

# AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION SYLLABUS

Margaret Shuman, Instructor

[www.MargaretShuman.com](http://www.MargaretShuman.com)

## SEMESTER 1: SEEING PERSUASION

Students understand the ways and whys of analysis

- Rhetorical strategies and devices
- The "persona factor"
- Working with old texts
- Statistics, satire, and humor
- Judging evidence

**Texts:** Cohen's *50 Essays*, Gladwell's *Outliers*, Orwell's *1984*

**Materials:** podcasts, newspapers, magazines, classic documents, speeches, TV shows/documentaries, excerpts from texts, College Board released AP exams and materials for practice

## SEMESTER 2: BEING PERSUASIVE

Students create their own persuasive works

- Building a personal voice
- Choosing filters (modes of discourse)
- Modeling after professional communicators
- Seeing current trends in persuasion
- Researching and reporting well
- Communicating with various audiences

**Texts:** Cohen's *50 Essays*, Ray's *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood*, possibly Sophocles's *Antigone*

**Materials:** Various media, community resources, book excerpts, personal experiences, College Board released AP exams and materials for practice

## GENERAL NOTES:

**Summer reading:** General reading is optional and for extra credit. *Outliers* is required for August/September reading. Students registering later in the summer are given grace time to read for extra credit.

**Class dates:** A schedule is available at [MargaretShuman.com](http://MargaretShuman.com). If you know ahead you will miss a class, try making it up at another location within the same week.

**Grading:** Papers are returned promptly, and grades are recorded in Engrade

**Late work policy:** Students may miss a deadline each semester for any reason and still have an assignment receive a grade with no penalty. After grace is given once each semester, except for extreme situations, late work can only be submitted if a student arranges a conference that fits the schedule of a parent/guardian, Mrs. Shuman, and the student.

**AP Exam in May:** This national exam is not required to complete the course, but students will all be practicing for the test throughout the course. There are usually several testing locations available.

**Office hours:** Mrs. Shuman is most accessible by email or during breaks on class days. You may contact her at [shumanhw@gmail.com](mailto:shumanhw@gmail.com). Appointments are welcome!