Central High School
Kevin McSpadden
kevin.mcspadden@saisd.org
325-659-3434 ext. 253

Schoology Access Code:

English 4 Course Syllabus 2025-2026

Course Description:

English 4 provides students the opportunity to study multiple genres from world literature including selected stories, dramas, novels, and poetry. This course provides a year-long integrated study of reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. The course emphasizes improved written communication. Students who complete English 4 should feel confident in their ability to complete university-level reading and writing assignments.

Grading Procedure:

60% major tests, projects, and compositions
40% quizzes, homework, and class work
(We drop 1 minor grade every grading period, but no major grades)

San Angelo ISD Grading Guidelines Click the link to the left for more detailed information.

First Semester Exam: Comprehensive for first semester - all students take the fall exam in English 1.

Second Semester Exam: Comprehensive for second semester -

Exemptions: Students have the opportunity to be exempt from **spring semester** final tests.

Late Work: Students may receive full credit for assignments turned in on time. Assignments that are turned in late will receive a reduction of 10%, 20%, and 30% on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd late days respectively. After the 3rd day, the teacher has the option to mark the assignment a 0.

Policy for Make-up Assignments: Students have the number of days absent plus one to complete assignments (the counting begins the day the student returns to the class missed). Make-up work is the student's responsibility. ASK for it!

Failing Grades:

All grades (major and minor) recorded by teachers must be a reflection of a student's mastery of the TEKS. To continue to ensure mastery of the grade-level standards, all students who receive a failing major grade (below 70) will be given the opportunity to show mastery of the learned concepts assessed. This opportunity must be completed within the given time frame.

Students and parents are encouraged to utilize Public Portal to monitor grades and Schoology to monitor daily assignments. Students with failing averages will be offered multiple opportunities to bring up their grade. If a student fails the semester or the year without completing credit recovery, they will not receive the required English I credit.

Tutorials: (may be mandatory if not passing)

M-W-Th - 7:40 - 8:10 AM
M-T-W - Bobcat Bock (Fridays available by appointment)
Th - 4:09 - 4:40

Textbook:

Springboard English Language Arts, English 4. Texas Edition

Other texts, including plays, epic poems, and novels will be provided in class as needed. Contact me for a list of texts we study that are not found in the textbook.

Materials:

REQUIRED:
- Writing material (paper and pens/pencils)
- Notebook
- Folder with pockets

Optional but encouraged:
- Highlighters
- Notecards
- Tissues for class use
- Markers/Map colors

Passes: Requests will be considered at appropriate times and when the instructor is not delivering information. Students are required to ask first, and then create passes using Minga. Note: The first ten minutes and last ten minutes are considered "black out" times - no passes except in emergencies.

Dress Code: All students are expected to abide by the Central High School dress code.

Safety Protocols: Classes will abide by all mandated and/or suggested protocols as presented by administrators.

Additionally, classes will participate in safety drills throughout the year to ensure safety during various dangerous situations.

Electronics: Cell phones must be silenced and put away during the school day. SAISD Cell Phone Policy

Food and Drinks: Drinks with a sealable lid are allowable. Snacking during class is discouraged. Ask permission before consuming food during class times.

Tardies: Students arriving after the tardy bell without a pass will be given a TCU (Tardy Counted Unexcused). Excessive tardiness will result in a parent phone call and a discipline referral. Note: Arriving to class more than 10 minutes late will result in the student being counted absent.

Expectations in the Classroom:

1. Attend class -- be punctual and prepared.
2. Be courteous and respectful to everyone.
3. Follow directions.
4. Be responsible for your education and your actions.
5. Obey all rules in the district/school handbook.

Communication:
Please check your email regularly. Email is the most efficient way to contact teachers. Also, make sure to check Schoolmessenger and your student's Schoology account for information regarding upcoming events as well as daily assignments.

Bobcat Block:
This is a period offered daily for tutoring. It is mandatory that students attend Bobcat Block. If your student does not need specific tutoring, this is an ideal time for them to complete any homework he or she might have.

McSpadden Bio

Mr. McSpadden is a graduate of Angelo State University, and he has been a teacher for twenty-two years. He has taught all four levels of high school ELA, coached tennis, coached speech and debate, served as yearbook advisor, and served as a UIL coach and coordinator. Mr. McSpadden's students have consistently competed at regional and state events. He is passionate about the art of writing powerfully, and he delights in supporting young writers as they develop their own writing prowess. He believes that reading critically and communicating with conviction are life skills applicable in all trades. Mr. McSpadden relishes opportunities to help students explore their world through literature. A hallmark of Mr. McSpadden's teaching style is his emphasis on engaging in respectful discourse. He strives to model strategies for positive interactions and respectful disagreements, hoping to ingrain in his pupils the notion that the ability to have meaningful conversations with people sharing diverse viewpoints is essential for educational growth. A dad joke connoisseur, Mr. McSpadden is known for his goofy sense of humor, but he is also known for his genuine desire to see young people succeed. Someone once stole Mr. McSpadden's mood ring… he is not sure how he feels about that. He also warns against trusting atoms, since they make up everything.