



English 450 Course Outline
Ms. Rebecca Dersch
Collegiate School of Medicine and Bioscience

Course Description:

This course builds upon the 11th-grade literature and composition course and focuses on literature and informational texts, writing modes and genres, and essential conventions for reading, writing, and speaking. Students will encounter a variety of informational and literary texts and read texts in all genres and modes of discourse. They will also read across the curriculum to develop their academic and personal interests in different subjects. While the continued focus is expository writing in English 450, students will also demonstrate competency in argumentative and narrative genres. Students will engage in research, timed writing, and the writing process as well as develop an understanding of the impact that technology has on writing. Instruction in language conventions will occur within the context of reading, writing, and speaking, rather than in isolation. Students will also show an understanding of speaking and listening skills for various purposes. It will also afford opportunities to analyze and evaluate information through listening, speaking, and viewing. Students will utilize technology through many different platforms and components. They will also add writing samples to online writing portfolios through Turn It In.Com.

Textbook, Online Units, and Resources

McGraw Hill and StudySync (app and online sources)
Turn It In. Com
Microsoft Teams

Students may be issued and asked to sign for books. Students who do not return checked-out books will be responsible for the cost of replacement.

Thematic Units: Readings and Writing (Note: curriculum is new for 2022, modifications may be made based on available time and materials.)

Unit 1: Thematic Unit: What's Next

Essential Question: How can we transform the future?
Literary Focus: Review of main literary terms
Genre Focus: Informational


Unit 2: Uncovering Truth

Novel Unit: *Beowulf*
Essential Question: How do challenges cause us to reveal our true selves?
Literary Focus: The Medieval Period and the English Renaissance
Writing Focus: Narrative
Genre Focus: Fiction and Drama

Unit 3:

Novel Unit: *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift
Essential Question: How do leaders fight for their ideas?
Literary Focus: The Enlightenment
Genre Focus: Argumentative

Unit 4: Novel Unit: *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde



Essential Question: What is the power of a story?
Literary Focus: Romanticism and Victorianism
Genre Focus: Poetry

**All units are supplemented with short stories, non-fiction pieces and poetry that connects to the focus and text.*

Grading Scale:

- A 90-100%
- B 80-89%
- C 70-79%
- D 60-69%
- F 59 and below

45% of total grade is based on Writing (Major Writing Assignments: MWA)
35% of total grade is from Tests and Quizzes (Assessments:ASM)
10% of total grade is from Classwork (CLS)
10% of total grade is from Homework (HMK)



**Please refer to the “Collegiate School District Grading, Homework, and Plagiarism Policies” for more information.*

Classroom Expectations, Policies, and Procedures:

Behavior:

- Students will come to class promptly and prepared with all necessary materials.
- Students will always show respect to the teacher and classmates.
- Students will avoid interrupting when the teacher or another student is speaking.
- Students will participate in all classroom activities as directed by the teacher.
- Students will remain in their seats unless directed to move by the teacher.
- Students will use the restroom between classes and/or during lunch.
- Students will follow all rules and policies as dictated by the SLPS Student Behavior Guide.

Tardies:

Any student who is not *already* in the classroom when the bell rings will be considered tardy. The district’s policy will be enforced when assigning consequences for each tardy received.

Absences:

- It is the student’s responsibility to get the missing work from the teacher. Every lesson is available in a Makeup/Absent Channel in our Microsoft Teams page. Online resources are assigned, and paper copies are available (if needed) in the file box in the back of the classroom.
- If students are absent for a quiz or test, they need to see me to set up a time to make up the test during Mentor time. The missed quiz or test needs to be scheduled as soon as the student returns from his or her absence.
- Students who do not submit their work on time will have their grades determined by the late work guidelines (*see below). Late work is accepted according to school policy (up to 7 calendar days late with a 20% penalty.)
- On many occasions, lessons will be recorded and able to be viewed by students at a later date. These are closed lessons and only viewable by students for academic purposes.

Academic Honesty:



Students are expected to produce their own work - copying from another student or directly from any resource material is prohibited. **A zero will be given for any work that is not original and the incident will be handled per school and/or district policy. Using Chat GPT and AI is a form of academic dishonesty.**

Materials and Supplies:

1. Every day, your fully charged laptop with a charging cord
 2. Loose-leaf paper or spiral notebook for general notes
 3. blue or black ink pens
 4. any handouts or books issued in class
- * Although it is NOT required, I would also like to ask that students bring a box of tissue for us all to share. This is appreciated!



Meatball

I am so happy to help you and your family navigate your senior year. You are going to do amazing things! Do not forget—Excellence is in our DNA!

Sincerely,
Ms. Rebecca Dersch
Collegiate School
rebecca.dersch@slps.org

