

HSPVA 2018-2019 English II Pre-Advanced Placement

Ms. Gabriela Diaz

www.worldhumanities.org

Purpose of our course: Learn to be more human.

Three rules: Ms. Diaz's 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:

- Characters
- Patterns
- Conflicts

Three components of rhetoric:

- Purpose
- Speaker
- Audience

Three steps of research:

- Inquire
- Investigate
- Incorporate

Two types of grades: Generally, every grading-cycle will include summative assessments worth a full grade and minor formative assessments worth half a grade.

- **Summative assessments** will include any writing or cumulative unit exams and will have re-assessment options depending on the assignment.
- **Formative assessments** like reading checks, word checks, and spot checks may not be reassessed at any time.
- The distinction of these grades will be included in the name of assignments in the gradebook. For example: "*Lord of the Flies* Chapter 3 Reading Check **(0.5)**" or "*Lord of the Flies* Timed Writing: Thesis Statement **(1)**."
- Every now and then, we may practice a skill or take mock test that I'd like to display in the gradebook, but that will not affect your score. These grades will be "weighted" 0 and will show up as "STAAR Practice Exam **(0)**."

Make-up policy:

If students miss school, it is their responsibility to make-up material as quickly as possible to avoid a snowball of work which creates work. The class website's **Calendar page** is the best source of information about what you missed. If a student is absent, but a reading check is due on the day the student returns, it is expected that the reading be completed. Requests to make-up assessments should be made through the **Contact Me** page on the class website. Verbal agreements will evaporate faster than a spilled Coke on a Houston sidewalk in August. Ms. Diaz won't remember the conversation; email instead.

Homework: There is no homework. Really. Besides reading whatever literature I've assigned for a unit and studying your cumulative list of words, there is no homework.

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, and **administrative referral**.

Reading: Just like the transition from middle school to 9th grade, you can expect to tackle more challenging works of literature. We will practice analyzing both literary and rhetorical texts-- always studying the author's purpose and message. Pre-AP students can expect more reading outside of class than the traditional academic English II class.

Writing: To best prepare you to consider tackling AP Language and Composition (11th grade) and AP Literature and Composition (12th grade), we will explore all aspects of these intimidating exams. Together, we will practice both rhetorical and literary analysis timed writing prompts and AP analytical questions. We will also practice persuasive essays in preparation for the English II STAAR.

Sample AP Language prompt:

2006. Many writers use a country setting to establish values within a work of literature. For example, the country may be a place of virtue and peace or one of primitivism and ignorance. Choose a novel or play in which such a setting plays a significant role. Then write an essay in which you analyze how the country setting functions in the work as a whole.

Sample AP Literature prompt:

In her book *Gift from the Sea*, author and aviator Anne Morrow Lindbergh (1906–2001) writes, "We tend not to choose the unknown which might be a shock or a disappointment or simply a little difficult to cope with. And yet it is the unknown with all its disappointments and surprises that is the most enriching."

Consider the value Lindbergh places on choosing the unknown. Then write an essay in which you develop your own position on the value of exploring the unknown. Use appropriate, specific evidence to illustrate and develop your position.

Research: Students will conduct several research studies to create a variety of products from the traditional MLA academic research paper to letters to their local and federal representatives. With frequent practice and exposure, we can develop lifelong research skills essential to artists and engaged citizens.

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
5th period: English II P-AP

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