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

**Instructor:** Ms. Charise Kollar

**Contact:** kollarc@leonschools.net (850) 921-2516 x1201

**Website**: kollarc.weebly.com

**Office Hours:** Tuesday and Thursday Lunch (11:10 AM – 12:00 PM)

(These hours are tentative. If something should change, I will let you know in advance.)

**Course Description:**

AP English Language and Composition is open to both juniors and seniors. This course fulfills the third- or fourth-year English requirement. A qualifying score on the AP exam *may* exempt a student from the freshman composition course(s) required by colleges and universities.

The AP English Language and Composition course is a course in rhetoric, the study of language used to achieve a desired effect upon a specific audience. The course is designed to provide students with opportunities to read and write effectively and confidently for a variety of purposes, about an array of subjects, and in a variety of forms. Most of the writing students complete in this course is based on reading complex texts written in a range of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts. Students learn to analyze the rhetoric of prose and to demonstrate their skill in composition by writing essays in various rhetorical modes.

Our paramount goal is to lead students to an understanding of the ways in which authors use language to shape and convey meaning. We focus on close reading strategies to aid in the analysis of literature, and we assume an understanding of Standard American English (SAE) and a wide-ranging vocabulary. Much of our class time is spent emphasizing the steps of the writing process in order to improve these skills. We desire our students to write with both fluency and flair, and much time is therefore spent in drafting and revision to develop ability in the conventions of academic discourse, including MLA.

**Course Materials:** 3-ring binder with an ample (and frequently-refreshed) supply of college-ruled notebook paper

A spiral notebook for class notes specifically for AP Lang *only*

 A composition notebook AP Lang vocabulary *only*

 A 2 Pocket Portfolio w/ Prongs (for data tracking purposes)

Several pens with blue or black ink and several #2 pencils

 Reliable computer and internet access, either at home, through the school, or local library.

 Highlighters (any color you prefer)

 Multi-colored sticky-notes

**Materials and Supplies Fee:**

In order to support student learning and to provide the resources necessary for a high-quality education, the AP Language teachers are asking for a five dollar ($5) materials and supplies fee from each student. This fee will be due by Friday, August 25th and will be used to purchase practice exams and exam materials. **Please make checks payable to Lincoln High School, write “Book Fee” and the student’s name on the memo line, and make sure the check includes a phone number.** If for any reason you and your family are unable to provide this fee, please contact your teacher privately.

**Program Policies and Classroom Procedures:**

Course Policies:

1. You are expected to fulfill all course requirements in order to receive credit.
2. You are expected to act in a mature manner when participating in AP courses.
3. You are expected to respect yourself, your classmates, and your teacher at all times.
4. You are expected to be self-motivated, to work independently, and to responsibly seek teacher support when you need it.
5. You are expected to complete all assignments in a timely manner. *Late work will not be accepted*.
6. You are expected to submit some assignments electronically to turnitin.com.
7. You are expected to take the first semester exam for each of your AP courses.
8. You are expected to take a full-length practice AP English Language exam during the 3rd quarter.
9. You are expected to take the AP English Language exam on **Wednesday, May 16, 2018.**

# **Remind:**

Through this application, I will send mass text messages with reminders throughout the year. You can communicate with me directly about the course by responding to these messages. To sign up, simply text **@mskollar** to **81010**.

# **Turnitin.com:**

This is where you will turn in assignments during this year and beyond. Passwords are all lowercase. To sign up, go to Turnitin.com and use the information for your class period indicated below.

Class Course ID # Password

AP Lang – Period 1 15860932 poisonwood

AP Lang – Period 6 15860955 crucible

AP Lang – Period 7 15860963 gatsby

You are required to sign up for Turnitin by Wednesday, August 16th. It is integral to this course and will be used regularly. Signing up for Turnitin will be a homework grade.

**Homework and Class Work Policies:**

1. Homework should be turned in to the inbox for your class period at the beginning of class before the bell rings or submitted to Turnitin.com by the due date and time. All Turnitin assignments will be due by 7:30 a.m. on the due date.
2. Unexcused late work is unacceptable and will receive an automatic zero (0). Unexcused late work can be handed in for teacher feedback, but it will not receive a grade, and zeroes received for missing work cannot be dropped from the grade. Our course work is designed to build on itself, so not doing an assignment will hamper your ability to learn future material.
3. All returned assignments and all assignments completed but not graded need to be kept in your class folder for future reference and exam review.
4. Label all work with your full (first and last) name, class period, and date in the upper *left-hand* corner of the paper. Assignments without a name will not be graded.
5. Per Lincoln High School policy, you will have one day to complete make-up work for each *excused* absence. Plan ahead. If you know you will be absent, see me for missing work. If you cannot complete your make-up work before returning because of illness or another legitimate reason, communicate with me and we can come up with a prescribed date for your work to be submitted. Do not come to me after the fact with excuses as they will not be tolerated. It is your responsibility to be proactive about your assignments.

**Behavioral Policies:**

The policies of Lincoln High School (available in your planner) will be strictly enforced, including those regarding attendance, dress, electronic devices, tardiness, and truancy. All projects, presentations, and assignments must adhere to the policies and guidelines of Lincoln High School.

Our classroom is a space devoted to learning. Personal electronic devices of any kind detract from the learning experience of everyone in the room. Therefore, **electronic devices are not allowed in the classroom without express consent of the instructor.** The Leon County School Board allows for cell phone use by high school students only before school, during lunch, and after school. If you have a cell phone, mp3 player, tablet computer, or other electronic device, make sure it is turned off and put away in your bag or purse before the start of class. If your device rings, beeps, or makes any other noise during class, or if I see you with a device for any reason during class, the device will be confiscated and turned in to Student Affairs. Make it easy on yourself: turn your phone off and put it away before coming into the classroom.

**Note to parents:** Please help me keep your student’s attention on learning by refraining from texting or calling your student during school hours!

**Honor Code:**

The nature of Advanced Placement work frequently requires that students complete assignments, including tests and essays, outside of class. ***You are expected to complete your own work without the assistance of others unless the instructor specifically allows collaboration.*** You are also expected never to give your work (i.e., your original *ideas, language, or effort*) to another student. Sharing your work with another student or using another student’s work as your own will result in a zero for the assignment in question, and your parents will be contacted about your infraction. In addition, academic dishonesty may result in extra assignments, disciplinary proceedings, and the withholding of extracurricular privileges. This is not a *pro forma* warning; this is the underlying philosophy of our entire course. Do not violate it.

The Lincoln Honor Code states that students of Lincoln High shall not lie, steal, cheat, or contribute to the destruction of campus in any way, and must respect all others and inform proper authorities if it is known that part of this Honor Code has been broken. I take this Honor Code very seriously, and I will hold you to its highest standards.

**Grading Policies:**

Grades are categorically weighted in this course. Check Pinpoint periodically to monitor your progress.

 **Grading Scale**

**Grading Categories:**

Classwork/Homework 30%

Tests/Quizzes 30%

Essays/Writing 40%

 90-100% A

 80-89% B

 70-79% C

 60-69% D

 0-59% F

**Probation:**

Your willingness to engage in AP-level work bespeaks a commitment to excellence that should be reflected in your efforts and therefore in your grade. You will be expected to fulfill this commitment in this class. A grade of D or F during the first or second quarter—which will only result from failure to hand in assignments—will place you on academic probation. You will receive notice of probation by letter and will continue on probation until the end of the semester. A grade of D or F for the first semester will require that you meet certain academic requirements, such as tutoring, extra assignments, or meetings with the AP Review Board.

**Course Texts and Skills**

While it is not a requirement, it is highly recommended that you obtain personal copies of the books listed below. Many of them can be purchased at discounted prices at websites such as Amazon.com or used bookstores. Since you will be annotating these books, it is sometimes helpful to be able to write in them instead of on sticky-notes.

Texts

*Inherit the Wind* by Jerome Lawrence and Robert Lee

*The Crucible* by Arthur Miller

*The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver

*The House of Mirth* by Edith Wharton

*The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

*The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger

approximately 25-30 essays and supplemental texts

Skills

Close reading

Rhetorical analysis

Academic argument

Textual synthesis

Proofreading, editing, and peer advising

Syntactical strategies

Responsible research and citation

Satire

Academic and domain-specific vocabulary

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**DETACH AND COMPLETE THIS PAGE. RETURN TO Ms. Kollar by Friday, August 18th.** This counts as a homework grade.

**Student Signature:**

I have received a copy of the AP English Language and Composition Policies and Discipline Plan and understand the requirements for success in the class. I will abide by them.

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Print your name here Sign your name here

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Student’s e-mail address (Print clearly, please.)

Please check here if you do *not* have internet access at home: \_\_\_\_ If this pertains to you, the expectation is that you will use the attached lab in my classroom (available before school from 6:45 – 7:30 AM) and/or the school media center available before school, at lunch, or after school.

**Parent/Guardian Signature:**

I have read the AP English Language and Composition Policies and Discipline Plan and understand the requirements for my child’s success in the course. I support my child’s participation in this course.

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Parent/Guardian e-mail address (Print clearly, please.)

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Best daytime parent/guardian phone number Alternate parent/guardian phone number

Please use the space below to let me know any concerns you have about your child’s participation in my class, including health issues, special needs, or personality traits you think it would be valuable for me to understand.

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