

English 4 CP Syllabus

Teacher: Matthew Ables

Classroom: 219

Contact information:

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- Please leave a message and I will respond promptly

Office Hours: Monday - Fridays 3:45 - 4:30

Course Goals and Outcomes

English 4 CP is a one-credit course designed to prepare students for college, careers, and civic life through the study of a diverse range of literary and informational texts. Aligned with the South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Standards and carrying College Preparatory (CP) GPA weighting, the course develops students' skills in reading, writing, speaking, and critical thinking. Though it is a British Literature course, exceptions are occasionally made to tailor the course to the students' needs. Through units focused on classic literature (*Beowulf*, *Othello*), contemporary texts (short fiction), political allegory (*Animal Farm*), and rhetorical analysis of speeches, students will explore themes such as power, justice, identity, risk-taking, and personal responsibility. They will analyze how language and structure shape meaning, apply rhetorical and literary devices in their writing, and connect literature to real-world issues to become thoughtful, engaged citizens.

Units of Study

Unit 1: Literary Analysis & Short Fiction

- In-Class Text-Dependent Analysis Essay

Unit 2: Propaganda, Satire, Allegory, & *Animal Farm*

- Modern Propaganda Poster & Explanation
- Novel Disclaimer: *Animal Farm* by George Orwell is an allegorical novella that depicts a group of farm animals who overthrow their human owner in hopes of creating an equal society. However, as the pigs gradually assume control, the farm becomes a reflection of the very tyranny they sought to escape. The novel explores themes of power, propaganda, and corruption, and is used to prompt critical thinking about leadership, government, and social responsibility.

Unit 3: Rhetorical Analysis

- Analysis of Historical Speech

Unit 4: *Beowulf* (excerpts only)

- One-Pager focused on heroes, villains, and legacy

Unit 5: Personal Narrative

- Personal Narrative Essay

Unit 6: *Othello*

- **FINAL EXAM**
- **Novel Disclaimer:** *Othello* by William Shakespeare is a tragedy that follows the story of a respected military general in Venice whose life unravels due to manipulation, jealousy, and betrayal. As Othello is deceived by his envious subordinate Iago, themes of racism, love, trust, and the destructive power of jealousy emerge. The play provides opportunities for students to analyze language, character motivation, and societal issues that remain relevant today.

Units are subject to change throughout the semester at the discretion and announcement of the instructor.

Expectations

I expect you to be a GENERAL in my classroom, which means:

- ❖ **Gracious**
- ❖ **Excellent**
- ❖ **Neat**
- ❖ **Engaged**
- ❖ **Respectful**
- ❖ **Adaptable**
- ❖ **Leaders**

Consequences

- ❖ **1st Offense: Verbal Warning**
- ❖ **2nd Offense: Call home + Detention**
- ❖ **3rd Offense: Referral**
- ❖ **Severe Offense: Immediate removal from the classroom**

Materials Needed

Chromebook and charger, pens/pencils, folder for handouts, paper, highlighters

E-Learning/Absences/Makeup Work

If you are absent, it is your responsibility to check the class materials online, contact the teacher, and complete any work assigned. You have FIVE (5) additional school days (per absence) upon your return to submit makeup work. Please email me when you submit missing/makeup work so I know to grade it. E-Learning will be on Google Classroom as needed.

Grading

Quarter 1 and 2:

- Major Assessments (tests, papers, projects) = 60%
- Minor Assessments (quizzes and classwork/homework) = 40%

Final Grade:

- Quarter 1= 45%
- Quarter 2= 45%
- Final Exam (end of semester)= 10%

Additional Classroom Rules: Be responsible for your words and actions. Be respectful of our class and school community. Be ready to learn. Raise your hand to speak/ask a question. Throw trash away when leaving the classroom. Discussions are a large part of our classroom dynamic. You are expected to participate and be respectful of your other classmates' when they talk. You don't have to agree with everyone but you must respect everyone.

Technology Use: Have your **charged** Chromebook every day. Communicate professionally on academic websites and apps such as email and Google Classroom. Cell phones are not permitted, as mandated by state law.

Late Work Policy

To receive full credit, students must submit assignments on time and in the proper format. Late work will be penalized based on school-wide guidelines. Assignments will have 10% deducted automatically if turned in late. All late work must be submitted before the end-of-grading-period deadline. Quizzes and tests must be made up but will not receive a late penalty. A zero will be entered as a placeholder for an assignment until completed. Students are responsible for communicating promptly if issues arise.

WHHS Tardy Policy: Each student is allowed 3 tardies per semester. The 4th + will result in a referral.

Academic Honesty: Academically fraudulent behavior will not be tolerated. According to school policy, submitting academic work of another or copying work from the internet is forbidden. Additionally, any use of AI, or similar programs to ChatGPT and online translation apps, to present work as your own is considered academic dishonesty and is strictly prohibited without prior approval from a teacher. First Offense - The teacher will submit a discipline referral and the student will receive a zero. The teacher will provide the student an opportunity to retake an alternate assessment for full credit. Second Offense, and beyond - The teacher will submit a discipline referral and the student will receive a zero.