

Course Syllabus 2022-2023

Advanced Placement English Language and Composition

Dual Enrollment English III - 1st Semester only (TSC Comp I Syllabus will be available in Canvas when you successfully register with TSC for the Spring Semester)

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Conference/Planning: 2nd Period 9:35 a.m. – 10:20 p.m.

Course Overview

Based on the College Board's most recent *AP English Course Description*, this course is primarily designed to help you become "skilled readers of prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts and...skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes" (6).

Prerequisites

AP: Passed English II; Meets Expectations on STAAR EOC English II; Approaches Expectations on STAAR EOC English II (Probationary 1st 6 weeks).

DE: Passed English II; Passed TSI Reading & Writing by the end of the 1st 6 weeks.

Course Goals

The primary goal of this course is to help you improve your reading and writing skills as you successfully earn high school credit by fulfilling the requirements set forth by the Texas Education Agency.

In addition, if you are an AP student, this year long course will prepare you for the AP exam (if you are enrolled in the AP course, you are required to take the AP English Language & Composition Exam in May); a score of 3 or higher can possibly earn you college credit without having to enroll in a college class first. It will prepare you for English IV-AP and it will help you read and write better in other AP courses you may be currently taking or will be taking next year.

DE students are not required to take the AP exam; you will earn college credit for the course if you successfully meet the requirements of the TSC English 1301 course (Composition I) in which you will enroll 2nd semester.

This course will, subsequently, prepare you for the PSAT, the SAT, ACT, TSI and/or any other standardized tests that may come along. It will help prepare you for college. Even if you don't earn college credit, once you finish this course you will definitely be ready for any composition course in which you enroll in the near future.

Finally, it will help you better understand the world and your place in it as you begin to decipher the words of other writers who struggle to bring clarity to their own ideas. Then you, too, will learn to communicate your own ideas in a way that makes sense not only to you but also to those with whom you choose to share them. To fulfill the aforementioned goals, this course is organized based on guidelines and requirements found in the *AP English Course Description*. What follows is the plan I have developed based on the *Course Description*, based on resources made accessible by the College Board, based on ideas shared by other experienced AP English Language teachers, and based on my own experience in the classroom as both a student and a teacher.

If you are a DE student, the first semester expectations will help prepare you for second semester so that you will do well once enrolled in the college course.

Course Plan Ongoing

Summer Reading

At the end of the previous school year, you received instructions and books for the summer reading. The summer reading assignment will be counted as a major grade for the first marking period.

Writing Exercises

The purpose for writing will vary. You may have any of the following to do throughout the course of a week to practice any of the following: Vocabulary, Journals, Modes of Writing, Sentence Construction, Sentence Combining, Paraphrasing, Quoting, Open-Ended Questions. Each of your entries will count as one minor grade and will be graded holistically and on the quality of the effort put forth. These entries should be worked on as assigned, for they are meant to help you improve specific techniques. They will only feel as if they are meant for torture if you put them off until the day before they are due.

Quick Writes

Every day you are scheduled to meet for my class, you are required to complete a Quick Write assignment before the end of the class period. These assignments are meant as a quick “Check for Understanding” of the day’s lesson. These will be graded holistically and averaged together on a bi weekly basis.

Essays

All essays will follow the writing process. You will be required to submit prewriting and a rough draft. Prewriting requirements will vary according to the assigned prompt. Rough drafts will have a minimum word count. You will be required to edit and revise your drafts based on specific skills being taught at the time. You will also be required to participate in peer revision and editing. Prior to the conference, you will also need to prepare two specific questions about what you would like me to help you with. Each of these steps of the writing process will be averaged out and counted as a major grade. You must clearly demonstrate that your drafts have been revised at least twice before you submit a final draft. The final draft will count as a major grade. Final drafts will only be accepted if all of the required steps in the writing process are completed first. Please be sure to review the policy regarding late work and the submission of essays.

Timed Writing

As preparation for the AP exam and other timed standardized tests, you will be expected to write a well-developed essay draft during a specific amount of time (20 or 40 minutes). Timed Writing in class will include prompts that require you to do any of the following: analyze a writer’s rhetorical strategies, discuss the tone of a selection, compare and contrast selections by theme or rhetorical strategies, imitate a writer’s style, evaluate a writer’s purpose and effect on audience, write an argument in which you defend, challenge or qualify, write an argument which you support with sources and cite appropriately. Most of these prompts will be based on questions found on previous years’ AP exam questions. You will be expected to write complete first draft essays with some evidence of prewriting. By second semester, these will occur much more frequently, at least once a week or as time allows, depending on what else is going on.

DE students will also be required to complete timed writing assignments of first drafts during both semesters in preparation for both standardized tests and course exams.

Writeable – Powered by Turnitin SimCheck

All major writing assignments will be submitted through Writeable. This is an online tool to ensure that students are better prepared for college by checking for plagiarism or cheating. Once we have accounts set up and full access, I will not accept any assignments that are not submitted through Writeable. In the 2nd semester, DE student essays will be scanned by Turnitin which runs through Canvas.

Tutoring Services

Both AP and DE students are required to utilize tutoring services for first drafts during both semesters. Writeable includes editing/proofreading checks. Tutor.com is a free service available to all students with a Brownsville Public Library card. DE students are provided with Brainfuse online tutoring services through Canvas and are also provided in person tutoring at TSC.

GUM (Grammar, Usage, Mechanics)

We will work on grammar, usage, and mechanics skills throughout the semester both to improve sentence construction and to prepare for standardized tests. You are expected to take notes and maintain the practice sentences in your binder (paper or electronic). If you are absent or late, it is your responsibility to get caught up. While *some* of our GUM may be isolated practice, *most often* it will transition us into a writing exercise. You must abide by standard English conventions for writing at all times, including Quick Writes and Writing Exercises.

Online Grammar (No Red Ink, Quill, etc.)

Each marking period, you will be required to practice grammar online. You must set up an account, and complete specific exercises by the assigned dates. Instructions and the timetable for these assignments will be provided at a later date.

Rhetorical Analysis

You will read various selections throughout the year that you will be expected to analyze. The majority of these will be non-fiction selections such as essays, speeches, or newspaper or magazine articles. These readings will come from the class textbook, one of the many textbooks I have in the classroom, or from another source for which I will give you an electronic copy to annotate and keep permanently in drive. I will give you specific instructions in class for how to complete assignments for these readings. We will begin with close reading and annotation.

Vocabulary

Expect SAT style sentence practice throughout the semester, especially the first marking period leading up to the PSAT. In addition, we will practice vocabulary in context using words found the texts we read. Also, there will be “technical” vocabulary associated with the context of the course. For example, you are expected to know rhetorical and grammar terms as we will use them all year.

Classwork and Homework

Most class work will include a wide variety of writing tasks. These tasks will include annotation exercises with close reading of texts, reader response questions, imitation/emulation exercises, and all of the staging exercises (prewriting, outlines, rough drafts, revision and editing of essays). While some of these tasks may be assigned as homework, aside from your ongoing assignments and final draft work on essays, most homework will involve reading, studying, and research. Although we will read or listen to some short selections and excerpts orally in class, you should expect to read primarily outside of class, hence the reading check quizzes.

Quizzes

Quizzes can be expected to check for basic understanding of reading selections (actually, sometimes just to check if you have read the assigned selection), to check for vocabulary comprehension (these will be SAT style sentence completions), to check for grammar, usage, mechanics, and syntax that is reviewed during warm-ups. Most of your quizzes will be open book, open notes. Each quiz will count as a minor grade. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to request a make up quiz. If you do not request a make up quiz within a reasonable amount of time from having missed it, you will not be able to make it up.

Personal Responsibility (PR) Assignments

Each marking period students will earn a minor grade for personal responsibility assignments. Tasks such as joining a platform, turning in school documents, signing acknowledgement forms, signing up for exams, etc. will count towards this grade.

Tests

An additional major grade each marking period may include at least one test; these tests may be based either on selections you have been assigned or on selections that we have not read before to measure critical reading and the function and effect of rhetorical devices in the text. The test may include a variety of test questions, including but are not limited to multiple choice, true/false, short answer, or short essay. Please refer to the policy regarding make-up and retests for additional requirements. All tests must be taken during the scheduled class time. For tests during remote learning, you will be required to have your camera turned on but may have your background blurred. If you are absent or unable to connect on the day of the test, you will be expected to make arrangements via email to take a make-up test after school.

Independent Reading

Throughout the semester you will be required to do independent reading. The majority of the selections we read will be from our textbooks, but at times you will be required to locate your own sources.

Library Books

You will need to maintain an account in good standing with the library to access the library computers and to check out books we will be reading this year. It is your responsibility to acquire the books we will be reading from either the school library or from some other source if you are unable to use the library. If you don't already have a library account with The Brownsville Public Library, you should get one; they allow online checkout and they have curbside pickup for books. All DE students have access to the TSC/UTRGV library, so you will be expected to use the resources made available to you.

Research

Homework will also include outside research. Some of your sources may be print sources from books or periodicals, but you will also need to acquire your sources from online databases. We will practice in class as we work on integrating sources, parenthetical documentation, and MLA style bibliographic entries. Some of your short essays will require integrated sources. You will also be required to compose a research paper in MLA format.

Textbooks

Some of the selections we will read come from *The Language of Composition*, *Readings for Writers*, and *The Prentice Hall Guide for College Writers*. These books are available as a class set only in the classroom. You will have paper copies as well as pdf copies of excerpts from these books as

needed.

You will also have access to two online texts this year. The first is an Open Educational Resource textbook made available online. If you choose, you can also download the book in pdf form so that you can access its contents offline when needed. The link to the text is included below.

<https://courses.lumenlearning.com/engcomp1-wmopen/>

For access to the regular English III text, you will be provided with an account login to access the text online.

Periodically you will receive supplementary readings from me which I will collect from additional sources and for which I will provide you with a pdf excerpt or paper copy in class.

School Supplies

You are expected to keep a 3 ring binder or folder for this class with any and all paper copies of handouts for this class and to bring it with you every day. You may not leave your binder in the classroom.

You need plenty of paper and pens. You may use a pencil for your own notes but need a pen (blue or black ink) for all paper assignments you turn in for a grade.

Computer/Internet

While we will work in the classroom on paper, many of your assignments will also be submitted online as required for college level and AP courses. It will be important that you have a device with Internet access. If you don't have a device, you must request one ASAP. BISD has also made Hotspots available as well if you have difficulty with your Internet. Because you are in an Advanced Placement or Dual Enrollment course, you are required to submit work online, which has been a requirement for these courses for several years. For success in this course and in college, it will be vital that you can submit all coursework as required. Please make every effort to request the resources you need so that you don't fall behind.

We will use various platforms throughout the year, beginning with Google Classroom. You will be expected to adapt to a different platform when the need arises, including, but not limited to: Microsoft Teams, Schoology, Canvas, and various other websites which will require you to login. I will provide explicit instructions about how, what, and when to access accounts outside of Google Classroom.

In the event that we are required to conduct remote learning, your device should have a functioning microphone and camera. If your device is not equipped with these tools, it is your responsibility to notify me and to notify the school so that you can try to get the necessary equipment. You must mute your microphone during class and only unmute when asked to do so or if there is an opportunity for a question. You may randomly be asked to answer a question through either audio or video, so please be prepared to do so if called upon. We will follow BISD/Rivera ECHS policy with regard to cameras during class.

Portions of my lessons may be recorded. I will notify you in advance if I will be recording a lesson; only my own video screen and the information I am presenting will be recorded. Any required student audio/video presentations for future class projects will need to be recorded independently by students (or in small groups) using apps approved by BISD. You do not have permission to use a recording device during class.

My AP Classroom and AP Exams

All AP students are required to join my class on myap.collegeboard.com during the first six weeks of school and sign up for the May AP exam which will take place at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 9, 2023. Fifty percent of your semester exam grade will be earned by completing the exam. Your AP score will not affect your class grade because your scores will not be sent out until the first week of July. You will be required to view lessons and complete some assignments in MyAP classroom throughout the school year.

Policies

Abide by the BISD Student Code of Conduct.

Attendance/Tardies

Please recognize that attendance is vital for success in this course. I will adhere to all BISD and RHS policies regarding attendance. You are expected to be on time and remain in class until dismissed.

If you are absent for any reason, you are required to contact me via email when you're able to do so to let me know why you were absent. You will still be required to make up all assignments. I will abide by all BISD requirements regarding make-up work and attendance.

Cheating and Academic Integrity

While it is important that you turn to your peers for help when you don't understand something, it is extremely important that you don't try to take shortcuts in your learning by submitting work that you have "borrowed" from someone else. Unless otherwise stipulated in the assignment, you are expected to submit your own work at all times. Any student in violation of the honor code will also be reported to the National Honor Society sponsors.

Time Management

A good way to avoid desperate measures like cheating is to practice time management. If you wait to the last minute to work on assignments or to complete required reading, your grades will suffer. If you are having difficulty with the content or feel overwhelmed, it is vital that you contact me. Use a planner (either paper or electronic) to keep track of assignments and due dates.

Classroom Etiquette

Be polite. Profanity is not acceptable. Basic manners are always expected and are appreciated. Think before you speak. If you don't have anything nice to say about another individual, don't say anything at all. Participate in class discussions either by verbally contributing, actively listening, and/or taking notes. I expect for you to conduct yourselves online the way you would be expected to conduct yourselves in person.

Electronics

Cell phones may not be used for anything that is not required for class. When not required for an assignment or a school sanctioned task, then you should put it away and keep it out of sight. You may use the charging station/phone holder at the front of the room. AirPods, earbuds, and headphones MUST be removed and put away during class.

Grading

I follow BISD Grading Policy. You can find the most current Grading Procedures handbook online at <https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1627314948/bisdus/pfdwdgogmrfhrf4aao2g/2021-2022SECONDARYGRADINGPROCEDURESBOARD.pdf>

For DE students, I follow the TSC and BISD policies for grades during the second semester once you are enrolled in the TSC course.

Late Work

Late work will be accepted on all assignments (minor and major). However, you will incur a 10 point penalty for each day you submit the assignment late. In class submissions on paper must be turned in at the end of the class period or when I call for them. For example, if you have a timed assignment at the beginning of class, you will need to submit when the time is up. For online submissions, each day ends at 11:59 pm; anything submitted after that time is counted as late. One way to avoid incurring late penalties is to manage your time. If you wait until the last minute to submit an assignment, you may run into connectivity issues that will cause you to submit late. Waiting for the last minute is not considered an extenuating circumstance.

If you have extenuating circumstances that prevent you from submitting an assignment on time, you must email me as soon as you are able to do so and let me know why your particular situation merits a waiver of the late penalty. If I don't receive an email from you within a reasonable amount of time, the late penalty will be automatic. After a second request to waive the late penalty, your parents and grade level principal will be contacted to verify your situation. These decisions will be made on an individual basis.

Students who require additional time for submitting assignments due to individual plans approved by the school district will not be penalized if work is submitted past the due date posted for assignments. I will treat students individually regarding late work according to their approved plan. If additional time is needed, as with all other students, it is important that you reach out via email to make this request.

Make up Work

You must make up any work missed due to an absence or tardy according to BISD policy. Failure to do so can affect both your grade and your ability to keep up in the class.

Retests

Retests are only available after school between 4:05 pm and 4:45 pm. If you need a retest, you must make the request via email after you receive your score to schedule your retest. You have one week to retest (for a grade no higher than a 70) after you receive your score. If you fail a test, you need to assess why: you took insufficient notes; you did not study enough, etc. If you fail another test after having made changes in your study prep, you will need to contact me. Generally, you should not fail an entire marking period because of one failed test. Usually, a failing grade is a result of consistent low grades throughout the marking period. If you are not turning in assignments, not passing daily quizzes, not turning in major essays, then you will likely fail the course; if that happens, then you should confer with me about the changes you will need to make to help you succeed: after school tutorial, peer tutoring, an assignment contract, a study/planning guide, etc. Failure is not an option. Retests are not available in dual enrollment/college courses.

If you receive a failing grade on an essay that is counted as major grade, you may resubmit the essay with appropriate revisions for a grade no higher than a 70. Revising does not mean merely rewriting the essay with corrections. See me about specifics if necessary.

Retests are not available in the 2nd semester for DE students.

Additional resources

Because of the demanding pace of this class, absences can be detrimental. Since not all absences can be avoided, students should have a class buddy to contact for assignments. Also, I have set up a website on which I'm posting assignments and reminders. When you're absent, but even if you're not, it will be good practice for you to regularly check the class learning platform and my class website to help you stay on top of things. This is much easier than trying to catch up later. Also, students are expected to join Remind to receive reminders by phone or email.