

**Dear Student/Parent:**

Welcome to the Advanced Placement Language and Composition course for the year 2020-2021! My name is Sheena Sterling and I'll be your teacher for AP Lang. I am Jamaican. I taught high school English in Montego Bay, Jamaica for eleven years. The upcoming academic year will be my second year living and teaching in the United States and my second year here at Western, and I am excited about teaching AP Language this year!

Welcome! My name is Keala Rodgers and I'll also be teaching AP Language. I'm from eastern North Carolina and I graduated from North Carolina A&T State University. I've taught high school English in Guilford County for twelve years. This coming school year will be my first year here at Western.

AP Lang is a reading and writing intensive course. Reading and writing are two of our favorite things in the world, and it is our aim to develop these skills and passions in our students. Our goal is to help students become analytical thinkers, readers and writers. Developing strong analytical skills will allow students to sift through the torrent of information they are constantly bombarded with in order to separate fact from opinion. This skill has real-world application that will allow students to feel more confident in their decision-making skills and engage in meaningful discourse that ultimately change our world.

AP Language and Composition introduces students to college-level course in a high school setting. This means that by the end of the year, students will have honed skills in reading and writing that will prepare them for their freshman college course. In this course, students focus on analyzing rhetorical situations, developing claims and evidence, and building skills related to reasoning, organization and style. The main assigned text for the course is *The Language of Composition: Reading, Writing, Rhetoric Third Edition* by authors Renee H. Shea, Lawrence Scanlon, Robin Dissin Aufses and Megan Harowitz Pankiewicz. We will supplement this main text with other readings and assignments from AP Classroom which will be accessed through College Board.

The course ends in a three-hour examination which is usually, the second Wednesday in May each year. This exam has two sections: section 1 contains multiple choice items and section 2 contains free response essay writing. Section 1 requires students to answer over 40 multiple choice questions. Section 2 requires students to write three essays.

During the course, students will read journals, research publications, newspapers, magazines, academic blogs; will watch the news and historical documentaries; will listen to radio documentaries and podcasts. They will also practice writing responses to exam prompts.

Usually, summer reading is mandated for the course; however, due to the school shutdown, we have decided to offer suggested readings. If you are able to get access, reading *Thank You for Arguing* by Jay Heinrichs will give you a great introduction to the basics of rhetoric (the foundation for this course).

**Suggested Readings**

- **Current Affairs:** Read/watch the news; track major current events.
- **Non-fiction:**

- Frederick Douglass' autobiography - <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/frederick-douglass/>
- *Between the World and Me* by Ta'Neisi Coates
- *Becoming* by Michelle Obama
- *Educated* by Tara Westover
- *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien
- **Fiction:**
  - *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller
  - *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison
  - *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

We do look forward to embarking on this literary journey with you. We can't wait to get started! Please contact us via email at [sterlis@gcsnc.com](mailto:sterlis@gcsnc.com) and [rodgerk@gcsnc.com](mailto:rodgerk@gcsnc.com).