

HSPVA 2016-2017 English II Pre-Advanced Placement

Ms. Gabriela Diaz

www.worldhumanities.org

Three rules: Ms. Diaz's straightforward expectations of behavior in her class:

- When someone is talking, listen.
- Engage your brain.
- Bring your stuff.

Three goals: This year, we continue to strengthen the following skills:

- Reading: analyzing complex works for their overarching message (theme/thesis)
- Writing: both constructing and deconstructing messages
- Research: learning how to learn

Three roads to theme:

- Character development
- Patterns and Repetition
- Conflict to Resolution

Three ingredients of rhetoric:

- Purpose
- Speaker
- Audience

Three steps of research:

- Inquire
- Investigate
- Incorporate

Three types of grades: Generally, every grading-cycle will include a baseline of the following assessments. All assessments are weighted the same, which means each assessment may account for a max of 8% of the cycle's grade.

- An **essay** or two
 1. Thesis statement
 2. Topic sentences
 3. Evidence
 4. Analysis
 5. Style and Format
- A **unit exam**
 1. Multiple Choice literary analysis questions
 2. Short-answer question
 3. Words
 4. Writing 101
 5. Research 101
- **Spot Checks:** worth $\frac{1}{2}$ grade (weight)
 1. Research spot checks
 2. Content spot checks

Make-up policy:

The administration at HSPVA requires teachers to submit grades by the end of the marking period. Ms. Diaz will submit all grades on those days unless she receives an email from a principal approving any extensions. If students miss school, it is their responsibility to make-up material as quickly as possible to avoid a snowball stressful situation. The class website's **Calendar page** is the best source of information about what you missed.

Re-assessment policy:

Students may re-assess any essay or unit exam grade within one week of that assessment for an average of the two grades, unless the average is lower than the original grade. Student may never re-asses spot checks.

Cheating policy: The following policy was designed by the academic teachers of HSPVA:

Academic honesty is an integral component of a student's education. All graded academic exercises, including homework, quizzes, tests, essays, research papers and projects, are expected to be conducted individually and completed as the student's original work unless otherwise instructed. The consequences of not adhering to this policy are **a zero as the final grade** for the assignment (with a requirement to still complete the assignment/essay), a **"P" in conduct for poor** for that marking period (with all following cheating/plagiarism infractions resulting in a **"U" in conduct for unacceptable**, which leads to ineligibility), and **administrative referral** (with a mandatory family meeting including the art area directors).

Literature: Just like the transition from middle school to 9th grade, you can expect to tackle more challenging works of literature. From ancient texts like *The Iliad* to modern slam poetry, we will practice analyzing major and minor works for literary and rhetorical devices, but always leading to an overarching conversation about theme: what is the author's message about the human condition? All works will help us contemplate, "What does it mean to be human?"

- **Unit 1: MAN'S SEARCH FOR MEANING:** the Art of Asking Why?
 - *All Quiet on the Western Front*
 - *Lord of the Flies*
 - *Man's Search for Meaning*
- **Unit 2: The Monomyth:** the Art of the Story
 - *The Matrix*
- **Unit 3: *The Pursuit of Happiness*:** the Art of Finding Happiness
 - *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
- **Unit 4: *To Turn the Light of Truth*:** Art as the Light
 - *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Writing: In order to best prepare you to consider tackling AP Language and Composition and/or AP Literature and Composition, we will explore all aspects of these intimidating exams. Together, we will practice both rhetorical and literary analysis timed writing prompts. We will also prepare for our STAAR exam by practicing short answer questions (single and paired response). The essay style for English II STAAR includes a persuasive essay. By constructing and deconstructing rhetoric throughout the year, we will build confidence when building an argument.

How to contact me: the best way to contact Ms. Diaz is through the **"Contact Diaz"** link of the class website.

Ms. Diaz's Schedule:

1st period: English II P-AP
2nd period: English II P-AP
3rd period: CONFERENCE
4th period: English II P-AP
5th period: English II

6th period: English II P-AP
7th period: English II
8th period: CONFERENCE
9th period: English II P-AP

