



**Course Information**

Credit Hour: 1 (required)

Marking Period: Full Year Course

Class Location: Rm. 3218

**Teacher Information**

Name: Rosanette Luther

Phone: 832-407-7486

Office Days: Monday, Wednesday, Friday and by appointment

Office Hours: M 3:25 to 4:10, W&F 2:40 to 4:10, and by appointment

E-Mail: Rosanette.Luther@houstonisd.org

**Waltrip Mission**

Waltrip High School fosters a safe and challenging learning environment, preparing students for post-secondary education and a competitive global workforce through rigorous core academic instruction, comprehensive social-emotional supports, an array of quality fine arts programs and comprehensive career and technology education.

**Course Description**

The English IV curriculum is a rich, integrated study of literature, with an emphasis on composition and analysis. Students will continue to increase and refine their communication and literacy skills. Students will practice all forms of writing frequently, drawing from both literature and personal experience. Students will learn to place emphasis on clarity, correct usage, mechanics and spelling, careful diction and effective expression. Students will read extensively in fiction and non-fiction and will make interpretations through the influences of history, politics and society on the authors.

**Learning Objectives**

Students who successfully complete English IV will be competent in the following areas:

- Students will be able to participate collaboratively, work toward goals by offering purposeful ideas and judgements, ask relevant questions, tolerate a range of positions and ambiguity in decision-making and evaluate the work based on agreed-upon criteria.
- Students will be able to develop questions for research, create and revise a research plan, locate and synthesize information from various sources, quote and cite sources appropriately and publish their research in oral, written or visual formats, as appropriate and assigned.
- Students will read, discuss, and analyze teacher-assigned and student-chosen books, articles, essays, poems, etc.; these pieces will serve as models for the students' own writing.
- Students will be able to evaluate how historical, social and economic conditions affect the author's point of view and how they influence plot, characterization and theme.
- Students will write and speak using Standard American English conventions of syntax and grammar.
- Students will be able to use new vocabulary words correctly, using context clues, knowledge of root words, and word origins as well as reference sources to decode and understand new words.

**Student Evaluation**

The grading system for the English Department at Waltrip High School is as follows:

Daily Grade & Participation	20%
Classwork & Homework	50%
Tests/ Projects/ Quizzes	30%

The above areas will be used as the basis for 90% of your grade per semester (30% per six weeks' grading period). The midterm and/or final exam will constitute the remaining 10% of your grade per semester.

### **Attendance**

Students should be aware that attendance is tied to achievement. Students who do attend regularly will miss instruction and may not achieve the success they wish. Teachers will make every effort to accommodate students who miss lessons, but the final responsibility falls on the student. Most assignments for English IV will need to be completed online in order to allow for a return to virtual learning, should it become necessary, and to prepare students for the expectations of colleges and universities. Therefore, students must make every effort to keep the HISD computer charged, to bring it every day to school, and to sign on to the HUB regularly to complete assignments. Late work will be accepted, but students should remember that assignments that are not turned in on time may receive a failing grade which will be recorded until the completed assignment is turned in and graded.

Students must inform the teacher of any technological or other delay as soon as possible after it is discovered and must notify the appropriate person for assistance as needed (usually Mr. Gerhard, in the library: CGerhar1@houstonisd.org).

### **Class Requirements**

Students should make a point to be prepared for learning. This means students must have the tools necessary for learning, such as their computer, hot spot or other internet connection, writing implements and paper, if required, and reading materials required. Students must take responsibility for supplying these items for classes but must also be responsible for notifying the appropriate person for help when any of these items are missing. Students are encouraged to ask for help from a parent or guardian, teacher, counselor, or other school assistant, such as the information technologist or nurse. Failure to do so will result in wasted class time, slower learning and possible disciplinary action.

### **Methodology**

A combination of lecture, class discussion, presentations, videos, cooperative learning, and problem-based learning will be used in this course. Grades will be determined by the satisfactory and timely completion of assignments. The grade for each assignment will be based on the rubric or other criteria for each assignment. Below is an overview of the year's topics and assignments for this course. The teacher has discretion to make changes as needed.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

It is important for students to do their own work. We will be looking at many outside readings, and students will be using the internet for many assignments. While it is very easy for students to find a well-written analysis, comment, or essay online, if the student copies those words, the student does not benefit from the thought put into the creation of those words. Students must practice forming their own thoughts and communicating them. Using someone else's words, except when properly cited, are unacceptable. Parent and students, please discuss this issue and let me know if you have any concerns. We will always try to make allowances, offer tutorials, and make adjustments to assignments for any student who is having trouble. Plagiarism is not the answer.

Except during designated group work, students are expected to complete homework, class work and tests independently. If the student uses someone else's work or copies someone else's words—even a phrase—in an essay or assignment or talks during a NO TALKING assignment, such as a quiz or test, the student will receive a ZERO, and the students' parents and possibly an administrator will be notified of what has occurred. Cheating is morally unacceptable and will not be tolerated, but more importantly, cheating does not prepare students to become independent thinkers.

### **Welcome**

How difficult these last few years have been on everyone! We're excited to see students again and to work together in person. We will do our best to take care of you, all students and everyone in the building. Please let teachers or administrators know if you have any issues, ideas or concerns, and we will address them as well as we are able. Have a great year!

**2021-2022 Plan for English 4- Subject to Change**

Unit/ Topic	Essential Question	Course Activities	Independent Reading (IR)	Assessments/ Assignments	Time-frame
<b>I. Literary Non-Fiction, College Essay</b>	How are people affected by history and their surroundings?	Read, interpret, analyze, and summarize short pieces of fiction, nonfiction; write a college essay.	Students are expected to independently select and read one book per 6 weeks' grading period.	Diagnostic assessments College Essay	1 <sup>st</sup> 6 weeks 8/23 to 10/1`
<b>II. Classical &amp; Contemporary Short Stories, Multi-Media Presentation</b>	How does my environment foster my creativity?	Read, interpret, analyze, and summarize short pieces of fiction, a novella, nonfiction, and/or poetry	Students are expected to independently select and read one book per 6 weeks' grading period.	Analysis of stories & independent reading Multi-media presentation	2 <sup>nd</sup> 6 weeks 10/5 to 11/12
<b>III. Novel analysis, frame (context) analysis research essay</b>	Why is it important to critically analyze the information I receive?	Read a novel in class (separate from IR book); discuss and write using critical frame analysis	Students are expected to independently select and read one book per 6 weeks' grading period.	Analytic research paper based on in-class novel; analysis of IR	3 <sup>rd</sup> 6 weeks 11/15 to 1/14
<b>IV. Drama, dramatic analysis, script writing, interpretive essay</b>	How do my experiences shape my judgement?	Read, interpret, and analyze <u>Hamlet</u>	Students are expected to independently select and read one book per 6 weeks' grading period.	Students read and discuss Hamlet; Analytic research paper on the play; students write a one-act play & an analysis of IR	4 <sup>th</sup> 6 weeks\ 1/19 to 2/25
<b>V. Informational, Argumentative Text</b>	How can I consider what has happened and what is happening around me to understand what is coming?	Synthesize researched material from topics in current events	Students are expected to independently select and read one book per 6 weeks' grading period.	A major research paper (6-8 typed pages in MLA format); a multi-modal presentation of the research; analysis of IR	5 <sup>th</sup> 6 weeks 2/28 to 4/22
<b>VI. Speech, debate, cover letter, resume</b>	How has the information I've received prepared me for the future?	Study and practice the use of rhetorical strategies for persuasion	Students are expected to independently select and read one book per 6 weeks' grading period.	Students engage in at least one oral debate; write cover letter and create resume.	6 <sup>th</sup> 6 weeks 4/25 to 6/7

## **12<sup>th</sup> Grade English IV – Syllabus 2020-2021 Acknowledgement**

You and your child may acknowledge this syllabus in one of two ways:

1. Download, print, sign and send the document with your child to me.
2. Email an acknowledgment to me at [Rosanette.Luther@houstonisd.org](mailto:Rosanette.Luther@houstonisd.org)

We have received and reviewed the English IV Course Syllabus. We understand what is expected of us as listed in the syllabus.

---

Student Signature

---

Date

---

Parent Signature

---

Date