

Course Title: AP English Language and Composition

Name of instructor: Fabian E. Sisneros

Contact Information

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Mission Statement:

Mr. Sisneros' class will be a safe learning environment where students may feel free to explore new ideas, mature into a healthy young adult, and prepare for a successful secondary education.

Course objective

The purpose of this course is to prepare students to write at a college level. Students will be prepared to take the AP English and Language and Composition exam in Spring 2013. Students will write, both formally and informally, in several forms (narrative, expository, analytical, and argumentative, etc.) about a variety of subjects. Students will develop their writing skills by studying the writing process. Students will be given several opportunities to draft and edit their own work with the aide of both the teacher and peers. Each semester will culminate in a researched argument paper.

Students will engage a variety of literature, about 70% nonfiction and 30% fiction. Readings will be selected to challenge students to think critically, with a large emphasis on the analysis of rhetorical moves.

Course readings

Every student is expected to engage the readings in this class with maturity and respect. This course will use controversial material typical of a mature college audience.

Course assignments

Assignments are centered on reading and writing. Students will be expected to develop their skills in public speaking, as well.

Students will frequently study past AP exams as practice material. We will engage this material as a class, analyzing the material to prep for the exam. The material includes past multiple-choice questions and past writing prompts. Essays developed using the writing prompts will have the opportunity to be revised through in class writing workshops led by the instructor. Past AP prompts will also be used to practice in-class timed essays; these essays will be graded according to an AP rubric, graded on a scale of 0-9.

Students may expect to write regularly in response to class readings, both formally and informally. Students will keep a journal in which they respond to the literature. Students will produce formal writing assignments: expository writing, analytical writing, and synthesized argumentative writing. Aside from reading traditional texts, students will

also analyze and evaluate other types of media: using graphics and visual images as an alternative form of text.

### Course expectations

Students are expected to treat this course with the same seriousness as an entry-level college course. Deadlines will be given; and they will be honored. Feedback will be given; that feedback will be internalized and utilized. Students will be treated with the respect deserving of an intelligent and mature young adult; that same respect will be expected of every person in the class. Peers will treat each other professionally; this professionalism will be expected to bleed into their other courses. Behavior outside of class will be just as important as in class. Our school is small. Expect regular communication amongst all of your instructors, both in the academics and the arts.