



Cory McDowell

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Classroom Ext.: (704) 296-3088 || 7163

Welcome to Honors English IV!

Course Overview

In this course, we will begin to study British literature through the examination of texts from the United Kingdom. Students will also be introduced to more analytical/literary writing. As a class, we will examine (through close-reading) the elements of the literature. The goal of this course is to learn aspects of the British culture and language. The course will be intensive and rigorous.

Part of being in an Honors course requires in-depth writing and analysis. My goal is to have all of you college-ready writers. This will involve writing several different types of essays/papers including argumentative, persuasive and compare/contrast.

Materials

1. A **composition notebook** for daily writing. This will serve as your **daybook**. You will put handouts (taped or stapled) and your writing in this book. Everything we do on a day-to-day basis.
2. Some sort of **folder** or **binder** for other papers/handouts
3. **Pens** and/or **pencils**

4. **Chromebook!!**
5. ***Dracula*** by Bram Stoker - Dover/Thrift edition (Amazon has it for \$3.50 or less)*

**If you need help with this, please let me know. I will do my best to help you locate a text.*

Procedures for Class

1. Be respectful. To **EVERYONE!**
2. Be prepared. Make sure you are ready when the bell rings. No one has time for shuffling, plugging in Chromebooks, etc.
3. Be focused. I think this goes without saying. I **WILL** call on you to participate if I feel you're not staying focused and on task.
4. Be active. **PARTICIPATE** in discussions, helping your classmates, asking questions, etc.
5. All graded materials **NOT** submitted through Canvas need to be put in the appropriate tray on the table.

Quizzes/Essays

You will have various quizzes throughout the semester. Quizzes will mainly be reading and vocabulary quizzes. I will never give a quiz unannounced unless I feel that the work is not being done (i.e. half the class decides they don't want to read when they're supposed to).

Essays will be of various scope (expository, critical, analytical, etc.) throughout the semester. Rubrics will be provided per essay. We will have several writing sessions, seminars, and peer-review opportunities along with the assignments. **ALL** essays will be submitted through Canvas using the plagiarism checker.

Late Work

I am not a fan of late work. Late work makes more work for me to do. However, I understand life and things happen. I will accept late work after an absence within two days after your absence. This means **ONLY** the work you missed on the day you were absent **NOT** work for the day you come

back. Readings will be posted in Canvas daily. If you are absent, make sure you check the readings for the day you are coming back.

Attendance/Tutoring

Attendance is paramount to your success. If you miss a class, it is **YOUR** responsibility to make-up any work that you missed. As stated above and in your student handbook, you have **TWO** days to make up work after an absence.

I will offer tutoring on Mondays from 3:30 until 4:30. Our class is big. This will be the time you can see me outside of class for extra help and understanding, or even if you didn't get a chance to ask a question or get clarification in class. Feel free to stop by even just for 10 minutes.

Grading

This course will be graded on the ten-point scale and will be broken down into four categories:

1. Major projects/essays 40%
2. Quizzes 30%
3. Participation 20%
4. Homework 10%

Grading Scale:

A 90 - 100

B 80 - 89

C 70 - 79

D 60 - 69

F 0 - 59

Grading Composition: Course work will make up 75% of your final grade; the final exam will make-up 25% of your final grade based on your performance on the North Carolina Final Exam.

Units (preliminary and subject to change)

*Each unit will include vocabulary, written responses (creative and reading responses), and historical background, as well as, other assignments on a weekly/daily basis.

Unit I: The Anglo-Saxon Age (*Beowulf* and Anglo-Saxon Poetry)

Introduction to Research Paper/Milestones

Introduction to your groups and your Literary Theories

2 weeks

Unit II: The Middle Ages (*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, *The Wedding of Sir Gawain and Dame Ragnelle*, selections of *Canterbury Tales*)

2 Weeks

Unit III: The Renaissance (*The Tragedy of Macbeth* and Shakespearean sonnets)

3 weeks

Unit IV: The Restoration through the Romantic Period (*Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley)

Project I: Create a Monster

3 weeks

Unit V: The Victorian Period (*Dracula* by Bram Stoker)

Project II: Vampire Folklore Analysis

3 weeks

Unit VI: The Modern Period (*1984* by George Orwell, select poetry)

Research Paper Due

4 weeks

Formal Assessments will take the shape of your projects and essays. Some formal discussions will be posted in Canvas as well. These discussions are **EXPECTED** to be well thought out posts and responses to classmates. They will center around the readings in the class (individual) and your Lit Theory groups (just your group). I will be creating a group discussion area for you and your classmates to discuss your Lit Theories.

Articles of the Week - These will be chosen by you and due weekly through Canvas and to me. Directions will be posted in Canvas!

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Student Name _____ English Class Period _____
Academy _____

Permission and Parent Contact Information

The following are the works which Honors students will read for this class. Since they are not included in the NC suggested curriculum, permission must be granted for students to read Dracula by Bram Stoker. (Students will also read Frankenstein by Mary Shelley and Macbeth by William Shakespeare.) Students may also watch all or portions of three DVDs in class this semester and parents' signature indicates permission to view: Macbeth (2010 directed by Rupert Goold, starring Patrick Stewart and Kate Fleetwood—this film is not rated but contains the warning for viewers that it contains graphic imagery and some sexuality); The Importance of Being Earnest (2002 directed by Oliver Parker starring Rupert Everett and Colin Firth—rated PG for mild sensuality); and Jane Eyre (2011 directed by Cary Fukunaga, starring Mia Wasikowska and Michael Fassbender—rated PG-13 for brief nudity and brief violent content).

Please mark one of the following:

_____ I give my permission for my child to read the above-listed works of literature and to view the above-listed films.

Parent Signature _____

_____ I do **NOT** give permission and would like for my child to be assigned an alternative work and assignments to substitute for his/her reading and/or viewing of

(title of work)

(Parent Signature)

Please print email addresses clearly. Email is the best way to contact me:
cory.mcdowell@ucps.k12.nc.us

Printed parent/s name _____

Parent phone numbers _____

Parent/s email _____