**York Preparatory Academy English 4 Honors syllabus**

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**Welcome to English 4 Honors!** Much as English 3 is a survey of American literature, English 4 focuses on writers from the United Kingdom and Ireland. We will work chronologically through the texts in our semester together (20 weeks), making note of important historical influences along the way. This is our path:

**Unit I: Anglo-Saxon Literature**

 -*Beowulf* (selections)

 -*Grendel* (selection)

**Unit II: Medieval Literature**

-ballads

 -Geoffrey Chaucer: *The Canterbury Tales*

-*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

 *-Le Morte d’Arthur*

**Unit III: The Renaissance and the Restoration**

 -Sir Thomas More: *Utopia*

-William Shakespeare: *Othello*

-sonnets and metaphysical poetry

-Jonathan Swift: *Gulliver’s Travels,*

“A Modest Proposal”

-Miguel de Cervantes: *Don Quixote* (selection)

**Unit IV: Romanticism**

 -Mary Shelley: *Frankenstein*

 -Romantic poetry

**Unit V:** **The Victorian Period**

-Oscar Wilde: *The Importance of Being Ernest*

-Anton Chekov: “The Bet”

 -dramatic monologues

**Unit VI: Modernism and the 20th Century**

 -James Joyce short stories

 -Virginia Woolf: *A Room of One’s Own*

(selections)

 -D.H. Lawrence: “The Rocking-Horse Winner”

 George Orwell: *1984*

 -poetry: Yeats, Owens, Auden

**Honor Code**

The YPA Behavior Policy states that “YPA will require good manners, respect for self and others, appreciation for property, honesty, punctuality, reliability, and responsibility from all students, staff, parents, and community participants.” It is imperative that you practice a high level of personal integrity both in and outside of the classroom, and that you know plagiarism in any form is treated as a serious violation. Your work should be exclusively the production of your own brain and personal interpretation of a text. Any word, phrase, or idea from another source deserves a citation. ANY assignment which is copied from any source without citation will result in a zero—and should the assignment be the work of another student, both students receive zeroes. Due to the personal nature of literary interpretation, students are not to reference any materials which summarize or offer commentary on literary texts without the express sanction of the instructor.

***IN MORE EXPLICIT TERMS, DO NOT USE CLIFF NOTES, SPARK NOTES, BOOKRAGS, NOVELGUIDE, OR ANY OTHER***

***“STUDY” MATERIAL WHICH FULLY SUMMARIZES OR INTERPRETS A TEXT SO YOUR BRAIN DOESN’T HAVE TO.***

**Assessments and Grades**

Grades in this course are based on the points system. Your grade is reflection of the total number of points you have earned divided by the total number of points possible. For example, if you earn 9 points out of a 10 point reader’s log, you earned a 90% for that assignment. Every class assignment will be given a points value; the more complex the assignment, the higher the points value. Count on 700-1000 points per quarter. The beauty of the points system is twofold: 1) point values can be flexible, and 2) any extra credit goes into the pool with everything else.

Semester: Q1=40%/Q2=40%/Exam=20%

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Approximate point values:

Classwork: 10-25 pts Quizzes: 25-50 pts Projects: 100-200 pts

Homework: 10-25 pts Essays: 50-100 pts Tests: 100-200 pts

**Missing Work Policy:**

* Grade earned is reduced by 10% when the work is turned in at any point after it is collected and *8:10 the next morning*.
* Grade earned is reduced by 30% when the work is turned in by the *beginning of the next class period*.
* Grade earned is reduced by 50% when the work is turned in at any point after that, but within the same unit.
* Work turned in AFTER a unit is complete is not scored.
* Please be aware there are assignments that will not be accepted late **for any reason**; this includes group projects or essays/writing assignments that can be emailed.
* For an excused absence, the missed assignment is expected the next class period for full credit.
* **The student MUST approach the teacher to receive makeup work.**

**Absences:**

In a semester course, you are allowed 5 absences before automatically failing the course. THIS INCLUDES EXCUSED ABSENCES. Sickness is usually unplanned, so please be aware of this as you plan college visits, vacations, and other trips. You may ask me about your attendance status before or after school.

**Required supplies:**

--a composition book for your reading log (you may need more than one)

--a 3-ring binder with dividers

--writing instruments

--colored pencils, thin markers, or highlighters in at least 3 colors

--paper

**Not required but helpful:**

--a personal copy of any work we read. I recommend buying your own books so that you may annotate them. Participating in *active reading*—writing notes, thoughts, and questions in the margins—is particularly helpful and effective and excellent preparation for college.

--*How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster. Truly useful and readable guide on literary interpretation and significance.

--*MLA Guide for Writers of Research Papers* by Joseph Gibaldi—all essays are required to be in MLA format. Know it. Love it.

--a dictionary and a thesaurus

**Appreciated classroom donations:**

* Tissues
* Paper towels
* Copy paper
* Pens, pencils
* Highlighters
* Colored pencils
* Markers
* Post-its
* Dry erase markers

*I look forward to a productive semester of working with you!*