

**Mrs. DeSantis**

**El Paso High**

**Room 309**

**English IV 2015-16 Syllabus**

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Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the exciting endeavor of English IV! English IV is designed to provide a fruitful capstone experience of a student’s studies in English Language Arts, as well as to ensure that that student is prepared for both future coursework in English Language Arts and the literacy-related skills inherent in the modern workplace. Thus, this course assumes the dual challenge of completing a rich course of study in high-school-level English Language Arts and bridging that foundation with higher-level academic and vocational undertakings. Through this course, the student will study English Language Arts subjects in great depth. The student will be asked to read, write, speak, and listen in a greater quantity and quality than in previous grades. Through such study, the students will come to understand and appreciate the outstanding power of literature and literacy. Through such study, students will come to understand and appreciate that literature and language arts transcend the classroom and both influence and are influenced by the “real world.”

The assignments for this course will be varied and continuously adapted to meet the needs and build from the strengths of all students. However, all assignments and activities will be developed in accordance with the following three-part goal: (1) Success on the appropriate course assignments (2) Success in the individual academic and personal lives of each student (3) Successful preparation for future academic and vocational endeavors. Thus, this course shares the same overarching goal as the El Paso Independent School District – *Nothing Less Than Success*! Our academic endeavors will be challenging, but I believe that it is only through such challenges that an individual can meet their true potential. Furthermore, it is my sincere objective to ensure that students understand precisely what they are being asked to do, why they are being asked to do so, and how their efforts will be assessed. To do so, expectations will be provided through verbal means, as well as through written rubrics and prompts. **Expectations will be high and assumptions will be few**. I will constantly strive to communicate effectively. **However, should the student and/or parent/guardian ever have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.** You may call the front desk at (915) 236-2500 and leave a message with a number to which I may return your call, email me at the address listed above, and/or visit the website listed above. Furthermore, through either the telephone or e-mail, you may always request an in-person meeting at a mutually accepted time.

I ask that all students and parents/guardians review the information presented in this syllabus, and that this syllabus stays safe and/or all pertinent information is recorded for future reference. I look forward to a great year, and I am convinced that, if everyone does their fair share and their best work, we really will achieve *nothing less than success.*

Sincerely,

Mrs. Emily DeSantis

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

* Something to write on. [notebook, binder, loose-leaf paper, etc.]
* Something to write with. [pen, pencil, etc.]
* Something to store/organize that writing. [folder, binder, etc.]

**\*\* Students must bring all required materials to class EVERYDAY.\*\***

**\*\*Please contact Mrs. DeSantis if assistance is needed in obtaining any of these materials.\*\***

**CLASSROOM PROCEDURES:**

**Attendance and Assignments**

Attendance is critical to success in this class. It is understood that high school students, by nature, are very involved in activities inside and outside of school. Conflicts with schedules are inevitable. Whether it is a college visit, field trip, or sporting event, students are responsible for any assignments or notes missed because of an absence.

If a student is absent, he/she should consult **BOTH** the teacher and the class website for any missed assignments. “Make-up assignments or tests shall be made available to students after any absence except for unexcused absences (truancy). A student with an absence shall have at least one school day, and may have more at the discretion of the teacher, to make up work for each day the student is absent. For any class missed, the teacher may assign the student make-up assignments based on the instructional objectives for the subject or course and the needs of the individual student in mastering the essential knowledge and skills or in meeting subject or course requirements. A student shall be responsible for obtaining and completing the make-up work in a satisfactory manner and within the time specified by the teacher” [EIAB (LOCAL)]. A marker will be averaged as a “zero” in the grade book until work is completed, at which time the grade earned will be recorded.

All work is due as specified by the teacher during the regular class meeting time. Work turned in after the due date will earn a reduced grade: 10 points deducted for each of the first three days late; thereafter, the highest grade which may be earned is a 70%. As this course is designed to prepare students for higher academic endeavors and future employment, turning work in late is highly discouraged. **Extensions for assignments may be granted to students’ written requests upon the discretion of the teacher.**

Class participation and discussion is an important component of class success. Please be prepared for class with the necessary materials, as well as all readings and assignments completed.

Assignments turned in without names will be tacked to the bulletin board. A student may retrieve their paper at any time, put his/her name on it, and turn it in for credit.

**Tardy Policy and Class Dismissal**

“A tardy will be unexcused if the student is not inside the room or at the area designated for class when the tardy bell rings unless he or she has an authorized excuse” [FEC (REGULATION)]. **I expect all students to be in their seats when the bell rings.** A tardy will be treated as a disciplinary infraction. Students are expected to remain seated until dismissed by the teacher. **The bell does not dismiss the class – I do.**

**Grade Scale:**

* 10% - 9-Week Tests
* 10% - Participation
* 20% - Formal Assignments
* 60% - Daily Work

**Plagiarism**

"At El Paso High School we take academic integrity seriously.  Therefore, any student caught cheating will receive a zero."

Plagiarism, the use of another’s ideas OR words without properly crediting the source, is unethical, academically dishonest, and illegal. In many colleges, plagiarism can result in a student being expelled. Be certain that you know what constitutes plagiarism. It will not be tolerated in this class and will result in an automatic zero on the applicable assignment. In compositions, the student will be responsible for documenting any quoted material and borrowed ideas, even if paraphrasing them. If in doubt, ask for help!

In addition to a “zero tolerance” policy on plagiarism, it is impossible for the teacher to know the subject of a conversation which occurs during a quiz, test, or any other individual assignment; therefore, any talking during such activities, whether related to the subject matter or not, will result in a grade of “zero” for all parties involved.

**Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices**

Students will be allowed to use their electronic devices ONLY when specified by the teacher. If the teacher SEES or HEARS a cell phone or other electronic device that is not approved for use at the time, the procedures which have been outlined by the Administration will be followed. **Consequently, purses and other bags will not be allowed on desktops.** I expect full cooperation with this very important policy.

**Hall Passes:**

Students will be granted access to hall passes through the teacher’s discretion only. Students may request access to the hallways during instructional time by raising their hand and asking politely and in such a manner that does not disrupt the overall class. If the students are granted a hall pass, they will sign-out upon leaving the classroom and sign-in upon returning to the classroom. Students are strongly encouraged to take care of whatever needs they may have during passing periods, free periods, and/or lunch.

**CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:**

**Norms:**

All students are expected to comply with the following classroom norms: (1) Be on time, on task, and prepared to learn every day. (2) Respect the teacher, classroom, other students, and yourself. (3) Be responsible for your own learning. (4) Clean up after yourself and your peers. (5) Keep all personal electronics put away, unless they are specifically allowed by the teacher for that lesson.

\*\* It is important to note that all district-wide and school-wide policies will also be enforced in this classroom.

**Consequences:**

I am a firm believer that Newton’s Third Law of Motion is not only important to the Physics classroom, but to ALL classrooms! Newton proposed the following: “For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction.” I will run my classroom in the same way. Therefore, every positive action and every negative action given off by the student will be met with an equal reaction reflected back onto them. These consequences will be determined as follows:

Positive:

1. INTRINSIC – Personal pride and fulfillment
2. COMMUNITY – Positive classroom family and school community
3. VERBAL – Specific commendations given directly to students
4. EXTRINSIC – Tangible forms of commendation given directly to students upon Mrs. DeSantis’ discretion

Negative:

1. VERBAL – Communication with the student
2. TICKET – Ticket or other form of communication sent home with student to be signed and returned by guardian(s). Direct communication with guardian(s) will follow.
3. IN-HOUSE – Disciplinary action taken within the classroom family upon Mrs. DeSantis’ discretion
4. OUT-HOUSE – Students will be referred to the proper administration

\*\* It is important to note that students may be asked to complete a “Personal Action Plan” to acknowledge and take actions toward reaching any goals that may be warranted – both academic and behavioral. The student will construct this plan, but both the guardian and teacher will need to review and sign this plan.

**WEBSITE:** Please note that this class will have a supplementary website component at the following address: [ejdesant.weebly.com](file:///F:\English%204\Syllabus\desantisenglish.weebly.com). This website will contain a calendar of what occurs in class, uploaded documents that are used in class, and a variety of other useful information. Therefore, this site should be used frequently to keep both the student and the parent/guardian aware of what is going on in English IV!

**TENTATIVE ACADEMIC SCHEDULE:**

* + - 1st Quarter:
      * 2 weeks
* Note Taking
* *Exeter*
* *Beowulf*
  + - * 3 weeks
        + College Entrance
        + Resume, Application Essays, etc.
        + Research paper
      * 2 week
        + Bede - Business Plan

Develop and “sell” a product for 8th Century England/Ireland using sba.gov

* + - * 2 weeks
        + Chaucer

Multimedia Project

* + - 2nd Quarter:
      * 2 weeks
        + “Federigo’s Falcon”
        + King Arthur
        + Medieval Poetry
      * 2 weeks
        + “Lovers and Their Lines”
      * 3 week
        + King James Bible
        + Bible Story Project
      * 2 week
        + Shakespeare Background [if time]
        + Shakespeare Project

Semester Exam: Compare themes and/or characters from the King James Bible to other pieces read throughout the semester

* + - 3rd 9-weeks
      * Shakespeare – The class will choose at least 3 of the following texts:
        + *Macbeth*
        + *Hamlet*
        + *Othello*
        + *Merchant of Venice*
        + *Much Ado about nothing*
        + *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Death*
        + *The Taming of the Shrew*
      * Research Paper
    - 4th 9-weeks
      * *Dracula*
      * *1984*
      * *Lord of the Flies*
      * *Siddhartha*
        + *Tao te Ching*
        + *Tao of Pooh*
    - Final Exam: Essay

**\*\* The above items are subject to change at the discretion of the teacher (and will do so frequently to meet the needs of individual classes). \*\***