

Mr. Baldwin
English 4 Syllabus
Jackson County High School
2013-2014

<u>Instructor</u> Charles Eric Baldwin Jackson County High School 560 Educational Mountain Dr. McKee, KY 40447 Phone: (606) 287-7155 ext. 2112 Email: charles.baldwin@jackson.kyschools.us	<i>Location:</i> Room 112 <i>Office Hours:</i> <i>For pressing questions, I have planning everyday fourth block from 11:05-12:55. I can sometimes plan to stay after school upon request and with at least a day's notice.</i> Class Website: sites.google.com/site/baldwinenglishjackson
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Prerequisite:

Successful completion of English 3A and 3B.

Class Overview:

Senior English is among the last opportunities for Jackson County Schools to prepare students for college, the workplace, adult life, and the responsibilities of citizenship. Therefore, I believe this class is of enormous importance and expect all of my students to treat it with the utmost seriousness. To these ends, I expect my students to grow significantly as writers, readers, and thinkers while in my class.

First, students will write in a variety of formats in various genres. Students will apply the writing process and criteria for effective writing. Each piece will incorporate audience awareness and idea development as well as conventions in writing such as sentence structure, grammar, and mechanics. By the end of the year, students will create a well-researched and thoroughly cited research paper using MLA formatting.

Students will also read a wide variety of texts from a wide variety of genres. Students will think critically and will strategically analyze all texts thoroughly. Also, they will do in-depth investigations of various literary genres, which reflect insight into the human condition.

Finally, students will learn to become better students and/or employees in the 21st century workplace. They will work more effectively with their peers to complete analytical and/or creative tasks. Students will grow more comfortable with current technology and use a variety of formats to complete assignments. Students will also learn how to

communicate effectively through various mediums and how to contribute to the marketplace of ideas.

In the end, Senior English is about preparing students for adult life. By learning to become better writers, better readers, and stronger analytical thinkers, I believe students will feel more confident as they leave the safe confines of Jackson County High and transition into adulthood.

Course Objectives:

Students will:

- ☐ Read and analyze a variety of works from English literature as well as contemporary selections.
- ☐ Evaluate and analyze the influence of literary concepts and elements within a piece of literature
- ☐ Write a literary analysis, an argumentative essay, a critical book review, and a personal essay
- ☐ Compete a college application essay and letter
- ☐ Receive instruction and practice to correct errors in grammar and punctuation
- ☐ Continue to develop and enhance vocabulary and ACT skills
- ☐ Continue to develop listening, speaking, and observation skills
- ☐ Develop and enhance work using the appropriate technology
- ☐ Read and analyze longer works (e.g., novel, plays) in addition to the required reading
- ☐ Write a well-researched academic essay.

Required Materials:

- Pencils and blue or black ink pen
- Notebook paper

Grading:

<u>Grading Scale</u>		<u>Final Grade</u>	
A	92-100 (Well-exceeds expectations)	1 st Nine Weeks Grade	20%
B	81-91 (Above average expectations)	2 nd Nine Weeks Grade	20%
C	70-80 (Average expectations)	3 rd Nine Weeks Grade	20%
D	60-69 (Below average expectations)	4 th Nine Weeks Grade	20%
F	0-59 (Failing to meet expectations)	Final Exam	20%

<u>Nine Weeks Grade</u>	
Summative (Exams, Projects, Presentations, Research Paper)	60%
Formative (Daily Work, Quizzes, Participation, Journals)	30%
Accelerated Reader Points	10%

Accelerated Reader:

Accelerated Reader is a computer application at the school which tests student reading comprehension of literature. Each student must obtain a certain number of AR points each nine weeks; this number is based on the school's assessment of each student's needs. Students must read grade appropriate texts and cannot take tests on books they tested on in the past or read in previous classes. They also cannot take tests on books they are currently reading in English or other classes offered at JCHS or board-approved college courses. Within those parameters, however, students are encouraged to read books that interest them. AR is worth 10% of a student's grade each 9 weeks; failure to complete AR can hurt a student's grade significantly.

The English department now requires that all students get a staff member to sign their AR grade sheets at the completion of a test and to keep their grade sheets in a folder in the room provided by the instructor.

Late Work:

I accept most work late until the last week of the nine weeks grading period, but can deduct as much as a letter grade for each day that an assignment is not turned in.

Make-up Work:

It is the responsibility of the student to ask for any work missed due to an absence. Unless there are extenuating circumstances—like a lengthy excused absence from school—the student must turn the work in within five class periods. After this, I will begin deducting points like any other late work.

Attendance:

Attendance and punctuality to class and for all assignments is paramount. The attendance policy will follow the 93% rule in the student handbook. Tardy procedures will be strictly followed as outlined in the student handbook. A student is considered tardy if not in his/her seat and working on the bell ringer when the tardy bell rings. My classroom door will be locked after the bell rings; if the door is closed, the student must report to Mr. Harris to obtain an admit slip to class. Three tardies will result in after-school detention.

Students should also be aware that hall passes out of my class are limited. There are at least eight opportunities over the school day to take breaks. Restroom passes will be limited to three over the course of the nine weeks. If students have medical reasons they need to be out more often, they need to bring supporting documentation or speak to me privately.

Plagiarism Policy:

To represent ideas or interpretations taken from another source as one's own is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offense. The academic work of students must be their own. Students must give the author(s) credit for any source material used. To lift content directly from a source without giving credit is a flagrant act. To present a borrowed passage after having changed a few words, even if the source is cited, is also plagiarism. Cheating also includes copying someone else's work, letting someone copy your work, using cell phones to share answers, creating cheat sheets, and anything you use to answer questions for any assignment. An infraction of any of these may lead to a zero on the assignment and contacting of your parents; repeated infractions can lead to further disciplinary action.

Textbooks:

Literature: Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes
Elements of Writing
1984
Their Eyes were Watching God

On occasion, students may temporarily check out textbooks or novels for the purpose of studying and/or doing homework. Students will be responsible for the return of these books. If they are not returned and/or are damaged, then the student will be responsible for buying a replacement copy.

Units of Study: (Subject to Revision)

Short Fiction / Narratives
Academic Writing/Research
Dramatic Literature
The Novel

Argumentative/Persuasion (Nonfiction)
Informational/Expository Texts
Poetry
Language Skills

Class Rules:

Students are expected to follow all school rules articulated in the student handbook. Routines and procedures will be practiced and/or articulated in the first several days of school; I also expect them to follow these rules in my classroom:

1. Be respectful of your fellow students and the instructor.
2. Keep your hands and feet to yourself.
3. Leave all items that are not for this class off your desk and out of your hands.
4. Respect the rights of all students to learn.
5. Remain in the class and in your seat unless given permission to do otherwise.
6. Listen to all directions given in class by the instructor.
7. Come prepared to learn.

Behavioral Plan:

First Offense: Verbal warning.

Second Offense: Student temporarily removed from classroom (e.g. sent out to the hallway) for conference with teacher.

Third Offense: Call or conference with parents and/or student referred to administration.

Student:

I _____ have read the above syllabus and I
(Print your first and last name)

understand and agree to abide by the rules and requirements of Mr. Baldwin's classroom
or accept the consequences.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian:

I have discussed the rules and consequences of this class with my child. I understand the
rules and will support my child in keeping them and will support Mr. Baldwin in
administering the consequences in those rules are broken.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Relationship to Student