

English IV

San Marcos High School
Room 421

Instructor:
Dawn Houser

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Tutorials by appointment:
7:45am - 8:15am

Teaching Philosophy:

My goal as a teacher is to help each of my students find their unique voice in writing, thinking and goal-striving.

My classroom honors all voices, experiences and opinions. Students from *all* diverse backgrounds and perspectives will be well-served by this class. The diversity that *every* student brings to this class is viewed as a resource, strength, and benefit to our daily reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

Each day, I strive to be a lamp to help you light your path, a lifeboat to help you when you struggle and a ladder to help you reach your goals.

*Be a lamp,
or a lifeboat,
or a ladder.*

--Rumi

Course Description:

Welcome to English IV. Students in this course will continue to increase and refine their communication skills. Students will be expected to compose essays in a variety of forms, including personal, literary, research and persuasive modes. Students will also review basic grammatical and mechanical skills in writing applications. In our contemporary literature studies, students will read in multiple genres and will interpret possible influences of the historical context of the literary works to real life. Students will hone their communication and critical thinking skills. The Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) are the fundamental standards for our studies.

Classroom Expectations:

Be kind and considerate to others, as well as yourself.

Respect school and class policies.

Keep an open mind as we discuss ideas and read various texts.

Write in your authentic voice. We all have a unique story.

Attendance:

Students will be in their seats and ready to work when the tardy bell rings. We need all of our class time to get everything accomplished.

Grading Policy:

Grades are updated weekly so you are informed on your progress in my class. Content knowledge skills will be assessed in various manners including rubrics for major/test assignments. Each assignment has a deadline and you will be informed ahead of time when each assignment is due. Cheating and plagiarism are unethical and unacceptable. *Students will not earn credit on any cheating or plagiarized work.*

Late Assignments:

Students who miss exams, quizzes or any other form of classwork because of an excused absence or school-related activity will be allowed five school days to make up the assignment. Work not turned in within this allotted time will receive a grade of zero. When classes are missed, it is the sole responsibility of the student to pick up the assignment and be prepared to turn in the missing work and/or take exams upon the day of return. I can assign additional work to ensure that students have sufficient opportunities to master the essential knowledge.