

INSTRUCTOR:

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COURSE OVERVIEW:

The English 4 Honors course is a survey of literature through many different time periods, and a broad exploration of multiple literary canons. Students can expect to read several novels, short stories and various pieces of poetry throughout the course. In addition to the reading requirements, students can be expected to complete various writing assignments ranging from reflective to literary analysis. A large focus is also placed on post-high school plans and ensuring that students have a plan after graduation. Exploring a breadth of literary works, it is possible that **some of the works studied, may contain mature content (perhaps language and subject matter).**

SUGGESTED COURSE TEXTS:

We will work with a variety of texts throughout the course of the year. Selections will be varied, and most texts will be provided either in a hard copy, a digital copy, or through our school's media center. In a rare occasion, students may be asked to source a text on their own through media services, local library partners, or local retailers.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT:

As prescribed in the Polk County Public Schools Student Progression Plan:

Excused Absence: An excused absence is defined as an absence that has the sanction of the parent and the school. The following absences are acceptable and will be excused: Personal illness, illness or death in the immediate family, religious holidays, educational trips, trips with parents, school sponsored activities, judicial actions, military dependent of school aged student, treatment of autism spectrum disorder.

Unexcused Absence: An unexcused absence is defined as an absence that does not meet the criterion of an excused absence listed in section C. Students cannot be suspended out of school for unexcused absences. Truancy is defined as the absence of a student within the compulsory attendance age, with or without the knowledge or consent of the parent. A habitual truant is any student who has a total of fifteen (15) unexcused absences from school during any (90) calendar day period, with or without the knowledge or consent of the parent. The student may be referred to Youth and Family Alternatives and/or the circuit court as provided by law if the parents and attendance problem solving team are unable to resolve the student's nonattendance.

High school students must be in attendance a minimum of 67 class periods [per semester] in accordance with accreditation standards in order to be eligible for the awarding of credit. Failure to do so may result in the loss of credit regardless of grade earned.

You may view the student progression plan attendance policy (pp. 56-58), in its entirety at:
<https://polkschoolsfl.com/wp-content/uploads/mainsite/2018-19StudentProgressionPlan.pdf>

MAKEUP WORK:

All assignments that are expected to be made up will be posted in FOCUS. Assignments requiring makeup will have a narrative posted, with explicit instructions and applicable files, as well as a due date for the makeup assignment to be turned into the instructor. It is responsibility of the student to complete makeup work on their own time, and before the stated deadline. Failure to turn in makeup work as prescribed by this policy will result in an unrecoverable grade of a zero.

Work missed during the student's first three (3) days of unexcused absences during a semester is expected to be made up. This includes absences caused by an out-of-school suspension. ***The right of students to make up work on the fourth unexcused absence and all other days of unexcused absences per semester may be denied.***

COMMUNICATION/EMAIL:

The official communication channel of this course will be via Polk County Schools e-mail. I will not accept or respond to any messages that originate from a non-PCSB email. All students have access to their Outlook account, and are expected to check their email regularly. Email will be sent from the course instructor regarding course content, deadlines, and other needs that pertain to course content. Student email accounts can be added directly to mobile devices for ease of use (Exchange Account). Additionally, Microsoft Outlook offers its own mail app in all of the major app stores.

Additionally, emails to the instructor are expected to be in proper English, with correct grammar, and appropriate content. Terse, rude, poorly written or grammatically incorrect emails will not be read or actioned.

GRADING POLICIES:

Grades are taken at regular intervals throughout each quarter, and are reflective of a student's mastery of standards. Students are expected to check their grade on the FOCUS portal on a regular basis. The only acceptable time to discuss grades is prior to class or before/after school.

WRITING EXPECTATIONS:

As this is a literature and composition course, you will be expected to practice your best composition skills. Composition assignments will include, but are not limited to: statements, paragraphs, timed essays and formal essays/papers (personal, expository, reflective and argumentative). All writing will be scored based on your use of vocabulary, variety of sentence structures, organization, and use of textual detail. Most writing assignments will be in-class essays (I.C.E.). Proper formatting, spelling, grammar, and mechanics are expected in all writing assignments.

DISCUSSION:

Discussion is an important part of this course and will take many forms. There will be informal small group discussions, formal large group (Socratic) discussions, and informal large group discussions. Students are graded based on participation in discussions. Students are expected to come prepared to discuss the work they have read. Socratic discussions are student driven and require students to prepare by closely reading the text and preparing discussion questions based on the work's tone, themes, symbols, purpose and/or cultural and historical values.

VOCABULARY:

Instruction of vocabulary will be both explicit and implicit. With over 500,000 words in the English language, it is impossible to know them all. However, there are some words that are important to the study of literature. Students will be introduced to compulsory vocabulary that is expected to be studied and applied in writing. Students are also expected to further their vocabulary through their own discovery and research.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Cheating occurs when a student presents someone else's work (in any form) as if it were his/her own work. This is a very serious offense against self and others. Failure to work from the highest standards of academic integrity will incur the strongest possible consequences, including failure of the assignment or course. **Please Note:** If you feel tempted to cheat on any assignment, come talk to me about the problem you are having with the work. Most problems can be solved. No student needs to cheat in order to succeed in this class.