

CLASS POLICY FOR A.P. LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION
MRS. DAVIS

WELCOME TO AP LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION! This will be an exciting year! This course gives you the opportunity to read widely—both literature and nonfiction--and to reflect on your reading through discussion and writing. You will learn to write effectively on many topics. This course is designed to prepare you for college-level reading and writing, and also for the AP Language and Composition Exam. As the College Board states, “preparing for AP Exams in English is a *cooperative venture* between students and their teachers.” I am happy to help you with your learning goals. I want you to be successful! Sincerely, Mrs. Davis

OVERVIEW: This course overview and the objectives of this course are taken from the *AP Course Description* published by the College Board. **The primary purpose of this college-level course is to help sharpen students’ close reading skills “of prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts.”** The College Board does “**not** mandate any particular authors, or a set reading list, but representative authors are cited in the AP English Course Description” and these authors, with especial emphasis on important American authors, will be studied in class. **This course also helps to prepare students “to write effectively and confidently in their college courses across the curriculum and in their professional and personal lives.”** The course emphasizes “the expository, analytical, and argumentative writing that forms the basis of academic and professional communication, as well as the personal and reflective writing that fosters the development of writing facility in any context.” The assigned reading and writing increases student awareness “of the interactions among a writer’s purpose, audience expectations, and subjects as well as the way the conventions and resources of language contribute to effectiveness in writing.” Students will also study the rhetoric of various types of visual media, and students are also taught “to read primary and secondary sources carefully, to synthesize material from these texts in their own compositions, and to cite sources” using MLA format. Please ask for a copy of the College Board-approved A.P. Language and Composition Syllabus for further details.

A.P. Test: Students are expected to take the AP Language and Composition Exam in May. Any students seeking an exemption must petition me.

CLASS MATERIALS:

1. A three-ring binder (for AP English only) with paper
2. Dividers for binder (5 to 6)
3. 1-2 folders with binding brads. Optional: folders/files
4. Pens and pencils. Optional: colored pencils, highlighters
5. Sticky notes, as needed (for annotation)
6. Books, as needed. Books will be provided, but I encourage students to buy their own copies of some books for annotation and for personal interest
7. Planner and/or calendar

GENERAL CLASS POLICIES:

ABSENCES AND TARDIES:

1. The attendance policy adopted by Springville High School will be observed in this class. (Please refer to your *Student Handbook* if you are unclear about expectations.)
2. Absences must be excused through the attendance office, and all work must be made up. ***Attendance is critical to your success in an AP class.***
3. A student is considered tardy if he/she comes to class after the bell has rung. If a student is more than ten minutes late to class, it will be considered a late tardy and after forty minutes it is considered an absence.

LATE AND MAKE-UP WORK

1. Students are responsible for ALL work in class. If you are absent, please see Mrs. Davis after school for instructions and make-up work.
2. Students must **complete make-up work within two class days** from the date of the absence. *There is no late cut for make-up work turned in from excused absences within the two class days.*
3. Work is considered late, if a student misses the deadline given for completion. Any work turned in after the deadline will receive a **late cut of up to 50%**. If you have special circumstances, please talk to Mrs. Davis *before* the deadline.

CLASS WORK AND EXTRA-CREDIT

1. Quizzes are often given at the beginning of the class, and they are often unannounced.
2. **Quizzes and some class activities can't be made up.** However, a student may do an **alternative assignment** to replace the points missed. (See #4 below.)
3. If you know that you will be absent when a test or other in-class activity is scheduled, please make arrangements to take the test/activity in advance.
4. **Alternative activities and extra-credit activities**, which relate to class work, will be suggested during the term. Students should keep a list of possible activities. It is *strongly recommended* that students doing an alternative assignment for make-up complete it within two class days. Extra-credit and alternative assignments can be turned in until the last week of the term. **Please note: extra-credit is limited to 5% of the total points during a term.** *Alternative assignments for make-up are not considered part of this 5%*

GRADING

1. Students are evaluated on homework, essays and other writing, notebook work, quizzes, tests, and AP practice topics. The quality of class participation, preparation and involvement will also be considered. Grades will be based on the percentage of points which are earned in the term from all the work required. To earn an "A" you need 95% of the total points. Self-assessment will also be part of the final grade.
2. Grades are updated on SIS frequently and can be monitored on line. There will be a print out of grades at midterm with parent signature required. Keep corrected work returned to you to monitor your progress. Please discuss questions or concerns about grades with me.

