

Graham High School

*A.P. English Language and Composition*



*Language is the dress of thought.*

Samuel Johnson

August 26, 2019

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

I would like to welcome you to a successful year of Advanced Placement English Language and Composition at Graham High School. This course has been designed to prepare students for the A.P. English Language and Composition exam that will take place on Wednesday, May 13, 2020. The course, as designed by Collegeboard, is characterized thusly:

The AP English Language and Composition course aligns to an introductory college-level rhetoric and writing curriculum, which requires students to develop evidence-based analytic and argumentative essays that proceed through several stages or drafts. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Throughout the course, students develop a personal style by making appropriate grammatical choices. Additionally, students read and analyze the rhetorical elements and their effects in non-fiction texts, including graphic images as forms of text, from many disciplines and historical periods. \*

Please fill out the contact information on the back of this letter and sign the accompanying class rules document. My syllabus is available online on Canvas and on my teacher page on the Graham High School webpage. If you would like a paper copy sent home with your student, please indicate that by placing a check in the box at the bottom of the contact information.

Let's make it a great year at Graham High!

Respectfully yours,

Steve Gordon

\*"AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION The Course." AP English Language and Composition: The Course | AP Central – The College Board, 2018, [apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-english-language-and-composition/course?course=ap-english-language-and-composition](http://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-english-language-and-composition/course?course=ap-english-language-and-composition).



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## Welcome to A.P. English Language and Composition

Steven Gordon  
Graham High School  
[steven\\_gordon@abss.k12.nc.us](mailto:steven_gordon@abss.k12.nc.us)

*Credit for Course:* 1 Unit

*Textbooks:* An online copy of *Everyday Use: Rhetoric at Work in Reading and Writing* will be provided.

Texts provided: *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* by Alex Haley

*Guns, Germs, and Steel* by Jared Diamond

### Course Description:

The AP English Language and Composition course aligns to an introductory college-level rhetoric and writing curriculum, which requires students to develop evidence-based analytic and argumentative essays that proceed through several stages or drafts. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Throughout the course, students develop a personal style by making appropriate grammatical choices. Additionally, students read and analyze the rhetorical elements and their effects in non-fiction texts, including graphic images as forms of text, from many disciplines and historical periods.\*

### Instructional Philosophy:

Students will be engaged in a variety of challenging real-world projects and assignments to show how effective written and oral communication is used in everyday life. It is my goal to prepare students not only for their college courses, but also for the business world. As such, students will hone their skills on a variety of academic, as well as work related projects. They will be held to high expectations regarding the quality of their work and personal behavior – just as their future college professors and employers will hold them to high standards. Additionally, students will learn to work individually, with partners, and on teams to meet assignment deadlines. There will be frequent opportunities for the student to use technology as a part of their communication skills. Word Processing, Desktop Publishing, Power Point, and Internet research are all common components of class projects and individual assignments. As a teacher, I am entrusted with America's most valuable resources- its youth. I consider myself privileged to have the opportunity to work with your children.

\*"AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION The Course." AP English Language and Composition: The Course | AP Central – The College Board, 2018, [apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-english-language-and-composition/course?course=ap-english-language-and-composition](https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-english-language-and-composition/course?course=ap-english-language-and-composition).

## Assessment and Grading Plan:

Students are assessed in some way (tests, written assignments, quizzes, class activities) at least once a week. For major assignments, student will be provided with a detailed grading rubric well in advance of the due date.

In this course, grades will be calculated based on the following percentages:

Classwork: 30%  
Performance Task: 30%  
Tests: 40%

Grading Scale:

100-90	A
89-80	B
79-70	C
69-60	D
below 60	F

## English II - Major Projects and Assignments:

### Reading Assignments

For homework, students will be required to read from two primary texts (*The Autobiography of Malcolm X* and *Guns, Germs, and Steel*) as well as from shorter secondary texts. Students will be required to read novels outside of the classroom and complete a reading journal. These novels will be available from the Media Center or the classroom library. **Classroom activities, daily evaluations, vocabulary, major tests, papers, and/or projects will be based on reading assignments.**

### Major Writing Assignments

Papers must be turned in at the beginning of the class period on due dates. Any student absent on the day that paper is due should send the paper to school to turn in via a reliable friend or sibling. Papers must be typed. Students should plan ahead accordingly.

### Tests / Oral Presentations / Projects

Some form of major assessment is given every one to two weeks. Format of assessment varies to give the students an opportunity to practice different skills and strategies. Detailed grading rubrics for projects and oral presentations are given along with the assignments.

### Openers

Each day the class will begin with an “opener” assignment. These assignments will include analysis of New York Times newspaper articles, practice questions for the A.P. Language and Composition, and analysis of classic works of nonfiction amongst others.

### Class notes

Notes from the boards, lecture, class discussions, oral presentations, and overhead projector materials are very important. I will also distribute handouts. Notes and study sheets are to be kept in an English-class three-ring notebook (see Materials).

## Classroom Rules and Procedures:

- 1) Be in your seats when the bell rings. BE on time.
- 2) Be prepared – bring ALL books and materials to class each day.
- 3) Follow instructions the FIRST time given.
- 4) Show RESPECT – refrain from inappropriate language, behavior, etc.
- 5) Raise your hand and wait for permission to speak or move about the room.

### Consequences for Breaking Classroom Rules

1 <sup>st</sup> Offense:	Warning
2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense:	After class detention and Call Home
3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense:	Administrative Referral and Call Home
Future Offenses:	Administrative Referral and Call Home
Severe clause:	Referral to administration.

### Severity Clause

If a student ever behaves in such a manner that is totally unacceptable, interfering with my rights as a teacher or with the rights of other students, he will be immediately removed from the classroom, thus eliminating the standard consequence procedures.

### Absence Policy:

If absent, students are responsible for

1. Bringing a school-issued re-admit slip to class on the day of return
2. Getting class notes and assignments missed (from a reliable classmate or the instructor)
3. Making up assignments (tests, quizzes, etc.) WITHIN ONE WEEK

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT TO ASK FOR MISSED ASSIGNMENTS AND TO SCHEDULE MAKE-UP WORK WITH ME.

### Late Work:

Late assignments will receive a grade deduction for each day they are late.

### Bathroom Policy:

Students will follow the 20/20 rule: **NO** bathroom passes will be given the first 20 minutes of class

**NO** bathroom passes will be given the last 20 minutes of class

Students will be provided THREE (3) emergency bathroom passes each 9 weeks to use outside of the 20/20 time period.

### Required Materials:

- Three ring notebook (at least two inches thick)

- Loose leaf paper
- Pens (blue or black ink ONLY) or Pencils

**Writing utensils and paper will not be provided. Students are expected to bring their own materials to class each day.**

### **Extra Help:**

Extra Help is available WITH PRIOR ARRANGEMENT during office hours, lunch, or after school. If a student is not earning a passing grade in my class, I recommend he or she come to extra help as often as possible.

### **Parental Conferences and Communication:**

I strongly believe that a student's success in the classroom greatly depends upon the support and encouragement he or she receives at home. I believe that parents and teachers should work together and share information about that child's activities. I encourage parents to call the school to give me a message and/or schedule conferences with me. I am also accessible via e-mail ([steven\\_gordon@abss.k12.nc.us](mailto:steven_gordon@abss.k12.nc.us)). Students will be given a progress report each nine weeks; these should be signed by parents and returned within three days of when the reports are issued. I welcome your comments and concerns on these reports. I look forward to a successful and productive 2019-2020 school year.