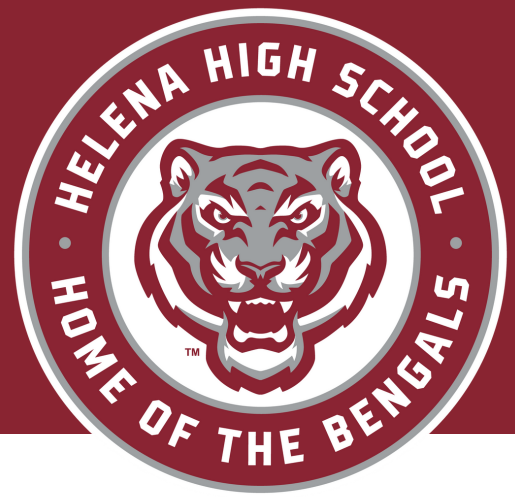


AP Language Syllabus

Ms. Clark

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☎ (406) 324-2303



Course Description

This class will prepare students for the AP Language and Composition exam in May, which offers college credit for passing students. We will study argumentation, rhetoric, and analysis. Most of our texts will be non-fiction, though we will also read *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien and one additional junior-level novel (TBD). We will write extensively, including processed essays, journal-style "quickwrites," and timed writes.

AP courses are intended to be taught as college-level courses. This course will be challenging, requiring intellectual engagement, and rigorous preparation. I expect to be able to treat you as a student serious about your education.

Supplies



Chromebook / Laptop	Writing Utensils: • Pencils, • Black/Blue Pens	Highlighters	Binder, Notebook, or Folder	Lined Paper
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Additional "nice to have" items: Sticky Notes, Index Cards, Dividers (if you opt for a binder), Colorful "Grading" Pens

Bengal Expectations in the Classroom

 Be Respectful	 Be Responsible	 Be Involved	 Be a Graduate
• Honor the ideas of others. We all benefit from hearing the perspectives and experiences of those around us. • Treat the classroom and its contents with care. • Classroom materials, including books, are not permitted to leave the classroom without express permission from an instructor.	• Ask for assistance if you do not understand what is expected of you in class or on an assignment. • Please limit your time out of the classroom during class time. • Absences: It is YOUR responsibility to see a teacher about makeup work.	• Contribute to class discussions. • All students work to create a respectful, safe, and comfortable learning environment for all students. • Ms. Clark is always ready to support each student's educational and social-emotional needs; please message me if you need help or have concerns.	• AP Language meets one of the 4 English credits (23 HPS Graduation Credits total). • You are your community: your behavior reflects not only on yourself, but also on this class and the school as a whole. • (See back for Grading and other policies)

Course Grading

Types of Assignments

A+

Grading Scale

100% - 90% = A

89% - 80% = B

79% - 70% = C

69% - 60% = D

59% - 50% = F

- **Practice:** New skills, standards, and content that students are learning for the first time. The intention is to practice to gain proficiency.
 - Examples of practice work are graphic organizers, grammar practice, introductory assignments, etc.
 - Accounts for **10%** of each quarter grade
 - Not accepted late. Check in with your teacher in case of missed work.
- **Formative:** Evaluating students' knowledge as they learn. This is a method of on-going assessment and it involves questions and exercises to help monitor learner progress during the course.
 - Examples of formative work are essay rough drafts, quick write assignments, and daily class discussions.
 - Accounts for **30%** of each quarter grade
- **Summative:** the end of an instructional unit. These assessments are intended to evaluate student learning.
 - Examples of summative assessments are final drafts of essays, cumulative projects or presentations, and final grammar and vocabulary assessments.
 - Accounts for **60%** of each quarter grade.

About Your Teacher

My Teaching Philosophy: I believe that learning should be purposeful, rigorous, and joyful--grounded in rich content that helps students develop "cultural capital" and connect with the larger human story. As Isaac Newton said, "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants." In AP Language, that means studying nonfiction texts that challenge students to think critically about language, power, and truth. Essential skills are built by wrestling with complex ideas, learning how to ask insightful questions, and recognizing how arguments shape public thought. My role is to coach and mentor students through this process, helping them develop clarity, curiosity, and a mature academic perspective.

Who I am: This is my 15th year teaching at Helena High School, and my 9th teaching AP Language. I have also been teaching AP Lang online for MTDA for several years. In June 2025, I participated in scoring the Rhetorical Analysis Question for College Board, which was an amazing opportunity for professional growth. In my personal life, I am "Mom" to my two children, who are students at Broadwater Elementary. I also have four dogs, two cats, and nine chickens at home. In my spare time (which is precious and rare) I enjoy gardening, baking, watching movies, and listening to podcasts about history, true crime, or ghost stories.

Academic Integrity

This class is about developing your own original voice and writing. **Plagiarism, including use of AI, will earn you a zero** and will result in a referral to building administration per school policy.

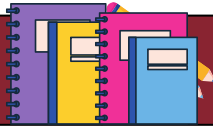
What is Plagiarism? All work in this class is expected to be your own, completed by you for this class. Any time you receive help from an article, book, website, another person, etc., you must cite your sources. If you are ever unsure about whether you have correctly given credit to a source, please ask, and I will help you. You may also consult resources such as Purdue University's Online Writing Lab (OWL) or the Modern Language Association (MLA) website.

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Education is not the filling of a pail,
but the lighting of a fire.

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Classroom Procedures

Late Work	
- Only on-time submissions are guaranteed to receive feedback or a grade. No late work will be graded for practice assignments. - If you miss class for an excused absence (illness, sports, etc.) you are expected to (1) Check the weekly agenda on Teams, and (2) make plans with your teacher regarding make up work. - If you have extenuating circumstances, please contact your teacher to discuss make-up work. - Unexcused absences and scheduled events (like working at your job) do not constitute extenuating circumstances	
Food & Drink	Bathroom
 - Drinks with lids are ok--especially water! Hydration supports learning. - Please do not bring food to class--the mice and silverfish are already well fed, and we don't need to contribute any more to them. - You are responsible for thoroughly cleaning any and all spills or messes you make.	- Notify the teacher before leaving class. - Take the pass with you - Limit time outside the classroom to a minimum. - Do not take your phone to the bathroom.
 Devices	Agenda & Communication 
- You'll need a charged computer or chromebook to type essays and access some materials. - You may sometimes use a phone for academically appropriate purposes: Looking up terms, participating in review games (Quizlet Live, Blooket, etc.), or submitting Teams assignments. - If there is down time between class activities, you may read a book, magazine, or newspaper--seek out things that grow your mind, not social media.	Teams Chat: You are always free to send Ms. Clark a chat with your questions, concerns, etc. but please note that messages may not be answered between 7:30PM-7:50AM or on weekends and holidays. This also applies to emails. Phone and Email: Parents/Guardians are welcome to contact me (324-2303 jclark@helenaschools.org). Agendas: Daily agendas will always be on the slide in class-- check this before you ask "what are we doing today?" Weekly agendas are posted in three places: - The side board in the classroom - Teams (on the Weekly Agenda channel) - My Teacher Page of the HHS website