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**Mrs. Scharf Room 302**

**Voice Mail** (951) 294-6450 ext. 3302

**Email** jscharf@tvusd.k12.ca.us

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

-Nelson Mandela

### **Advanced Placement English Language and Composition**

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| Mrs. Jennee Scharf, Room 302  jscharf@tvusd.k12.ca.us | Ms. Abigail Woelke, Room 414  awoelke@tvusd.k12.ca.us |
| Ms. Katie Johnson. Room 308  Kjohnson2@tvusd.k12.ca.us | Ms. Brianna McKiddy  bmckiddy@tvusd.k12.ca.us |

**True genius resides in the capacity for evaluation of uncertain, hazardous, and conflicting information. --Winston Churchill**

**Welcome to A.P. English Language!**

This course is equivalent to a beginning composition course in college, and therefore we will do a great deal of writing. However, before you write, you will read many models that demonstrate the variety of skills and tools an author holds at his or her disposal. Authors use these tools for a variety of purposes, but each author has a purpose in mind before he or she sits down to write.

As a critical reader, you will constantly look for the connection between the author’s purpose and the skills and tools he or she has chosen. With this in mind, it becomes clear that the reading and writing in the class are inextricably linked. It is critical to your success that the readings are completed carefully and critically and the discussions are lively and thoughtful. This should lead to voice in your writing, in the classroom, and in society. We will write journals, timed writings, process papers, group papers, literary papers, and arguments. We will write with style, coherence and clarity. We will write with a mature voice and with academic integrity. We will do these things because these skills will follow you to college, to the workplace, and to your personal life. Furthermore, we will learn to assess the arguments and positions of others with precision and with an open mind.

**Structure:**

We have organized the course in a thematic format. Although there may be some variation, the units will be structured as follows:

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| --- | --- |
| **Semester A** | **Semester B** |
| Unit 1: Question 1-Rhetorical Analysis  Unit 2: Question 2-Argument  Unit 3: Question 3-Synthesis  Unit 4: Question 1-Rhetorical Analysis  Unit 5: Question 2-Argument | Unit 6: Question 3-Synthesis  Unit 7: Question 1-Rhetorical Analysis  Unit 8: Question 2-Argument  Unit 9: Question 3-Synthesis  **AP Lang Exam Date: May 13, 2020** |

As your teacher, my goal is for **each of you** to improve your critical thinking and college and career readiness skills. To that end, anything that I can do to encourage you, motivate you or just plain annoy you, I will do! Please note that I am here to do more than facilitate your academic learning, so if I can be of help to you in any area of concern, **my door is always open**!

**Classroom Courtesies:**

* **Use respectful language at all times**!!! Everyone deserves to learn in a safe environment.
* **Be on time**, in class before the bell rings. The GOHS tardy policy will be in effect at all times.
* **Clean up your area daily**; trash goes in the can, **recycling in the Recycling Bin**! Do not write on the desks.
* Please place **gum in the trash** can, NOT under your desk.
* The **GOHS Electronic Device Policy will be enforced** at all times. There will be times when using electronic devices is appropriate-but that is up to **ME**-be sure to ask permission. Phone Zone policy.
* **No grooming in class**. That includes: make-up, brushes, smelly lotions, sprays,etc.
* The **bathroom pass is to be used at appropriate times** only. Not when I or a fellow student is talking.
* **Plagiarism of any kind will result in an automatic zero, referral, and a conference with your parent or guardian as per the GOHS Academic Integrity Policy.**
* **Utilize class time wisely**. Do not waste time allotted for process papers, group tasks or projects, or you will lose it.

**Texts**:

**The Language of Composition Online Anthology**- each student will have access to and utilize the online text. A set will also be kept in the classroom for in class use.

**In-Class and Independent Reading:** The following texts will be read inside and/or outside of class and will be followed by a project or a Reading Comprehension test. Because you don’t need every text on a daily basis, I will tell you the day before if one is needed for the following day. It is critical to bring the text on that day in order to participate with the class. Students are encouraged to purchase their own novels in order to annotate.

*The Narrative of a Slave* Frederick Douglass

*Animal Farm* George Orwell

*Julius Caesar* William Shakespeare

*Night* Elie Wiesel

*The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* Rebecca Skloot

Additionally we will read MANY shorter texts both in and out of class. These texts will be culled from TLC, former AP Exams and media.

**Grading**: **Your academic grade is broken into these areas (Infinite Campus is divided into these categories):**

Reading: Literature & Info Materials 35%

I encourage you to save all of your work on a USB Drive AND in Google Drive!

Writing 35%

Language 15%

Listening and Speaking 15%

**From the College Board:** CONTROVERSIAL TEXTUAL CONTENT Issues that might, from particular social, historical, or cultural viewpoints, be considered controversial, including references to ethnicities, nationalities, religions, races, dialects, gender, or class, may be addressed in texts that are appropriate for the AP English Language and Composition course. Fair representation of issues and peoples may occasionally include controversial material. Since AP students have chosen a program that directly involves them in **college level work,** participation in this course depends on a level of maturity consistent with the age of high school students who have engaged in thoughtful analyses of a variety of texts. The best response to controversial language or ideas in a text might well be a question about the larger meaning, purpose, or overall effect of the language or idea in context. AP students should have the maturity, skill, and will to seek the larger meaning of a text or issue through thoughtful research.

**MISS SCHOOL, MISS OUT**

You may see me before or after class for any missed assignments. You have as many days as you miss to make up missed assignments. Work assigned prior to an absence is due the day you return to class. 

**Late Work**



* *All missed quizzes must be made up within ONE week.*
* *Failure to complete any major writing assignment such as an essay or research project will result in an “Incomplete” on your transcript and will not be changed until the missing assignment is completed.*

***LATE WORK POLICY***

**I do NOT accept unexcused late work.** You are expected to turn in all of your assignments on time. As an AP student organization and responsibility are of the utmost importance and are pillars of success in high school, college and beyond. Oftentimes we will be using or reviewing homework the next day, so if you choose not to do your homework, not only will your grade be adversely affected, but more importantly you will be missing out on learning. If you feel yourself becoming overwhelmed or falling behind, please see me ASAP so that we can develop a plan to get you back on track.

**GOHS ENGLISH DEPARTMENT HOMEWORK PHILOSOPHY**

*You will not be assessed on all homework*. Any meaningful homework assigned in this class will be an opportunity for you to practice a particular standard in order to gain proficiency in that standard. I will expect that students come to class having completed any assigned homework. Failure to complete homework will be reflected in both your work habits and citizenship grade.

**Please return this portion to Mrs. Scharf**

Review the syllabus with your parent(s) or guardian(s) and provide the contact information below. Please sign acknowledging that you have read and understand the syllabus for APEL.

Student Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**Student Contact Email**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Parent Contact Email**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*Please note that I may use email to keep you informed about your student’s learning and assignments

and my website will contain up-to-date info.

\*\*\*Infinite Campus is also updated on a regular basis. See GOHS website for accessing Infinite Campus.