



# COVINGTON LATIN SCHOOL

*Achieve here. Excel here. Belong here.*

## AP LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

### Texts:

- *Brave New World*, Aldous Huxley or *A Canticle for Leibowitz*, William M. Miller or *Lord of the World*, Robert Hugh Benson
- *How to Read a Book: The Classic Guide to Intelligent Reading*, Mortimer Adler
- *Being Human: Core Readings in the Humanities*, Leon Kass
- *Advanced Composition Skills: 20 Lessons for AP Success*
- *They Say, I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing*, Gerald Graff (Form IV only)
- *The Confessions*, Saint Augustine of Hippo (Ignatius Critical Edition - Form III only)
- *The Elements of Style*, by William Strunk, Jr. and E.B. White
- *Macbeth*, William Shakespeare (Ignatius Critical Edition - Edited by Joseph Pearce)
- *The Soul of Wit: G.K. Chesterton on William Shakespeare*, Edited by Dale Ahlquist

### Prerequisites:

- Form III Students: English I, English II, and the recommendation of the English II teacher
- Form IV Students: English I, English II, English III, and the recommendation of the English III teacher

### Course Description:

The AP English Language and Composition course is structured to give multiple opportunities for students to work in a variety of rhetorical frameworks for a variety of audiences. During this practical application of rhetorical basics, they will develop a sense of personal style and strengths. In addition to increasing writing skills, they will increase their ability to analyze and to articulate the workings of language and rhetorical choices in any given text. In accordance with the College Board's *AP English Course Description*, the course teaches "students to read primary and secondary sources carefully, to synthesize material from these [and other] texts in their own composition, and to cite sources using conventions recommended by professional organizations [particularly] the Modern Language Association (MLA)." In alignment with the content of the AP Language and Composition Test, the overwhelming majority of works studied during the course of the year are non-fiction.

According to the *AP English Course Description*, "students choosing AP English Language and Composition should be interested in studying and writing various kinds of analytic or persuasive essays on non-literary topics." This differs from the AP English Literature and Composition course, whose focus is on "studying literature of various periods and genres and using this wide reading knowledge in discussions of literary topics."

### ● **Reading:**

- The works assigned during all quarters are intended for close reading. The elements of style, and modes of discourse, choice of detail, logic, and empirical evidence will be examined thoroughly.

- **Writing:**

- Each quarter will see two to three major, formal essays of approximately 700 to 1000 words. Each of these essays will go through several stages of development, beginning with the approval of a proposal indicating controlling purpose, thesis, and audience. This will be followed by teacher-approved planning, then by a group-edited draft, a peer-edited draft, and a final submission.

- In addition to the major essays, frequent, at least weekly, timed writings prompted by one of the week's reading/discussion assignments will be completed.

- For Form IV students: During the first semester, a significant element of the class is the senior thesis, a semester-long research project culminating in a 15 page researched argument on a topic of the student's choice.

### **Course Objectives:**

- analyze and interpret samples of good writing, identifying and explaining an author's use of rhetorical strategies and techniques
- apply effective strategies and techniques in their own writing
- create and sustain arguments based on readings, research, and/or personal experience;
- write for a variety of purposes
- produce expository, analytical, and argumentative compositions that introduce a complex central idea and develop it with appropriate evidence drawn from primary and/or secondary sources, cogent explanations and clear transitions
- demonstrate understanding and mastery of standard written English, as well as stylistic maturity in their own writings
- demonstrate understanding of the conventions of citing primary and secondary sources
- move effectively through the stages of the writing process, with careful attention to inquiry and research, drafting, revising, editing and review
- write thoughtfully about their own process of composition
- revise a work to make it suitable for a different audience
- analyze image as text
- evaluate and incorporate reference documents into researched papers.

### **Course Sequence:**

#### **First Semester**

##### **First Quarter**

Unit I: Introduction to the Course and Its Concepts

- Focusing on introducing the AP Language and Composition test, unpacking the summer reading assignments, *1984*, *Brave New World*, or *Lord of the World*, as well as *How to Read a Book*, and studying them in light of the course's focus on rhetoric.

Unit II: Narrative and Descriptive Modes

Unit III: Expository Modes

- Specifically, compare and contrast, classify and divide, definition, process analysis, and cause and effect

##### **Second Quarter**

Unit IV - Argument

Unit V - Controversy

Senior Thesis - specific to Form IV students

Augustine's *Confessions* - specific to Form III students

## Second Semester

### Third Quarter

Unit VI: Non-fiction readings

- with a focus on diction, syntax, tone, choice of details, and other stylistic choices

### Fourth Quarter

Unit VII: Literary works for student response: Macbeth

## Evaluation:

Grades will be assigned to homework assignments, journal entries, culminating activities, papers, unit tests, and final exams. Students will receive rubrics for major grades, such as culminating activities, unit tests, final exams, and papers, so that they may fully know how points will be garnered.

## Supplemental Materials

These materials will be supplied by the instructor:

- Apple's 1984 Commercial/Steve Jobs' Introduction of the Macintosh Computer
- Purdue OWL MLA Formatting and Style Guide
- Aristotle's *Rhetoric*
- Donald M. Murray's *The Stranger in the Photo is Me*
- *Food, Inc.*
- Aaron Copland's *Appalachian Spring*
- T.S. Eliot's *Journey of the Magi*
- Fr. James Schall, S.J.'s *On the Purpose of the Mind*
- Cicero's *On Old Age*
- J.R.R. Tolkien's *On Fairy Stories*
- Peter Kreeft's *Socrates Meets Sartre*
- Wendell Berry's *The Work of Local Culture*
- Edwin Markham's *Lincoln, Man of the People*
- Robert Moton's 1922 Draft of his Address at the Dedication of the Lincoln Memorial
- Holinshed's *Chronicles* (1587 edition)