

## **Advanced Placement English**

Course Syllabus  
2010-2011

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Period \_\_\_\_\_

KGSmith, Instructor

# **Outwit, Outlast, Outplay**

**Advanced Placement: English Language and Composition** “engages students in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts, and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Both their writing and their reading should make students aware of the interaction among a writer’s purposes, audience expectations, and subjects as well as the way generic conventions and the resources of language contribute to effectiveness in writing”.

The College Board, AP English Language and Composition Course Description, 2006, page 6.

**Statement of Goals for the Course:** “Upon completing the **AP English Language and Composition** course, then, students should be able to:

- Analyze and interpret samples of good writing, identifying and explaining an author’s use of rhetorical strategies and techniques;
- Apply effective strategies and technique 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 care 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”.

The College Board, AP English Language and Composition Course Description, 2006, page 9.

**Classroom Expectations.** “Preparing for either of the AP Exams is a cooperative venture between students and their teachers. Students should read widely and reflect upon their reading through extensive discussion, writing, and rewriting. Although they may work independently to supplement the work of a conventional course, ideally they should interact with a teacher in a small class or tutorial session. In any case, students should assume considerable responsibility for the amount of reading and writing they do. Teachers of courses in AP English can

*complement the efforts of their students by guiding them in their choice of reading, by leading discussions, and by providing assignments that help students develop critical standards in their reading and writing. Because the Bible and Greek and Roman mythology are central to much Western literature, students should have some familiarity with them. These religious concepts and stories have influenced and informed Western literary creation since the Middle Ages, and they continue to provide material for modern writers in their attempts to give literary form to human experience. Additionally, the growing body of works written in English reflecting non-Western cultures many require students to have some familiarity with other traditions”.*

The College Board, AP English Language and Composition Course Description, 2006, page 5.

**Student Expectations.** *“Students choosing **AP English Language and Composition** should be interested in studying and writing various kinds of analytic or persuasive essays on nonliterary topics”.*

The College Board, AP English Language and Composition Course Description, 2006, page 3.

**The AP Exam.** *“Yearly, the AP English Language Development Committee prepares a three-hour exam that gives students the opportunity to demonstrate their mastery of the skills and abilities previously described. The AP English Language and Composition Exam employs multiple-choice questions to test the students’ skills in analyzing the rhetoric of prose passages. Students are also asked to write several essays that demonstrate the skills they have learned in the course... The essay section is scored by college and AP English teachers using standardized procedures.*

*Ordinarily, the exam consists of 60 minutes for multiple-choice questions followed by 120 minutes for essay questions. Performance on the essay section of the exam counts for 55 percent of the total grade; performance on the multiple-choice section, 45 percent.”*

The College Board, AP English Language and Composition Course Description, 2006, page 11.

**Personally.** My continued goal for teaching **Advanced Placement: English Language and Composition** is to enhance your ability to read, analyze, and write. While scoring well on the AP Exam is important, the skills you will learn this year are crucial – and, ultimately, *life changing* -- in terms of what you will bring into a university classroom next Fall.

As I reminded my previous classes, let’s not get too carried away by the AP Exam, shall we?

Kevin G. Smith, Instructor  
August 2010

PS: The **Advanced Placement: English Language and Composition** Exam is scheduled for the morning of 12 May 2010.