

Northgate High School - English IV

Teacher: Mr. Nunes, Room 91

E-Mail: nunesj@mdusd.org

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to Mr. Nunes' English IV class!

Not only will we be covering relevant issues that affect our every day lives with non-fiction reading and writing, we will also study some of the great books and plays of western literature, as well as some contemporary authors. Additionally, Senior Project will be a big part of our second semester. Students will be guided in a variety of writing processes for both short and longer assignments. Our studies will follow language arts curriculum guidelines, or standards, for the Mt. Diablo Unified School District and the state Department of Education.

ENGLISH IV 2018-2019 - COURSE SYLLABUS

This year we as a class will be focusing on several major works of literature.

Here is a list of books & plays we will be reading *[these selections are not likely to change, but may if there is a conflict with availability in the library].*

- **Non-fiction reading and writing unit (tying into the Personal essay)**
- **Hamlet ~ Shakespeare**
- **???? ~ Shakespeare (Othello or _____)**
- **Sophocles ~ Oedipus Rex (maybe Antigone)**
- **1984 ~ Orwell**
- **Q&A ~ Vikas Swarup (made into the movie Slumdog Millionaire)**

And...

- **Senior Project (takes up a majority of the 2nd semester)**

Also included in the curriculum:

- **Independent Reading*** – one book most quarters, with an end-of-book test or project
- **Short Stories & Poetry** – as many times per semester as possible
- **Journals** – Weekly
- **Grammar/Sentence Practice** – per unit
- **Vocabulary** – varies per unit
- **Essays** – per unit
- **Tests/Quizzes** –per unit

Turnitin.com – The Northgate English Department uses this anti-plagiarism web site extensively. Registering for – and uploading assignments to – this site is a course requirement.

Google Classroom— Same as above

**An independent book assignment will be announced in class early in the first quarter, and is used in conjunction with Silent Sustained Reading time.*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Materials: Please bring a three-ring binder, at least two inches thick, with several separator sections. Also have a spiral notebook for journaling, pens, pencils, a highlighter, a small stapler, plenty of lined binder paper and several packs of 3x5" index cards (to keep at home). An organizational planner/notebook/agenda book for writing assignments is also necessary.

Assigned Reading: Students will read literature in class and at home on a regular basis. This includes a textbook (when applicable), novels or plays assigned in class, short stories or articles, fiction and nonfiction as well as regular independent reading selections. Students are expected to read ahead if absent.

- **I also take full advantage of Northgate's Silent Sustained Reading* time.**
- **I am also very serious about use of time during study session.**

Writing: Writing includes at least 2 major essays per quarter, reflective or response pieces, poetry or creative topics, or research. It is expected that all assignments will be completed neatly and carefully. A typed copy is expected for all papers. Formats for various assignments, including the MLA style, will be reviewed in class. Save drafts and completed work.

Homework: Students will be assigned both reading and written homework on a regular basis. Please contact the teacher with problems, or when clarification is needed.

Performance/Presentation: Students will participate in presentation or performance activities as individuals and as part of a group. In some cases students will select their partners; in other a group may be prearranged.

Make-Up Work: Students may hand in late work when they have *an excused absence*, and are allowed the amount of days equal to the amount of days absent to make up the work. It is the student's responsibility to initiate the process of making up work by checking with the teacher, preferably before class. Group presentations and performances may not be made up with the group, and the student must communicate with the teacher to arrange an alternate arrangement. Failure to make up missing work will earn a zero. If you know you will miss school for any occasion, such as a sporting event or appointment, you are encouraged to obtain assignments in advance or from my website.

Late Work: *Late work (unexcused), is generally not accepted.* Plan your study time and remember your work by organizing binders and backpacks the night before school. In an extreme case, a student may contact the teacher in advance, before a due date, to discuss any issues. Stock up on printer ink!!!

Participation: Students and teachers will evaluate student participation quarterly. Positive participation includes contributing to discussion and activities; asking or answering questions; sharing ideas; being a productive group member and showing respect to others; and working diligently during SSR/Study Session. Negligent or

negative participation includes disruption of class, lack of willingness to participate, being chronically tardy, or unprepared for class.

Integrity: It is expected that students attempt their best work, and their own work. Plagiarism and copying are not acceptable, In group or partner work, student papers should generally not be identical, except when one item is turned in for all members.

Anyone who copies from or who gives work to another student will earn a zero on an assignment. Parents and an administrator will be notified in the case of a student showing a willful lack of integrity.

Restrooms: As a general rule I do not allow restroom visits the first 10 minutes and the last 10 minutes of a class period. Restroom privileges are earned, and not always assumed always given by myself.

ASSIGNMENTS and GRADES

Points and Credit*: Assignments, tests, projects, performances, and participation are given point values. Each student's grade is calculated based on a percentage of points earned to total points possible. ***My grading is continuous throughout each semester, and not an average of two quarter grades.*** Semester final exams are included as a percentage of the entire semester. Extra credit is occasionally assigned.

Weighted Grading (% of total grade)

Semester 1:

Assignments = 35%

Quizzes = 15%

Tests/Essays/Major Projects = 50%

Here are the calculations used for grading*:

A = 90 - 100%

B = 80 - 89%

C = 70 - 79%

D = 60 - 69%

F = Below 60%

Semester 2:

Assignments & Projects = 35%

Quizzes/Tests = 15%

Senior Project = 50% (Research Paper = 25%, Oral Presentation = 25%)

**Note: Pluses and minuses do not appear on any report card or transcript.*

***** I round-up grades at the semester, and not the quarter. Grades that qualify for a round-up are within .50 of the next highest grade.***

My Website: I keep an updated website of all our class activities and assignments. I find this to be the most useful communication tool for both parents and students alike. If you are absent, my website is your new best friend.

- **My website:** www.nunesland.org.

Keeping Track*: All grades are posted on our district-wide HomeLink Web site for both the student's and parent's convenience. Instructions for accessing this site have already been sent home. I am also more than happy to schedule a personal appointment with a parent(s)/guardian to discuss student progress.

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT POLICY

Rewards: By meeting the following behavioral and social expectations, you show pride in yourself, your work and your class, and you will be rewarded in your studies. You may also be thanked, praised in a phone call or letter home.

My expectations are for you to:

- Be seated when the bell rings
- Come prepared with all materials; have them out and ready to work.
- Keep food and drinks out of sight; *bottled water is OK (only H2O, nothing else).*
- **Keep your phone and iPod turned off and kept out of sight. No exceptions.**
- Give your respect and tolerance to anyone or any group addressing the class.
- Use class, study session and independent reading time productively.

Consequences: Violation of classroom policy or any Northgate High School policies will be dealt with consistently and fairly to promote a safe, positive and enjoyable learning environment.

- **First offense:** Verbal reminder.
- **Second offense:** Student conference, lunch detention with myself, and/or parent contact.
- **Third offense:** Referral to vice principal.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

I follow the Northgate High School attendance policy, as do all other teachers on campus. For further details, please see the “Policies” and “Discipline” pages on our school website at www.northgatehighschool.net

Tardies:

- The school policy on tardies is available on northgatehighschool.net
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Unexcused Absences:

- Unexcused absences are dealt with on a case-by-case basis, usually with an Administrator, especially in the event of excessive unexcused absences.
- *Make-up work is not allowed for an unexcused absence!*

COMMUNICATION

I am greatly looking forward to this year with my Seniors. For many students, this is a busy and full academic year, with a solid schedule of core classes. I will do my best to guide them not just in English class, but also in all academics and in general as you grow and prepare for their futures. Communication is essential between students, teachers and families; feel free to contact me with concerns or comments. I will periodically talk with parents to discuss successes, student progress and occasional problems. But most importantly, I want to hear from you how we can make this year the most successful for you. I look forward to getting to know my students and their families this year.

Parent and Student Signatures

Northgate High School - English IV
Teacher: Jeremy Nunes, Room 91
E-Mail: nunesj@mdusd.org

Copy the above information for future reference, and place the preceding pages in your student binder for easy reference during the year.

Thank you for your time and attention to this class. Please sign below, in the appropriate space, when you have read the class information. ***Bring this completed and signed sheet to class by Wednesday, August 22nd for me to file and to give you some easy points to start the year!***

“We have read and understand the English II Course Description and Policy.”

Student Name (print) _____

Student signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Name (print) _____

Parent/Guardian signature _____ Date _____

RATED “R” Film Permission for 2018-2019

Often times I have a film to accompany a unit we are studying. Sometimes the film may have an “R” rating, although the films all have academic relevance and careful consideration has gone into a film’s selection. Rather than send home more than one permission slip, please give me your initial in the appropriate space for your son/daughter watching rated “R” films in my class during the school year:

(initial here) >> _____ Yes, I allow my son/daughter to watch rated “R” films with your guidance.

(initial here) >> _____ No, I do not want my son/daughter to watch rated “R” films in your class. Please allow them to complete an alternative activity in its place.

Sincerely,



Jeremy Nunes, English IV

I am more than happy to address any questions or comments on the back of this sheet: