

"Progress means getting nearer to the place you want to be. And if you have taken a wrong turn, then to go forward does not get you any nearer. If you are on the wrong road, progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road; and in that case the man who turns back soonest is the most progressive man." - C. S. Lewis

English 4 Syllabus: 2026 - 2027
Betty Roberts - Room 208 - robertsb@shinerisd.net

Materials: You need a pen or pencil and paper every day, and you need an organizational system for papers. Highlighters and colored pencils may help you, as well. You are encouraged to have a pair of wired headphones available.

Grading Policy: Tests and Essays, Major Projects: 50%;
Quizzes and Daily Assignments: 50%

Writing assignments including but not limited to paragraphs, essays, and research pieces may be broken into planning, drafting, and polished draft. Students may be required to complete each phase before submitting a polished draft.

Late Work Policy: One day late - deduction of 10 points
Two days late - deduction of an additional 10 points (Repeat for days 3-5)
After five days, the student must conference with Mrs. Roberts.

Description: This course involves the study of certain literary works, vocabulary, critical analysis skills, and writing mechanics.

Goals: Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Identify elements and characteristics of the novel, short story, drama, essay, and poem.
2. Analyze plot structure, characters, conflict, tone, and point of view in literary selections.
3. Recognize vocabulary words occurring in the literary selections.
4. Create multi-paragraph analysis essays.
5. Write using proper capitalization, punctuation, and usage.
6. Write compositions based on literary works read.
7. Research and write compositions with documented information.
8. Use close reading skills.



Workload/Homework:

Homework will be assigned weekly. Some assignments will be on paper and some will be on Google Classroom. Senior students are responsible for checking due dates and asking for help, as needed. Poor grades on homework are the 'silent killers' of grade point averages—they sneak up on you and by the time grades roll out, it's too late to do anything about it.

Stay organized

Stay informed

Stay on top of work and deadlines

Proposed Course of Study:

Reading - British Literature - Epic Poetry, *and* Short Stories, Non fiction, Novel Study, Media Literacy - Titles to be read include, but are not limited to, *Beowulf*, *The Canterbury Tales*, *Frankenstein*, *Macbeth*, *Animal Farm*, and *Tuesdays with Morrie*.

Writing - Focus on Personal Narrative/College Application Essays , Creating Literary Texts/Literary Analysis Essays, Research Essay, Short Answer Responses, Business correspondence

Code of Conduct:

Be Respectful

Be courteous to all staff and students

Use appropriate language at all times

Treat others as you would want to be treated

Be Responsible

Follow all school and classroom rules

Be where you are supposed to be at all times

Complete all assignments and homework on time

Complete quality work

Be Safe

Walk in the hallways

Be courteous

*Comply with all school safety procedures

Be Ready to Learn

Be on time each day to class



- *Phones, smart watches, and other devices must be turned off and kept in a backpack in accordance with Shiner ISD policies.*

- **Safety is our top priority. During drills or safety events, students are expected to respond quickly and quietly to any directives from staff.*

Make-Up Work: If you are absent, it is your responsibility to make up all assignments. You should check Google Classroom and check with your teacher.

Extra Assistance: I am here to help you succeed! Please let me know if you are having difficulty understanding or completing assignments. Communication is key. You may see me before, during or after class, or before or after school to clarify assignments.

Academic Integrity:

“No legacy is so rich as honesty” – William Shakespeare

Students must exhibit academic integrity at all times. **All** work submitted should be your own original work, with credit given to any expert used. Cheating, plagiarism, falsification or attempts to cheat or plagiarize, including the use of AI technology, will not be tolerated. *Aiding others in their attempt to cheat is also not permitted.* Academic dishonesty will result in a zero on the assignment, a referral to the principal and a phone call/email sent to your parent/guardian.