

English IV – British Literature
Course Syllabus
2009-2010

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Course Description

English Literature IV is designed to expose students to the evolution of English literature from its origination on the Anglo-Saxon British Isles in the first century Current Era, to modern literatures, written in English, and present in diverse cultures, because of the spread of British culture through both choice and force. We will examine the parallels between the form and content of a text and the values and mores of the evolving British culture which produced these texts. We examine these texts both as insiders and outsiders of the experiences in the narratives. Essential questions thus include personal questions like ‘How has British culture evolved to include me in its linguistic heritage?’ and more universal questions like ‘What agencies create ideological revolutions inside a given community?’ Students’ success will depend largely upon their commitment to building and preserving habits of reading. For 37 weeks, approximately 5-10 pages of reading has been assigned 5 nights a week, 1-5 pages in our literature textbook and 5-10 pages in a novel. Seven unit tests, five take home essays, and multiple timed in-class essays will be the primary forms of assessment in keeping with a college like format, where students are responsible for the strict practice of heavy reading and writing, and the meeting of pre-set deadlines.

Course Objectives

- Examine British literature from a variety of analytical perspectives, including socio-historical, biographical, feminist, racial/ethnic, and comparative.
- Demonstrate understanding of the texts through personal and creative interpretation as well analytical criticism
- Actively participate in class discussions and group projects relating to the material and offer constructive feedback to fellow class members

Readings

First Advisory

“Beowulf”

Excerpts from *The Canterbury Tales*

“Sir Gawain and the Green Knight”

Excerpt from “Le Morte d’ Arthur”

Excerpt from *The Once and Future King*

Second Advisory

The Tragical History of Dr. Faustus, Christopher Marlowe

Macbeth, William Shakespeare
'Tis Pity She's a Whore, John Ford
"Death Be Not Proud" John Donne

Third Advisory

"Paradise Lost" John Milton
"The Rape of the Lock" Alexander Pope
"A Modest Proposal" Jonathan Swift
A Selection from *Gulliver's Travels* Jonathan Swift
Composed upon Westminster Bridge William Wordsworth
The World is too Much with Us William Wordsworth
Kubla Khan Samuel Taylor Coleridge
She Walks in Beauty Lord Byron
Ozymandias Percy Byron Shelley
When I Have Fears John Keats
Ode to a Nightingale John Keats

Fourth Advisory

The Lady of Shalott Alfred, Lord Tennyson
My Last Duchess Robert Browning
The Importance of Being Earnest Oscar Wilde
A Passage to India E.M. Forrester

Writing

Writing assignments include free writing, research, essays, timed writing, short creative pieces, and constructed response. The guidelines and rubrics for each major assignment will be distributed in class and discussed. There will be at one major writing assignment per advisory plus one research paper. Some assignments will need to be typed.

Electronic copies of assignments will NOT be accepted.

Materials

- **A three-ring binder (English handouts and notes may be kept in a separate section or a separate binder from other class work)**
- **Loose-leaf paper (may come from a spiral notebook)**
- **Pens or pencils**
- **Ziploc bags (to hold books and keep them clean)**

Policies and Procedures

1. **Attendance and punctuality are mandatory. Per school policy, three unexcused "tardies" equal one unexcused absence and five unexcused absences result in a failing grade for the advisory.**
2. **Plagiarism of any assignment will result in an automatic "F" for that assignment. No exceptions.**
3. **Assignments handed in late will be assessed a 5% penalty per day that the assignment is late with a maximum deduction of 50%. Late assignments will**

be accepted ONLY at the discretion of the instructor. Not all assignments will be accepted late.

Grading

DCPS grading scale

A=93-100

A-=90-92

B+=87-89

B=83-86

B-=80-82

C+=77-79

C=73-76

C-=70-72

D+=67-69

D=64-66

F=63 and below

Assignments:

- **All papers must be typed, in MLA format, double spaced, in Times New Roman 12-pt font.**
- **Ordinary homework assignments may be hand-written, but should be highly legible, neat and clean.**
- **Depending on the purpose of the assignment, writing quality will be assessed in one of three ways.**
 - **Quick-assignment:** for nightly homework assignments, students will be graded on the quality of their ideas, and not their technical writing style.
 - **Medium assignments:** for assignments designed to focus on student's writing and communication abilities, students will be graded on their writing ability, with possible point deduction for egregious spelling or grammatical errors.
 - **Long-Term assignments:** reserved for projects, papers and essays that have been through more than one draft. Students will be assessed according to the quality of their ideas and all aspects of their writing abilities, including technical and stylistic.