



## AP Seminar: What Is Performance? Abbott Lawrence Academy 2018-2019

**Teacher** Sam Doolittle

Phone: (978) 233-1507

Email: samantha.doolittle@lawrence.k12.ma.us

**Office Hours**

Classroom: H-104

Day/Time: Thursdays, 2:45-4:00 pm

*\*I am available in my classroom daily until 3:15pm, and by e-mail/call/text until 5pm. (I go to bed REALLY early.)*

### Course Description

AP Seminar is a foundational course that engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives. Using an inquiry framework, students practice reading and analyzing articles, research studies, and foundational, literary, and philosophical texts; listening to and viewing speeches, broadcasts, and personal accounts; and experiencing artistic works and performances. Students learn to synthesize information from multiple sources, develop their own perspectives in written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations, both individually and as part of a team. Ultimately, the course aims to equip students with the power to analyze and evaluate information with accuracy and precision in order to craft and communicate evidence-based arguments.

### Materials

*Please have the following with you in class each and every day.*

- pens: blue, black, & red ink
- pencils (at least 2, because you'll inevitably lose the first one)
- loose-leaf white notebook paper (college-ruled)
- highlighters (2 different colors, go crazy!)
- post-it notes and a pencil (for in-text annotations)
- binder (provided)

### REQUIRED TEXTS

*Theatre Histories: An Introduction* (Phillip Zarilli et al.); *Theatre Studies: The Basics* (Robert Leach); *The Shipment* (Young Jean Lee); *3nomial Voices* (Paolo Buzzzi); *Gender Trouble* (Judith Butler); *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life* (Erving Goffman); *The Colored Museum* (George C. Wolfe); selected texts from Will Eno, rupi kaur, Suzan-Lori Parks, Richard Schechner, and more!

### Means of Evaluation

The list below generally describes the assignments that you will be expected to complete during the course. Guidelines for each assignment will be distributed individually.

#### GRADE BREAKDOWN

**Assessments** (50%)

Performance tasks (practice & completion)

**Notebooks/Classwork** (30%)

Binder quizzes, in-class writing, & activities

**Homework** (20%)

Notes, readings, other

**Marking Period** (100%)

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalent
A+	97 - 100%	C+	77-79%
A	94 - 96%	C	74-76%
A-	90 - 93%	C-	70-73%
B+	87 - 89%	D+	67-69%
B	84 - 86%	D	65-66%
B-	80 - 83%	F	0-64%

# Assignment Policies

## LATE WORK

I expect each of you to submit the previous night's homework at the beginning of class, each and every day. With that said, I understand that sometimes life happens. With few exceptions, I *always* accept late work, as I would much rather you learn *later* than not at all. As such, my policy is as follows:

- Written assignments are due at the beginning of each period. **Any late HOMEWORK assignment will be automatically deducted 50%**. Students may complete that assignment to receive up to the leftover 50% within one calendar week of the original due date.
- **Assessments will be penalized 10% off each calendar day late**, unless otherwise specified in the assignment sheet.
- It is your responsibility to keep track of work still to be completed. If you are unsure as to whether or not you owe me any assignments, it is your job to come see me in order to find out. I will not chase you for assignments! Consider this practice for college.
- Absent Policies:
  - If you're absent from school for the entire day, you must turn in the homework the next time we meet at the start of class. If you're absent when major assignments are due, you must turn in your work the next calendar day.
  - If you are absent from class but present in school at some point during that same day, you are still expected to turn in your work that day.
  - For in-class assessments such as tests or quizzes, you are responsible to see me in order to schedule a day, time, and location for the make-up.
- **PLEASE NOTE:** There is NO exception for College Board-specified deadlines. If you submit your work late, you WILL receive a 0 for the assignment.

## BUT WHAT IF I FAIL SOMETHING?

If you receive a score on any major assignment (tests, quizzes) with which you are less than pleased, you may retake the assessment **once**. Your updated score will be an average of the original grade and the grade you receive on your retake. However, if I find that you are abusing this system, you will have your privileges revoked.

---

## Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Students accruing more than nine unexcused absences in a yearlong class or five unexcused absences in a semester long class will receive a failing grade. This does not include excused absences which are religious observances, approved campus activities or field trips, or a serious illness, medical/family emergency. Excused absences require official written documentation (such as a signed note from a parent, physician, or teacher). Students are expected to arrive to each class on time. Students will be marked tardy if they are not in their seats by the time the bell rings. Students who arrive more than fifteen minutes late to a class will be marked absent. Chronic lateness will negatively impact student grades. Three tardies is equivalent to one unexcused absence.

- *Chronic Absences:* Students who are on track to have 9 absences in a yearlong course or 5 absences in a semester long course will receive a letter grade of "WF" in the gradebook. WF stands for "Warning Failure" and will remain in the gradebook until the student completes the course under the allotted number of absences or makes up absences. The process for making up absences must be approved by the Principal and will be agreed upon by the school, the student and a parent/guardian.
  - *Tardiness:* Students who are consistently late to classes will receive disciplinary action. Consequences are as follows:
    - **One** after-school detention after a student's **3rd** unexcused tardy in a class.
    - **Two** after-school detentions after a student's **6th** unexcused tardy in a class (parent phone call).
    - **Three** after-school detentions after a student's **9th** unexcused tardy in a class (parent meeting).
    - A **Week** of after school detention after a student's **12th** unexcused tardy in a class.
    - Students will be referred to in-school suspension after their **15th** tardy. Disciplinary action after the **18th** tardy will be at the discretion of the principal and may include an attendance hearing at Central Office and/or disqualification from taking Early College courses.
-

# Classroom Policies

## DAILY PROCEDURE

*Upon entering Room H-104, it is your responsibility to...*

1. ...pick up any handouts on the top shelf of the cart by the door.
2. ...place your cell phone on the middle shelf of the cart by the door.
3. ...submit your homework to the "Feed Me" box (unless otherwise noted).
4. ...check your graded assignments folder for any new items (once a week).
5. ...get your AP Seminar binder and copy down the new homework from the board.
6. ...begin working on the Do Now.
7. ...be silent when the bell rings.
8. ...wait for my cue to pack up at the end of class.
9. ...place your AP Seminar binder NEATLY back in its place.

## WHAT IF I NEED TO USE THE BATHROOM?

Because our time together is valuable, I ask that you please refrain from using the bathroom unless you absolutely have to. If you *do* need to go, no need to ask permission! Simply sign out at the front of the classroom and take the hallway pass with you. All I ask is that you NOT dilly-dally in the hallways. **You may not take your cell phone with you.** That's just gross and unsanitary, people. Please remember that you may not leave this class during the first or final ten minutes of class (this is known as the 10/10 rule). Please also note that, should you need to visit the nurse, you must see me for a separate written pass.

## WHAT IF I GET HANGRY?

With the exception of water, all food and drinks should remain outside of the classroom for the entirety of the class period. If you truly feel like you're 5 minutes away from chewing on your book (or your shoe, or your desk) for sustenance, you **must** ask me for permission before eating anything. General rule of thumb: if it requires utensils to be eaten, it's not gonna fly (no five-course meals, please). You are expected to be courteous and clean up after yourself.

## DO I HAVE TO WEAR THE UNIFORM?

Yes. Even when it's hot out. Even when it's snowing. You must be wearing your uniform **all the time**. The uniform consists of an ALA black or maroon polo, khakis, and closed-toed shoes. Other acceptable garments include crew neck sweaters, fleeces, cardigans, or ALA track jackets in black, maroon, navy, gray, or white. These garments must be solid-colored and should not have any designs or stripes. Polo shirts must always be worn underneath these garments. Hooded sweatshirts and denim are not allowed in any way. You cannot wear these garments through your arms (why do you all do that, anyway?). If you have any concerns regarding uniforms, please reach out to me or any other ALA teacher or administrator who will help resolve any issues discretely.

Students who do not adhere to our uniform guidelines will be subject to the following disciplinary action:

- **One** after-school detention after a student's **3rd** offense.
- **Two** after-school detentions after a student's **6th** offense (parent phone call).
- **Three** after-school detentions after a student's **9th** offense (parent meeting).
- **A Week** of after school detention after a student's **12th** offense.
- Students will be referred to in-school suspension after their **15th** offense. Disciplinary action after the **18th** offense will be at the discretion of the principal and may include a hearing at Central Office and/or disqualification from extracurricular activities, school events, and taking Early College courses.
- Teachers have the authority to confiscate items of clothing that are not in adherence with the dress code. Items will be returned to students at the end of the day.

### **WHAT IF I GET COLD?**

I tend to operate on the cold side myself, so I understand how uncomfortable it is to be cold. (It also makes learning harder!) To this end, I have a few sweaters in ALA-approved colors available for you to borrow during class. If you need to use one, **just let me know and sign out on the form.** You must also sign the sweater back in once you return it. Ideally, you will return the sweater at the end of my class, but should you need it for an extended period of time, let me know. I lost a ton of sweaters last year, so please don't abuse this system! (Also—no need to worry about washing it. I'll take care of that!)

### **WHAT ABOUT MY CELL PHONE? OTHER TECHNOLOGY?**

Although we will occasionally use personal technology in class, I expect that, upon entering my classroom, your phone is **turned off** and placed on the cart by the door. (No, your pockets don't count. Neither does placing it screen-side down on the desk. Or tucking it underneath your legs. Or hiding it behind a book. I went to college. I own a phone myself. I will know what you're doing.) You should conduct yourselves professionally at all times. Any inappropriate use of laptops or phones (such as texting, internet browsing, Facebook/Twitter/Instagram/Snapchat, etc.) will negatively impact your grades. Furthermore, I reserve the right to confiscate laptops/phones until the end of the period. If further issues arise, administration will confiscate phones for the rest of the day and notify parents.

**If you are enrolled in Merrimack courses, I expect you to use the laptop provided to you.** It's truly unfair to students without school-issued laptops to borrow the communal laptops designated for their usage.

---

## **Classroom Expectations**

I have high expectations for you. As Abbott students, you have high expectations for yourselves. You absolutely should! I firmly believe that each and every one of you has the ability to do and achieve amazing things in my class, and I will do everything I can to support you as you strive for such academic greatness. I ask, however, that you hold yourselves accountable not only to me and to your own success, but also to each other. What you take away from this class depends entirely on what you put into it.

With this in mind, I have **three principles** (or decrees, or mantras, or what you will—but “rules” is so commonplace) to which I expect each of you to adhere. They are as follows:

- 1. Believe in growth mindset.** Adopting a “growth mindset” means sincerely believing that intelligence can be *developed*. In other words, we are not given a finite amount of brainpower at birth: we can always, always cultivate more. The key is committing to a “can-do” attitude and pushing yourself to learn more, do more, and be more. In this class, I expect you to *always* put in 110%. There is nothing you cannot do if you apply yourself and work towards it (except maybe fly, and even that might be negotiable someday). What does applying yourself look like in my classroom? You come to class prepared, you participate eagerly, you ask questions, you take notes, you collaborate with your classmates, and you refuse to give up. Be brave and take risks! It's the only way you'll grow.
- 2. This is a safe space.** Sociologists recognize seven different facets of identity: race, gender, sexuality, class, religion, ability, and age. In my classroom, as in my personal life, I don't simply accept all forms of identity—I *embrace* them. Within the walls of Room H-104, I expect you to do the same. The differences in our identities are what make us the beautiful, complicated humans that we are. The texts we will read this year reflect this diversity and celebrate the various experiences that differences in identity can bring. We will have fun in my class. We will joke, we will dialogue passionately, we will debate, and we may even challenge one another's understandings. Under no circumstances, however, will I tolerate any form of discrimination, ridicule, or hate towards other persons on the basis of their identities. This is the one principle about which I am most serious. Room H-104 is a safe space. Each and every one of you should feel comfortable speaking your mind and giving a voice to your experiences. We achieve a safe space by respecting and

welcoming each other just as we are. So welcome to my class! You are vital, you are important, you are loved.

**3. No tomfoolery or skullduggery.** I said it above, and I meant it: we will have fun in this class! As with everything in life, however, there is a line of which we must be conscious. In this case, it's the line between "fun" and "unacceptable." I ask that you stay on the former side of this line. "Tomfoolery" means foolish behavior; "skullduggery" means underhanded or unscrupulous behavior or trickery, and is commonly used to describe pirates. Basically, I ask that you abstain from behaving in any way that threatens the safety of your classmates or the atmosphere of the classroom. Don't hit, don't throw things, don't scream, don't rip your book in half, don't plagiarize, don't come to class without shoes on, don't trash-talk other individuals, don't start eating a three-course meal in the middle of class. Just don't be pirates, okay? You're better than that.

### **CONSEQUENCES**

While I hate to ruin the mood of this syllabus party, a quick note about discipline is required. Obviously you are all wonderful humans, and I truly hope we will never reach the point where consequences come into play. However, should you violate any of our classroom's principles, the following disciplinary actions may be taken: a verbal warning, removal from peers (and/or relocation to a different seat for the remainder of the period or longer, if necessary), a notification home, and in the most extreme circumstances, referral to the school's administrators.

### **GUIDANCE POLICY**

You are required to set up appointments to meet during the school day with Mrs. Masterson or Ms. Malandrino, the guidance counselors. They also hold drop-in times before and after school and during Advisory. In an emergency, I can refer you immediately to the guidance office, if need be.

### **ACCOMMODATIONS**

**Please let me know if you have any specific needs.** Not everyone who has specific academic needs is on an IEP! Therefore, I may not know if you have a need that is not being met in the classroom. I believe that treating everyone fairly does not mean treating everyone the same. Some of you may need more help than others after school. Some of you might need directions explained to you more than once. Some of you may benefit from an additional reading, while some of you might want to see what we will be working on a month in advance. Let's work together to ensure all of your needs are met!

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

You are expected to maintain the highest level of academic integrity. When using ideas, words, and short passages from other people's writing, you are required to acknowledge the source. Failure to acknowledge the contribution of others is considered plagiarism. Submitting plagiarized work, failing to properly cite or fabricating sources, and any other academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will automatically result in a failing grade for the given assignment and further disciplinary action. You will not be allowed to make up any plagiarized work for credit. Plagiarism includes copying directly from the internet, a book or article, or another student's work (with or without their permission). In order to avoid these issues, you are encouraged to speak with any teacher or administrator if they have any questions (no matter how small) about their work or citing sources.

Students who are found to be academically dishonest will be subject to the following disciplinary action:

- **1st offense:** Week of after-school detention.
  - **2nd offense:** In-school suspension.
  - **3rd offense:** Out of school suspension.
  - **4th offense:** Disciplinary Hearing at District Office (action to be recommended by hearing officer). At this point students may be disqualified from participating in Early College courses in their Junior or Senior year and/or placed on Academic Probation.
  - All offenses come with a grade of a "0" for the assignment in which the student was academically dishonest.
-

## Final Takeaway

*“For my part, I know nothing with any certainty, but the sight of the stars makes me dream.”*

**-Vincent Van Gogh**

A new year lies ahead of you! It's a blank slate. What do you want to accomplish? Where do you want to go? Who do you want to be? In this moment, right here, right now, you might not know what the next ten months hold in store for you. But here's the beauty of that: you can dream your future into reality. You really, really can.

And I sincerely hope you do.

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_