

English IV

“Activism through Literature”

Duke Ellington School of the Arts

2017-2018

Teacher Contact Info

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Course Description

English IV is a close examination of how authors imagine and reimagine important aspects of the human experience. We will read, discuss, and write about variations in depictions of gender, society, race, and humor in society.

Course Overview

1. Vocabulary
 - a. We will study deciphering context clues in order to advance our vocabularies. Vocabulary sets will be introduced on Mondays and assessed Thurs/Fri every week.
2. Grammar/Writing
 - a. There will be a minimum of two summative writing assessments a quarter. One of these will go through an extensive writing workshop process.
 - b. Grammar instruction will consist of grammar packets and an online grammar program.
3. Speaking/Presentations
 - a. Students will have to speak! English IV students will soon receive their HS diploma and will be able to present themselves eloquently.
4. Reading

	Unit 1 “Wo(man)”	Unit 2 “Imagining the Future”	Unit 3 “The Power of Words”	Unit 4 “Comic Techniques”
Core Text	<i>Middlesex</i> by Jeffrey Eugenides	1984 <i>Brave New World</i>	<i>Class Matters</i>	<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> “A Modest Proposal”
Supplemental Texts	Various short stories	Short Stories by Kurt Vonnegut	Various informational texts	Film Shorts

Objectives

1. Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text.
2. Analyze the impact of these word choices through context and figurative language.
3. Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says or does not say.
4. Read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, at the high end of the grades 11-CCR text complexity band independently and proficiently
5. Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text.
6. Partake in thought provoking discussion and debate concerning complex themes and texts.
7. Successfully analyze, understand the rhetorical strategies and literary devices used by selected authors and apply them to their own writing to sharpen their own ideas and style.

Required Materials

1. Pencil
2. Post-its
3. Highlighters (at least two different colors)
4. Gmail Account (We will exclusively use Google Apps. You MUST create a gmail account)
5. Composition Book/Spiral Notebook specifically for English
6. An electronic device (smartphone, tablet, or laptop).
7. Folder/Binder

Classroom Expectations

Students will:

1. **Be in class on time every day.** Attendance is essential. There is no way that you can make-up the presentations of material, class discussions, and analysis of literature that will occur on a daily basis.
2. **Be prepared.** Stay on top of assignments; complete each one to the best of your ability. They are due at the beginning of class.
3. **Be committed and behave as a literary scholar.** A senior level course demands a high level of intellectual engagement in the curriculum. You need to be attentive and focused.
4. **Be respectful.** This means respecting the interpretations and opinions of everyone in the classroom. Each member of the class will have a voice and deserves the opportunity to be heard.
5. **Be an advocate.** You need to realize when the struggle bus has left you and **talk to me when things become unmanageable for you.** You need to learn how to advocate for YOURSELF. I am available in the morning and via email.
6. **Be clean.** No Food or Drink (except water) and keep the workspace neat.

Technology Expectations:

1. Cell Phones: Class time is not time for personal phone use. We will use cell phones for instructional purposes only!
2. Class Website: Check our class website daily. Assignments, calendar updates, and announcements will be posted there.
3. Google Drive: You MUST have an appropriate GMAIL e-mail address. You will create an English IV folder on Google Drive for your assignments.
4. Common App: EVERYONE will create a Common App account utilizing your professional gmail account.

Attendance

Daily attendance in all classes is imperative for academic success throughout each school year. Being prepared for class includes completing any necessary assignments, being in class before the bell rings and participating actively in learning each day. Each day of an excused absence affords one school day of make-up work opportunity.

Each unexcused tardy and unexcused absence means missed instruction, loss of work time, and ultimately leads to lower grades.

Grade Procedures

1. Each quarter will be graded on the following weight system:
 - a. Participation: 10% (warmups, discussion, annotations)
 - b. Practice & Application: 50% (Classwork, homework, and quizzes)
 - c. Assessments: 40% (Essays, major projects and tests)
2. There will be at least 2 graded assignments per week
3. Late Work:
 - a. Must be turned in no later than two weeks after the deadline.
 - b. There will be **no extensions** on summative assessments. Pay attention to your monthly class calendar and plan accordingly.
4. Retake policy:
 - a. There will be no retakes on reading quizzes. However, the lowest quiz grade will be dropped.
 - b. You may retake a quiz/test if you score below a 70%. End of Quarter Exam/Final Exam are ineligible for retakes.

5. DCPS Grading Scale

A 93% to 100%	C 73% to 76%
A- 90% to 92%	C- 70% to 72%
B+ 87%to 89%	D+ 67% to 69%
B 83% to 86%	D 64% to 66%
B- 80% to 82%	F 63% & below
C+ 77%to 79%	