

Syllabus English 4

Dr. de Hart

Oak Hills High School

I. Objective

The objective for English 4 is summarized by the key goals of the California State adopted Common Core Standards for English Language Arts, namely that the student: Demonstrates **independence** in evaluating a text across disciplines and becomes a self directed learner; Builds strong content **knowledge** across subject matters by proficiency in **research and study**; Respond to varying demands of **audience**, task, purpose, and discipline (nuance, tone, etc.); **Comprehend** as well as **critique** - question author/ speaker's assumptions to access the veracity of claims and the soundness of the reasoning; **Value evidence** and understand what is relevant to support ideas; Use **technology** and digital media strategically and capably, efficient searches and knowledge of reliable sources; **Understand other perspectives** and cultures, *"through reading great classic and contemporary works of literature representative of a variety of periods, cultures, and worldviews..."* [California Department of Education, Core Standards, Introduction]. This will be achieved through the following:

- A. Narrative Writing, including but not limited to biography, autobiography, sequence of events, format for business letter writing.
- B. Narrative Presentation, including but not limited to a narration of an event using sequential language and

style; point of view and vantage point details

- C. Literary Analysis and Response, including but not limited to the identification of figurative language, main ideas, theme, plot development, and literary style.
- D. Writing Strategies, including the development of a coherent thesis and supporting arguments using logic. The student will also gain an understanding of how denotation and connotation are used as literary devices and how to properly employ properly use them.

II. **Text(s)**The Language of Literature will occasionally be used for assignments in class and at home. Assignments from the Language of Literature will be written on the daily agenda in the classroom and/or on Dr. de Hart's website (drdehart.com is also accessible from Oak Hills High School website). Addition reading assignments in class/and or at home may include (but not limited to) Frankenstein 1818 (Anonymous authorship 1st edition); The Picture of Dorian Gray (Oscar Wilde); Gulliver's Travels (Jonathon Swift); Hamlet (attributed to Wm. Shakespeare); Salamé (Oscar Wilde); .

III. **Grading** A standard grading scale of A = 100-90%; B = 89-80%; C= 79-70%; D = 69-60%. 59% and below = F. Note: Class work/Home work is weighted at 10%; Participation is weighted at 10%; quizzes are weighted at 30%; Attendance is weighted at 10%; Tests/ midterms are weighted at 40%.

IV. **Assignments**

- A. **Vocabulary** - focus Etymology - Greek/Latin origins to assist in decoding and building a larger college ready

- B. **Writing Journals.** 1 page minimum required per week. Grammar and spelling count. Entries should demonstrate focus on a single theme with careful attention to description, chronology, sequential language, and clarity of thought.
- C. **Lecture Notebooks.** Each week students will be given direct instruction. Students are expected to take organized and legible notes that will be checked for completion and graded.
- D. **Classwork and Homework.** Assignments will be based on the focus of our particular units in relationship to Common Core Standards. Progress, review, and mastery will be the purpose of homework. **“Here is the News”** is a homework assignment due **each Tuesday**. A story from a quality newspaper or a verifiable internet news site must be summarized in the student’s *own words with 3 quotations properly* cited from the article/story. Quotation marks and an identifiable source (where it came from – Name of the Paper or Website, Date, Page Number, FULL website address) must be included for full credit.
- E. **Quizzes, Tests and Written Analysis Papers** will be given as sections of the unit are completed, i.e. short stories, persuasion, vocabulary.

V. Expectation

I expect your child to learn in a safe and engaging environment. I expect your child to succeed academically and find the intellectual process stimulating and perhaps life changing. I expect respect, focus, preparedness, and

participation.

VI. Contact information If you need to contact Dr. de Hart, please email at: scott.dehart@hesperiausd.org. This should be your first line of direct communication for a prompt reply.

Phone calls made through Oak Hills High School will be returned as soon as possible with an attempt to make contact within the week. Please check my website for assignments, clarifications, reviews, extra credit, etc.

Additional information about Dr. de Hart's education, teaching experience, publications, etc. can be found at his blog: **drdehart.com**
