**Course Overview**

Focusing on rhetoric, students will study the art of language and composition and develop their skills in persuasive writing and critical reading. This course differs from other English classes, in that its focus is more on non-fiction and informational text, rather than on fiction and literary analysis. Composition units will concentrate on crafting and ultimately answering complex multiple-choice questions, in addition to examining different aims and modes in writing, annotation, close reading, semantics, structure, style, rhetorical analysis and the argumentative and synthesis essay.There is a summer reading and writing assignment to be completed prior to the first class.

**Essential Understandings**

* Reading a wide variety of literature and literacy nonfiction offers insights into the human condition and serves as models for students’ own thinking and writing.
* Writing is a means of asserting and defending claims, displaying knowledge, and conveying experiences and feelings. This ability to communicate is vital to career, college, and life experiences.

**Brunswick Priority Standards and Performance Indicators**

(as based on the Maine Learning Results)

**P.S. ELA-1 Language: Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.**

1. Notice and correct grammatical and mechanical errors in writing.
2. Demonstrate command of correct sentence structure and variety.
3. Apply standard usage to formal speaking and writing.

**P.S ELA-2 Reading Analysis: Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.**

1. Evaluate the relevant themes and synthesize how they are present in the novel in oral and written responses.
2. Interpret the implications of setting and circumstance.
3. Analyze the role of characters in the plot in oral and written responses.
4. Analyze important quotations from the text in oral and written responses.
5. Annotate the text.

**P.S ELA-3 Reading Craft and Structure: Determine an author’s point of view or purpose in a text in which the rhetoric is particularly effective, analyzing how style and content contribute to the power, persuasiveness or beauty of a text.**

1. Understand SOAPSTone: Speaker, Occasion, Audience, Purpose, Subject, Tone.
2. Analyze the plot and/or design of the text, following shifts in time and place.

**P.S ELA-4 Writing Analysis: Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.**

1. Select and limit a debatable thesis.
2. Research evidence using credible sources.
3. Select an appropriate organizational plan.
4. Acknowledge alternate sides of a position.
5. Apply the standards of English conventions.
6. Apply persuasive strategies.
7. Create a Works Cited for evidence used.

**P.S ELA-5 Writing Craft: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.**

1. Create an effective introduction.
2. Use showing details v. telling details.
3. Maintain a focus on the main idea throughout the body paragraphs.
4. Write an effective conclusion.

**P.S. ELA-6 Research-based Writing: Compose research-based writing to examine a topic through the selection, organization, analysis, and synthesis of relevant content.**

1. Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources.
2. Assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the task, purpose, and audience.
3. Integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and overreliance on any one source .
4. Follow a standard format for citation.
5. Select and limit an appropriate topic.
6. Take notes using a minimum of three sources.
7. Prepare an outline and multiple drafts.
8. Write a Works Cited page.
9. Write a strong introduction and conclusion.
10. Include precise, effective quotations that directly correspond to the main idea.

**P.S. ELA-7 Speaking and Listening: Engage effectively in well-reasoned exchange of ideas**

1. Attentively listen to the words of a speaker.
2. Summarize what someone has said.
3. Defend, refute, or challenge the ideas of others.
4. Use evidence to support a position.
5. Organize ideas clearly and logically.
6. Use annotations of the text to contribute to class discussion.

**Examples of Formative / Summative Assessments**

* AP Language & Composition Test (May)
* AP Language & Composition Practice Tests
* Argumentative Writing
* Language/Grammar Practice, Quizzes and Contextual Learning to develop mastery of English mechanics and literary and rhetorical devices
* Rhetorical Analyses
* Synthesizing Multiple Sources in formal writing
* Taking literary and primarily informational text-based multiple-choice questions
* Timed In-Class Writing
* Writing original multiple-choice questions

**Sample Texts and Materials/Resources**

* *50 Essays* Sam Cohen
* *AP Edition Everyday Use: Rhetoric at Work in Reading and Writing* (Annotated Instructor’s Edition) Roskelly and Jolliffe
* AP Language & Composition Sample Tests (AP Central Online)
* AP College Board Resources
* Curriculum from the St. Johnsbury Academy AP Institute
* Fellow AP Lang & Comp Teachers
* *The Art of Voice: Language and Composition* Muller and Whiting
* *The Language of Composition*, 2nd Edition Shea, Scanlon and Aufses
* *The Norton Sampler: Short Essays for Composition,* 8th Edition, Thomas Cooley
* *The Story I Want to Tell: Exploration in the Art of Writing* The Telling Room
* *They Say, I Say with Readings*, High School Edition, Graff, Birkenstein, and Durst