

Union Star LA IV/Northwest Missouri State University 10-111 Dual Credit English Course Guide

RATIONALE: The six major disciplines that make up communications arts are: 1) reading, 2) writing, 3) listening, 4) speaking, 5) viewing, and 6) visually presenting. For students to effectively communicate in the modern world, they need to have experience and ability in each of these separate (yet related) areas. Language is power; teachers of communication arts attempt to empower their students with literacy and communication to prepare them to be productive, competitive citizens.

In addition, in a competitive world of educated people, college continues to help open doors for young people pursuing various careers. Getting a solid collegiate foundation as a dual-enrolled high school student is a sensible transition to the next phase of education.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In English courses, students will study the six major processes of communication arts by reading from a variety of styles and genres, writing in various styles, studying grammar and language structures and listening to/presenting oral reports and presentations. In addition, students will continue training toward proficiency with essential technology and modern communication methods to help them become communicators in a multimedia world.

Specific to the Language Arts IV/Composition 10-111, students will apply these skills at the highest expected level placed upon a high school student, as well as the most basic expected of a college student. A mixture of college freshman-level composition and senior-level reading of literature will comprise most of the work done in the course.

Upon completion of this course, each student must be able to:

- Compose college length/quality essays (narratives, expositions, descriptions, and others as assigned).
- Execute all writing assignments to conform to the standard rules of grammar, usage, spelling, and punctuation.
- Read complex selections of literature for meaning, images, and symbols.
- Write literary responses following such readings.

Writing projects included in our dual credit instruction will include the following essay writings:

- Narrative Essay
- Descriptive Essay
- Expository Essay
- Persuasive Essay

Essays will conform to freshman-level college standards of writing. Revisions and corrections will be necessary steps in each essay, and are important components of the college writing experience. The **research paper project** will be the largest single undertaking in the class, and is a separate writing from the four above-listed essays.

In addition to the writing component of LA IV/Composition 10-111, we will also cover numerous readings in English Literature, and will begin the year with a lesson in the history of the English Language. Although this work we will do in fulfillment of the Union Star R-II Language Arts IV curriculum, it will have value in preparing dual credit students for the college literature class experience.

***A FINAL NOTE:** The English Composition 10-111 course is comprised completely of students qualifying for the dual credit guidelines established by Northwest Missouri State University. This is (and must be) the most complete and difficult English course offered at Union Star R-II, and the highest quality English students have been selected for participation. **Expect** challenging work; **expect** to be pushed to perform your best — you're preparing for a college career. It is the district's responsibility to give you the opportunities you need — it is your responsibility to work to prepare yourself for college.*

GRADING SCALE: The grading scale will be the standard scale used throughout Union Star R-II High School:

100-96	A	82-80	B-	69-66	D+
95-90	A-	79-76	C+	65-63	D
89-86	B+	75-73	C	62-60	D-
85-83	B	72-70	C-	59-Below	F

EXPECTATIONS: I expect all students to give their best possible effort to complete the assigned course work and learn the subject matter presented to them. For a student to accomplish this, he or she must be attentive, hard working, and self-disciplined. Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated, and will be dealt with in class or by referral to the principal. Punishments will vary based upon the severity or frequency of misbehavior.

Please have a parent/guardian read this form, have him/her sign it, and then return it to me.

I verify that my son/daughter and I have read this form, and we agree that said son/daughter will follow the rules and expectations stated in the form.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date