

# Syllabus, English IV CP (Sect. 4), 2025-2026

## Sterling High School

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### The Goals of the Course:

1. To learn how language, literature, and stories changed the world.
2. To become a better understander and explainer of things, better at getting what you want, and better at knowing what's worth wanting in the first place.

### Units of Study:

- [Vocabulary](#) -Words that help you better understand and talk about the themes, ideas, and techniques featured in the stuff that we read.
- [Grammar & Usage](#) -How to write good sentences.
- [Composition](#) -How to arrange sentences into paragraphs, and how to arrange paragraphs into explanations, arguments, etc.
- [How Stories Make Us Human](#) -Nonfiction Readings about how language, writing, and stories contributed to human evolution.
- **The Epic** -A brief introduction to the importance of story and a deep dive into Homer's "The Odyssey," one of the oldest and most important epics that we know of.
- [Poetry](#) -An introduction to how poems work and an independent study of a particular theme, genre, movement, or poet.
- [Drama](#) -Shakespeare's "Hamlet," one of the first stories to put us inside the mind of a protagonist the way that novels and movies would do years later.
- [The Novel](#) -How novels work, a conversation about literary merit, and a close examination of two novels (one that we read as a class, then one that you choose for yourself).
- [Nonfiction](#) -Reading (and writing) letters, personal essays, and personal narratives.
- [The Capstone Project](#) -An independent study where you do additional research on one of the works, themes, or ideas of the course, assemble your findings in a research paper, and summarize them in a presentation.

### Platforms:

- Microsoft Teams for messages.
- OnCourse for grades and data.
- [The class website](#) for everything else (content, assignments, etc.).

### Grading:

Quarter grades will be based on four categories: **Reading (29%)**, **Writing (28%)**, **Speaking & Listening (28%)** and **Academic Responsibility (15%)**. \*Academic Responsibility includes *intrapersonal* skills like engagement, timeliness, and ability to follow guidelines and *interpersonal* skills like collaboration, discussion, and contribution to the group. Your *academic responsibility* score will automatically match your combined average for the other three categories. But the teacher may override this score in rare cases, where a student's habits don't match the grades that they earn on their work.

## Policies:

### Late Work:

**Minor assessments** will not be accepted late. Don't worry; missing an occasional minor assignment won't have a significant effect on your grade, but patterns of missing work will. **Major assignments** (like projects and papers) must be turned in within five calendar days of the due date; they will not be accepted after this. If you have personal circumstances that prevent you from making deadlines, you can always discuss it with the teacher, and reasonable accommodations may be made.

### Tests & Quizzes Missed Due To Absence:

These must be made up the next day (during study hall or after school). If a student is absent multiple days in a row, they will be given one day per day absent to make up the test or quiz.

### Cheating / Plagiarism:

Any action taken by a student to gain an unfair advantage, to deceive the teacher regarding what they know, what they have learned, what they have researched, or what they have created, or to assist another student in doing the same, will be considered cheating.

Plagiarism is a subcategory of cheating. It is the act of passing off someone else's (or *something else's*, in the case of AI) words or ideas as one's own, without citing the source.

As per school policy, any student who cheats on or plagiarizes an assignment will receive a zero (no credit) for that assignment. Cheating on or plagiarizing a major assignment may result in an F for the course.

If a student cheats on or plagiarizes an assignment that is required for course completion, and the student has a passing grade in the course **despite** receiving a zero for that assignment, that student may resubmit the assignment, for no credit, within five school days. If the resubmission meets the minimum guidelines, it may be considered for course completion.