**AP Language and Composition**

**Mr. Killam** 2019--2020 Room 818

Phone-- 916-4400 (English Dept)

email– killamk@.santarosa.k12.fl.us

website:

**Course Overview: Advanced Placement English Language and Composition**

This course is designed to provide students with a learning experience equivalent to that of an introductory college course in English composition.  It is intended to engage

students in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines

and rhetorical contexts, and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a diversity of

purposes including analysis of non-print texts such as paintings, advertisements, films

and political cartoons.  The yearlong program will be structured by modes of rhetoric

with readings to accompany the writing tasks and to aid in the development of effective

syntax and diction. The course is structured in accordance with the guidelines described

in the AP English Course Description and will prepare students for the AP Exam in

English Language and Composition given in the spring.

The overall goal of this course is to help students become better writers, readers,

and critical thinkers.  More specifically, the course will provide students with

opportunities to write in several forms on a variety of subjects and receive feedback from

both the teacher and other students. The writing will include both formal and informal

writing assignments that provide experience with personal, expository, analytical, and

argumentative styles.  The reading will concentrate primarily on nonfiction, with some

supplemental fiction texts and nonprint texts.  The focus of this reading will be to

determine author's purpose and audience expectations as well as the way appropriate

diction, generic conventions and the resources of language contribute to effective writing.

**Required Texts: *The American Experience—Prentice Hall***

***Supplemental Texts***

Schwegler, Robert, ed.  *Patterns of Exposition*. 16th ed.  New York:  AddisonWesley

Educational Publishers, Inc., 2001.

Various handouts and required readings from assorted texts (magazines, newspapers,

visual texts, novels, and internet material)

Escholz, Paul and Alfred Rosa, eds*.  Subject and Strategy*.  4th ed.  New York:  St.

Martin's Press, 1998.

Atwan , Robert ed. . *America Now: Short Readings from Recent Periodicals.*  Boston: Bedford/St Martin’s, 2007.

**Required Materials:** A folder w/pockets, plenty of notebook paper, pen and pencil.

**Novels/Plays : (These will be provided by the school)**

*The Crucible****--*** Arthur Miller*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn--*Mark Twain *The Awakening* Kate Chopin

*The Great Gatsby--*F. Scott Fitzgerald *Death of a Salesman –*Miller

**Films: (These may be shown in full or in parts. )**

*A & E Biographies: Poe, Mark Twain, F Scott Fitzgerald*. DVD. Not Rated

*Death of a Salesman* Dir. Volker Schlöndorff.. CBS Presents, 1985. DVD. Not Rated

*The Crucible*. Dir. Nicholas Hytner. 1996. DVD. PG-13

*Good Night, and Good Luck*. Dir. George Clooney. Warner Independent Pictures, 2005. PG

*The Grapes of Wrath*. Dir. John Ford. Twentieth Century-Fox, 1940. DVD. Not Rated

*The Great Gatsby*. Dir. Jack Clayton. Paramount Pictures, 1974. DVD. PG

*The Great Gatsby. Dir Baz Luhrman. Warner Brothers, 2013. DVD. PG-13*

*Mark Twain*. Dir. Ken Burns. 2001. DVD. Not rated

*Voices and Visions Series: Whitman, Dickinson, Plath, Frost*. Dir. PBS. DVD. Not rated

*Their Eyes Were Watching God*. Dir. Darnell Martin. *Lifetime. TV* 2005. DVD. Not Rated

**Grading:**

**Major Grades (80% of final grade)--**Grammar Tests, Vocabulary Tests, Compositions, Literature Tests.

**Minor Grades (20% of final grade)--**all quizzes are announced and will include literature and vocabulary. Worksheets, group work are also usually in this category. Lowest minor grade is dropped at end of the quarter.

**Late Essays**

Late essays are charged **10** points a day per day with weekends counting as one day.

**Make Up Tests/Quizzes** –every day before school from 8:30 am make up tests are administered in room 818. If a student does not make up a quiz or can’t make up the quiz because the material was already covered, the TEST grade for that unit may be substituted for the quiz grade.

**Tentative Schedule**

**First Quarter:**

Literature:

Summer Reading

Native American

Exploration

The Puritans

The Colonial Period

The Age of Reason

*The Crucible*

Composition:

Modes of development

Narration, Process, Comparison/Contrast

**Second Quarter:**

Literature:

Romanticism and Transcendentalism

American Gothic

Slavery and Civil War

The Vanishing Frontier

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

Composition:

Causal Analysis

Argumentation

Rhetorical Strategies Essays

Research Papers

**Third Quarter:**

Literature:

The Modern Age 1915-45

Prose

Poetry

Harlem Renaissance

Composition:

Literary Criticism

Synthesis Essays

**Fourth Quarter:**

Literature:

Contemporary Writers

Fiction

Non-Fiction

Poetry

*Death of a Salesman*

**AP Test!**

**Classroom Rules**

1. **Be on time.**  Students need to be in their assigned seats when the tardy bell rings. Enter the classroom in an orderly fashion. Class will start immediately after the tardy bell rings. I enforce the GBHS tardy policy.

2. **Have materials ready.** Students are expected to come to class every day with minimum essentials such as paper, writing utensils, and the appropriate books. Sharpen pencils before class begins. Get organized early because I will not allow trips to lockers after class begins.

3. **Raise your hand to be recognized.** When the teacher is talking or another student is asking a question it is imperative that you do not talk. Talking while others have the floor is rude and will not be tolerated. Chances are, a question being asked by a fellow student will address some concerns you have.

4. **Do English in English class.** Doing other subjects is another form of being impolite. I want everyone on the same page, following along. Violators run the risk of having their work impounded until after school.

5. **Keep Cell Phones Out of Sight**. During instructional time, keep cell phones in the mailboxes up front. You may charge your phone, but you cannot check it unless given permission.

6. **Remain seated until the bell rings.**  Know that getting out of your seat is distracting to teachers and other students. Throw paper away after class; sharpen pencils before class. Don't start preparing to leave class until about the last minute, not the last five. Last period class will wait for the official dismissal.

7. **Respect other people, their property and school property.**  Things like defacing desks, throwing trash on the floor, taking another's book, pencil etc., or other types of horseplay will not be tolerated.

8. **Take care of personal business on your own time, not class time.**  Paying library fines returning books, making phone calls should be done before class.

**Consequences**

**First infraction:**  Oral reprimand with stern English teacher look.

**Second infraction:** Parent/guardian will be telephonedand

**Third infraction:** Automatic write-up.

**Statement of Acknowledgment**

**Please this page and return it to Mr. Killam by the end of the first full week of classes.**

GBHS school policy requires that parents/guardians and students read the appropriate course syllabus and sign a statement that they understand what is expected. Please feel free to contact me (at the number and email address listed on the syllabus) at any time if you have any questions, concerns, or comments regarding your child’s progress.

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I have read the syllabus for **AP** **English Language and Composition,** and I am aware of what is expected of me in this class. Additionally, I realize that I will be responsible and accountable for the textbooks and paperback novels associated with this course. If I lose or damage any of these, I agree to pay the price of replacement.

Print Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I have read the syllabus for **AP** **English Language and Composition,**  and I am aware of what is expected in this class. I also give my permission for my child to view all films associated with this instruction.

Print Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_