

AP English Language and Composition



Course Overview

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.

So basically...

This is a course in rhetoric, argumentation, analysis, and critical thinking.

In addition to the AP curriculum in preparation for the exam in May, AP Lang covers the American Literature curriculum at a high level.

How much work is there?

The short answer is a lot, but AP Lang differs from other English classes in that most of the work is completed in class. You will be expected to keep up with reading assignments outside of class, but there are very few essays to work on at home—the bulk of the writing in AP Lang consists of in-class timed writings.

Who should take AP Lang?

Pretty much any student who wants to develop communication and critical thinking skills should take this course. Generally speaking, successful AP Lang students have:

- Strong motivation and commitment to the coursework
- Strong intellectual curiosity and excellent attendance
- Background in honors English courses with a recommended **unweighted** average of 85 or higher

Why should I take AP Lang?

For lots of reasons, but here are a few in particular:

- Students are given a college-level learning experience (which includes the opportunity to have more independence in managing their time and tasks)
- Students have the opportunity to earn college credit
- Students receive intensive instruction on writing and critical reading
- Great preparation for SAT/ACT, as well as life in general ☺
- Students get to participate in an environment of other motivated and interested learners
- It is a more rigorous and competitive course to put on a college application

How does AP Lang differ from 10 Honors?

- AP Lang at CHS (and most schools) is basically two courses at once: the rhetoric- and composition-based College Board curriculum AND American Literature.
- The American Literature component is basically an extension of the 10 Honors curriculum: it will include the same kinds of discussions and assignments but at a higher level and with heftier texts. However, AP Lang involves less formal literary analysis writing than 10 Honors does.
- While 10 Honors does cover persuasive writing and rhetoric, its main writing focus is literary analysis. AP Lang's heavy focus on persuasion and rhetoric is one of the ways it deviates from 10 Honors.
- Most essays in AP Lang are timed writings; most essays in 10 Honors are process pieces.
- There is a heavier emphasis on nonfiction in AP Lang than there is in 10 Honors.
- In general, success in 10 Honors plus a good work ethic is a good indication that your child can succeed in AP Lang.

AP Exam Overview

Section I: Multiple Choice

45 Questions | 1 Hour | 45% of Exam Score

- Questions will be presented in 5 sets, with shorter stimulus passages.
- 23–25 Reading questions
- 20–22 Writing questions

Section II: Free Response

3 Free-Response Questions | 2 Hours 15 Minutes

(includes a 15-minute reading period) | 55% of

Exam Score

- 1 synthesis question
- 1 rhetorical analysis question
- 1 argument question

What else should I know?

- Students will be recommended for AP courses by their current teacher.
- Students who want to take an AP course but are not recommended should discuss options with their counselor, current English teacher, and prospective AP teacher.
- AP Lang is a yearlong course, and students are required to take the AP exam in May.

For more information, contact Ms. Boudreaux (boudreaux@fultonschools.org), Mrs. Smith (smithk4@fultonschools.org) or Mr. White (whitedp@fultonschools.org).