

AICE Language

2010-2011

Mr. Hampton

Building 24, Room 109

<http://jhampton.pbworks.com>

I. Course Information and Expectations

I wish you all a warm welcome to your AICE Language class! You should know that this class is not for the faint of heart. This is a college-level course, and as such, you are expected to perform at your best by:

- Being on time to my class with your required materials.
- Doing *your* own work to the best of *your* ability.
- Being respectful of other people's opinions.
- Learning something new about yourself and the world around you.

Unlike many other English courses you have taken (including *my* English III Honors course), this class is not literature-based, but language-based. This means that our focus will not be the text itself, but rather how the author achieves his/her vision through the unique use of language. We will be looking at a variety of resources, including novels, film, music, art, and other media. You should also expect emphasis placed on collegiate and career skills, such as note-taking, research, oral and written analysis, and critical thinking skills.

For many, the ultimate goal of this course will be taking—and passing—the AICE Language exam at the end of the year. This exam will require that you thoughtfully analyze and respond to various forms of writing, many of which will be outside of your current “literary comfort zone.” Passing this exam and this course will be an arduous process, filled with many successes and failures. How you react to these failures will ultimately determine your success in this course.

II. Required Materials

<u>Material</u>	<u>Quantity Needed</u>	<u>Special Notes</u>
Composition notebook	2	Does not have to be fancy; I prefer the basic black/white notebooks with no spirals.
Duo-Tang folder	2	Any colors you wish. Must have “teeth” for putting 3-hole punched papers into and 2 pockets.
Sticky-notes	Set of 3	<i>Post-It</i> works best, but you can buy the cheaper versions, which sometimes do not stick as well.
Pens and/or pencils	2-3 packs	I greatly prefer pens, but pencils work fine as well.
College-ruled paper	2-3 packs	During <i>Back to School</i> week, many stores offer packs of paper for just a few cents; stock up now!
Student planner	1	Does not have to be fancy; can be the store or school bought model.

III. Rules

1. Follow directions *quickly*.
2. Have out *all* required materials.
3. Raise your hand for permission to speak or leave your seat.
4. Make smart choices.
5. Keep Hampton Happy.

IV. Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When am I tardy to class?

A: When the late bell rings and you are not in your seat with your materials out.

Q: If I am absent, how do I get make up work?

A: Go to my website: jhampton.pbworks.com and click on "Missed Work." Look for the day of your absence and complete your work as needed.

Q: I don't have Internet and my bus drops me off a few minutes before the bell, so how can I get my missed work?

A: Befriend someone with an Internet connection and/or make a special appointment with me to receive your work.

Q: Can I ask you about my missed work during class?

A: No. I simply do not have time to give you your work during class. If you do, I will point to the sign that is in my class to remind you to get your missed work before or after school.

Q: What are your percentages for how my grade is calculated?

A:

Quizzes	10%
Homework	10%
Class Work	20%
Tests	30%
Projects	20%
Participation	10%

100%

Q: If I don't raise my hand a lot in class, will this affect my grade?

A: No...I do not rely on hand raisers to answer questions in my class. Mainly, you will be called on at random through the use of the card that is taped to your desk.

Q: How are assignments graded in this class?

A: I grade using a letter grade scale; I do not grade on percentages. Additionally, I only use A, B, C, and NY for grading. See information below:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>GPA-Conversion</u>	<u>Special Notes</u>
A	4.0	This is exceptional work; the assignment goes above and beyond the requirements for a passing score.
B	3.0	This is above average work; the assignment exceeds the basic criteria of a passing score.
C	2.0	This is average work; the assignment meets the basic criteria for a passing score.
NY	0.0	Stands for "Not Yet." This is below average work; the assignment has not yet met the basic criteria for achieving a passing score.

Q: If I receive a score I don't like (including an NY), can I redo it for a higher grade?

A: Absolutely. Review the feedback on the assignment and redo as many times as you wish.

Q: What if I receive an NY grade and choose not to redo it?

A: You are required to redo any grade of NY; this grade will convert into a 0 in my grade book.

Q: What about late work? Can I still turn that in for a better grade?

A: Yes, but late work receives half credit. In other words, the highest grade you can receive on late work is a C (half of an A); the lowest a D (half of a C).

Q: If I need to find out my grade, where can I go?

A: Primarily, you will be tracking your own grade in my class through one of your folders. Additionally, my website is updated on a weekly basis with new grades.

Q: How often will I have homework in this class? How hard will it be?

A: At least 2-3 times per week. Assignments and their complexity will vary from easy (analyzing the language of a short story) to difficult (a research project/presentation).

Q: Once I get my materials, how should I organize them?

A:

<u>Material</u>	<u>Special Notes</u>
Composition notebook	<p>Purpose: Used for keeping notes in class. The second composition notebook is only if you run out of space in your first one. <u>You must bring this to class every day.</u></p> <p>How to Organize: Label the front of this notebook with your name and period number.</p>
Duo-Tang folder (#1)	<p>Purpose: Used for keeping returned and graded papers. <u>You must bring this to class every day.</u></p> <p>How to Organize: Place graded papers in the 3-hole punch section of this folder. The left pocket is for this syllabus and other handouts. The right pocket is for blank paper. Label the front of this folder with your name and period number.</p>
Duo-Tang folder (#2)	<p>Purpose: Used for student Portfolio (a “best of” section). At least once per month, we will look through your graded papers and pick out your “best” assignments and transfer them to this folder. <u>Your portfolios will stay in my class when not being used.</u></p> <p>How to Organize: Label the front of this folder with your name and period number. Additionally, label the front “My Portfolio.” You can choose to decorate the front of this folder however you see fit.</p>

V. Calendar

Listed below is a summative calendar of the units we will be working on. This calendar is subject to change.

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Name of Unit</u>	<u>Primary Text/Activities</u>	<u>Date(s) of Study</u>
	Introduction to AICE Language	N/A	8.23-8.31
1	Summer Reading Review	<i>Huckleberry Finn</i> (Twain), <i>1984</i> (Orwell), student-selected text	9.1-9.24
2	Language Use and Style	Diaries, travel journals, advertisements, speeches, RAFT & SPAWN writing exercises, Socratic/Literature Circles, <i>One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest</i> (Kesey)	9.27-12.17
3	Narrative/Imaginative Writing	Fiction (short stories/flash fiction), video games, movies, ekphrastic story writing, Socratic Circles, <i>Memoirs of a Geisha</i> (Golden)	1.3-3.11
4	Discursive Writing	Essays, editorials, <i>Bedford Reader</i>	3.21-4.29
5	Exam Review	Past AICE Exams, timed practice	5.2-*
6	Course Wrap-Up/CEOCE	N/A	6.1-6.8

*AICE Language Exam date has not been set