



“Committed to Excellence and Success in ALL We Do”

Honors English IV
Richmond Hill High School
Melanie Shepherd Room 1440
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Required Summer Reading Assignment: [Honors English IV Summer Reading 2026](#)
(posted on school website since May)

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 - *Beowulf* - Seamus Heaney translation

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 - 2:45 - 3:15 and by appointment (I have traffic duty immediately after school.)

Remediation and Retesting- Reteaching (targeted instruction of deficit content/skill) and remediation (practice with that content/skill) will occur within 10 days of the initial assessment. After, students will have the opportunity to retest if remediation assignment(s) are completed. Summative essays or projects may not be revisited if feedback was given before submission. Retesting may occur in class or during tutorial depending on the number of students in need.

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

GC join code for 1st block, first semester



os5mrvtq

GC join code for 3rd block, first semester



d3xypdds

Follow the rules -- No food or drink in the classroom, with the exception of water. If you must have a snack before class, you must finish it in the hallway before entering. You must be in your seat when the bell rings to be present and on time. No personal electronics/communication devices allowed, per district policy.

Discipline – All students are expected to follow the rules set forth in the student handbook. In the event of disciplinary infractions, the steps below will be taken to correct the behaviors. (Electronic device violations have a separate escalation procedure.)

- 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 2026-2027
- [PBIS Information](#)
- [Academic clubs](#)