

Mrs. Russell
English IV Syllabus
2010-2011

Twelfth grade English is traditionally considered a study of British writers.

Overview

No matter what career choice you make now or in the future, reading and writing will be integral components to your success, and even to your understanding of the world and personal enjoyment. The purpose of the English IV class is to provide students with the knowledge and tools to become better readers, writers, and critical thinkers. In addition to standard reading and writing, students will engage in activities to improve their grammar, vocabulary, interpersonal and presentation skills.

Instructional Philosophy

In order for students to develop these necessary skills, students are expected to participate in class activities and discussions, complete their work to the best of their ability, turn their work on in time, and work cooperatively with their peers to achieve common goals. I will do my absolute best to teach and engage all students; in return, I expect the best possible effort from all students.

Classroom Rules

In addition to TCTC student rules, I have three simple rules that pretty much cover all aspects of student behavior within the boundaries of my classroom:

1. Be prompt.
2. Be prepared.
3. Be polite.

In addition, students should be aware of the following items:

- Cell phone usage during class is prohibited.
- Piercings, other than the ears, must be removed or covered up.
- All other materials you might be carrying with you, including **purses**, should be placed under your table.
- All students must utilize the sign-in, sign-out sheet near the door when leaving the classroom for any reason, and when a student is tardy to class.
- Do not abuse restroom privileges. Please only request to leave class in an emergency situation. Use only the restrooms across the hall from my classroom.
- Please do not bring food or drink to class.
- Maintain a positive attitude: eye-rolling, heaving sighing, and pouting are not appreciated by me or your peers.

If you have a long walk from your previous class, please let me know.

- Do your work the first time. Non-absence related late work is eligible only for half-credit within 48 hours of the original assignment. No credit will be given after 48 hours.
- You must attach a “Late Work Tag” to any work that is turned in late due to absences or for any other reason. Late work turned in without the tag will not be accepted.

Assignment Assessment Description

‘A’ work is an excellent assignment with very few errors that meets and goes beyond all of the requirements. It is evident to all that serious time and effort was spent to show understanding of a skill or lesson.

‘B’ work is a great assignment with a few errors that show some lack of effort. A few requirements of the assignment are not fully met; however it is evident that you understand a skill or lesson.

‘C’ work is an average assignment. Errors are significant and show a mediocre level of effort. Several requirements of the assignment are not met and you do not show complete evidence of understanding a skill or lesson.

‘D’ work is a poor assignment. It has many errors that show a great lack of effort. Most elements of the assignment are not met and you show minimal evidence of understanding a skill or lesson.

‘F’ work is incomplete with chronic errors or not attempted at all. There is no evidence of understanding a skill or lesson.

Grading Scale: 92-100(A), 83-91(B), 74-82(C), 66-73(D), 0-65(F)

English IV Course of Study and Goals

- Utilize and improve reading skills through various works of literature, including novels, poetry, news items, and other non-fiction.
- Sharpen critical thinking skills by analyzing literature.
- Work collaboratively with peers to improve interpersonal skills needed in the workforce, during continuing education, and the “real world.”
- Develop writing skills that allow students to produce documents that address various subject matter and audiences, use correct conventions, and demonstrate voice.
- Use research skills to collect, analyze, and present data.
- Utilize research correctly and effectively during the writing process.
- Improve speaking and listening skills through the presentation of student projects.
- Read independently to improve self-monitoring and comprehension skills.
- Participate in class discussions that enhance the subject matter.
- Improve grammar skills by keeping a “writer’s notebook,” and completing short grammar reviews.

Did you know that increasing the amount of time you read is strongly correlated to improved memory, intelligence, and critical thinking abilities, and even lower stress levels?

Did you know that Chris Crutcher was a family therapist for many years? He often incorporates his former clients' experiences into his literature, writing with "heart-wrenching realism."

Projects and Readings

Some of the activities and readings that I have planned for this year include (subject to change):

- The Senior Project
- A personal writing unit
- Independent reading (SSR)
- Grammar study via the writer's notebook
- Current events
- *Beowulf* (translated by Seamus Heaney)
- *The Literature of War* (poems by various British writers)
- *The Sledding Hill, Deadline, and/or Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes* by Chris Crutcher
- *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* and *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom
- *Wintergirls* by Laurie Halse Anderson
- *Tenderness* by Robert Cormier

Materials for Class

1. A 1 ½ to 2 inch three-ring binder.
2. Dividers (you may make these yourself)
3. Blue and/or black pens (no other colors please)
4. Loose leaf notebook paper
5. The possession of a flash drive is highly suggested

Mrs. Russell's Moodle Website

You will be required to sign on to my Moodle site, which will be an integral factor in our classroom. Class handouts, presentations, assignments, and other information can be found on the website. If you are absent, the website will enable you to obtain your work and assignments from home. You will receive a separate hand out on how to log on.