

Mrs. Russell
English IV Syllabus
2011-2012

This classroom is an iClass: iPads for critical thinking, leadership, active learning, student-centered space

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. *Complete submersion in technology via use of iPads and the SmartBoard will prepare students for careers in the 21st century.*

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

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 very simply 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.

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

- **Please do not bring food or drink to class.** Because this is an iPad classroom, this rule will be strictly enforced!
- Maintain a positive attitude: eye-rolling, heaving sighing, and pouting are not appreciated by your peers or me.
- 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.

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.
- Expose students to the technology skills they need to become productive members of this 21st century society.

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)
- *Deadline* by Chris Crutcher
- *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* and *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom
- *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt

Materials for Class

Because this classroom is an iClass (a classroom that utilizes iPads), there are few materials requirements.

1. **Headphones**—please bring your own set each and every day.
2. **A touchscreen/iPad stylus pen**—you must have one to use the iPads (school policy). Available at Walmart, Target, Best Buy, and Amazon.com.
3. **Pencil/Pen and Paper**
4. **Book we are currently reading in class** (or other materials as needed)

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 nearly all other classroom information can be found on the website. If you are absent, the website will enable you to obtain your work and assignments from home. Additionally, the website gives you access to your classmates and me after school and on weekends. You will receive a separate hand out on how to log on.

The iPad Classroom

The focus of the iPad program at TCTC is to provide the tools and resources that will enhance classroom practice and school-wide implementation of 21st century learning through technological innovation. This initiative involves the use of the iPad. This project will initiate an intensive study of technology and student learning through tablet technology, providing research and feedback for future initiatives. This device will be used for classroom activities, producing differentiation of instruction and learning and providing students with an **active**, digital environment in which to connect with their work. Student Use of the iPad in school falls under the guidelines of TCTC's *Acceptable Use Policy*. All Internet access is monitored through our schools content filtering software and all rules and expectations are applied to the use of the iPad. *Please see the TCTC iPad Agreement for more information.*