**2023-2024 College Prep IV Syllabus: British Literature and College Composition**

**Instructor:** Michelle McCleese **Email:** mmccleese@minfordfalcons.net

**Planning Period:** 7th period upon request

**Course Overview and Description**

Welcome to English IV. Over the course of this class, we will cover several genres of writing - fiction and non-fiction, prose, verse and plays - relevant to British literature, as well as writing college-level papers. Through these readings, students will gain a greater understanding of different literary elements such as identifying the main idea, supporting details and themes. We will also be completing various writing assignments related to the literature we read.

This class will be structured as a student-centered discussion class, so participation is key to your success. As a member of this class, you will be expected to have the assigned readings completed prior to class. I’m not expecting you to understand everything you read, but please read before the discussion so you can voice questions you had about the literature. Questions are just as important as interpretations because they may point us into a new direction and allow us to see another side to the reading – perhaps even lead us to the author’s true intent of writing the text. Please remember, you what you get out of this class depends on what you put into it.

**Objectives:**

1. Use proper English grammar rules to complete various writing assignments.
2. Use SOAPStone rhetorical technique to complete various writing assignments and analyze other writers’ efforts.
3. Locate information using encyclopedia, dictionaries, glossaries, journals, electronic resources, and online Internet resources to use for research-based assignments.
4. Proofread and correct errors in their own writing.
5. Read various texts, including epic poems, plays, fiction, essays, and novels.
6. Use reading skills such as inferences, context clues, and background information to analysis various texts read and determine the author’s intent for writing the text.

**Daily Requirements:**

* The chosen reading.
* A notebook and writing utensil. I would suggest using a 3-ring binder with loose-leaf paper. If you choose this option, you can place various handouts directly in with your notes, making locating materials to study from easier for you.

**Assessment Procedures**

Students will be graded based on a variety of assessments including daily homework assignments, unit tests, papers and/or projects. These papers, projects and tests will be worth up to 100 points. Some projects will be worth less than others, but nothing will ever be worth more than 100 points. A grading scale/rubric will accompany each writing assignment. Tests will always be 100 points, quizzes usually are 25 points. I do not offer extra credit at the end of the nine weeks. You must take advantage of any opportunities prior to the 8th week of each nine weeks, should there be any offered, which is unlikely.

**Miscellaneous Information**

*Behavior Policy ~* Make sure that you are always adhering to the school’s policies about classroom behavior. Anyone who is tardy/skips class, uses inappropriate language, or engages in any other behaviors that distract the other members in class from learning - or me from teaching - may result in a conference with me during or after class and/or a detention. If the behaviors continue you may be asked to go to the office and will only be allowed to return with my permission. The best way to avoid this is to follow the rules and respect your classmates and myself. If you show everyone respect, you will earn everyone’s respect in return.

**Late Work:**Late work is not accepted by me unless accompanied by an excused absence slip. Please copy and staple the copied slip to your assignment. Late work without a slip will not be given credit. Ever. You have exactly the same amount of days you were absent in which to complete and give me your missed work. If you hand in missed work on time and later tell me that the absence was excused but do not have a slip attached to the work, you will not receive credit. Unfortunately, some of you will test this rule, believing, erroneously, that it applies to everyone else but you, or that your situation is unique. In the end, the consequences will be emotionally distressing for you. However, at that time, you will need to reach deep and look at the silver lining. You will be learning accountability, and since it is my job to prepare you for college, part of that process involves teaching you how to be responsible. Following the procedure here is part of that learning experience.

**Plagiarism:** We will be writing several papers in this class that will relate to the readings we do. Using another person’s writings and/or ideas and passing them off as your own is known as plagiarism and is an illegal practice and will result in a zero for the assignment and may result in you failing the semester/class. You will not be given the chance to redo papers, tests, and/or homework assignments, as you will not be given this opportunity in college. If you plan on graduating, do the work yourself. If you are caught, your parents will be contacted and a notation will be placed in your permanent school record.

If you happen to be caught plagiarizing, please do not offer me excuses. Remember that you were told ahead of time what the consequences were. You can be sure I will refer this page to you should circumstances warrant.

**I will not ever write a recommendation, scholarship or otherwise, for a student who engages in plagiarism or cheating of any kind.**

**Course Calendar**

The class will be divided into seven units. First semester will focus on literature and second semester will focus on writing. Projects, essays, or tests will follow the conclusion of each unit. The following calendar is tentative and subject to change.

***First Semester – World Literature* (Units 1-3: 1st nine-weeks and Units 4-5: 2nd nine-weeks)**

Unit One ~ Epic Literature

Discuss the heroic cycle; read *Beowulf* – Assignment Writing Epic Poem

Unit Two ~ Morality

Discuss biblical allusions and the Seven Deadly Sins; read selections from Genesis, *Paradise Lost*, *The Divine Comedy, Faust,* and *The Canterbury Tales* “Prologue,” “The Pardoner’s Tale” and “The Tale of the Wife of Bath” (Depending on time, we may read only selections from *The Canterbury Tales)*

Unit Three ~ Satire

Review elements of satire; read “A Modest Proposal.” – Assignment: Essay

Unit Four ~ Allegory

Review allegory; test: Reading: Play: *Everyman*

**UNIT TEST:** *Beowulf, Canterbury Tales, A Modest Proposal*

Unit Five ~ *Macbeth* (2nd nine-weeks/flex: 3rd 9 weeks)

***Second Semester – Literature, Poetry and Research-based Writing***

Unit Six ~ Romantic and Victorian literature and poetry (3rd nine-weeks)

Unit Seven ~ Twentieth Century Literature and Research Paper (4th nine-weeks)

Novel: *Brave New World,* Aldous Huxley

Review research process, activities in selecting a topic, writing a thesis, finding sources, creating a Works Cited, note taking, outlining, and formatting.

The remainder of the class will be spent conducting research and writing a final research paper. The paper will be due two weeks prior to graduation.