



Course: English 4: Short Story
Instructor: Kyle Trivits
School Year: 2021-2022
Length: 1 year

Pre-requisites: English 3
Grade Level: 12
Level: Senior

Course Description:

English 4: Short Story is designed to introduce students to the basic components of short fiction, provide them with the necessary skills to read closely and critically, and to instill a love of literature that extends beyond the classroom. The course is structured thematically, as each story will represent a different answer to the essential question of the semester: what makes life meaningful in the face of death? Because all literature offers a differing perspective on life - and thus a different answer - each story will provide a new piece to the puzzle, and by the end of the semester, students will have engaged with a myriad of worldviews - ultimately ending with their own. The first 2/3s of the course will cover reading and writing analytically; the last third will focus on writing a story of our own. This portion of the course will include various creative exercises, all aimed at the craft of creative writing for short fiction.

Textbooks

Texts

The bulk of our course will consist of shorter excerpts of great short fiction and films that will complement our readings. Any additional readings will be provided via pdf and hard copies for class.

Other texts TBD

Required Materials

Fully charged electronic device (iPad or laptop). No smartphones permitted.
1 composition notebook, black or blue pens, a #2 pencil, highlighter pens, a red pen, loose leaf paper (college rule), 1 large binder, subject dividers with tabs, 1 pack of 3X5 index cards.

The required items and texts are to be brought to class daily. Failure to do so will result in JUG. I will remind you prior to class what you will need for the upcoming session, but it is best to have your notes, textbook, and secondary devices at the ready in case we move to something new during our class time.

Major Learning Activities

The course will make use of a wide variety of methods in order to engage the student and guide him to deepen his understanding of language and literature. The class will consist of a mix of lectures, whole class discussions, group work, reciprocal teaching using partners, oral presentations, games and simulations. A significant component of the class will include interactive competitions using technology - both in-class and at home - to enliven learning, strengthen the skills taught in class, and foster critical thinking. Furthermore, there will be regular formative assessments that will help me gauge your understanding and direct future instruction. These are also great opportunities for you to demonstrate what you have learned and boost your grade.

Competition is also a core aspect of my classroom, so there will be several games and challenges throughout the year that will not only build classroom community, but will help you engage with the material in a different way.

Student Responsibilities

- Hats, gum, food, and drink are not allowed in the classroom.
- Cell phones, and other electronic equipment that may disrupt the learning environment must be silenced and put away. No text messaging allowed while class is in session. Ipads, Kindles, and Nooks are permitted for reading. No smartphones will be permitted for reading in class.
- Class begins promptly at the given time. Please be in your seat at the beginning of class. Tardiness will result in JUG.
 - Show respect for your classmates. Lively discussions will make this course infinitely more enjoyable for all of us. State your ideas with conviction, but do not insult your classmates.
- Take care of your needs (bathroom, drink and so on) before coming to class.
- Bring your iPad or laptop (fully charged), notebook, binder, and other required materials to class everyday. Please avoid any issues with material or technology by being prepared beforehand.
- Presentation of your work is very important. Please write legibly with black or blue ink pens.

- Reports or important work/projects/essays must be typed and formatted according to MLA guidelines.
- Cheating in any form will not be tolerated. You will receive a 0 on any assignment on which you cheat. Multiple offenses or cheating on an exam will result in an F for the course. Plagiarism on essays will be dealt with in a similar manner.
- Turn work in by the due date. This includes online assignments. I will not accept late work without a penalty. See policy below.
- All expectations for work online as outlined in the Digital Citizenship Contract you have signed apply in this classroom.
- Upon return from an absence, the student must present an admit slip issued by the Dean's Office.

General Course Information

Each student is supplied with a Google account which provides access to Google Drive, Google Classroom and PowerSchool. Parents are able to access 'real-time' grades by accessing PowerSchool through their son's account.

Homework:

- I will post homework assignments and announcements on Google Classroom. Nevertheless, I highly recommend students write down the assignments in their planners as I write them on the whiteboard in class or introduce them during class. Homework is approximately 30-45 minutes per assignment. This will vary depending on assignments and projects.
- Final drafts of fully processed pieces of writing will be submitted via Google Classroom, Turnitin.com, and in hard copy.

Grading Policy and Expectations:

The grades for each semester will include a balance of formative and summative assessments. This includes homework assignments, large group and individual projects, essays - both in-class and process - and final unit and semester tests. It is my goal as your teacher to provide ample opportunity for you to earn the grade you deserve.

Grade Posting Policy:

Grades will be posted regularly (at minimum every two weeks) as I correct homework and tests. The grades posted reflect the status of the gradebook at that point in time and may not necessarily include work or tests students may have

recently submitted. Please do not hesitate to contact me via email if you have questions.

Membean

The English department uses Membean to develop and track students' individual vocabulary growth. Once the account is activated, students will be required to complete no fewer than 45 minutes of study per week, logging at least 15 minutes on a minimum of three days, beginning the day after a given test and ending on the test day itself. Homework points will be awarded as follows: 45+ minutes = 100% credit; 25-44 minutes = 80% credit; 1-24 minutes = 50% credit; no time logged = 0 points. The minutes must be logged consistently over the course of one week or the student will not receive full points. Every two weeks, students will take a Membean quiz. To assure that students are appropriately focusing on studying between quizzes, no student with fewer than 90 minutes in the two week period can receive a score better than 80% on the quizzes.

Technology Policy:

The Jesuit High School "Digital Citizenship Contract" regulates a student's conduct regarding on campus use of the iPad and other electronic devices. In the classroom, no student may use any of these devices unless he receives permission from me. Such permission will be accompanied by an explicit instruction on the appropriate function the device will serve related to the class material.

Grade Scale by Percentages:

97-100% A+	93-96% A	90-92% A-
87-89% B+	83-86% B	80-82% B-
77-79% C+	73-76% C	70-72% C-
67-69% D+	63-66% D	60-62% D-

<60% F

Grade Weighting:

This course uses the "total points" system for grade weighting. Therefore, the amount of points assigned for each grade will reflect the weight, importance, and time given for that assignment. As stated previously, the various assignments in the semester - from homework to summative assessments - will have a particular amount of points assigned to each grade that will add up to a total sum for the semester.

Extra Credit Policy:

Extra credit can be assigned but shall not exceed 1% of the grade.

Late Work Policy:

No late work will be accepted for full credit. The assignment grade will drop one full letter grade (e.g. from A to B) for each class meeting late.

Makeup Work Due to Illness or Absence

1. The student is responsible for getting homework assignments, class notes, quiz/test information when he is absent. It is his responsibility to check Google Classroom for updates. It is advisable that the student exchange phone numbers with two other members of his class so he can obtain reliable homework information if he needs further clarification.
2. All major projects, essays and papers must be turned in **on the due date**. If a student is absent on a retreat, the assignment is still due. However, if a student is incapacitated due to illness or unable to complete work due to other approved extended absences, every effort will be made to assist the student complete the assignment within a reasonable time (see #3 and 4).
3. Students must make an appointment to see me after an extended absence due to illness in order to plan for an orderly and systematic way of making up work and tests.
4. The student is expected to take quizzes and tests the day he returns to class unless he has had an extended absence due to illness or has been absent due to a retreat. It is the responsibility of the student to reschedule any missed tests or assignments within one week, or 3 class days, or receive a 0. Makeup tests are always scheduled after school. Please arrange for transportation accordingly.
5. Zoom will not be offered as part of your daily English classes this year. If you are absent for an extended period of time, check Google Classroom for your assignments, and reach out to your English teacher for specific accommodations and possible alternate assessments.

Academic Code of Conduct:

Every Jesuit High School student is encouraged to use his intellectual talents to the best of his ability. The personal development of each student, however, is deemed more important than the achievement of academic success. Personal integrity is essential for building community and promoting social justice.

To cheat or to enable another student to cheat is to act dishonestly or in violation of established rules, procedures or codes of conduct. In an academic environment, there are three principal forms of cheating: (1) violating the procedures of a test or assignment; (2) plagiarizing; and (3) enabling another student to cheat.

The second category, plagiarizing, pertains to the rights of intellectual property, the ownership of the content and form of one's intellectual expression. Plagiarism is the appropriation of another's ideas (content) and / or language (form), in part or in whole, without the necessary assignment of credit. Plagiarism includes copying homework or

labs and quoting, paraphrasing, or summarizing another's written work (including sources off the Internet) or oral statements without proper citation.

Students who are cheating, or enabling another to violate academic integrity (e.g., plagiarizing a paper, copying homework, violating testing procedures, or cheating on a quiz or exam) or are involved in academic dishonesty or forgery, will be referred to the Dean of Students.

Penalties may include a loss of credit for the assignment in question, a failing grade for the paper, test or examination in question, disciplinary action up to and including suspension or dismissal if the severity of the infraction is deemed by the Principal to be egregious.

The Dean will notify the student's Counselor and parents and determine appropriate punishment, which may include detention, suspension, disciplinary probation or expulsion, depending on the severity of the offense.

To the parent: Communication is important in achieving our goals, so please do not hesitate to contact me via email if you feel you need more support in helping your son.

To the student: My primary goal is to broaden your world perspective, deepen your thinking, reading and writing. My hope is that you will find joy and sustenance in reading books of all kinds, and ultimately discover the big ideas within them. I'm happy to join you on this journey.

Mr. Trivits

Contact Information

e-mail: kyle.trivits@jesuithighschool.org

Please use e-mail as your first means of contact with me so that I may respond to your concerns as quickly as possible.

Office Hours: My primary office hours are during the community periods on Thursdays in KO 101, unless otherwise stated. I will also always be available upon request - just send me an email to arrange a meeting.

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THE FOLLOWING PAGE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT YOU RECEIVED AND REVIEWED THE CONTENTS OF THE SYLLABUS. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE OFFICIAL COPY OF THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO LATER CIRCUMSTANCES; THE MOST RELEVANT COPY WILL ALWAYS BE UPLOADED TO GOOGLE CLASSROOM.

I have read the **English 4** course syllabus. I understand the requirements and expectations of the class

Student Name (Please print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Name (Please print) _____

Parent Signature: _____

(date)