**Boca Ciega High School**

**AP English Language and Composition**

**Instructor:** Ms. O’Brien **Email:** [obrienr@pcsb.org](mailto:obrienr@pcsb.org) **Room:** 1-034

**Course Overview:** The course overview and objectives for the course are taken from the *AP English Course Description* by the College Board. The choice of texts is based on the representative authors list found therein; a list that is predominantly nonfiction. In addition, since the stated purpose of the course is to “emphasize the expository, analytical, and argumentative writing that forms the basis of academic and professional communication,” it is most appropriate that the reading selections provide models for such writing.

**Assessment**  
Assessments will include written, multiple choice, performance, formal and informal assessments and will be used as an objective measurement of the learning outcome. Each unit will culminate in a required quiz in AP Classroom. Assessments are essential and allow for reflection on what needs to be retaught and/or when curriculum compacting can occur to avoid repetition of mastered material.

Writing assignment are an essential part of the assessment process, this is a writing class and I cannot determine where you need improvement and support unless you complete writing assignments. (**Do not skip writing assignments**)

**A** 90 – 100% **B** 80 – 89% **C** 70 – 79%

**D** 60 – 69% **F** 59 or below

www.BCHS.org and Focus allow **both students and parents 24 hour 7 day access** to student assignments and grades. ***It is your responsibility to check your grades regularly***, so there are no grade surprises at the end of each quarter. This is my way of communicating your most current grades to you weekly; I will do my part to keep your gradebook updated and you will be expected to do your part in checking your grades at least once a week.

* Per Board policy, students cannot exempt their S1 exam for an AP class.  They must take the teacher created S1 exam (which could be created in AP Classroom).
* Per Board policy, students in an AP class must take the AP Exam.  Students who take the AP Exam have an X entered for their S2 exam grade, while teachers are required to enter an F for the S2 exam grade when a student does not sit for the AP Exam.

**Canvas**

All assignments, links and documents will available in Canvas for all students. If you are absent, it is essential that you check the assignments in Canvas and contact Mrs. O’Brien via email if you have questions. Assignments will also be turned in through Canvas, emailed and handwritten assignments will not be accepted unless there are extenuating circumstances.

**Assignments**

**IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO COMPLETE YOUR WORK BY THE ASSIGNED DUE DATE. Late work will be not accepted.**

Make-up work for credit and full grade is allowed for absent students. It is the student's responsibility to get the missed work. **The number of days allowed to make up the work shall be the same as the number of days the student was absent**, so if you were absent 2 days, you have 2 additional days to makeup the work (DAYS, NOT CLASS PERIODS). All make-up work, including tests and quizzes, must be made up within the number of days absent.

**Example: Monday an assignment is given, but I don’t see you for class until Wednesday. You get the assignment Wednesday and have 2 EXTRA days to work on it, so technically it’d still be due the following class period on Friday.** Anything submitted later than that would follow the regular assignment deductions for late work.

**Please write the word “ABSENT” at the top of any late work submitted.**

Students and parents are welcome to email Mrs. O’Brien ([obrienr@pcsb.org](mailto:obrienr@pcsb.org)) at any time, it is my goal to respond to all emails within 24 hours, emails received after 10:00 p.m. will be considered as having been received the next day.

**Attendance Policy**

Students are required and expected to attend class daily. Being late to class is unacceptable and disrespectful. Students who arrive to class tardy, without a valid pass, will receive a referral after 3 tardies.

Online students will be responsible for completing the bell work assignment during the 1st 10 minutes of class so that you can be marked present.

**Materials**

* Textbook – **Shea, Renée Hausmann, Lawrence Scanlon, and Robin Dissin Aufses. *The Language of Composition: Reading, Writing, Rhetoric*. Second ed. Boston: Bedford/St.Martin's, 2013. Print.**
* **Computer access and wi-fi**
* Binder – AP section separated into 3 sections (Classwork/Homework/References-Study Guide)
* Loose-leaf notebook paper
* Pencil / pen (blue or black)/ highlighters
* Colored pencils/Markers/ glue stick/scissors

**Curriculum**

COURSE ELEMENTS

**Writing**: Students will practice a variety of writing techniques designed to help them develop their individual styles and voices. Appropriate diction, effective imagery, rich detail, manipulation of point of view, and purposeful use of syntax are all elements that will contribute to student development as writers.

**Close Reading**: Our class will focus on reading non-fiction texts of a variety of genres. We will read passages that reflect thoughts and ideas throughout time, everything from Ancient Greek philosophers to contemporary multicultural debaters. Students will learn to look for patterns, to detect tone and tone shifts, to analyze symbols, to deconstruct arguments, and to perceive layers of meaning within a single text or between paired texts. Some texts will reflect mature subject matter and a broad range of ideas and opinions. Students are expected to be open to sharing ideas and opinions to aid in developing their own writer’s voice.

**Participation**: This course is designed in a way that student participation is essential. The student will not get the full benefit of the class if he/she is not able to have ideas and bring them up and discuss possibilities.

**ASSESSMENTS**

Because this is a **COLLEGE LEVEL** course which will move quickly and require close attention. Assessments aid Mrs. O’Brien in determining which skills to teach as we move through the curriculum. Assessments will include written, multiple choice, performance, formal and informal and will be used as an objective measurement of the learning outcome. If you skip assessments Mrs. O’Brien cannot address areas you are finding difficult, and this can affect your grade. This allows for reflection about what needs to be retaught and/or when curriculum compacting can occur to avoid repetition of mastered material.

**Writing Strategies and Processes**

Writing is a process and the skills are built onto and layered, this layered, process approach is used throughout the course. The stages and skills are later addressed with particular major writing assignments reviewing these essentials in rhetorical analysis, argument analysis, synthesis, and argument construction writing.

**Student Conduct**

Any acts of classroom disruption that go beyond the normal rights of students to question and discuss the educational process relative to subject content will not be tolerated. I will be strictly enforcing the policies and procedures outlined in your student handbook at all times!

The following **classroom rules/policies** will be enforced at all times:

1. Do not bring any food or drink into classroom (except water)
2. **Silence cell phone and put it away! (vibrate is NOT silent)**
3. Raise your hand to participate in discussion or ask a question
4. Follow directions…the first time!
5. You are responsible for your own class grade and success…**BE ACCOUNTABLE**!
6. **Respect me, yourself, and each other, even when you disagree**

**Cell Phone & Electronic Devices**

**All cell phones and electronic devices are to be off and out of sight during class.** Putting your phone on

“vibrate” is not considered turning it off. There will be occasions for using your cell phone during class but the do not include answering a call or text. If you have a personal situation, let Mrs. O’Brien know and she will make any accommodations she deems necessary.

\*Bringing any electronic device to class is done so at your own risk. The student is responsible for its care. Per *The Code of Student Conduct* book, school staff is not responsible for preventing theft, loss, damage, or vandalism to cellular phones, or other electronic devices brought into classroom, including any electronic devices confiscated due to inappropriate use.

**Restroom Policy**

One person at a time is permitted to use the restroom. You **DO NOT** need to ask permission**. Cell phones will be left in the classroom in the basket that is provided.**

If the pass is there, take it and go. At my discretion if the pass is being abused (used to meet friend/use phone) a warning and referral will be issued as needed. **I reserve the right to revoke restroom privileges** if they are being abused. You are high school students and this is a college course. You should be able to monitor bathroom needs accordingly.