



Jackson Township High School
English Department

Course Title: English 4 (0120)

Room: C106

Teacher(s): Mr. Pienkowski - japienkowski@jacksonsd.org

Office Hours: by appointment during the Common Period

Required Materials

- a. Charged Chromebook
- b. A 3-ring binder or a Spiral Notebook and Folder
- c. Writing utensil (pen or pencil)
- d. Positive attitude and an open mind

Cell Phones

- a. Cell phones will be placed in the pocket holder in the front of the classroom at the beginning of class and can be picked up at the end of class
- b. Focus, engagement, and participation are crucial to your success in this course

Grading

The English Department requires that the following grading policy be implemented:

- a. Participation 20% (*includes attendance*)
- b. Homework 30% (*includes classwork*)
- c. Assessment 50% (*includes quizzes, tests, projects, & essays*)

Participation

Participation is necessary to be successful in this course

- a. Absent students have the option to make up missed work within **two** days of the absence if you have a Doctor's note
 - i. All other absences are **not excused** and your absence and work can be made up during the Common Period.
- b. Being prepared counts for participation as well

Homework

- a. Students will receive credit for completing and contributing to classroom activities
- b. Homework is expected to be completed and turned in on its due date.
- c. Homework may include reading assignments and/or online textbook assignments.

Assessment: Tests, Quizzes, Essays, and Projects

- a. Quizzes will be announced and unannounced; it is best always to be prepared.
- b. Tests will be announced at least **two** days before the day students will be required to take them. If you are absent on test day, you must take the test upon return.
- c. School policy states that you have **five** days to make up missed tests. Please do not wait that long.
- d. Late projects and/or essays **will not** be accepted.

Attendance

- a. You are only allowed **eight** unexcused absences per semester in each class. If you exceed the allotted absences, you may be denied credit regardless of the grade that you may receive.
- b. You are responsible for seeing me to see what assignments were missed during your absence.

Class Dismissal

- a. I ask that you remain seated and on task until we dismiss you for the day.
- b. I decide when the class is over.
- c. If you are standing, you are staying.

Restroom Policy

- a. You may use the restroom before or after a lesson or a lecture, but **PLEASE** do not interrupt the class in the middle of a lesson because you have to go to the bathroom. Please ask to leave the room at an appropriate time. Using your pass is a privilege that will be suspended if misused and/or abused.

Reading

- a. We will be covering the following:
 - i. *Beowulf*
 - a. Tells the story of the Scandinavian hero Beowulf, who gained fame as a young man by vanquishing the monster Grendel and Grendel's mother; later, as an aging king, he kills a dragon but dies soon after, honored and lamented. *There is strong language, sexual topics, and death throughout the novel. *We will be watching the film after the novel.*
 - ii. *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*
 - a. It is the tale of a man on a voyage by ship who changes the course of his life and death in one impulsive and heinous act.
 - iii. *Frankenstein*
 - a. *Frankenstein, or The Modern Prometheus*, is a 1818 novel that tells the story of Victor Frankenstein, a young scientist who creates a creature in a scientific experiment. *There is strong language, sexual topics, and death throughout the novel. *We will be watching the film after the novel.*

iv. *A Christmas Carol*

- a. A classic novella by Charles Dickens, published in 1843, that tells the story of the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge and his journey toward redemption. Over the course of a single Christmas Eve, a series of ghostly visitations forces Scrooge to confront the consequences of his cold-hearted ways and embrace the spirit of kindness and generosity. *We will be watching the film after the novel.*

v. *Hamlet*

- a. This Shakespearean play is about the ghost of the King of Denmark telling his son, Hamlet, to avenge his murder by killing the new king, Hamlet's uncle. **There is strong language, sensual language, and suicide/death topics throughout the novel. *We will be watching the film after the novel.*

vi. *Film Study*

- a. If time permits, we will study different films at the end of the semester that cover all of the topics and themes studied.

Writing

- a. Writing is also an essential life skill: my job is to teach you how to become a better writer. Formal essays that count as tests require the following:
 - On-time and complete the day that it is due
 - Typed - Double spaced
 - Times New Roman Font (size 12)
 - Occasionally multiple drafts
 - A proper heading:

Classroom Rules: Please adhere to the following rules:

- a. Be prepared and ready to work when you arrive, and respect yourself and each other
- b. Be in your seat when the bell rings, and follow directions the **first** time
- c. Refrain from using language that will embarrass you, your parents, or me