

**AP Language and Composition**

**2023-2024**

**Mrs. Leah Roberts**

**Email:** lroberts@cartersvilleschools.org

**REMEMBER:**

**“If you are going to understand someone’s argument, then you have to put aside your beliefs.”**

**Ultimate Goals for the Class:** To understand the use and misuse of the English language through analyzing texts to improve our writing and to gain manipulative control of the English language.

**Course description:** The AP English Language and Composition course is designed to help students become skilled readers of prose written in a variety of rhetorical contexts and to become skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Both their writings and their readings should make students aware of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, and subjects as well as the way generic conventions and the resources of language contribute to the effectiveness in writing.

This year the class will read ***Just Mercy*** by Bryan Stevenson and ***Educated a Memoir*** by Tara Westover. These works/novels have been approved by the district and support the curriculum. If you wish for your student to have an alternate assignment, please contact me at [lroberts@cartersvilleschools.org](mailto:lroberts@cartersvilleschools.org). In addition to these extended texts, we will read a variety of essays, speeches, and articles during our nine units of study.

**LITERATURE UNITS:**

* Unit 1 – Rhetoric and Critical Reading
* Unit 2 – Rhetorical Analysis/Capstone
* Unit 3 – Modern Discourse
* Unit 4 – Synthesis
* Unit 5 – Argumentation/*Just Mercy*
* Unit 6 – Introduction to Argument
* Unit 7 – Essay Review/Debate
* Unit 8 – *Educated a Memoir*
* Unit 9 – Rhetoric of Activism/Essay Review

**Technology:**

While Cartersville High School functions as a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) school, no cell phones, or similar devices should **be visible** in class unless directed by teacher. Likewise, no earbuds/headsets, Bluetooth accessories, etc. will be allowed in class unless directed by teacher. Confiscation/write-up will occur for each violation: ***SEE STUDENT HANDBOOK FOR CLARIFICATION.***

**Grading: The semester grades are made up of a combination of Formative (40%) and Summative (60%) assessments.**

**At the end of a semester course, the Final Course Average is calculated with 90% (semester grade) and the Final Exam, 10%.**

**Summative Assessments = 60%** **Essays will be graded on the 6-point rubric scale**

-Essays 6 = 100 – 95

-Group Projects 5 = 94 - 90

-Individual Presentations 4 = 89 – 80

-Unit Tests 3= 79 - 75

**Formative Assessments = 40%** 2 = 74 - 60

-Daily Activities 1 = 59 – 50

-Quizzes

-Group Work

**Semester Average = 90% Final Exam = 10%**

**FOR PROGRESS REPORT AND REPORT CARD DATES, PLEASE VISIT THE HIGH SCHOOL WEBSITE.**

**AP Exam Information**

**Students and parents will decide whether to take the AP exam for this class by November 1. The Cartersville School System pays most of the $97 fee per test. Students who wish to take an AP exam will pay a portion of that for each AP exam they decide to take. If a student decides not to take an AP exam that they have previously paid for, then the student could owe an additional restocking fee. The order form and fee are due by November 7 to Mrs. Surrett (or your AP Teacher). Any money turned in after this date will be charged a late fee.**

**STEM classes and Free/reduced lunch students will be able to get ONE free AP exam (total) and will then pay a deposit for each of their additional exams. Students who sign up for one free AP exam then later decide not to take that AP exam could owe a restocking fee.**

**Classroom Policies:**

* Be prompt-arrive before the TARDY BELL; be seated and begin the DAILY ACTIVITY on the agenda.
* Be prepared--bring needed text(s), supplies, etc. No trips to locker or car to retrieve forgotten items.
* Be positive--believe in yourself and your ability to succeed.
* Be productive--stay focused throughout class; do what is asked of you to the best of your abilities.
* Be polite--respect classmates and their opinions; we all come from different walks of life; therefore, expect people to have differing opinions-in the end, AGREE TO DISAGREE. It is okay. 😊

## **CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS**

## All students are expected to follow the established class code for this course, which is supported by the system-wide Canes Code. Accordingly, students are expected to commit to academic excellence, to own their own behavior, to demonstrate respect, and to exhibit a positive attitude in the classroom. All classroom expectations are clearly established, discussed, and posted in the classroom.

**LEAVING THE CLASSROOM:**

Students are expected to remain in the classroom. To accommodate the occasional urgent needs, each student will be given six restroom passes per semester. If they elect not to use these passes, students will be granted “Late Grade Eraser” (removes the 30-point deduction for a late grade) or given half credit on a missing formative assignment. If additional passes are required beyond the six, they will be allowed to go on a limited basis; however, *students will not be able to use the additional passes such as “Late Grade Eraser” or half credit on a missing assignmen*t. It should be noted that students may not leave the class during the first 15 minutes or the last 15 minutes of class as it is protected learning time. Should a student have a medical condition necessitating unlimited access to the restroom, he/she should communicate this need to me at the beginning of the semester or when the special need arises.

**MAKE-UP POLICY:**

Students are expected to communicate clearly regarding make-up work when absent from school. FAB Wednesday is the best time for students to complete make-up work. Following a one-day absence, students may be required to take missed tests/quizzes immediately upon their return to class if it was a scheduled quiz/test. **Students must complete all make-up work, both formative and summative, resulting from student absence within 3 days following the student's return to school****. *When a student is absent and an assignment occurs, a zero will be entered in Infinite Campus until the work is submitted for a grade.***

**ASSIGNMENT COMPLETION/LATE WORK:** Per English Department Assessment Policy (Effective 8/13/21), all Honors CHS English teachers adopted the following:

* **No assessment recovery; no assessment corrections for additional points; and no extra credit assignments.**
* For all formative and summative assignments not submitted by the deadline/due date stated by the teacher, students have **three additional school days** to turn in work for late credit. **Each day late results in a ten-point penalty. After three days, the student earns a zero.**

If you have extenuating circumstances which you believe merit special consideration for assignment submission, it is your responsibility to speak to me privately outside of instruction time; otherwise, I will expect your work in a timely manner.

**Student Handbook:**

When in doubt, refer to the Student Handbook…and if you cannot find the answer there, ask. :)

**The Absolute Most Important Information in this Entire Syllabus:**

You, the student, as a whole person, are my top priority as a teacher. Due to the rigor of the course, and the fact that students are often taking multiple rigorous courses on top of other school and community activities, a high degree of stress develops. While stress is normal, it should never be suffocating. You should, first, know that the language of our classroom is one of love and laughter. Your wellbeing matters more to me than any test score could ever mean. You should know that my door is always open to you, and I am here to listen and provide as much support as I can. Just the same, parents should know that I am always available to talk. If the workload of the course becomes overwhelming, you should talk to me individually so that we can strategize how to make things work while also accomplishing the objectives of the course. AP courses do not define who you are as a person, what type of colleges you will be able to get into, or you as a student.  You should also know that I am always willing to listen, along with every person in this school, including our Guidance Counselors.

**Syllabus Acknowledgement:**

With your signature below, you are acknowledging that you have read and AP English Language and Composition Syllabus.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY/PLAGIARISM**

You are expected to generate your own work in this class. When you submit any kind of work, you claim that you have generated and written it, unless you indicate otherwise by the use of quotation marks and proper identification of a source. **Submitting content that has been generated by someone other than you or was created or assisted by a computer application or tool, including artificial intelligence (AI tools such as Chat GPT) is cheating.** You may use simple word processing tools to update spelling and grammar in your assignments, but you may not use AI tools to draft, edit, revise or paraphrase your work. There may be opportunities for you to use AI tools in this class. Where they exist, I will clearly specify when and in what capacity it is permissible for you to use these tools.

Academic dishonesty occurs when a student gives or receives answers or assistance on any assessment, project, homework, or class assignment unless the teacher has specifically allowed collaboration.

Academic dishonesty also includes all incidents of plagiarism. Presenting the work of others as your own, whether it is word-for-word or simply paraphrasing, without assigning credit to the source is considered plagiarism.

When academic dishonesty occurs within an assignment, test, etc., the teacher will speak to the student privately before the student leaves the class to explain what has been witnessed and what consequences will occur.

1. Students engaged in acts of academic dishonesty will receive a zero on the assignment in question.
2. Parents will be notified within 24 hours.
3. Students can receive a discipline referral regarding the infraction, which will be submitted to an administrator for further action.

Incidents involving academic dishonesty will be reported to sponsors of clubs and student organizations that have an honor code as a requirement for membership (ex. National Honor Society). Any senior involved in an incident involving academic dishonesty is ineligible for Senior Superlative (see Student Handbook for more information).

***I hereby acknowledge that my child and I have read/discussed the Syllabus and Plagiarism Policy.***

**STUDENT’S NAME\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**PARENT/GUARDIAN’S BEST CONTACT INFO\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**RETURN THIS SIGNED DOCUMENT TO MRS. ROBERTS BY NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 2023.**