

# *AP English Language and Composition*

## *(AP Lang) 2010-11*

Mrs. Lesha Myers

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**Course Description:** AP Language and Composition is a course that engages students in becoming skilled readers of fiction and non-fiction in a variety of time periods and rhetorical contexts. Students will learn to become skilled writers who can compose for a variety of purposes, including argument and analysis. Both their reading and their writing will help students to become more aware of how the conventions of language contribute to the author's purpose and effectiveness. Students will prepare to take the AP English Language and Composition exam at the end of the school year as well as succeed in meeting the demands of their professors in college.

AP Lang is a rigorous, college-level course and some of the novels will deal with adult themes and situations; however, Mrs. Myers will address these issues from a Biblical perspective. Students should expect at least one hour of homework every night, frequent writing assignments, and an accelerated reading schedule. Not reading the literature or relying on Spark's Notes is not an option. Students who have questions about their schedules should direct them to Miss Wong at [ccsreg@ccs-rams.org](mailto:ccsreg@ccs-rams.org).

Upon completing the AP Language and Composition course, students will be able to<sup>1</sup>:

- 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; and
- evaluate and incorporate reference documents into researched papers.

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<sup>1</sup> From *The College Board Advanced Placement Program Course Descriptions* May 2007, May 2008  
<http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/>

### Required Textbooks:

Author	Title	Date	Publisher	ISBN
Swovelin	<i>English Language &amp; Composition</i>	2006	Cliffs Notes	978-0471933687
Shea et. al.	<i>Language of Composition</i>	2007	Bedford St. Martin	978-0312450946
Miller	<i>Death of a Salesman</i>	1998	Penguin USA	978-0140481341
Steinbeck	<i>The Moon is Down</i>	1995	Penguin USA	978-0140187465
Shakespeare	<i>Julius Caesar</i> (optional)	1991	Dover Thrift	978-0486268767
Lewis	<i>The Screwtape Letters</i>	2001	Harper One	978-0060652937

**Note:** You may be able to find some of these books on a used book site such as [www.bookfinder.com](http://www.bookfinder.com) (My favorite because it draws from several sites, including Amazon, and includes postage costs). Be sure to get the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Cliffs Notes book as it has been substantially revised from the previous edition.

In addition to the above resources, students will be asked to periodically download and read articles from the Internet.

**Accelerated Reader:** There is no AR requirement for AP Lang.

### Required Materials:

- Access to a computer, the Internet, and a reliable printer
- 3-ring binder with pockets on the inside front and back covers. **This binder will be dedicated to AP Lang and will not be shared with other classes.** A 1-inch binder will do, and students need to bring to each class.
- Composition journal or spiral notebook
- Large Post-It notes—2 packages
- Highlighter(s)
- Black ink pens for timed writes. **Note: The College Board requires you to write your essays in black or very dark ink.** Blue or other colors are OK for other work as long as they are readable and don't smear.
- Green and red pens for marking papers
- #2 pencils—mechanical preferred (they are easier on the wrist)
- 8 1/2 x 11-inch college ruled, loose leaf paper
- File dividers—8 recommended (you might consider the kind with pockets to hold loose papers). **Label them:** Intro & Resources, Argument, Rhetorical Strategies, Synthesis, Visual Rhetoric, AP Exam Prep, Literature, Vocabulary

**Course Outline:**

Summer	<i>Everything Bad is Good for You</i> Essay Columnist Project
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	Intro to Argument— <i>Language of Composition</i> <i>Julius Caesar</i> Begin Lion’s Club essay
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	Rhetorical Strategies— <i>Language of Composition</i> <i>Death of a Salesman</i> Lion’s Club speeches
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	Synthesis and visual rhetoric— <i>Language of Composition</i> <i>The Moon is Down</i>
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	Satire unit AP test prep <i>The Screwtape Letters</i>

Throughout the year we will also be practicing timed writes with released exam questions and critical reading with multiple choice passages from *Cliffs AP Language*.

**Grading:**

Essays and Timed Writes      50%  
Exercises/Projects              15%  
Tests and Quizzes                35%

**Semester:**

Q1 (Q3)                              45%  
Q2 (Q4)                              45%  
Final Exam                         10%

Please note that AP Lang is a skills class, and grades will not be affected by the AP Exam score.

# *Class Discipline*

2010-11

## **Chinese Christian Schools ♦ AP Lang**

Mrs. Leshia Myers ♦ e-mail [MrsLMyers@gmail.com](mailto:MrsLMyers@gmail.com) or [LeshiaMyers@ccs-rams.org](mailto:LeshiaMyers@ccs-rams.org)

*“And whatever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men” (Col. 3:23).*

### **Promptness and Preparation for Class**

When the bell rings, you are expected

1. to be ready to begin class. Students who arrive late without a pass will be marked tardy. Late arrivals are disruptive to the class and a distraction to me. Please try to manage your time to minimize tardies. Due to the nature of AP courses and the importance of being in class, students with more than ten (10) absences a quarter or fifteen (15) absences a semester will be dropped from the class
2. to have whatever materials are needed—pens, pencils, books, binder, homework assignments. Please bring your AP Lang binder to every class. I will tell you what books to also bring. Except in an emergency, please do not ask to go to your locker to retrieve these items.
3. to have already turned in homework—place it in stacks on my table. You will know what is due by looking at the schedule on the whiteboard. I will not remind you to turn in homework, so please take the initiative.
4. to **read the whiteboard** daily for assignments, due dates, changes in the schedule, and any other miscellaneous information. The schedule should be copied from the board immediately after entering the classroom.
5. to **show respect** to *every* individual in the classroom—including your teacher ☺.

### **Rules for Written Work**

1. Use standard school heading on **8 1/2 x 11-inch** paper. **Leave 1.25-inch margins on both sides of the paper.** Assignment title should always be written in the center of the paper under the standard heading. A standard school heading includes your name, class, due date, and type of assignment (test, quiz, timed write, rough draft, final draft.):

Name	Due Date
AP Lang Period ____	Assignment
2. All rough and final drafts of writing assignments, as well as any journal writes must be:
  - Typewritten
  - 1 1/4-inch margins
  - Times New Roman #12 font
  - double-spaced
3. Handwriting is a critical element of AP Lang. Not only do I need to be able to read your writing, the AP readers will need to do so as well. Illegible assignments will be returned to you and will not receive credit. If necessary, I will be more than happy to provide individual handwriting instruction.
4. All essays (both rough and final drafts) must be submitted to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com). Essays not submitted will receive **50 percent credit maximum.**

### **Rules for Late and Missing Work**

The following policies will govern late and missing work:

1. Students are responsible to turn in assignments on time—watch the whiteboard for due dates.
2. If you know you will be absent on the date an assignment is due, you are responsible to turn it in **before** leaving or the assignment will be marked late.
3. Late work due to an unexpected, excused absence (such as illness—by all means, stay home if you are ill) may be made up without penalty within one day of the absence. (Contact me in advance if you think you will have difficulty with this deadline.)
4. Scores for major assignments (any assignment worth more than 20 points) such as projects and process essays will decrease 10 percent for the first day late and 5 percent for each day thereafter.
5. All other late work (any assignment worth 20 points or less), such as homework assignments or study guides, will be reduced 25 percent for the first day late and an additional 10 percent for each day thereafter.
6. All late work must be turned in by the cut-off date I will announce in class. All missing work will receive a 25 percent F.
7. If you experience computer or printer problems, you are still responsible to turn your assignment in on the day it is due. If you need to use the school's printer, you must plan ahead. Other options include e-mailing your assignment to a friend and asking him or her to print it for you.
8. You will receive one “oops” per quarter, but it must be accompanied by a note from your parent or guardian. An “oops” is worth two days of grace.

### **Other Potential Problem Areas**

1. Plagiarism (using the words of another without attribution) will absolutely **not** be tolerated. Any plagiarized work will receive an automatic zero percent F and disciplinary referral.
2. Cheating in any form will absolutely **not** be tolerated. Copying other students' study guides is cheating, even if it is only one question. Students who cheat will receive an automatic zero percent F and a disciplinary referral.

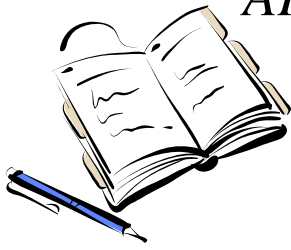
### **In Conclusion**

I will do everything in my power to make this class helpful, beneficial, and interesting. You can expect that I will come to class prepared and ready to assist you in understanding the literature and contemporary social issues and that I will give you group and individual attention to improve your writing.

My expectation is that you will do your best. This includes reading the literature, staying current with assignments, and avoiding procrastination—especially on major projects. I am ready and available for conferences, but it is your responsibility to approach me if you need additional help.

Be sure to ask! You may make an appointment to see me before school, during lunch, or via e-mail—Google chat.

If there is disagreement or confusion about a grade or class policy, please **write me a note** outlining your concerns. I want you to feel you have been assessed fairly, but I do not want to take up class time discussing grades. If necessary, you may make an appointment to see me before school or during lunch. I reserve the right to have the final say in a grade.



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如您需要這資料的中文翻譯，請讓我們知道。

Please do not hesitate to contact me (e-mail is fastest) for any reason at all. I look forward to a wonderful year together!

~ Mrs. Myers

I have read and will abide by the AP Lang course description and class discipline. I have these questions:

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*Parent or Guardian* **Please Print**

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*Parent or Guardian (Sign)*

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*Date*

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*Student* **Please Print**

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*Student (Sign)*

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*Date*