

English 450 Course Outline
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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. While the continued focus is expository writing in English 450, students will 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 technology's impact 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.

Materials and Supplies:

1. Every day, your fully charged laptop with a charging cord
2. Composition Notebook
3. Any handouts or books issued in class
4. McGraw Hill and StudySync (app and online resources)
5. TurnItIn.com

General Rules and Expectations

Students are expected to uphold and maintain the Collegiate Core Values at all times:

- Integrity
- Self Discipline
- Respect
- Strong Academic Habits
- Intellectual Curiosity
- Compassion and Ethics

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

Thematic Units: Readings and Writing

Unit 1: Thematic Unit: What's Next

Essential Question: How can we transform the future?

Genre Focus: Literary & Informational

Writing Focus: Narrative

Unit 2: Thematic Unit: Uncovering Truth

Novel Unit: *1984* George Orwell

Essential Question: How do challenges cause us to reveal our true selves?

Writing Focus: Literary Analysis

Unit 3: Thematic Unit: Against the Wind

Novel Unit: *The Importance of Being Earnest*

Essential Question: What is our identity—both public and private?

Writing Focus: Argumentative

Unit 4: Thematic Unit: Sculpting Reality

Novel Unit: *Hamlet* by Shakespeare

Essential Question: What is the power of a story?

Writing Focus: Research

Grading Scale:

A 90-100%

B 80-89%

C 70-79%

D 60-69%

F 59 and below

- 35% of total grade is based on Writing (Major Writing Assignments: MWA)
- 35% of total grade is from Tests, Quizzes, Projects (Assessments:ASM)
- 20% of total grade is from Classwork (CLS)
- 10% of total grade is from Homework (HMK)

Tardies:

Any student 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:

- The student is responsible for getting the teacher's missing work. Every lesson is available in a Makeup/Absent Channel on our Microsoft Teams page. Online resources are assigned, and paper copies are available (if needed) in the file box in the front 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.)

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.**

Cell Phone Policy

Cell phones are NOT permitted in class at any time. Cell phones should remain turned off and in the cell phone holder at all times. Other personal devices, including headphones, iPads, or personal laptops are not permitted per district policy. If your student needs these devices for medical reasons, please let me know.

Communication

The best way to reach me is via email- claire.heggie@slps.org . Please feel free to reach out at any time! You should expect a response within 1 business day.