

**Mr. Ward**

## **AP English 5-6**

Students will need to check out *The Grapes of Wrath* and *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*. They will also need to pick up a copy of the Summer Assignment Instruction Sheet when they check out the books from the book clerk in the library. Students must sign for receiving the materials. The materials will be available starting the last two days of the semester.

### **Course Description**

This is a college-level course designed for highly motivated students performing above grade level in language arts. We will explore a broad range of American literature reflecting various genres and historical periods; however, the focus of the course is rhetorical analysis in preparation for the **AP Language and Composition** exam. We will examine **Word Level Considerations**, both literal and figurative language; **Sentence Level Considerations**, including both basic and advanced syntax; and **Total Rhetorical Considerations**, including argumentative appeals, logical and fallacious reasoning, and style.

### **Course Readings**

The main texts are *Everyday Use: Rhetoric at Work in Reading and Writing*, *Reading Rhetorically*, and *The Art of Argument: an Introduction to the Informal Fallacies*. We will read several essays, some short stories, plays, and poems. We will also read several novels including *The Scarlet Letter*, *The Great Gatsby*, and *The Kite Runner*. We will also read the autobiographies *Narrative of the Life of a Frederick Douglass* by Frederick Douglass and *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt. A test will conclude the reading of each core work.

### **Composition**

Students will write a variety of essays during the course of the year including argumentative, rhetorical analysis, synthesis and research. Essays must be formatted in accordance to the MLA guidelines. Many essays will be in-class essays designed specifically to prepare students for writing in response to AP test prompts. Students will also maintain a personal journal, which I will collect for evaluation from time to time. The journal will include reflections on the student's reading, writing, class discussions, and class subject matter.

### **Grammar and Vocabulary Development**

There will be weekly vocabulary lists and quizzes. Students will also be tested on an accumulating list of grammar—literary—rhetorical terms and concepts throughout the year. **A fundamental, working understanding of these terms is essential and expected** as this understanding is essential for the close rhetorical analysis of texts I will expect. There will be a 1<sup>st</sup> semester midterm, a 1<sup>st</sup> semester final, and a 2<sup>nd</sup> semester

midterm on this growing list of terms and concepts. There will be some Daily Oral Language exercises at the beginning of the year and from time to time thereafter that students will respond to in their journal notebooks.

## **Deadlines**

I expect high academic endeavor and excellence from AP students. Assignments will have clear due dates, and late work will not be accepted.

## **Summer Reading and Composition Assignment**

Students are to read *Narrative of the Life of a Frederick Douglass* by Frederick Douglass and John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*. Students need to be prepared to discuss each novel and to take a comprehensive exam on each novel during the first week of school. The following two essays are due the first day of class. **Failure to turn in the two essays on the first day of class may result in immediate dismissal from the course. Both essays must also be uploaded to Turnitin links that will be on Schoology. These links should be available the week before school begins. Failure to submit the essays to the links will result in a zero grade for each submitted essay.**

*Narrative of the Life of a Frederick Douglass* by Frederick Douglass (Choose one of the prompts):

1. Analyze and discuss thoroughly the emotions Douglass evokes in the reader and the strategies and devices he uses to accomplish this.
2. Discuss the various arguments Douglass makes against slavery and how he develops these.

*The Grapes of Wrath* (Write on the following topic.):

Analyze and contrast the major male and female characters of the novel as they relate to the "American Dream."

Essays must be a minimum of 1000 words each. Each essay must include a minimum of three properly cited references from the books and may also contain properly cited references from outside sources. Students must include a Works Cited page if outside sources are used. The references, both from the books and from outside sources do not count towards the 1000 word count.