

English IV: Fall Semester

Instructor: Heather Peters

- Contact information
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Course Description: English IV students will:

- Develop critical thinking, rhetorical and writing skills through the use of nonfiction, novels and drama.
- Explore the theme of power, as it relates to the individual, government and society.

Materials Required:

- A folder/binder/system of organization.
- Flash drive or other method of storing electronic documents.
- Textbook: All books for English IV are supplemental and may be purchased (recommended) or borrowed from the Textbook Café.

Activities:

- **In class assignments:**
 - discussion (This will be the fundamental basis for the course)
 - problem solving activities (daily participation grade)
 - reading, interpreting and analyzing text
 - analyzing argumentation
 - development of good writing skills
- **Homework:**
 - reading text (essential to successfully completing the course)
 - response to text (all assignments need to be typed)
- **Scrapbook (225 pts):**
 - To be completed throughout the semester: **Due Wednesday, Dec 17th by 3pm. Any scrapbook turned in after 3pm will receive ½ credit. No scrapbook will be accepted after Dec 18th.**
 - Rough drafts of each section are due on the following dates:
 - Sept 5- Personal Essay
 - Sept 19- Personal Philosophy on Life
 - Sept 26-Influential Person
 - Oct 5- High School Memory
 - Oct 24- Personal Choice (see rubric for choices)
 - Nov 7- World Event
 - Nov 14- Political Philosophy
 - Nov 21- Friends
 - Dec 5- Family
- **Fiction book of your choice (100 pts)**
 - To be read outside of class.

- You must commit to a book by October 14st. Any potential change in the choice of book must be submitted in writing and approved by me. No change in book will be approved after October 14thst.
- A project will be completed to be presented on the day of the final exam.

Major Topics/Pieces Studied:

- Creative Non-fiction: The Personal Essay and George Orwell’s *Shooting an Elephant*
- *Schindler’s List* (Bring to class on **September 8**)
 - ❖ We will be watching the movie, *Schindler’s List* as well. It is rated “R” and is powerfully moving. I will send more information regarding this film in a later communication. If you have any questions or objections to your student viewing this film, please contact me.
- *1984* (Bring to class on **October 14**)
- *Hamlet* (Bring to class on **December 1**)

Other major assignment due dates:

- Sept. 5- Personal Essay
- Oct. 14- Genocide Project
- Oct. 31- Propaganda Project
- Nov. 26- *The Matrix* paper

A calendar will be given at the beginning of each unit:

- Reading Schedule
- In class activity
- Homework

General Classroom Policies:

Grading:

- All assignments, tests and quizzes will be graded on a weighted points system:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ⓢ Participation in class discussions (includes being prepared for class and demonstrating critical thinking skills) Ⓢ Homework Ⓢ Reading checks/quizzes Ⓢ Essay/Writing (Personal Essay, rough drafts of scrapbook essays, and <i>Matrix</i> paper) Ⓢ Projects Genocide, Propaganda, Senior Scrapbook & Final Book Essay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10% 10% 20% 30% 30%
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- Late assignments will only be accepted the next day for ½ credit. After that, the assignment will not be accepted and will be marked "NHI" (not handed in) in the gradebook.

- A "P" in the grade book indicates an assignment that may be made up due to an absence. If the assignment is not made up within the applicable time, the "P" will change to "NHI."
- Extra credit is available to students who are not missing any assignments.

Tardies/Absences/Passes:

- If you are not in the classroom when the bell begins to ring, you are late. Please follow the tardy policy as stated in the student handbook.
- Any work missed due to an excused absence needs to be turned in within the same number of days you were absent. After that amount of time, the assignment will not be accepted and will be marked NHI in the gradebook. **Good attendance is an important component to learning. Please make the greatest effort to be here regularly.**

Plagiarism:

- All work, including homework assignments, must be original. Plagiarism is a very serious offense and can result in major disciplinary action. It is defined as using anyone else's idea or words without giving credit. This also includes using someone else's work and claiming it as your own. **(Copying answers from someone else's homework is also cheating and is unacceptable.)** If you are caught plagiarizing, you will fail that assignment and your parents will be notified.

Electronic Device Policy:

- **I will hand out a sticky note for you to write your name to attach to your electronic device. This device should be turned off and placed in the bin at the beginning of class. If you do not want to deal with this hassle- do not bring your device to class.**

Parent Initials _____

Student Initials _____

Literary Opportunities: Extra credit will be given to serious submissions

- Literary Magazine
 - Accepts submissions in short story, poetry, art, photography and original music
 - Send submissions to ghsskaldic@gmail.com (due by February 1st- sooner is better)
- Literary Festival (poetry, short fiction, drama, personal essay) Writing conference in April. Submissions are due by February 1st.
- Poetry Slam- April performance
- Write Club: Sponsored by Mr. Whitman

Please only return this portion:

I _____ have read the above procedures for English IV and agree to abide by them to the best of my ability. I understand plagiarism and the consequences of such actions. I understand that the senior scrapbook is due by Dec 17th by 3pm.

(Student's Signature)

(Date)

(Parent's Signature)

(Date)