Welcome to AP Lang! As an Advanced Placement course, this class adds greater depth and quantity of writing and literature to the standard curriculum and is intended for those students who seek a greater academic challenge. Students will show their depth of understanding and academic reasoning through numerous analytical essays and performance presentations. Students enrolling in this course need to be self-motivated and independent learners, but it is open to all students who are willing to accept the challenge of a rigorous academic curriculum.

Course Overview:
AP Language and Composition is a College Board certified, college level writing course that challenges you to think, read, and ultimately write at a post-secondary level while still in high school. The course adheres to the standards of the AP English Language and Composition Course Description published by the College Board. Therefore, “the course is structured to help students become skilled readers of prose written in a variety of disciplines and rhetorical contexts, and [to help students] become skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes, [making them] aware of the interactions among a writer’s purposes, audience expectations, and subjects.”

This is a rigorous course that gives students ample opportunities to examine a writer’s purpose in accordance with the writer’s use of rhetorical devices, including tone, diction, audience, organization, appeal, style, and attitude. In accordance with the Columbia Public Schools curriculum for Junior year, this course also serves as a survey of American Literature. We will approach the American literature canon concurrently with all other components of the course. Because AP Language, as defined by the College Board, is a course in rhetoric, we spend much of our time analyzing non-fiction, fiction, and poetry for meaning and rhetorical strategies. Students will write brief interpretations of these readings and regularly participate in Socratic seminars.

Additionally, as this class culminates with a national-level exam which many universities use to exempt freshmen students from a basic college composition course, we spend much of our time on writing. We will focus on synthesis, analysis, and argumentation, although we will also include narrative, reflective, and dialogical writing on a regular basis. Students will learn how to link technique and meaning into well-organized, supported, logical responses to complex texts (primarily nonfiction).

All students are encouraged to take the AP English Language and Composition exam in May. A score of 3 or better on this exam may result in college credit, depending upon the requirements of your chosen university.

Course Objectives:
By the end of this course, a student will be able to...
• Analyze thematic, rhetorical, and stylistic elements in literary & informational texts.
• Compare multiple works and genres in a formal synthesis essay.
• Research independently and extensively on a self-selected topic.
• Construct effective, persuasive arguments in speaking and writing.
• Organize a formal essay with an introduction, thesis, body, and conclusion.
• Identify a target audience and modify composition to be effective for that audience.
• Develop and strengthen writing as needed through planning, revising, and editing.
• Organize and deliver an effective presentation.
• Analyze the representation of a subject in multiple artistic mediums.
• Expand vocabulary and grammar skills to a level appropriate for studies in this course.
Classroom Policies and Requirements:

1. Students need the following materials every day for class: a writing utensil, an English Binder or notebook and folder, and their iPad with any reading materials downloaded. Students may also need to bring classroom novels (as assigned) and independent books.
2. In order to maintain the learning environment, students must remain quiet during in-class writing time and in-class silent reading time.
3. In order to successful in class, you must be present in class. You are expected to use the restroom between classes, not during class time.
4. Adherence to all Battle High School polices is expected and enforced. Read and adhere to the policies outlined in your student handbook.
5. Be respectful. This means respect for your classmates, for your teacher, for yourself, for guests, and for your school. Foul language and bullying of any kind will not be tolerated.
6. Food is not allowed during class. If you need to eat something, please speak with us before class begins to get permission. Only drinks in containers with lids are allowed. Throw away your trash!
7. Keep an open mind. Be open to these works of literature as well as any of your classmates’ opinions, thoughts, and questions. This classroom is a safe place for all students regardless of gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, class, or level, and the more open you keep your mind, the more you will learn.

Plagiarism and Cheating:

If there is supporting evidence that cheating has occurred, the student will lose all credit on the assignment, I will complete a written referral, and the parent/guardian of that student will be notified. In the instance of the second offense, I will request that the student be removed from the classroom.

Grading Policies:

- All papers and projects must be turned in on the day that it is due.
- All homework is due at the beginning of the class period. Late homework will not be accepted after the final assessment for that unit has occurred.
- Grades will be determined based on total points and according to the grading scale above. Points will accumulate from a variety of assessments, projects, discussions, blogs, IRBs, ability to follow expectations, classwork, and homework.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
<th>B+ 87-89%</th>
<th>C+ 77-79%</th>
<th>D+ 67-69%</th>
<th>F 59% and below</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A 93-100%</td>
<td>B 83-86%</td>
<td>C 73-76%</td>
<td>D 63-66%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A- 90-92%</td>
<td>B- 80-82%</td>
<td>C- 70-72%</td>
<td>D- 60-62%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assignments:
This course is reading and writing intensive. The following is not a comprehensive list of assignments or projects, but rather just a few specific notes about assignments that you should know before embarking upon this journey:
- Reading will often be assigned for homework. Students may be given a homework quiz on entering class the day the reading assignment is due. Reading schedules for longer texts will always be handed out in advance.
- Presenting skills are an important part of the communication arts curriculum and students will present frequently during class, with at least one formal presentation per semester. Socratic Seminars will also be counted as presentations and students will be expected to participate actively in these seminars.
- Students will complete one research paper/project per semester.
- Students will be expected to read three independent books outside of the class.

Attendance/Make-up Work:
It is the student’s responsibility to determine absent work by checking the online calendar and website via myHomework or Google Drive. Make-up work is due the class-period after the one the student has missed, and will be considered “late” for any additional class period after that. Please contact me in advance if you know you will be missing a number of days so I can get you the necessary assignments.
Use of Electronics:

• You have been issued an iPad and are required to bring it to class every day. Remember that this iPad belongs to BHS, and any teacher has the right to take it from you at any given time for inappropriate or questionable usage.
• Headphones may be used during independent work time, and only after I have given the “okay”.
• Students will get 2 warnings per class period for inappropriate use of their iPads. After two warnings, students may be asked to turn in their iPad for the class period and a phone call/email will be sent home to notify parents. You will also be given a referral for “misuse of technology.” The iPads are intended to enhance your learning, so we expect you to show maturity and self-control in class.

Remind (App):
“Remind” is a one-way text messaging system we will use this year for reminders and notifications about class. You are encouraged to sign up via text message or through email (if you do not have texting capabilities) so that you get up-to-date information about class and can stay informed. In addition to Remind, reminders about class are always on the class website.

Extra Help:
You may receive extra help during Spartan Time within the English department. Please ask me for a pass if you need one. Also, I am usually available between 8:30 am and the first bell, but please make an appointment so I can be sure to be available and in my room. If you cannot meet before school, make an appointment with me to coordinate a time to can meet.