

**Course Description:**

Language and Composition provides an opportunity for students to improve both written and oral English skills. Regular in-class essays responding to the SAT prompt will be scored and analyzed, and other types of SAT questions will also be examined. Additionally, students will read articles from recent periodicals on timely, high-interest topics, which will be followed by discussions and in-class essays. There will also be opportunities for students to read aloud dramas and poetry.

**Policies/Homework**

This course is not intended to generate much homework! The assignments will, for the most part, be completed during class time. One very important component of the course is communication, so it is expected that each student will participate actively on a daily basis. Other expectations include the following:

- Come to class on time and with all materials
- Be respectful and courteous of others
- Use either pencil or blue/black pens- no colored ink, please!

**Grading**

Grades will be based on the cumulative number of points you receive out of the total possible points on all assessments. Your effort grade will largely be determined by your active participation during class.

**Grading Scale:**

A- - A+ = 90-100	D- - D+ = 60-69
B- -B+ = 80-89	F 0-59
C- -C+ = 70-79	

**Texts:**

*Collected Reading and Writing for the New SAT*

*America NOW: Short Readings from Recent Periodicals*

Supplementary dramas and poetry

## **Trimester 1 (11 weeks)**

### **Week**

- 1 Lesson one (Part I); Body Image: Serious Issue?
- 2 Lesson two; Body Image: Serious Issue?
- 3 Lesson three; Body Image: Serious Issue?
- 4 Lesson four; Social Networking/ Facebook
- 5 Lesson five; Social Networking/Facebook
- 6 Lesson six; Cultural Identities
- 7 Lesson seven; Cultural Identities
- 8 Lesson eight; Cultural Identities
- 9 Lesson nine; Can Genetics Explain Who We Are?
- 10 Lesson ten; Can Genetics Explain Who Are?
- 11 Lesson eleven; Can Genetics Explain Who We Are?

## **Trimester 2 (12 weeks)**

### **Week**

- 1 Lesson twelve; *The Glass Menagerie*
- 2 Lesson thirteen; *The Glass Menagerie*
- 3 Lesson fourteen; *The Glass Menagerie*
- 4 Lesson fifteen; "Gender Differences: How Real Are They?"
- 5 Lesson sixteen; Gender Differences: How Real Are They?
- 6 Lesson seventeen; Do Words Matter?
- 7 Lesson eighteen; Do Words Matter?
- 8 Lesson nineteen; Changing American Language
- 9 Review/Mid-Term exams

- 10 Lesson twenty; Changing American Language
- 11 Lesson twenty-one; Changing American Language
- 12 Lesson one (Part II); Video Games: Transforming the Culture?

### **Trimester 3 (11 weeks)**

- 1 Lesson two; Transforming the Culture
- 2 Lesson three; Ethics of Buying?
- 3 Lesson four; Ethics of Buying?
- 4 Lesson five; *The Piano Lesson*
- 5 Lesson six ; *The Piano Lesson*
- 6 Lesson seven; News Media /Opinions v. Facts
- 7 Lesson eight; News Media/Opinions v. Facts
- 8 Lesson nine; Science and Religion Compatible?
- 9 Lesson ten; Science and Religion Compatible?
- 10 Lesson eleven; Justifying Torture?
- 11 Comprehensive Review and Final Exam

### **Course Outline**

Articles from periodicals:

#### **Trimester 1**

- I. **Body Image: Is it a Serious Issue?**
  - a. "My Mother, My Hair"
  - b. "Who's in Favor of Cosmetic Surgery?"
  - c. "Men's Faces Go Under the Knife"
- II. **Social Networking: How is Facebook Changing Student Life?**
  - a. Facing the Facebook

- b. The Facebook Addiction Spreads

**III. Cultural Identities: Can We Live Dual Lives?**

- a. My Two Lives
- b. “FOBs” vs. “Twinkies”: The New Discrimination is Intraracial
- c. “If I Stay on the Rez”

**IV. Can Genetics Explain Who We Are?**

- a. “The Greatest Journey”
- b. “Roots”

**Trimester 2**

**V. Gender Differences: How Real Are They?**

- a. “When Guys Hang Out”
- b. “Are Men Smarter Than Women?”

**VI. Do Words Matter?**

- a. “Changing Warming”
- b. “Awash in Euphemisms”
- c. “Global Wording”

**VII. The American Language Today: How is it Changing?**

- a. “The Pleasures of the Text”
- b. “Good Grammar Gets the Girl”
- c. “My Goldfish Name Is Scaley”: There’s Nothing to Correct

**VIII. Video Games: How Are They Transforming the Culture?**

- a. “Dream Machines”

- b. "Video Game Violence and Our Sons"
- c. "Video Games Make Society Less Violent"

**IX. Do We Need an Ethics of Buying?**

- a. "Do We Shop Too Much?"
- b. "Are Designer Knock-Offs Ethical?"
- c. "What Should We Do About Sweatshops?"

**Trimester 3**

**X. The News Media: Are Opinions Replacing Facts?**

- a. "The Truth about TV News"
- b. "The Twilight of Objectivity"

**XI. Are Science and Religion Compatible?**

- a. "The Scopes Monkey Trial"
- b. "The Intelligent Design Debate"
- c. "Age-Old Debate: Creationism Students in the Science Classroom"

**XII. Torture: Can It Ever Be Justified?**

- a. "Say No To Torture"
- b. "Torture's Terrible Toll"
- c. "The Truth About Torture"

**Dramas:**

1. *The Glass Menagerie*- Tennessee Williams
2. *The Piano Lesson*- August Wilson
3. Poetry- assorted handouts from a variety of authors