

Vashon High School

COURSE: English 4

TEACHER: Mrs. Tracy Mense

Room C 242

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Class Microsoft Teams website: MWF <https://tinyurl.com/y5qkwqu5>

THF <https://tinyurl.com/y6j9mlgi>

*If you need to contact me, the easiest way is e-mail.

Please allow 24 hours for a response.

Major Texts: Quarter 1 – Short Stories, Poems, Essays

Quarter 2 – *1984* by George Orwell

Quarter 3 – *Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson

Quarter 4 – *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* as told to Alex Haley

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This year-long course provides an overview of a variety of literary genres. Genres include short stories, essays, poems, and novels. Your grade in this course will be largely discussion and project/ essay based.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Reading

- make more connections about how complex ideas interact and develop within a book, essay, or article
- evaluate arguments and specific claims; assessing whether the reasoning is valid and the evidence is sufficient; and as appropriate, detecting inconsistencies and ambiguities

Writing

- make an argument that is logical, well-reasoned, and supported by evidence
- conduct several research projects that address different aspects of the same topic, using more complex books, articles, and other sources

Speaking and Listening

- respond thoughtfully to diverse perspectives; synthesizing comments, claims, and evidence made on all sides of an issue; and resolving contradictions when possible
- make strategic use of digital media (e.g., animations, video, websites, podcasts) to enhance understanding of findings and to add interest

MATERIALS:

Students will need the following supplies:

1. Reliable internet access and a device to access the internet
2. Notebook for taking notes (this is a pretty note intensive class). You can also use OneNote or other online notetaking app while we are virtual.
3. An open mind for challenging and connecting new ideas to your past experiences

PLAGIARISM:

Plagiarism will be categorized in the following ways:

Level 1: Though most of the work is the student's, a few lines, phrases, or paragraphs of the text are used without proper attribution.

Level 2: A significant portion of the work is not the student's and is not cited. This would include use of multiple paragraphs of someone else's work, use of someone's ideas, and/or repeated paraphrasing of someone else's work without attribution.

Level 3: Little, if any, of the work is the student's; most, if not all, of the work has been copied verbatim or copied and slightly altered without attribution.

When a student plagiarizes at either Level 2 or 3, the student must redo the assignment or a similar assignment, or they must take an F. For the redone paper, the student will earn between a 50 and 75%. The rewrite must be completed in a timely manner.

DAILY WORK & ASSIGNMENTS will be on **Microsoft Teams**

Students are strongly encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning by keeping up with these assignments. Work is always due during the class period indicated, unless specifically told otherwise. If for some reason, the student is unable to complete the work by this time, please contact me BEFORE it is due and we can come up with a solution. Work turned in late with no communication from the student will not be accepted.

HOMEWORK: For homework requiring use of computers and/or internet, more than one meeting day will be given for completion. This means that last minute emergencies including printer problems, technical glitches, temporary interruption of household internet service, etc are not excuses for the work not being turned in on time even if a guardian provides a written excuse.

MAKE-UP WORK: If a student is absent, he/she should retrieve the missing assignment and/or information from the Teams page at least by the day the student returns to school, even if the class does not meet on that day. Students may get a pass to with me during Advisory to seek help with assignments or to discuss class assignments and projects. Students are expected to complete assignments missed due to absence within the guidelines outlined in the Student & Parent Handbook.

QUIZZES: Quizzes may be announced or they may be “pop” quizzes. If students keep up with daily assignments and reading, quizzes will offer opportunities to improve the academic average.

ASSESSMENTS: Students will be notified about major tests and/or essays. Students are expected to prepare adequately for assessments by keeping up with the reading and daily/weekly assignments

EVALUATION: We will be using the points system where larger projects and assessments will be worth more points than smaller assignments and quizzes. Participation will be included, especially while virtual.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS:

- Be Early (or at the very least Be On-Time)
- Take Responsibility for YOUR Education
- RESPECT
- Try, Try, and Keep trying
- Listen to Understand (not just respond)

Virtual Expectations for live meetings

- Be prepared. You should be on time, in a mostly distraction-free work space, fully clothed, with your learning tools easily within reach.
- If at all possible, keep your camera on your face and ensure you are in a quiet environment.
- Use appropriate language.
- Keep yourself muted unless you are appropriately responding to a question or discussion.

I have high expectations of your student and encourage him/her to have the same of his/herself. Our class will not be overwhelming if daily participation is kept up. Learning will be accomplished, and fun will be had (yes, both are possible). Looking forward to a rewarding year,

Tracy Mense **All information contained in the syllabus is subject to change at the teacher's discretion**

