English IV—Shakespeare

**Course Syllabus—Mr. Thackeray**

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**Course Description—**

This course provides students the opportunity to study Shakespeare's plays and sonnets. Students will study a variety of Shakespeare’s tragedies, comedies, romances, and histories in addition to selected sonnets and non-fiction historical texts. Emphasis will be on close reading, discussion, written analysis, and universal themes.

**Essential question: How does Shakespeare remain relevant after 400 years?**

**Expectations—**

**Academic:**

I place primary emphasis on writing. Members of the class will be expected to take notes and write essays, 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, Socratic seminars, and group activities. Shakespeare demands diligent effort; therefore, students should be in their seats and ready to work when the tardy bell rings.

**Discipline:**

Be polite. 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, interrupting, ignoring, talking over, unauthorized cell-phone use, 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 or similar 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.**

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

**Permission to view supplementary videos—Shakespeare**

Following is a list of possible video representations of literature that may be viewed in Senior Shakespeare class. Historically, visual art has been used in conjunction with literature from the earliest recorded times, and visual interpretations of literature serve to enhance understanding of the written or textbook versions. Shakespeare’s works are dramatic in nature, so movies and plays are natural companions to his written works. Shakespeare has been listed as a writing credit on over 1,000 films.

If you have objections to your son/daughter watching any of the following videos, please cross the title off the list and an alternative assignment will be provided. Please note that this list includes potential titles only; not all will be used. Please sign and date where indicated. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Movie Rating**

*She’s the Man (12th Night)* PG-13

*12th Night* PG

*Richard III* R

*10 Things I Hate About You (Taming of the Shrew)* PG-13

*Kiss Me Kate (Taming of the Shrew)* G

*Much Ado About Nothing* PG-13

*A Thousand Acres (King Lear)* R

*Romeo and Julet* (dir. Zeffirelli) G

*Romeo and Juliet* (dir. Luhrmann)PG-13

*Elizabeth* (1998 starring Cate Blanchett as Elizabeth I)R

*Hamlet*  PG

*The Lion King (Hamlet)* G

*Henry V* PG-13

*The Battle of Agincourt (Full Documentary)* G

*A Few Good Men (Coriolanus)* R

*Coriolanus* R

*Yellow Sky* G

*Macbeth* (PBS) unrated

*Shakespeare in Love* R

Student:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please keep syllabus and permission slip in your notes.