**NORTHVIEW HIGH SCHOOL SYLLABUS**

**AP Language and Composition**

Semester One

Audra Whetstone Conference Hours: 7-7:30 a.m. and 2:30-3:30 p.m.

awhetstone@nvps.net Room 2111

whetstonenvps.weebly.com English CATS Hours: Mondays, 2:45-3:45

AP Language Website: The course website offers students a variety of services, such as links to class handouts, video clips, vocabulary practice, practice tests, model essays and short tutorials on assignments. More importantly, it summarizes what happens each day in class, allowing students the opportunity to stay caught up and on top of homework assignments. Students may email from the home page.

Genre Study: non-fiction (speeches, visual texts, analysis excerpts, auto biographical reflections)

**TEXTS:**

*The Glass Castle* (Walls) Selected news magazines, persuasive videos

*The Language of Composition* (Shae, Scanlon, Aufses)

**REQUIREMENTS:**

Summer Reading

During the summer before school begins, students are expected to have read one memoir given on provided list in order to increase reading stamina as well as a way to “hit the ground running.” Students must take notes and write a short response according to the directions given in the previous spring. This will be graded.

Thirty-Book Challenge

The entire High School English Department challenges all students to read 30 books this year, including all imaginative and nonfiction pieces. All books, including those you read during the summer months, count toward the challenge. Use 300 pages as your “marker” that determines one book.

Choice Reading

The most important preparation for college, the AP exam, and life, in general, is to read. Students will be expected to do extensive outside choice reading, which will be monitored in class through conferences and writing. During the first semester, the goal is to read a minimum of 6 books of higher literary merit (written by an award winning author, see below). Any books read during the summer, including assigned novels and/or plays read outside of class will all count toward this goal. Grades are not based on whether or not the “30-book challenge” is reached but, instead, on the effort you make to complete the challenge.

Award-Winning Authors

Each semester, as part of your choice reading, you must include AP-approved pieces that have been written by award winning authors, or, be categorized as non-fiction/memoir. Only one Young Adult Literature book may be counted toward the 6 required books per semester. Your summer reading requirement and *The Glass Castle* may be counted.

Categorized Primary Articles

Students will be responsible for finding and analyzing a scholarly article, historical document, or notable speech in a teacher-specified category. There will be eight assignments issued per semester. Students are responsible to find, read, analyze, and share a new article every two weeks. These documents will be used to support deep reading, critical analyzing, and logical arguing. A hard copy of each article is required to be handed in for teacher to file; analysis and notes on each article are to be done in Critical Reading Journal. These assignments will be the major consideration for points on conferring sessions.

Critical Reading Journal

Students will be responsible for having a notebook for notes, reflections, analyses, study aids, and practice essay writing. The purpose of the notebooks is to help you grow as a reader and writer. To this end, each student will prepare a notebook according to the instructions on the website and present evidence of growth in a ten-minute presentation, which will be scheduled during the second semester.

Socratic Seminars

Many of our class sessions will be spent in discussion about books and writing. These sessions are extremely important because it is during these times that you will gain perspective through speaking and listening. Remember, the one who is doing the talking is the one who is learning.

**GRADING POLICY:**

**AP Credit**

Advanced Placement credit, accompanied by the A.P. Seal, is awarded to students earning a 59.5% or higher for both semesters. Each semester grade is made up of the course grade and the semester exam:

**Course Grade – 80% of Semester Grade**

* Formative practice is not graded; the purpose is to practice skills and to prepare for the summative assessments without penalty.

Homework (30%)

* Homework assignments are an expectation, not a choice, in an A.P. level class. The practice of reading and writing about college-level texts leads to higher scores on summative assessments and ultimately the National Exam and the college experience.
* Unless otherwise specified, all homework must be typed in MLA format.
* Some examples of homework assignments include response/short essays, analysis assignments, website assignments, including special snow-day or “count-down” work.
* In the event of an absence, students must access the class web site for assignments, handouts, and/or tutorials.
* Juniors who are taking either A.P. Language or A.P. Literature should expect additional course work after seniors leave second semester. Additional course work will be averaged into the final course grade.

Summative Assessments (70%)

* A summative assessment is an evaluation at the end of a unit that covers the skills practiced either during class discussion or outside of class and evaluated on the National A.P. Exam.
* Some examples of assessments are released College Board essay and multiple choice exams, research essays, technology-based projects, critical reading journals, or any other culminating assignment.

Late Policy

* All homework must be in paper-copy and typed in MLA format at the beginning of class.
* Neither homework nor summative assignments will be accepted late unless an emergency extension is requested before the due date. Extenuating circumstances will be considered on an individual basis.
* If a student is absent on the day of an assessment, the teacher must be notified on the day of the absence. Both the teacher and student will agree upon a reasonable day to make up the exam.
* If a student is absent for a graded homework assignment, it must be emailed or turned in BEFORE the next class begins.
* Long-term absences will be dealt with on an individual basis.

**Semester Exam – 20% of Semester Grade**

* The first semester exam will include two multiple-choice selections and one essay from a released AP National Exam and will be taken during the regularly scheduled exam-week.

Plagiarism – in any form – is unacceptable and will result in an automatic zero on the assignment, conference with parents, and rewrite of assignment. Suspension from class is teacher’s discretion.

* Using any electronic device, including taking pictures of anything or anyone in the classroom without permission, during an assessment is considered cheating.
* Students caught plagiarizing or cheating or other dishonest activities in class must meet with the teacher to discuss the problem.
* The student’s parents and administration will be notified.
* Students found plagiarizing or cheating will be subject to the following discipline in accordance with page 40 of the student planner:
  + **First Violation:** Student will redo or retake the assignment or assessment in question and will be subject to one day administrative leave. Readmission will take place after a satisfactory parent/guardian meeting.
  + **Second Violation:** Student will redo or retake the assignment or assessment in question. The student will be subject to up to 3 days of administrative leave and a Letter of Academic Dishonesty will be placed in their student file. Readmission will take place after a satisfactory parent/guardian meeting.
  + **Additional Violation:** Student will redo or retake the assignment or assessment in question. The student will be subject to up to five days of administrative leave and an additional Letter of Academic Dishonesty will be placed in their student file. Readmission will take place after a satisfactory parent/guardian meeting.

**ASSESSMENTS:**

Argumentative Essay 100

Rhetorical Analysis Essay 100

Historical Speech Analysis 100

Vocabulary assessment 100

Final Exam 100

Categorized Primary Article 50

**See the reverse side for the semester schedule.**

**SCHEDULE: Memoir (Summer Reading *The Glass Castle,*); Morals, Values, Politics (MVP)**

August 28-30 Pre-tests; *The Glass Castle* (Part I)

September 5-8 Pre-tests; *The Glass Castle*  (Part II)

11-15 Summer Reading, *The Glass Castle* (Parts III and IV)

18-22 *The Glass Castle, Memoir Analysis* **Argumentative Essay**

25-29 Snippet Memoir Workshop **Narrative Essay**

October 2-6 MVP Unit: Political Cartoons, visual analysis; half day on Friday

9-12 MVP (Politics) ;. Classical Model, Thoreau;

16-20 MVP (Politics); PT conferences Monday and Thursday evening; no school Fri

23-27 MVP (Politics) Rhetoric (textbook)

7-11 MVP (Politics); Argumentative Essay Workshop

* 1. MVP (Politics); Argumentative Essay, College Board Released

In-Class Revision Workshop (Assignment—50 points)

November 6-10 MVP: Argument—Multiple Choice Week!

13-17Argumentive-Textbook and Essay Prompts/Student Samples

20-21 **Argumentative Essay Assessment**--Monday Thanksgiving Break, no school Wed, Thurs, Friday!

December 27-1 MVP (Values) **Analysis--Speeches**

4-8 Rhetorical Analysis--Orwell

11-15 Rhetorical Analysis—Satire

18-22 Analysis-Documentary Unit

January 8-12 Rhetorical Analysis Prompt

15-19 Rhetorical Analysis Workshop

22-26 Review; **SEMESTER EXAMS (Vocab + Essay)**