

Mrs. Grimaldi  
Room 124  
Class website: <http://sgrimaldi124.weebly.com>

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## English IV Honors 2016-2017

Welcome to English IV Honors!

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 the workplace.

This honors-level class is reading and writing intensive.

### **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*
- *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, Thomas C. Foster
- *In the Heart of the Sea*, Nathan Philbrick
- *Canterbury Tales*, Chaucer
- *Top Girls*, Caryl Churchill
- *Macbeth*, William Shakespeare
- *Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley
- *Winter's Bone*, Daniel Woodrell
- Choice of dystopian text: *The Handmaid's Tale* (Atwood), *The Road* (McCarthy), or *1984* (Orwell)
- *The Wide Sargasso Sea*, Jean Rhys
- "The Yellow Wallpaper," Charlotte Perkins Gilman
- Various poems, essays, and short fiction

## **Class 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%