

# *Greetings from the World of English*

Ms. Franklin  
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Orientation Letter

**Conference Hour:** MWThF 1:19-2:13

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## **AP English Language and Composition 2011**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Aligning itself with the objectives of the Collegeboard AP Central, this course is designed “to enable students to read complex texts with understanding and to write prose of sufficient richness and complexity to communicate effectively with mature readers” while “enabl[ing] students to write effectively and confidently in their college courses across the curriculum and in their professional and personal lives.” Additionally, this course will satisfy the required breadth of material consistent with two semesters of American Literature. The course surveys American literature from the Puritan period to the twentieth century, encompassing a number of major writers and important genres and themes. The course aims to provide a basic context for understanding literature written during this period of literary history by focusing on the historical and cultural contexts in which the literature was written and the changing conventions it employs. As such, you will be expected to learn/remember a fair amount of history: names, dates, and cultural terminology. This is a crash course on all the chronological background you may have missed out on but which is crucial for understanding the origins and early development of western culture.

### **TEXTS:**

#### ***Class Anthology:***

*Prentice Hall: Timeless Voice and Timeless Themes: The American Experience*

#### ***Class Resources:***

*Everything's an Argument.*

*The Language of Composition.*

#### ***Core Literature:***

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby*

Hawthorne, Nathaniel. *The Scarlet Letter*

Miller, Arthur. *The Crucible*

Morrison, Toni. *The Bluest Eye*

Twain, Mark. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

A weighted grading scale is used in order to ensure equity in grading across a variety of skill-sets.

### **Grading Policy:**

A= 90% and above

B= 80% - 89%

C= 70% - 79%

D= 60% - 69%

F= 59% and below

### **Grade Breakdown:**

50% Essays and Tests

30% Timed Writes

10% Reading Checks and Homework

10% Class Participation

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Course Syllabus: Honors American Literature

- Timed-Writes: This applies exclusively to AP timed-writes.
- Tests and Essays: This includes all multiple choice tests, unit tests, non-AP in-class essays, and take-home essays. This may also include group work presented for test credit. Students are notified ahead of time when group work will be counted towards this category; however, group assignments counted as tests are always graded individually.
- Reading Checks: This includes all in-class “pop quizzes”. These are functionally a participation grade based on whether or not the reading has been completed from the previous night’s assignment – thus reflecting the student’s ability to participate in class discussion and activities.
- Class Participation: This includes work done in small groups, individually, or non-test presentations (i.e. informal group or individual presentations, Socratic Forums, etc.) that students are given class time to complete.

I look forward to working with you to make this year successful.

Stephanie R. Franklin  
English Teacher

Save and keep this letter in the front of your English notebook.

-----tear-off-----

My child and I have read and discussed the orientation letter.

_____	_____	_____
Student’s Name (Printed)	Period	Student’s Signature
_____		_____
Parent’s Name (Printed)		Parent’s Signature
_____	HM _____	MB _____
Email address	Contact Numbers	

Parents, please note any academic (i.e.- visual or hearing problems, IEP’s, etc.) or personal situations that I should be aware of on the bottom of this tear-off.