

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

English IV

Ms. LaCognata

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Course Description:**

Students will read a variety of literature with a strong emphasis on British Literature. Students can expect to give oral presentations. Students will practice various forms of writing to improve critical thinking skills. The main focus will be on a personal essay, utilizing senior vocabulary. Grammar and vocabulary will be regular aspects of the class to strengthen writing skills. Students will also complete a senior project during first semester, which has a focus on preparing for college and on career development. This will be a major part of their semester grade.

Prerequisites: English III or English III Honors.

**Course Objectives:**

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to: successfully write fluid and cohesive papers, analyze and comprehend reading passages, debate topics, and research and present information to groups, write for college level assignments, and prepare a resume.

**Required Class Materials:**

3 Ring Binder

Loose Leaf Paper

Pens/Pencils

Dividers

One Subject Notebook

**Text:**

*Macbeth, Twilight, Tears of a Tiger, Short Stories,*

**Course Outline:**

We will be reading a variety of books and other kinds of literature this year including: Twilight, Tears of the Tiger, Macbeth, and more. This course will have an emphasis not only on literature but on writing as well. We will be writing papers, completing projects, and doing group work. In addition to this, we will be doing a unit preparing you for college work, which will fulfill the requirement to complete a senior project. I like to have a wide variety of activities, so be ready for anything! I will be explaining procedures and what we will do on a day-to-day basis as we get our feet on the ground for this school year.

**Major Assignments:**

Senior Project (completed by end of 1<sup>st</sup> semester), novel analysis papers (throughout entire year), research and group projects (throughout entire year).

### Grading:

A+ 98-100  
A 94-97  
A- 92-93  
B+ 90-91  
B 87-89  
B- 85-86  
C+ 83-84  
C 79-82  
C- 77-78  
D+ 75-76  
D 72-74  
D- 70-71  
F 0-69

### Class Policies & Procedures:

#### Rules

Here are my classroom rules:

1. **RESPECT:** Having RESPECT is the #1 rule in my classroom. Always, always, **ALWAYS** have respect for yourself, others, and property in the classroom and school. This will make this year a lot easier and more fun.
2. **When you enter the room, be ready to work.** We have a lot of material to cover this year and will be moving at an accelerated pace. When you come to the room ready to work, more can be accomplished and everyone will be successful. The material you need is listed earlier on this sheet.
3. **Be prepared and on time.** When you come to class every day, be prepared with your necessary materials. If you get to class on time and prepared, you will be amazed at how much we will get done! Tardiness will not be tolerated!
4. **Have an open mind and positive attitude.** All of you are becoming independent adults and have a variety of backgrounds, opinions, and attitudes. Sometimes, this can lead to conflict but as long as you are willing to listen and cooperate we will have a strong and safe classroom.
5. **Follow the school rules.** Once the year starts, you will be well refreshed on the school rules and expectations. These rules will be observed in my class.

If you would like to add brainstorm rules to add as a class, I am very willing to add them to these.

#### Expectations

Here are some expectations I have for you when you come to my class:

1. Be respectful and attentive in class
2. Follow rules and directions
3. Ask questions
4. Ask for help
5. Be helpful
6. Have fun!

Here is what you can expect from me:

1. I am always here to offer help...if you need help come see me before school or after school by appointment.
2. I will answer your questions.
3. I will listen to all of your opinions/concerns/ideas.
4. I will provide a well-rounded learning experience this year.

I have high expectations for all of my classes. I want to see how you will meet those expectations I have and the school has!

**Miscellaneous:**

We will be doing a lot of reading and writing for this course. Be ready to come in to class with an open mind and eager pen or pencil.

**Instructor Contact:**

Instructor: Ms. LaCognata

Email: [alacognata@cusd4.org](mailto:alacognata@cusd4.org)

CHS Phone #: 815-694-2321

Room A105

**Available before school. Also available after school by appointment.**