English IV—British Literature

**Course Syllabus—Mr. Thackeray**

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**Course Description—**

English consists of immersion in the language arts -- reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

**Expectations—**

**Academic:**

I place primary emphasis on writing. Members of the class will be expected to take notes, write essays, book reports, letters, and technical instructions in addition to writing creatively both independently and when assigned. Students will also be expected to read, comprehend, and interpret various genres of literature. They will be expected to participate in class discussions and (rare) group activities. Students should be in their seats and ready to work when the tardy bell rings.

**Discipline:**

This is Senior English—a discussion about discipline seems ludicrous, doesn’t it? In the classroom every person will be expected to treat every other person with consideration and respect. (Examples of disrespect include plagiarism, tardiness, name-calling, and ethnic, racial, religious, or gender slurs.)

**Community Service:**

Service to one’s community either independently or in conjunction with a service organization is expected, though not required. Community service provides not only valuable assistance to the community but also hands-on experience useful to each individual. Many colleges and employers look favorably upon applicants who are active volunteers. “This is America, [our volunteer organizations create] a brilliant diversity spread like stars, like a thousand points of light in a broad and peaceful sky” George H.W. Bush (speech written by Peggy Noonan and Craig R. Smith).

**Grading—**

Writing will receive a number grade based on the ACT Writing Test Scoring Rubric. Emphasis will be on thought, clarity, completeness, and mechanics (format, grammar, syntax, spelling, punctuation) depending upon the type of writing assigned. Notes will be graded; thus, organization of class notes in a single notebook will be essential. Also expect short essay quizzes and long essay tests. A grade of **A** implies excellence. In order to earn an **A** in Senior English, students will be required to earn **90%** average score or higher on all class assignments and complete an additional scholarly book report per quarter following the “Senior ‘A-Student’” format.

**B=80% or above (without extra book report); C=70%--79%; D=60%--69%; F=0%--59%.**

**Late work is not acceptable. Work missed due to absence must be made up according to school board policy. Exception: Book reports are due on the first day back from absence since due dates are posted months in advance.**

**Computer failure is not accepted as an excuse!**