

English 4 Honors

UC/CSU "b" approved/NCAA approved

Grade Level: 12

Estimated Work Outside of Class: 4 hrs per week
(depending on reading and writing stamina)

Course Description:

English 4 Honors is an advanced literature survey course that focuses on the various movements, genres, and time periods of British literature. Students will be exposed to the great works of British literature that continue to influence literature and culture. Students will closely study and analyze British poetry, drama, novels, essays, and short fiction from the medieval period onward. Our study focuses on the greater implications and importance of literature as it reflects a specific social and cultural moment, and how authors adapted to and challenged their contemporary ideas. This class is structured to prepare seniors for college literature seminar courses they will take in the future. Students are expected to read and analyze literature at an advanced level, write analytically, and engage in thought-provoking discussions daily.

Prerequisite:

Completion of English 3, English 3 Honors, or AP English Language/Composition with a grade of B or higher.

It is highly recommended that students leveling up from English 3 received an A.

Recommended Prerequisite Skills:

- Interest in and a desire to read literature.
- Proficiency in writing a multi-paragraph essay, processed and timed.
- Commitment to the study of literature and ability to formulate mature and perceptive responses to assigned reading and discussion.
- Ability to work both independently and cooperatively in class and at home.
- Effective time management and organizational skills.
- Open-mindedness to new authors, literature, ideas, and projects.

Course Grade Categories:

- Informal Assignments - 20%
- Assessments - 20%
- Analytical Writing - 60%

Major Assessments/Units/Topics:

Unit One: Tales of Knights and Quests

Essential Questions:

- How did medieval literature serve as a means of entertainment, education, and cultural preservation for the people of the time?
- How did medieval literature reflect the concepts of heroism, virtue, and chivalry?
- What is the legacy of medieval literature, and how has it influenced later literary traditions and modern popular culture?

Texts May Include: *Beowulf*, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, excerpts from Sir Thomas Mallory's *Morte Darthur*, excerpts from *The Canterbury Tales*.

Key Assessments:

- On Demand Essay
- Reading quizzes
- Seminar

Unit Two: Shakespeare's Revenge Drama

Essential Question:

- What are the ethical and moral dilemmas presented in Shakespeare's plays, and how do they resonate with contemporary ethical discussions?

Texts May Include: William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* or *Othello*

Key Assessment:

- On-Demand Essay
- Group Project

Unit Three: Romantic Poetry

Essential Questions:

- What defines the British Romantic genre?
- How do poets explore philosophical and existential ideas through their poetry?
- How does poetry create a space for self-expression?

Texts May Include: The poetry of Blake, Coleridge, Wordsworth, Keats, Lord Byron, Shelley, Burns, and Browning

Key Assessments:

- Processed Poetry Analysis Essay
- Semester Final: Seminar + personal reflection

Unit Four: Class, Manners, and Satire in the 18th and 19th Century Novel

Essential Questions:

- In what ways did authors use satire to comment on the social and moral issues of their time?
- How did 18th and 19th-century literature explore the tension between individual desires and societal expectations and social hierarchy?
- How does Jane Austen continue to offer valuable insights into human nature, relationships, and society in the 21st century?

Texts May Include: Jane Austen's *Emma*, *Pride and Prejudice*, or *Northanger Abbey*, Jonathan Swift's "A Modest Proposal,"

Key Assessment:

- Creative Writing
- Reading quizzes
- Seminar
- On-Demand Essay

Unit Five: British Gothic Literature & Literary Criticism

Essential Questions:

- How did historical and social contexts influence the emergence of Gothic literature in Britain?
- How does British Gothic literature engage with themes of madness, anxiety, the supernatural, and the sublime?

- How has British Gothic literature influenced modern popular culture and other literary genres?
- How can one analyze works of literature through different critical lenses?

Texts May Include: Robert Lewis Stevenson *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* and "The Body Snatcher," Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, literary criticism

Key Assessments:

- Reading Quizzes
- Processed Synthesis Essay
- Literary Criticism

Unit Six: Modernism

Essential Questions:

- What characterizes the Modernist literary movement, and how does it represent a break from the literary traditions of the 19th century?
- How do Modernist writers engage with issues of identity, alienation, and the fragmentation of the self in the modern world?

Texts May Include: Shorter fiction of George Orwell and/or Thomas Hardy; the poetry of Yeats, Auden, Pound, and Eliot; selections from Virginia Woolf's *A Room of One's Own*, selections from James Joyce's *Dubliners*; Katherine Mansfield's "The Garden Party"

Key Assessments:

- Modernism Project
- On-demand essay

Unit Seven: Contemporary Adaptations

Essential Questions:

- How are works of literature from Britain's past still relevant in the contemporary world?

Texts May Include: Modern film adaptations of texts studied earlier in the year, Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, John Gardner's *Grendel*

Key Assessments:

- Semester Final: Adaptation Project with creative writing component