

English 4 Syllabus

Course Description: This common core, standards-based class meets the fourth year of English requirement for high school graduation and university A-G compliance. It focuses on developing reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills required for success in post-secondary education, military service, and employment. Units of study include fiction and informational literature, writing across multiple genres, vocabulary and language style & conventions development, and speech presentations.

Course Objectives: Students will increase reading comprehension through independent and classroom literacy activities for both fictional and informational materials. Students will develop an effective writing response and style in accordance with a given task. Students will construct and deconstruct arguments and write essays that synthesize, document, and respond ethically to various sources on a given topic. Students will prepare a post-secondary plan as developed through interest activities and research and present that plan.

Materials Required: One single-subject spiral notebook, 3-hole punched lined paper, pens, highlighters, pencils.

Format and Organization: This course is run through the Canvas LMS. The lessons are located from the "Agenda" button on the home page of the course.

Policies:

1. Attendance – the expectation is that students attend every class meeting and arrive on time, prepared, and ready to work. **Consult Canvas for information about what was covered and what's due in the event of an absence.**
2. Late work – All assignments include due dates. For work not submitted on time, a score of zero is most often automatically issued in Canvas and remains there until the assignment is submitted *and evaluated by the teacher*. Keep in mind that grading late work is generally not a teacher's highest priority. Assignments will be open during the current 6-week grading period, with multiple opportunities to resubmit. After the closing date, assignments will no longer be open for submission. Assignments turned in more than 5 school days late will not receive a grade higher than a 75%, but the actual grade will be based on quality of the work submitted, at the teacher's discretion.
3. Grading – this class uses a standard percentage system to reflect mastery:
 - a. 90-100 – A
 - b. 80-89 – B
 - c. 70-79 – C
 - d. 60-69 – D
 - e. 0-59 – F
 - f. Weighting – the overall grade is based on the standards breakdown as follows:
 - i. Reading information and fiction – 30 %
 - ii. Writing – 30 %
 - iii. Listening and speaking – 20 %
 - iv. Language – 20 %

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT CELL PHONE/ELECTRONICS POLICY

Student use of cell phones, ear buds/headphones, and other electronics has become an increasingly negative distraction and/or disruption during classroom instruction, interfering with student learning and engagement.

In order to support and maintain an environment conducive to learning and engagement, cell phones, ear buds/headphones, and other electronics **must be turned off and put away while class is in session** (unless otherwise directed by the teacher for academic purposes).

Failure to comply with the cell phone/electronics directive may be considered “defiance” and result in behavioral consequences. Additionally, cell phones, ear buds/headphones, and other electronics may be confiscated by faculty and/or an administrator, and parental pickup may be required.

If you need to contact your child in case of an emergency, call the front office at (951) 894-5750.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Students need to take personal responsibility for their academic performance and demonstrate academic integrity. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating or the attempt to copy assignments from other sources (another person or online), using notes without permission, turning in work that’s done by someone else, **or by an Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool when prohibited—either in part or in whole**, forging, altering and/or duplicating school documents or signatures, plagiarism, sending text messages of answers, and using photography to capture/reference assessment data, assignment answers, or other information. Consequences for academic dishonesty may be implemented at the discretion of the teacher and/or by administration. This may result in zero credit for the assignment as well as progressive discipline. Consequence severity will increase if the offense repeats.

4. Communication – I will make effective use of the ParentSquare Communication tool, and emails and announcements through Canvas. This will allow you (and sometimes your parents) to receive important messages by way of email and text.

Resources: For students needing additional academic support outside of class, please see the tutoring poster in every teacher’s classroom for detailed information on general and specific subject tutoring times and locations and the writing and math labs available during both lunches.