

2023-2024 English IV Syllabus*

*subject to change based on the needs of students and the school community

Course and Instructor Information

- **1st Period:** Room 315
- **3rd Period:** Room 316
- **4th Period:** Room 315*
- **7th Period:** Room 316

Ms. Krajewski-Conzen akrajewski@cps.edu - available by appointment during 2nd, 5th, and 6th

Mr. Hawkins: mlhawkins@cps.edu - available by appointment during 2nd, 6th, and 8th

*Ms. K-C is the only teacher in 4th period. All other class periods are co-taught by Ms. K-C/Mr. Hawkins

Description and Objectives

Description: In this course, we will use literature to better understand ourselves and the world around us. Therefore, students will study a wide range of literary and non-literary texts in a variety of media. By examining the art of communication, students will investigate the nature of language itself and the ways in which it shapes and is influenced by identity and culture.

Objectives: It is the intention of this course that students are able to do the following

1. Know, understand, and interpret:

- a range of texts, works, and/or performances, and their meanings and implications
- contexts in which texts are written and/or received
- elements of literary, stylistic, rhetorical, visual, and/or performance craft
- features of particular text types and literary forms.

2. Analyze and evaluate:

- ways in which the use of language creates meaning
- uses and effects of literary, stylistic, rhetorical, visual, or theatrical techniques
- relationships among different texts
- ways in which texts may offer perspectives on human concerns.

3. Communicate:

- ideas in clear, logical, and persuasive ways
- in a range of styles, registers, and for a variety of purposes and situations

Supplies and Materials

Daily Supplies: Please bring an English-only notebook and a writing utensil to class everyday. We have shared highlighters and sticky notes, but you are welcome to use your own. Chromebooks are located in our classroom and will be used when appropriate.

Texts: Students are required to read outside of class. We will provide class copies of each text; however, students are also welcome to purchase their own individual copies. We read the following:

Quarter 1: *There There* by Tommy Orange (links to [Women and Children First](#) and [Amazon](#))

Quarter 2: *Fences* by August Wilson (links to [Women and Children First](#) and [Amazon](#))

Quarter 3: *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood (links to [Women and Children First](#) and [Amazon](#))

Quarter 4: *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coehlo (links to [Women and Children First](#) and [Amazon](#))

Examples of Major Assessments

Oral: group presentations, individual presentations, Socratic seminars, class discussions

Written: literary analysis essays, reflections, comparative essays, research paper

Classroom Policies

Grading Policy: All grades reflect students' abilities rather than their behaviors. Click [here](#) for details.

Disciplinary Policy: The breaking of any schoolwide or classroom rules will be met with these steps:

1. Non-verbal reminder
2. Verbal reminder
3. One-on-one conference
4. Parent/guardian contact
5. Administrative contact

Depending on the severity of the rule, we may escalate steps as appropriate.

Artificial Intelligence Policy: AI has proven to be a new and useful tool in many fields, including education. We will discuss how to use AI properly throughout the year, but students and families should be aware that failure to appropriately cite AI is considered plagiarism.

Content Warning

The content and discussion in this course will necessarily engage with sensitive topics (such as racism, misogyny, and violence) throughout the year because those topics shape the human experience. Much of it may be emotionally and intellectually challenging to engage with. We will flag especially graphic or intense content and will do our best to make this classroom a space where we can engage bravely, empathetically, and thoughtfully with difficult content as a community. That being said, your safety and security are essential; please bring any concerns to us and we will work to address them.