Mrs. Grimaldi

Room 124

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English IV Academic

2016-2017

Welcome to English IV!

The focus of this course is to prepare you for college and/or career level critical reading and writing. You will read and analyze a variety of texts, both fiction and non-fiction. You will learn to read and respond critically to texts, developing analytical skills that will help you succeed in the college classroom and in the workplace.

**English IV Essential Questions:**

* How do language and literature shape and reflect culture and thought?
  + How do a culture’s archetypes embody its values?
  + To what extent does literature bring about social change?
  + How do we distinguish between appearance and reality?
  + How do cultural expectations define gender roles?

**WHS Graduation Standards:**

* **Research Writing**

Students will conduct research projects to solve a problem, develop a position on an issue, or address a question.

* **Argumentative Writing**

Students will write thesis- driven arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence***.***

* **Informative/Explanatory Writing**

Students will write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately.

* **Reading**

Students will be able to comprehend complex texts and cite evidence to support analysis.

* **Speaking and Listening**

Students will participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions as well as present information conveying a clear and distinctive perspective.

* **Language Usage**

Students will demonstrate command of language, vocabulary, and conventions of Standard English.

**Units of Study**

* Non-fiction
* Gothic literature
* Dystopian Literature
* Post-Colonial Literature
* Gender and Comparative Literature
* Satire

**Texts**

Course texts will include, but may not be limited to:

* *Vocabulary for the College Bound*
* *The Circle*, David Eggers
* *In the Heart of the Sea*, Nathan Philbrick
* *The Tempest*, William Shakespeare
* *Yellow Raft in Blue Water*, Louise Erdrich
* *Winter’s Bone*, Daniel Woodrell
* “The Yellow Wallpaper,” Charlotte Perkins Gilman
* Various poems, essays, and short fiction

**Classroom Expectations**

* Be on time: Be in your seat and ready to begin class by the time the bell rings.
* Be prepared: Bring your charged MacBook, a pen or pencil,

a notebook, any texts needed for the class, and completed homework.

* Be nice: Be respectful of all others in the classroom; allow others to speak and be heard; no objectionable language or snarkiness.
* Be focused on class: absolutely NO cell phone use in class, unless specifically directed. I WILL take your phone and keep it on my desk after the first warning and every time after.
* Practice academic integrity: Review WHS Academic Integrity Policy. Simply do not cheat.
* Come to class with both a sense of humor and intellectual curiosity.

**Grading**

* tests/essays/research projects - 45%
* quizzes/blog posts – 25%
* homework/classwork – 25%
* Class preparation/participation (based on HOW guidelines) – 5%