

Honors Statement: Students enrolling in honors courses can expect a higher weight for their courses, rigorous grading based upon critical thinking, analysis, and synthesis, approximately 30 pages of reading homework for each class, projects that require collaboration outside of class, weekly vocabulary and grammar, at least four essays per grading period, assignments which require access to technology, and purchase of literature not owned by the school. AP Exams are in May. NCFEs are in January, June.

See the Program of Studies for the course description. Briefly, we will read fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. The focus will be on British and world literature. There will be six or more common assessments used as formative assessments prior to the summative assessment: the NCFE (final exam). We will incorporate vocabulary, grammar, and research skills/presentations. There will be self- and peer-assessments. Student data will be used to assess how learning has been or needs to be impacted.

Informational and literary texts will usually be paired to examine themes and essential questions from multiple complex perspectives. This means that we will usually be reading two texts at a time.

English IV is designed to prepare you for college and for useful service in career and country. In our democracy, every person's role has value and significance: no one counts more or less than his/her neighbor—so each student is expected to work hard and to achieve at his/her best level. Your family, your bosses, and your neighbors expect you to contribute—not just to benefit from the work of others. You prepare yourself to contribute through your education, especially via skills such as reading, writing, and critical thinking. These transferable skills are developed in English class by the Common Core curriculum and are warranted through a diploma from Union County Public Schools.

How we interrelate is important in a democracy. Knowing how to use the English language (purposes, literature, vocabulary, grammar) prepares us for satisfaction and success in our careers and other life pursuits. Our world is getting smaller (globalization) and more competitive. We must be more innovative, creative, and hardworking to have an edge on the competition—and that requires knowing the basics with which to be innovative and creative. Graduation is just around the corner. This last bit of high school will pass quickly. You need to be focused on your goals while jumping through some state and local hoops: research presentation, common assessments, NCFE, passing this course.

Visit cfnc.org to get helpful information from the College Foundation of North Carolina. Early in the year work on financial aid, resumes, college essays, SAT/ACT Prep, and high grades in a rigorous course of study. In the long term, you will not regret working hard and achieving at a high level in high school.

The Common Core curricular shifts include 1) content-rich nonfiction and informational texts, 2) reading and writing grounded in textual evidence, and 3) regular practice with complex texts and academic vocabulary. There is an increased focus on Shakespeare and to historical American documents.

Specific literature will be approved by your parents, so a list of works for this course will be compiled with the feedback of your parents. With your parents, help to determine the quality of our workload.

Students are expected to be present, prompt, prepared, and participating.

Take responsibility for your own learning!

Tutoring is available each morning at 7am and after school by appointment for those who pay attention in class and do their work on time.

Homework should be completely and honestly prepared before class, and students are to be in their seats with all materials ready (texts, paper, pens, homework, etc) when the bell BEGINS to ring. Chromebooks are to be charged before school and prepared for use upon teacher request.

My philosophy for homework is that increased practice leads to increased proficiency, and research reveals that writing enables learning! Occasionally you will have a choice between/among assignments.

Have a positive attitude about relating subjects that we are studying to your own interests and goals—present and future. This attitude will increase the usefulness and relevance of the language study, works read, and writing or speaking products. Boredom means that YOU are not trying hard enough with your attitude to store current class activity and information for future application. Methods and materials used are aimed at effectively meeting the established curricular goals and standards of the State of North Carolina (Common Core).

Be diligent about your attention, studies, and homework. Follow instructions; read attentively and closely; make notes for questions to ask in class; look up new vocabulary; do not be reluctant to THINK critically for yourself. Use only blue or black ink pens. Always have two or three sharpened pencils. Be timely with your homework: there will be a penalty of at least 10% for each day the work is late. It will not be the teacher's priority to grade work submitted late.

Concerning absences, it is the student's responsibility to get assignments, handouts, and other missed work. Get your assignments BEFORE known or scheduled absences such as appointments or field trips. Note the school policy governing when missed work is due. Bring a note (doctor/parent/court/&c) to the Attendance Aide the FIRST day you return to school so that you do not forget. These are processed before school. Present the admit slip to each of your four teachers. The fourth teacher will return the admit slip to the office. Missed quizzes and tests must be made up before or after school.

Keep in an orderly folder or binder all materials, study guides, worksheets, and thorough notes for the current unit. These should be fabulously helpful as you prepare for later quizzes, essays, tests, and exams. I rarely ask students to take notes; I expect them to do so.

Tentatively, grades for the six week grading period will be determined by averaging daily homework, classwork, and quizzes (minor grades) separately from tests, essays, presentations, and projects (major grades). Each of these two averages will account for approximately 45% of the six week grade; class participation will account for the final 10%. Address grade concerns with teachers outside of class time. Cheating is a serious infraction and will result in a grade of zero along with a parent contact. Cheating includes copying, allowing others to copy, unintentional plagiarism, and talking during quizzes/tests.

In terms of classroom management, please refer to Union County and Parkwood High School Student Codes of Conduct. Basically, the key concept is RESPECT for yourself and others. Don't dominate class discussion. Don't distract or be distracted. Persistent and significant disciplinary matters will be referred to the office to reduce infringement on learning time. Each high school student is aware of proper conduct, and I simply EXPECT proper conduct. If you CHOOSE not to practice appropriate behavior, then YOU also choose the consequences.

Not allowed without teacher permission: Electronics (including cellphones, headphones, laptops), food, drinks in improper containers, hats/hoods/headgear. Observe the dress code for each location.

Purses and bookbags are to be off your desks and laps. Store these on the floor.

Do not write on the desks. Dispose of trash properly. The floor is not a garbage can. If you get both confused and caught, you become the class custodian.

Do not prop up your head with your desk or hand—your neck serves this support function. HEADS UP. If you are tired, go to bed early tonight. If you are sick, stay/go home or to the doctor. If you are bored, change your attitude and attention.

Use the restroom and drinking fountains during class transitions. Don't apply hygiene products or groom during class. Avoid asking to leave during class. If your requests to use the bathroom are excessive (more than twice in a six weeks without a doctor note), you will be required to make up time and/or have an escort.

Do not touch the telephones or adjust the blinds or window. Do listen to and view announcements: do not talk during spoken announcements. Don't pack up early. We will use our time.

SCHOOL is your Job #1. THIS is your primary workplace. THIS is your real world. Carpe Diem. Remember: Only you can prepare for YOUR future.

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