

# ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

DOE CODE 23.04300; ONE CORE CREDIT

**Purpose:** To provide a college-level, seminar-style environment where students can formally and informally analyze major themes and rhetorical techniques employed in fiction and nonfiction writing as well as media.

**Prerequisites:** At least a B in two high-school-level language arts classes and consultation with instructor.

## Texts and Resources:

- Summer reading books, some required and some optional. Reading list is available at teacher's website.
- Longer works or excerpts include the likes of Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, Martin Luther King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail," Leo Tolstoy's "The Death of Ivan Ilych," Janisse Ray's *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood*, Malcolm Gladwell's *Outliers*, F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, Annie Dillard's *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, George Orwell's *1984*, C. S. Lewis's *Till We Have Faces*, and Shakespeare's *Othello* and *Taming of the Shrew*.
- Visual art such as political cartoons, paintings, illustrations, and photography.
- Nonfiction selections from various essay collections, such as those by George Orwell and Dr. Martin Luther King. Many of these are available through legally available handouts and internet downloads.
- Teacher-provided instructional handouts and practice AP tests from College Board-sponsored teacher education classes and websites, to be collected by students in binders.
- Online APA research guide: OWL at Purdue University.
- Visiting scholars who assist students in exploring context and philosophy of various works.

## General Course Objectives:

1. The student will explore rhetorical pathways to enter fiction and nonfiction material with application of terminology such as pathos, ethos, logos.
2. The student will learn to locate, define, and analyze elements of writing style in literary works.
3. The student will identify persuasive elements of visual art.
4. The student will do scholarly research on primary and secondary levels and write expository essays in APA/research style (non-timed) or in short essay style suitable to college writing (timed).
5. The student will improve writing skills by revision and correction, and will practice using rubrics and peer commentary to evaluate success.
6. The student will defend his stances orally and in writing, in small groups as well as individually.
7. The student will analyze literature not only through traditional analytical writing, but also by dramatic interpretation, journaling, informal debate/Socratic discussion, "creative writing," and formal research using primary and secondary sources.