



*“Committed to Excellence and Success in ALL We Do”*

***Honors English IV***  
**Richmond Hill High School**  
**Melanie Shepherd Room 1440**  
[mshepherd@bryan.k12.ga.us](mailto:mshepherd@bryan.k12.ga.us)

**Required Summer Reading Assignment: [Honors English IV Summer Reading 2025](#)**  
**(posted on school website)**

### **Course Description and Standards -**

Honors English IV is a theme-driven, literature-based course that engages students in an in-depth study of significant works of American and British literature and their lasting influence on culture and society. Texts are drawn from major historical literary periods—including the Elizabethan, Romantic, Modern, and Contemporary eras—and are examined through multiple critical perspectives. The curriculum includes challenging poetry, short stories, essays, non-fiction, and full-length works, with particular focus on the interplay of literary devices, content, style, and cultural context.

Students will refine advanced vocabulary, research, and public speaking skills while producing sophisticated texts in a variety of forms. Technology is integrated to support research, presentation, and analysis. Honors-level work demands a high degree of intellectual engagement, requiring students to lead and contribute to seminar-style discussions, defend interpretations with scholarly evidence, and synthesize ideas across genres and time periods. Formal, college-style research with proper documentation is required. The pace, depth, and complexity of the coursework are designed to develop independent, critical, and analytical thinking skills essential for success in post-secondary study.

### **Topics/Course Outline - Major Works**

- Unit 1 - *1984* by George Orwell
- Unit 2 – *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley
- Unit 3 – *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare
- Unit 4 - *The Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad

**Supplies** – Pencils, pens, paper, and a notebook to keep up with everything, as well as your assigned novel when applicable

### **Grading-**

63%- Summative Assessments (unit post-tests, formal essays, projects)

27%- Formative (homework, classwork, group work observations, quizzes)

10%- Final Exam (There is no state/national mandated assessment for this course.)

**Make-up work policy** –Students who miss assignments or tests due to excused absences will have an appropriate time period in which to make up the work. If students fail to complete the assignments or make up the test within the time period given by the teacher, the matter then becomes a behavioral issue and all work and tests or quizzes must be completed in after school detention with the teacher. Students who do not make a reasonable attempt, as determined by the teacher, to complete an assignment/assessment will receive a forty for that assignment/assessment.

**Tutoring** Tuesdays & Thursdays-7:00 - 7:25 and by appointment (I have afternoon bus duty all semester.)

## Exam Exemption –

A student may exempt exams if he/she meets ALL the following criteria:

- no ISS/OSS
- no Obligations List
- no more than five (5) absences in the class
- no more than 5 total tardies combined to all classes per semester
- an average of 80 or above in the class – grade taken first week in December/May

Guidelines:

- There will be NO appeals to the Exam Exemption Policy.
- There will be NO EXCEPTIONS for absences.
- School-sponsored activities do not count as an absence.
- Students must obtain parental permission for exam exemption.
- Students must take End-of-Course Tests for the subjects requiring these tests. (There is no EOC for this course.)

Contact [mshepherd@bryan.k12.ga.us](mailto:mshepherd@bryan.k12.ga.us)

## Google Classroom Code for 1st block, first semester



cofg64ue

## Google Classroom Code for 3rd block, first semester



44zcrupi

**Cell Phones** steal focus and distract students from learning. Students will be required to place cell phones in the assigned wall pockets before class begins to remain there until the class ends. If a student does not follow this requirement, I will follow our school's disciplinary procedures.

**Headphones and In-Ear Headphones:** Students should not wear headphones of any type during class at any time. These should be put away in the student's book bag before the beginning of class. If a student does not follow this requirement, I will follow our school's disciplinary procedures.

**Discipline –** All students are expected to follow the rules set forth in the student handbook. In the event of disciplinary infractions, the following steps will be taken to correct the behaviors:

- Warning, student/teacher conference
- Phone call to parent
- Parent/Teacher conference
- Referral to administrator

## Extension Opportunities

- School-wide differentiation/extensions are provided for students exceeding standard
  - NHS, Beta, NAHS, Tri-M, Math Honor Society, Academic/Quiz Bowl; Departments can also list opportunities within their content

## Helpful Resources for Parents and Students:

- [Georgia Standards](#)
- At-home resources available for outside help:

<https://www.vocabulary.com/>

[MLA Formatting Guide](#)

<https://style.mla.org/>

- [District Grading Guidelines](#)
- [Student Handbook 2025-2026](#)
- [PBIS Information](#)
- [Academic clubs](#)