South Hills High School
English IV Course Syllabus 2026-2027

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Course Description and Purpose: This course will introduce students to a variety of literary styles and opinions.

The purpose of this course is to prepare students to examine and evaluate literature and adapt critical thinking skills that can be useful for success on standardized tests and in real-life decision making and problem-solving.

Required/Recommended Supplies: Some supplies will be provided in class, but obviously it will be convenient to have your own supply.

- Notebook paper (preferably college-ruled, will usually have in class)
- 1 pocket folder specifically for this class (Recommended)
- Pencils (REQUIRED, will usually have in class)
- Macbook (sometimes required, always an option for assignments to be turned in via Focus/Canvas)

***If you bring lysol, lysol wipes or hand sanitizer at any point in the year, you will be granted a **free** 100.

Grading Policy: All school standards will be followed (refer to the student handbook)

- Essays: 35%
- Tests/Projects: 20%
- Miscellaneous Writing: 35%
- Daily Assignments: 10%

Plagiarism: Most classwork will ask you to provide your own thoughts/feelings on a particular subject, which makes it easy to spot the exact same wording across student submissions or a response copy and pasted from the internet.

It is up to my discretion to consider what work is and is not plagiarism, so it is best practice to complete and submit your own assignments. Anything deemed plagiarized will receive a 0 in the gradebook with no chance to make up.

Late Work/Make-up Work: GET YOUR WORK TURNED IN

Phone/Personal Electronics Policy: HB1481 mandates a prohibition on the use of personal communication devices- such as cell phones, tablets, smartwatches, wireless earbuds, smartglasses, gaming devices, and other similar tech- during the school day on school property.

Tutorials:

If you need tutorials, please set up a time to meet with me. I am very flexible when it comes to tutorials.
Remind: I will also use **Remind**, a texting reminder service. To receive texts, please send a text to **81010** with the message: **@f37fecg**

Frequently Asked Questions; or FAQs

Classroom/School Related:

1. The purpose of high school: For a lot of people, high school is the first job they didn't ask for. Long hours, no pay, and stress more times than not. But since it is a job that can lead to higher places, you should strive to at least do decent in order to get a recommendation somewhere better.
2. General class rules:
    a. Communicate - None of us are mind readers, you must communicate via speech, writing, or some other method in order to be successful in this class.
    b. Respect - Yourselves, your peers, your teachers.
3. Homework: If you finish class assignments in a timely manner, you will not have work to take home.
4. Individual vs. Group Work: You will do mostly individual work in this class with chances to work with tablemates/group members.
5. Main Focus: This class will most focus on Fictional Literature. We will read at least two novels in this class and a variety of short stories.
    a. We will also work on writing with every single assignment. From the basics of how to answer questions precisely all the way to essays.
6. How to improve your reading and writing skills:
    a. Read every day. Not just in this class or in other classes, but on your own without instruction. Preferably books, but also read the news, music, and movie reviews, etc. to practice.
    b. Follow writing instructions: I am not just telling you to write certain ways just because it can be difficult, I am instructing you to do so for you to be more precise, say what you want to say as intelligently as possible, and be able to craft your ideas better. Nobody wants to follow someone who is simple, this class teaches you to be a bit more complex.

This will be a **grade**. Please bring back signed & returned!

Student Name: _____ **Class Period:** ____ **Date:** _____

Parent Name: _____ **Parent Signature:** _____