



## **AP Language and Composition**

### **Ms. St. John**

### **2019-2020**

#### ***Welcome***

Hello and welcome to Advanced Placement Language and Composition! While all our work will support the standards outlined in the Common Core for English Language Arts, this course is specifically designed to support the skills tested in the AP Language exam. We will - almost exclusively - read *nonfiction* texts, ranging from short essays and articles to full books of creative nonfiction (such as biography, autobiography, history, and memoir). We will place our own language and the language of others under a microscope, engaging closely and skillfully in the art of *rhetoric*.

AP classes are designed to operate as college-level courses. As such, we will move quickly through the curriculum, and you will be expected to demonstrate a high level of responsibility and autonomy. Assessment practices will also closely mirror those in a college environment.

#### ***Materials Needed***

Please arrive **each day** to class with the following items: a notebook with folders or rings where you can store handouts, a notebook with lined paper, sharpened pencils and pens, highlighters, a laptop or tablet, headphones, kindness, and courage. **Cell phones are not permitted in my classroom unless I have requested them for a lesson.**

#### ***Texts***

Among other material - such as articles, poetry, and short essays - the following are prospective large texts for this year: *50 Essays, Night, Voice Lessons, texts from The Language of Composition*, and self-selected creative nonfiction books.

#### ***Our Classroom***

All of us work best when we are in a comfortable environment, where we don't need to worry about being criticized or ignored or disrespected. Each of us wants to feel supported. Each of us has something valuable to contribute to this classroom, whether it is a sense of humor, an insightful mind, a creative impulse, or an ability to listen generously to others. So that we can make the most of our time together, I hope we all strive to show each other appreciation and respect.

#### ***Our Communication and Reinforcement***

The fastest, most effective way to reach me is by email at [msjohn@issosua.com](mailto:msjohn@issosua.com). From there, we can schedule a phone conversation or a meeting if necessary. My classroom hours are from 7:45 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. From 3:00-3:30 daily I am available for reinforcement

time. Students or their parents may request reinforcement directly; I also may request reinforcement when appropriate.

## Grading

All grades are recorded in **ThinkWave**. Students and parents should check ThinkWave **weekly**.

1. **Late Work:** Homework and assignments turned in past the due date stated in class and posted in Google Classroom may result in a consequence. If the assignment is turned in past the unit of study or end of the quarter, no points will be awarded. **Should circumstances arise that affect your work, please communicate with me quickly and directly.**
2. **ISS Work Habits:** You will be expected to uphold the ISS work habits inside and outside of the classroom. We will further discuss the reporting of work habits and expectations in class.

## Class Policies and Procedures

### 1. Attendance & Tardies:

- a. Students are responsible for making up missed work during their absence. It is the student's responsibility to contact the teacher to arrange a time to make up tests and turn in assignments. *Students will be directed to visit the Google Classroom site to obtain agendas, notes, and assignments.* Tests and assignments not completed by the arranged time will receive an incomplete or missing (calculates as 0%) in the gradebook until learning is demonstrated.
- b. Students who arrive late to school after the attendance is reported must check in at the office before being permitted to enter class. Students who arrive late to class during transitions will be noted on the "Teacher Attendance Report." If students are late three times late to any class they will receive detention and possible parental notification; each additional tardy to the same class will result in an additional detention.

### 2. Assessment/Tests:

The assessment process, both formal and informal, is ongoing. I will report progress via Thinkwave. All students (and parents upon request) are provided access codes to log in to Thinkwave. I strongly recommended that families establish a weekly time to review student performance. In all cases, the student should discuss assessment performance and grades with the teacher, not peers, and complete the required reflection prior to requesting a reassessment on a writing activity. Reassessments will only take place during reinforcement time.

### 3. Participation:

It is expected in English courses that all students participate in class and group discussions as per Common Core Standards. **Various activities will be awarded points in the speaking and listening gradebook category.**

### 4. MLA Format:

Formal, academic papers for this class are expected to be computer processed and in Modern Language Association 8<sup>th</sup> edition format. Papers without proper formatting may be awarded a 0% or considered incomplete, depending on the circumstance. Please find a link to examples of MLA formatting on our class website.

## **5. Academic Dishonesty:**

Cheating, plagiarism, and test dishonesty are serious violations of school rules and community values. Parents will be notified and a copy of communication will be kept on file in the student's academic record. Plagiarism is copying another's work or having someone else complete your assignment (or a portion of it) for you and submitting it as if it were your original work. Test dishonesty is the use of any means deemed unacceptable by the teacher to obtain answers to a test or a quiz. Test dishonesty includes giving, receiving, passing or using specific information about a test or quiz, whether in oral or written form. Working together or copying someone's work on individual assignments is considered cheating. Infractions will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, but may include a zero on the assignment, discussion with the principal/director, parent contact, or detention. Please refer to the student-parent handbook for more information.

## **6. Laptops and tablets:**

As a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) school, it is expected that students bring their own device to class daily (not a cellphone). Devices must be fully charged and functional and headphones are strongly recommended. Students may not share a device, and at the teacher's discretion, a student may be asked to complete the assignment by hand. **During class, chat functions and distracting apps, of any type, are not permitted.** Please read all ISS BYOD guidelines and policies in the parent-student handbook.

*The signatures below reflect your knowledge, understanding, and participation in the selection of this course and syllabus. Please indicate any questions and concerns below the signatures.*

Parent name (print) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature

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Parent contact email: \_\_\_\_\_

Student name (print) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature

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Questions or Concerns

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**Let's have a great school year!!**