

I. Objectives

- To learn to think more clearly, to speak and write more effectively, and to listen and read with great understanding.
- To read some of the most accomplished literary works and understand the period in which they were created.
- To encourage a delight of literature that is aesthetically, socially and personally appropriate.
- To engage in critical reading, discussion and written analysis of literature with attention to language, structure, meaning, clarity of thinking, and value.
- To appreciate a variety of texts from many cultures, time periods, including a cross-section of fiction and non-fiction.
- To develop the ability to write in various forms, including the critical analysis of literature and a senior paper, which is a requirement for graduation.
- To enhance understanding of the relationship of literature with other forms of art and increase interpretive ability.
- To improve vocabulary.
- To review literary and usage terms.
- To improve speaking skills through class presentations, discussions, and debates.

II. Content

Literature: Students will read selections of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, short stories, essays, and drama written primarily by British and American authors of the past and present including *Beowulf*, *The Canterbury Tales*, *Macbeth*, *Frankenstein*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, *Fahrenheit 451*, and if time allows *The Sun Also Rises*. In addition, students will choose one novel and one work of non-fiction to read outside of class (one per semester).

Writing: During each marking period, a number of writing assignments will be completed. These will range from shorter assignments for homework, to in-class essays,

to major papers. **The completion of a research paper is a graduation requirement.** Peer editing will take place in the classroom. Several options for analytical and creative writing also will be presented. All essays written outside of class **must follow MLA format** (see attached directions) and **be typed**.

Portfolio: Students are responsible for compiling a portfolio of all writing done for class each semester, including a self evaluation of two pieces. This will allow students to mark their strengths and weaknesses and thus improve their writing skills.

Vocabulary: Students will compile vocabulary lists based on the literature they are studying in class.

III. Grading: Will be based on the following areas: 30% = homework, class work, daily participation, oral presentations; 20% = quizzes (announced/unannounced); 50% = tests, projects, essays, major writings (research paper). The Red Clay Consolidated School District grading scale will be used for all work and the marking period:

100-93 = A; 92-85 = B; 84-77 = D; below 70 is failing.

Students may earn up to 30 points of extra credit each marking period. In order to earn extra credit points, a student may be absent for no more than three days each marking period (exceptions are as follows: hospitalization, death in the family, prearranged college visit, school activity, acute illness). In addition, a student may receive no more than two zeros a marking period. If these criteria are met, the extra points will be added in with the grade.

The final grade for the year is determined by adding the four marking periods, the mid-term, and the final exam. A .75 is necessary for passing the year. If a student receives an "F" in three of the five elements, a failure for the year will result.

IV. Attendance: The student is expected to take the initiative and make an appointment at the teacher's convenience to make up work missed because of an excused absence. School policy states that this must be done within as many days as the student was absent. A standing assignment is to be turned in upon the student's return to school. **If a student is absent for part of the day, he/she is to see the teacher of the class missed, turn in assigned work, and take any assignments given that day.** If not, the

student will receive a zero for work missed and homework due and a late penalty for any major assignment due that day. No credit will be given for work missed during an unexcused absence.

If a student plans on missing school for vacation or a college visitation, she/he must give the teacher one week advance notice in order to receive school assignments that the student will miss while away.

Students are expected to report to class on time with the necessary materials. If you arrive to class after the bell, without a pass, you are to report to the Late Center.

V. Homework: Homework must be neat, typed, and **fully completed by the beginning of class. This means it must be printed before entering class.** It must meet the standards of written expression and fulfill the conditions of the assignment. Late homework and class work **will not** be accepted. Major assignments (100 points or more) will be penalized a grade for each day late. If you are unable to print the assignment at home, save it to a disk and email to yourself and to me. Then arrive at school early enough to print it out at the library or in my classroom.

VI. Plagiarism: Cheating of any kind will result in a zero for that assignment. This includes copying homework, cheating on a test, getting all or a part of a paper off of the Internet, or putting your name on someone else's work. See attachment from Student Code of Conduct, pg. 9 regarding "Academic Dishonesty." This policy will be strictly adhered to.

VII. Extensions: If a student needs an extension on an assignment and has **what I think is good reason**, and then it **must** be discussed **before** the due date. This request should only be made in extreme circumstances. **Extensions will not be given the day an assignment is due.**

VIII. Materials: 2"- 3-ring binder, journal or composition book, 2 pocket folder, pen/pencil, eraser, white-out, paper, access to computer (*all papers must be typed.*)

Return this section signed. It is due a week from the date it is given.

We have read, discussed, and understood the course syllabus and requirements for the English IV Honors class. We understand that my educational success depends on a three-way partnership of effort, support, and guidance involving student, parent, and teacher. It is also imperative that the research paper be completed meeting all the requirements of the “multi-genre” paper. This is a graduation requirement and failure to complete this paper will endanger graduation status.

Student: _____ Date: _____

Parent: _____ Date: _____

We have also read the excerpt from the *Student Code of Conduct*, pg. 9, note #5 on “academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, copyright infringements)....” which is attached. This is critical to any research references on papers, reports, essays, tests, quizzes, etc., and will be strictly adhered to. Cheating or plagiarism either in individual or group work, on tests or any assignments will be treated in the same manner with the individual or individuals involved. Please note you take a zero on the assignment, test, or paper. There are no exceptions, rewrites, or test retakes.