



Jackson Memorial High School
English Department

Course Title: English 4 (0120)

Room: 113 - Memorial Building

Teacher(s): Mr. Pienkowski - japienkowski@jacksonsd.org

Office Hours: by appointment during the Common Period

Required Materials

- a. Charged Chromebook
- b. A 3-ring binder or a Spiral Notebook and Folder
- c. Writing utensil (pen or pencil)
- d. Positive attitude and an open mind

Cell Phones

- a. Cell phones will be placed in the pocket holder in the front of the classroom at the beginning of class and can be picked up at the end of class
- b. Focus, engagement, and participation are crucial to your success in this course

Grading

The English Department requires that the following grading policy be implemented:

- a. Participation 20% (*includes attendance*)
- b. Homework 30% (*includes classwork*)
- c. Assessment 50% (*includes quizzes, tests, projects, & essays*)

Participation

Participation is necessary to be successful in this course

- a. Absent students have the option to make up missed work within **two** days of the absence if you have a Doctor's note
 - i. All other absences are **not excused** and your absence and work can be made up during the Common Period.
- b. Being prepared counts for participation as well

Homework

- a. Students will receive credit for completing and contributing to classroom activities
- b. Homework is expected to be completed and turned in on its due date.
- c. Homework may include reading assignments and/or online textbook assignments.

Assessment: Tests, Quizzes, Essays, and Projects

- a. Quizzes will be announced and unannounced; it is best always to be prepared.
- b. Tests will be announced at least **two** days before the day students will be required to take them. If you are absent on test day, you must take the test upon return.
- c. School policy states that you have **five** days to make up missed tests. Please do not wait that long.
- d. Late projects and/or essays **will not** be accepted.

Attendance

- a. You are only allowed **eight** unexcused absences per semester in each class. If you exceed the allotted absences, you may be denied credit regardless of the grade that you may receive.
- b. You are responsible for seeing me to see what assignments were missed during your absence.

Class Dismissal

- a. I ask that you remain seated and on task until we dismiss you for the day.
- b. I decide when the class is over.
- c. If you are standing, you are staying.

Restroom Policy

- a. You may use the restroom before or after a lesson or a lecture, but **PLEASE** do not interrupt the class in the middle of a lesson because you have to go to the bathroom. Please ask to leave the room at an appropriate time. Using your pass is a privilege that will be suspended if misused and/or abused.

Reading

- a. We will be covering the following:
 - i. *Beowulf*
 - a. Tells the story of the Scandinavian hero Beowulf, who gained fame as a young man by vanquishing the monster Grendel and Grendel's mother; later, as an aging king, he kills a dragon but dies soon after, honored and lamented. *There is strong language, sexual topics, and death throughout the novel. *We will be watching the film after the novel.*
 - ii. *The Canterbury Tales (The Wife of Bath's Tale)*
 - a. Provides insight into the role of women in the Late Middle Ages and was probably of interest to Chaucer himself, for the character is one of his most developed ones, with her Prologue twice as long as her Tale. **We will be watching the film "A Knight's Tale" after the novel.*

iii. *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*

- a. Tale of a man on a voyage by ship who, in one impulsive and heinous act, changes the course of his life and death.

iv. *Frankenstein*

- a. *Frankenstein, or The Modern Prometheus*, is an 1818 novel that tells the story of Victor Frankenstein, a young scientist who creates a creature in a scientific experiment. *There is strong language, sexual topics, and death throughout the novel. *We will be watching the film after the novel.*

v. "Dead Poets Society"

- a. "Dead Poets Society" is a 1989 American teen drama. It is set in 1959 at the fictional elite conservative Vermont boarding school Welton Academy. **There is strong language, sensual language, and suicide/death topics throughout the novel. *We will study the poetry covered in the film in class, and then we will watch the film.*

vi. *Hamlet*

- a. This Shakespearean play is about the ghost of the King of Denmark telling his son Hamlet to avenge his murder by killing the new king, Hamlet's uncle. **There is strong language, sensual language, and suicide/death topics throughout the novel. *We will be watching the film after the novel.*

vii. *Film Study*

- a. If time permits, we will be studying different films at the end of the semester that cover all of the topics and themes studied throughout the semester.

Writing

- a. Writing is also an essential life skill: my job is to teach you how to become a better writer. Formal essays that count as tests require the following:
 - On-time and complete the day that it is due
 - Typed - Double spaced
 - Times New Roman Font (size 12)
 - Occasionally multiple drafts
 - A proper heading:

Classroom Rules: Please adhere to the following rules:

- a. Be prepared and ready to work when you arrive, and respect yourself and each other
- b. Be in your seat when the bell rings, and follow directions the **first** time
- c. Refrain from using language that will embarrass you, your parents, or me

Name: _____

Period: _____

This, like any other semester, is very important. Your education is the most important; as a result, I expect a lot from my students. The goals I have set for you are attainable with dedication and hard work. Everything that we do in class is relevant to your success. An essential idea to remember is that you have the power over your grades and your future. Please remember that **I do not give grades – you earn them!**

MY RESPONSIBILITIES AS YOUR TEACHER:

- a. To treat you with respect and care as an individual
- b. To provide you with an orderly classroom environment
- c. To provide the necessary discipline
- d. To provide appropriate motivation
- e. To teach the required content

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS A STUDENT:

- a. Treat your classmates and me with respect and care as individuals
- b. To attend class regularly
- c. To be cooperative and not disruptive
- d. To study hard and complete the work
- e. To learn and master the required content

I am looking forward to having this class together. We can come together as adults and have a positive experience. Good luck to you this semester in this class and all of your other classes.

(Student Signature)

(Date)

(Parent / Guardian Signature)

(Date)

Mr. Pienkowski
(Teacher Signature)

9-05-2024
(Date)