the mid-term or the final to test their knowledge on a typical American Literature fiction passage.

MLA Research and Skills Common Assessment

Students will be research a topic and will demonstrate their MLA skills in regards to parenthetical citations, Works Cited Page, and paper formatting.

PSAT Common Assessment

Students will take the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) in October. It is a standardized test cosponsored by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (MNSC) that provides firsthand practice for the SAT®.

Common Course Assessments (All 11th Graders in AP Language)

Rhetorical Response Essay

Students will write an expository essay using one rhetorical mode in which they model a highly structured, carefully edited piece similar to the rhetorical modes from the structures used by the writers in *The Bedford Reader* or *The Language of Composition*.

Synthesis Essay

Students will write an essay in which they will use the various nonfiction sources to construct a thesis on a theme of their choice, modeling the structure from *The Language of Composition*.

Other Possible Assessments

Discussion Activities

Synthesis of multiple texts and media, structure and theme, explication, citing for evidence

Use of critical commentary, use of historical/biographical context

AP English Language & Composition style in-class essays

Objective tests and quizzes

Reflective writing (journals of varying levels of intensity, from analytical to debriefing to musing)

Socratic Seminar

Debate

Major Units of Study:

Introduction to Rhetorical Analysis

The American Dream and the "Myth of America"

The Art and Craft of Rhetorical Analysis

Division, Reconciliation, and Expansion

Argumentation / Persuasion and Introduction to Synthesis

The Independent Spirit and the Idea of Non-Conformity

Synthesis and Contemporary Literature

Prosperity, Protest and Civil Rights

Materials & Texts

Required Texts and Resources:**Common Texts (All 11th graders in all levels) (minimum of 2)**

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, by Mark Twain

Harlem Renaissance – Langston Hughes – Starting with “Harlem,” “Negro Speaks of Rivers,” “Mother to Son,” “Weary Blues,” and “I, too”

Common Course Texts (All 11th Graders in AP Language)

1. *The Bedford Reader*, Twelfth edition, by Kennedy, et al.
2. *The Language of Composition: Reading, Writing, Rhetoric*. 2nd ed, by Lawrence Scanlon, et al
3. *On Writing, A Memoir of the Craft*, by Stephen King
4. *On Writing Well: The Classic Guide to Writing Nonfiction*, by William Zissner
5. *The Glass Castle*, by Jeannette Walls
6. *The Great Gatsby*, by F. Scott Fitzgerald
7. A 20th Century Play – Choose one from among the following
 - *The Crucible* or *Death of a Salesman*, by Arthur Miller
 - *A Raisin in the Sun*, by Lorraine Hansberry
8. A minimum of three short stories and three poets among the following authors: Stephen Vincent Benet, Kate Chopin, Flannery O'Connor, Alice Walker, Richard Wright, Anzia Yezierska, Maya Angelou, Annie Dillard, Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. Dubois, Peter Gammons, Zora Neale Hurston, Martin Luther King Jr., Henry David Thoreau, Booker T. Washington, Walt Whitman, John Updike, Countee Cullen, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Langston Hughes, Claude McKay, James Weldon Johnson, Katherine Lee Bates, Stephen Vincent Benet, Gwendolyn Brooks, Gregory Corso, Emily Dickinson, Allen Ginsberg, Nikki Giovanni, Dudley Randall, Melvin B. Tolson, Robert Frost, William Faulkner, Stephen Crane and more...

Supplemental Texts and Resources (use may vary)

50 Essays: A Portable Anthology, by Samuel Cohen

A Lesson Before Dying, by Ernest Gaines

Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian, by Sherman Alexie

Catcher in the Rye, by J.D. Salinger

Friday Night Lights, by H.G. Bissinger

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, by Maya Angelou

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, by Ken Kesey

The Bean Trees, by Barbara Kingsolver

Their Eyes Were Watching Eyes, by Zora Neale Hurston

The Sun Also Rises, by Ernest Hemingway

The Things They Carried, by Tim O'Brien

This Boy's Life, by Tobias Wolff

Summer Assignment

Radnor High School publishes an annual summer reading list. Students should refer to the RHS English page for Summer Reading expectations.