 Mr. Daniel Fister

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2025-2026 School Year

**English 4**

 The aim of this course is to continue to explore and master the understanding and use of the English language. The course is based on Missouri’s state learning standards and uses a variety of texts, assignments, and multi-media to analyze and practice English communication. Lessons and resources will be delivered in the classroom, with some online content and resources being posted on each classes’ Microsoft Teams page. This course is divided into four units that will correspond with our four quarters of the school year.

**Unit 1: What’s Next? (Novel: *Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka)**

For high school seniors, the future seems closer than ever. In a matter of months, these students will make major decisions about their lives. This unit offers a variety of literature that will encourage students to consider these questions and more while also exploring texts in the unit’s genre focus, informational text. Students will read and write personal stories and learn to share information more objectively. Students are also given the opportunity to read across genres. ***Essential Questions:* How can we transform the future? How can we make sure that we make the right choices? How much does a person’s individual choices affect his or her future? Can we make sure our choices have a positive impact on ourselves and on society?**

**Unit 2: Uncovering Truth (Novel: *Beowulf* translated by Seamus Heaney)**

Everybody loves a good hero story. From Beowulf to the Avengers, audiences clamor for these tales of good versus evil. In this unit, students will think about the theme and essential question as they focus on the medieval period and English renaissance literature, analyzing excerpts from Beowulf and Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, among others. Readings will focus on fiction and heroic narratives, but nonfiction sources about real people overcoming challenges will help students connect these stories to their lives. The writing focus will be on narrative fiction. ***Essential Questions:* How do challenges cause us to reveal our true selves? How and why do leaders face challenges? What do readers learn by reading about heroes, characters, and leaders and what they do in moments of challenge? What do these stories teach us about ourselves and our society?**

**Unit 3: Against the Wind**

History is filled with great leaders. These people inspire us, educate us, and challenge us. But history is also filled with conflict, and troubled times can give rise to the best and the worst in all of us. Students will read argumentative and historically pieces as well as fiction and travel writing. Students will read and write about people and ideas that defied the norms of their times and made real change. The writing focus will be on argumentative writing. ***Essential Questions:* How do leaders fight for their ideas? What turns a regular person into an effective leader? What ideas have people fought for throughout history? What do readers learn by reading historical speeches, documents, novels, and poems? What do these texts teach us about ourselves, our country, and our role in a global society?**

**Unit 4: Sculpting Reality (Novel: *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelly)**

From Cinderella to Harry Potter, everyone has a favorite story. Stories have the power to sweep audiences into fantasy worlds as well as bring a sense of clarity as we struggle with our own mundane problems. Students will focus on Romanticism and poetry as they read about subjects not easily described. The writing focus will be on informative research papers. ***Essential Questions:* How do stories teach us important lessons? How can stories change our hearts and minds? What do readers learn by reading about fictional characters and events? What do stories teach us about ourselves and our society?**

**Assignments and Grading**

Your grade will be calculated by the following criteria:

**40% FORMATIVE ASSIGNMENTS (*class work*)**

These are to be completed **in class**, usually in our class notebook or on handouts. Includes: Do-now’s, exit tickets, reading notes, vocabulary assignments, participating in class review games/activities.

**50% SUMMATIVE ASSIGNMENTS (*quizzes and writing projects*)**

**Quizzes:** almost every week we will have a written quiz! ***If you are absent, you can complete it late but might lose some points.***

**Writing Projects:** Each quarter we will have longer writing projects, which include all steps of the writing process (prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, publishing).

**10% Semester Final Grade**

This will be a semester final test or writing assignment.

**Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) Policy**

**AI *is a TOOL, NOT a SHORTCUT!*** Most teachers can recognize the use of AI from students; and while it can be helpful for ideas/information, **it cannot replace your ability to think, write in your own words, or read!**

**AI GRADING POLICY:**

**Assignment turned in with AI copy/paste:** If it perfectly completes the assignment and is close to grade level, **you will get a D (60%) on the assignment**. \**If I think it is AI but you claim to have written it, we can talk about the assignment to see if you wrote it.*

**Assignment turned in written in your own words:** You **can get full credit!** Even if AI helps you write by giving ideas, if it completes the assignment and makes sense, I will grade it normally (standard A to D grading)

**Classroom Policies**

 Students are expected to arrive to class on time and participate fully in our class activities. **While I will provide notebooks and handouts to use in class, please bring your own writing utensil and device for participating in class activities.** I will always have some extra pencils for students. Students must follow the District’s behavior policy for maintaining a safe and effective classroom environment.

**Tardy/Cut Policy:** If you are late to class, you will be marked Tardy. Many tardies will result in detentions or ISS. **If you are more than 10 minutes late to class with no note, this will be marked as a ‘Cut’.** Cutting class will hurt your grade and have school disciplinary actions taken.

**Cell Phone Policy:** *New to the District! Cel phones and other devices are turned in at security in the morning and returned at the end of the day.*

**Late Assignment Policy**

**--I allow students to turn in assignments late** but you cannot usually receive full credit; 10%-20% will be deducted from the final grade, depending on how late it is turned in (*life happens, if you have a significant reason for late assignments please explain if you want full credit*)