English IV:
# British Literature and Composition

Syllabus

Class Description

Language mastery and the integration of the four basic elements of the English curriculum (reading, writing, research, and communication/media studies) continue in this course based on the study of British literature. Development of competency in the areas of close reading, critical analysis, research, and writing prepare the students for college-level work, while research projects increase in complexity. Digitial literacy is emphasized to prepare the students for today's technological demands. **Credit: 1.0; A full-year required course for seniors**

Essential Outcomes

1. Understand and evaluate the development of British literature and the English language in their historical contexts;
2. Read, understand, and analyze British literature from a variety of genres by using elements of text to defend and clarify responses and interpretations;
3. Communicate clearly and effectively when making speeches, debating, or presenting new ideas using both traditional and digital mediums;
4. Compose coherent, logical, and meaningful pieces of writing, paying careful attention to use of tone, diction, and voice;
5. Correctly use conventions of advanced grammar, punctuation, capitalization, vocabulary, and spelling, as well as a variety of syntactic techniques in sentence writing;
6. Evaluate, ethically use, and cite primary and secondary resources to inform, analyze, and synthesis ideas to present and/or defend an argument.

Class Texts
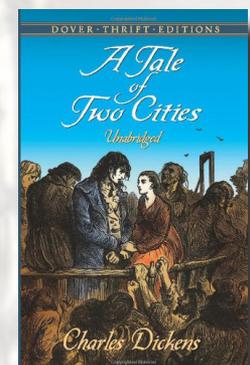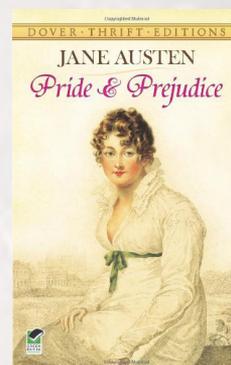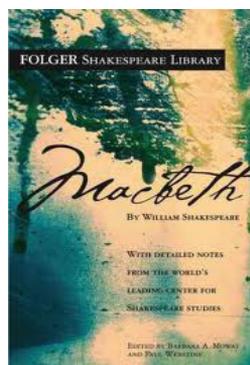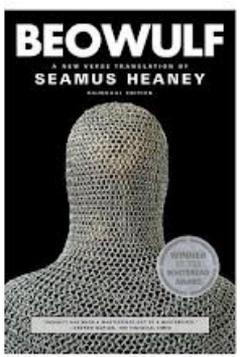
We will be reading three major texts (and numerous "minor" texts) as a class throughtout the year, but you will be responsible for independent reading as well. You must read an indepedent novel, collection of short stories, or collection of poetry each quarter. These readings will be chosen by you and used as part of your challenges. I will be looking for book reviews or other writing compositions on your blog and/or ePortfolio each quarter (see *ePortfolio* for more information). The reading schedule is as follows:

Beowulf - Quarter 1
Macbeth - Quarter 2
Pride and Prejudice - Quarter 3
Tale of Two Cities - Quarter 4

Class Expectations

1. Respect everyone. All are to be welcomed and treated as Christ.
2. Arrive to class on time. If you are not in the classroom by the second bell, you will be counted tardy.
3. Remain focused during the class. I do not require silence, but I do require you to remain on-task. All conversations must apply to the work at hand.
4. Come to class with all materials necessary.
5. The first few minutes of class are reserved for you to prepare yourself (getting books ready, homework out, etc…). During this time, I will take attendance and check for homework completion. This is not the time to ask me about work missed.
6. If you wish to ask/answer a question or leave the classroom, please raise your hand.
7. You are responsible for asking your classmates what you missed if you leave the classroom.
8. Because of the nature of the work we do in the humanities, you are allowed to use smart phones, laptops, and tablets in the classroom for work. If you misuse this privilege, your device(s) will be taken away and sent to the office according to the school's policies.
9. Eating and drinking are not permitted in the classroom.
10. All rules and procedures of Blessed John Paul II High School are in effect in the classroom.

> *" First he wrought, and afterward he taught."*
>
> *– Geoffrey Chaucer*

Supplies

- Filing system of your choice
- College-ruled paper (loose-leaf or perforated notebook)
- A portable collegiate dictionary
- Blue or Black ink pens (no other colors will be allowed)
- 1-2 G Flash Drive
- A pair of headphones
- Recommended, but not necessary: laptop, tablet, or smartphone
- Access to following programs:
  - ☑ A movie maker (Windows MovieMaker, iMovie, Camtasia, Adobe Premiere Pro, WeVideo, etc…)
  - ☑ An audio program (Camtasia, Garageband, Audacity, Adobe Audition, etc…)
  - ☑ Screen recording software (Fraps, Quicktime Player)
  - ☑ Video recorder (smart phone, camera, etc…)
  - ☑ Audio recorder (smart phone, laptop with microphone, etc…)
  - ☑ Personal Youtube or Vimeo account
- A ream of copy paper

Digital Media

This class will rely heavily on computer-based and internet-based programs. It is helpful, but not required, for you to bring a laptop, smartphone, and/or tablet to class. If you do not have access to any of these devices, it is not necessary for you to purchase one to be successful in this class. I will work with you to ensure you have internet and computer access as you need it. However, it is important that you have computer and internet access at home. If you do not, you must either make arrangements with me to use the four computers in my classroom, the computer lab at your local public library, or one of the computers in the library.

Library Card

I strongly encourage you to obtain a library card at your local public library. This library card will give you access to the library's computer lab and online research databases. Again, this is not required, but strongly encouraged.

Types of Assignments / Make-Up Work / Late Work

Exercises: These are your everyday assignments: readings, vocabulary building, and practice written compositions.

Challenges: These are your major assessments: major blogs, vlogs, videos, major written compositions, presentations, and projects. All challenges are worth at least 100 points.

Make-Up Work: If you are absent (excused) on the day of an assessment, you will make it up the day you return. If you do not make it up that day, you will receive a zero. You have the number of days equal to the number of days you were absent to make up any assignments you missed during your absence. If you are absent on the day a project is due, it is your responsibility to ensure it is turned in on time. You may email it to me, send it with a friend, or have a parent/guardian leave it at the front office for me. I will not accept any major project after its due date. However, I will allow you to make up an oral presentation if the essay and all other presentation materials are turned in on time.

Late Work: As upper-classman, you are expected to take responsibility for your work and time management. However, if you are late in turning in a exercise, the following will take effect: For everyday the exercise is late, I will deduct 20% from the maximum number of points allowed up to five days. After five days, I will not accept the exercise.

ePortfolio

You will be required to keep an electronic portfolio, or ePortfolio, as a requirement for this class. Your ePortfolio will count as both your midterm and final exams, so it must be kept updated at all times. The ePortfolio is a curation of all the work you have completed during the year. Every challenge will be cross-referenced with at least one class essential outcome and should demonstrate mastery of the outcome(s).

The theme of your portfolio depends on you, but you should choose a topic that thoroughly interests you. Sample themes include sports, literature, movies, medicine, history, and jobs, while specific topics include waterpolo, non-fiction literature, movies based on books, medieval period, role and history of nurses, etc.... The options are literally endless, so there is no excuse for choosing a theme/topic that does not interest you. For this reason, once you have chosen your topic, you may **NOT** change it.

As part of your ePortfolio, you will be keeping a public blog. It is important that the blog remain public as you learn to write authentic compositions for authentic audiences. Your blog will be a record of your experiences in the class: reviews of books you have read, arguments concerning ideas you have encountered, online discussions with your peers, creative writing, and the like. While some creations will be assigned, the majority will be designed by you.

You can choose your own platform(s) for your ePortfolio and your blog, or you can use *Weebly*. I will spend time with you during the second or third week of school to set up your ePortfolio and blogging platforms, as well as get you started with *Storify*.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a school. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the challenge, to disciplinary sanctions from the administration, ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor.

Contract

Your presence in this class assumes understanding and acceptance of the rules and terms as set forth in this document, both on your part and the part of your parent(s)/guardian(s). If you do not understand and/or cannot accept any terms, please see me before the end of the second week of school. After this time, all students and parents are bound by the rules and terms set forth in this document.