

English IV (4)
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Welcome to English IV (4)! I believe in the potential of every student to meet high expectations and to improve as readers, writers, and thinkers. We will accomplish this by studying interesting and challenging literary pieces through active learning, utilizing our multiple intelligences. Our study of British and World Literature will focus on how works and their characters relate to contemporary society. In other words, we will review each piece's universal themes and ideas. The works that we will experience this semester may be divided into three broad categories: **quests for identity, explorations of what it means to lead "the good life," and struggles to overcome prejudice.**

A **thematic issue** that all of our units have in common is the concept of *otherness*. We will explore ideas of what constitutes a community and how those individuals outside the community are depicted as "other." We will examine the consequences of this label and how it becomes complicated when the "others" have an opportunity to tell their own stories. By confronting representations of otherness in literature, we will prepare ourselves for such confrontations in our own life experiences.

While keeping in mind the overarching aim of the course, we will also examine some **Essential Questions** as they pertain to each work, the real world, other works of art and literature, and our personal experiences:

- o **How does literature reflect the values of a culture?**
- o **How is the hero's journey an archetype in literature and in popular culture?**
- o **What lengths will individuals go to in order to secure their comfort and ambition?**
- o **What impact do wealth, social status, and/or culture have on human relationships?**

Major Works & Selected Reading: Works that we read will include, but will not be limited to: *Beowulf*, *The Canterbury Tales*, *Macbeth*, *Tribe*, *Persepolis*, *Frankenstein*, *A Modest Proposal*, and *Born a Crime*. We will also consider selected non-fiction articles, short stories and poetry.

Projects, Tasks, and Activities: First semester students will complete a personal statement/college admissions essay early in the first quarter. All students will engage in research projects, journal and essay writing, close reading and discussion activities, group and individual projects/presentations, vocabulary study, literary element review, and independent reading.

Films –Excerpts of these or complete films may be shown, as needed and as time permits. *Groundhog Day*, *Beowulf*, *Star Wars/ Harry Potter*, *King Arthur*, *Get on the Bus*, *A Simple Plan*, *Elizabeth*, *The Adjustment Bureau*, *Crimes and Misdemeanors*, *Local Hero*, *Match Point*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Michael Collins*. Other titles may be added.

Grading

Semester Grade

Quarter 1-- 45%	Quarter 2--45%	Final Exam-- 10%
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Quarter Grades:

- All **summative assessments** (tests, quizzes, projects, and papers) are graded numerically, or with a rubric. Scores earned on summative assessments will count toward your numeric average in the course. They will also be weighted according to their length and difficulty. **Tests** are summative assessments and will always be announced. **Quizzes** may be summative or formative assessments.
- **Formative assessments** will either be scored or simply checked for completion.
- **Submissions to “The Nest”**-- At least three assignments throughout the semester will be “Nest-worthy.”

Behavioral Expectations

Preparedness

Students should come to class prepared which includes doing the following:

Arriving with a fully charged laptop

Having a notebook and writing utensil

Having previous class notes available

Having completed assigned reading or other assignments

Having required textbooks and any other pertinent handouts etc.

Classroom Etiquette

Students should demonstrate classroom etiquette, which may include the following:

Listening when others are speaking

Speaking at appropriate times

Respecting the opinions of others

Respecting the classroom property and environment

Using technology for educational purposes and with permission

Following classroom routines and procedures such as signing out, signing in, etc.

Engagement

Students should be engaged in class, which may be demonstrated in the following ways:

Being attentive to instruction and classroom discussion

Asking appropriate questions at the appropriate time

Keeping phones off and away unless being used for classroom purposes

Seeking to make text-to-self, text-to-text, and text-to-world connections

Taking ownership of and responsibility for one's own learning and personal growth

Late Work Policy-- **Late assignments** will lose 10% of their overall value per day for up to five days from the original due date.

Google Classroom: *Check it daily.* Assignments big and small will be posted there. Do not ask me for materials you've lost. Instead, go to Google classroom and print a replacement copy. If you are unclear about instructions, check Google classroom.

Organization-- A three-ring notebook is recommended for organizing the materials to be used in this course. Bring notebooks, textbooks, reading books, paper, writing tools, and your agenda.

Follow the Acceptable Use Policy whenever we use **computers or the Media Center.**

Avoid academic dishonesty in all of its forms. For clarification of what I mean by this, review the definitions of cheating and plagiarism. *

- **Typed assignments (papers, projects, etc.) that are to be printed** must be ready to be handed in/presented at the beginning of class, the day they are due.

Tolland High School English Department

The school-wide academic honor code does not tolerate cheating or plagiarism. This policy applies to all class assignments, such as homework, quizzes, exams, essays, projects, research papers and/or reported data. It applies both to students who knowingly assist others in cheating or plagiarism, as well as to those who benefit from the dishonesty.

***Cheating:** An act or attempted act by which a student deceives, acts dishonestly, or misrepresents work that he/she has produced on an academic exercise or assists another to misrepresent his/her work. Cheating includes but is not limited to the following example:

- Copying or allowing others to copy during a quiz or test
- Copying or allowing a student to copy assignments completed outside of class
- Communication before, during or after assessment, such as text messaging, telephoning, talking, signing and gesturing
- Disclosing information about test questions and/or assignments
- Using a communication device such as a cell phone or a blackberry or forbidden written materials such as “cheat sheets” to obtain unauthorized information during an exam
- Copying computer files/G drives from another person and representing the work as your own
- Submitting substantial portions of the same academic work for credit in more than one course without the permission of the teachers

***Plagiarism: The inclusion of another’s words, ideas, or data as one’s own work.** If any portion of the assignment is plagiarized, regardless of the length plagiarized, the entire assignment will be considered in violation of the Academic Honor Code. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to the following examples:

- Quoting another person’s words, sentences, paragraphs, or entire work without acknowledgment of the source.
- Utilizing another person’s ideas, opinions, or theory without acknowledgement of the source.
- Copying, or allowing another student to copy, a computer file that contains another student’s assignment, and submitting, in part or in its entirety, as one’s own work.
- Paraphrasing, rearranging or rewording sources (mosaic) without giving proper citation
- Copying, or paraphrasing ideas from literary criticism or study guides (Sparknotes, Cliffnotes, etc.) without documentation.
- Consults an Internet or print source to “get ideas” that he or she then incorporates into a paper, without proper attribution.

Simply stated: “If you didn’t think of it and write (compose, create, produce) it all on your own, and you didn’t cite (write down) the sources..., it’s probably ‘plagiarism’.” (*Student Cheating and Plagiarism in the Internet Era*, pg. 116)

You will be reminded of the MLA guidelines for avoiding plagiarism that you have learned about in previous English courses. Your work will be subject to electronic verification of the fact that it is truly yours. If you plagiarize, you will be subject to disciplinary action.

CONSEQUENCES:

1. Call home
2. Referral to the office and punitive action will be assigned accordingly
3. Failure of the assignment without opportunity to redo the assignment
4. The offense is documented in your academic record and may appear on your transcript.

More To Know-- Cell Phones, Absences and Extra Help

- **Cell Phones:** I don't want to see or hear them unless I have asked you to use them for an academic purpose. You will be assigned a "parking lot" number in the blue classroom case, and it is to be expected that your cell phone will "live" there until the end of class.
- Please follow up with me after an absence to be certain of current assignments. Long-term assignments should be completed within one week of your return to school.
- Feel free to email me if you have questions about missed work. I check email frequently and am happy to help you.
- Please make an appointment with me in advance if you need to make-up work, require extra help, or would like to discuss any extenuating circumstances that may be impacting your work or success. Please keep in mind there are mandatory teacher meetings and activities after school, so we will need to carefully arrange meeting times.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

By signing below, I affirm that I have read and understand the course guidelines. I also affirm that I understand what constitutes cheating and plagiarism. I understand that this acknowledgement shall be in force after the date of signature. Declining to sign this form does not absolve students of the expectations, policies, and procedures listed above.

Student signature _____

Date: _____

Parent/guardian signature: _____

Date: _____