**Allyson Daly Honors English IV**

**allysondaly@wcps.org** **Fall 2017**

**Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 1:50-3:00 and by appointment**

*“If people cannot write well,*

*they cannot think well,*

*and if they cannot think well,*

*others will do their thinking for them.”*

*~George Orwell*

**Description:** Welcome to English IV, which will sharpen your awareness of life, literature, language, and the writer’s craft. The English IV Honors course completes the global perspective initiated in English II. Though its focus is on European literature, this course includes important U. S. documents and literature (texts influenced by European philosophy or action). Advanced composition skills are vertically aligned to enable students to write at the college level as they employ research methodologies, argumentation, and thesis-driven work supported by textual-based evidence. Students will also hone their skills in mechanics, syntax, and rhetoric, both oral and written, within an academic context.

**Primary Texts:**

Tachuk, Ralph. Ed. *Elements of Literature*. 6th Ed. New York: Holt, Reinhart, and Winston, 2006.

Orwell, George. *1984.* New York: New American Library, 1977.

Shakespeare, William. *The Tragedy of Macbeth*. New York: Holt, Reinhart, and Winston, 2006.

Wilde, Oscar. *The Importance of Being Earnest.* London: Dover Publications, 1990.

**Tip:** This may be a paradigm shift for some of you, but WRITE in the books YOU own. If you purchase any of the above texts, you can write in it. One of the most well-researched, close reading strategies is to annotate, or mark in texts, as you read. This active reading strategy helps you comprehend better, make connections, ask questions, and provides a good way to review key ideas before a test.

**Note-card Journals:** Respond to reading assignments on 5x8 note-cards. Responses will vary, but students should demonstrate an attempt to understand the text assigned and connect the reading to other material read for this course, another course, or any other experience that seems pertinent. Excellent responses show thoughtful, clear thinking, supported by evidence, even if you have more questions than answers.

**Papers and Projects:** All papers and projects are designed to build upon the your previous writing and critical thinking skills. The research paper for the grade-level project will be completed during the semester you are enrolled in senior English. Some elements of the project will be graded in class. Senior presentations for the grade-level projects will be December 7, 2017.

**Mercy Moments:** Late work WILL NOT be accepted without a Mercy Moment certificate. Each student may use one Mercy Moment certificate in a nine-week period. Do not lose them! You may hand in an assignment **one day** late with a Mercy Moment attached and it is as if it were turned in on time. Mercy Moments may not be given or traded to other students, nor are they replacements for assignments. They also cannot be combined to turn in an assignment two days late, nor transferred between the nine weeks. Do not use them on days we are tuning a draft during a writing workshop as that subverts the purpose of the workshop and hurts you, the writer.

**Tests and Exams:** Expect tests as we complete units. A midterm and final exam will challenge you to synthesize what you have learned in several units, so organize your notes in a way you can read and understand them.

**Grades:** Tests, papers and projects are weighted 70%. Quizzes, including vocabulary, and daily assignments are weighted 15%. Note-card journals are weighted 15%. This class is graded on a ten-point scale. An 80 or better is necessary to be in good standing to enroll in college courses for the next semester.

**Class participation and attendance:** Be on time, turn in all assignments on time, read all material prior to coming to class, attend class regularly, and most importantly, participate. In other words, put forth your best effort!

**Academic honesty:** Plagiarism is a form of dishonesty, and is defined as “the false assumption of authorship: the wrongful act of taking the product of another person’s mind, and presenting it as one’s own” (Alexander Lindey, *Plagiarism and Originality*, [New York: Harper, 1952} 2). Students who are caught cheating will receive a zero for the assignment. When in doubt, be sure to give credit. Your reputation and your character are important; they follow you everywhere, so make sure that you are completely honest in all that you do!

**Final Note:** Please let me know early if you have concerns, questions, or need help. I am happy to give feedback or guidance to help shape an assignment or college essay before it is due, especially if you set an appointment. My purpose is to help smooth your path toward your career, academic, and life goals. True education shakes us into action, but most importantly, it cannot be taken from anyone who has earned it.

**Student’s name (printed) and signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent’s name (printed) and signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent’s email and phone# \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**