

Welcome to English IV at Sanderson!

I am truly looking forward to working with you this semester; I love teaching *and* learning with my students. Please read carefully the policies listed below, and sign your name to indicate that you understand and agree to follow them. Have a parent/guardian also read and sign, and return it tomorrow. Thank you!

The Bennett House Rules (*grammar note: in this context, "rules" works as both a noun and a verb ;0*)

1. Come to class prepared for the day's lesson. Always bring your textbook(s), notebook, and pen to class.
2. Be in your seat before the tardy bell rings. We need to make the most of our time!
3. Use the time between classes to visit your locker, your friends, the restroom, the student services office, etc. You will not be allowed to leave the room once class begins except in an emergency. A real one.
4. **Participate!** Your classmates and I will value your positive contributions.

Course Materials

Please obtain the following materials as soon as possible:

1. Three-ring binder (approx. 2")
2. Dividers
3. College rule loose-leaf paper
4. Dark blue or black ink pens (2)
5. Highlighters—2 different colors

~~Spiral~~

Your Notebook

Keep your work and all handouts in an *orderly* loose-leaf binder divided into the following sections:

- **Literature:** for all notes pertaining to all works of literature studied as well as literary terms/devices
- **Vocabulary:** for all vocabulary lists, notes, exercises, and assessments
- **Composition:** for all writing notes and assignments
- **Usage and Grammar:** for all usage and style rules as well as grammar notes and exercises

Course Description

As this course is the last required English course of your high school career, I take seriously my job to prepare you for what lies beyond graduation. We will be studying an overview of British Literature from the Anglo-Saxon period through the modern period, and you will become involved in the literature through your reading, analysis, research, collaboration, presentations, and compositions. Our focus is on honing your critical skills to help you become a strong, independent, competent learner!

Assessment and Evaluation

Grading Categories	Grading Weight	Approximate # of Anticipated Grades*
Homework & classwork assignments	10%	10-12 * <i>subject to change at</i>
Quizzes (including vocabulary assessments)	40%	8-10 <i>teacher's discretion</i>
Tests, compositions, projects, and seminars	50%	4-5

Demonstration of Mastery & Academic Recovery: In order to give students the best possible learning experience, it is imperative that all parties are accountable for success (or failure) in the classroom. Responsibility falls on the students, their parents, and their team of teachers. We understand that students may struggle to master some concepts in a timely manner; our Academic Recovery Process, therefore, is accessible to all students and offered when—

- the student is attending class on a regular basis AND
- the student has given sufficient first effort on assignments AND
- the student completes recovery in a timely manner.

A grade of 70% is the minimum score necessary for demonstrating mastery. Teachers do not have to provide recovery opportunities for students who score above this minimum. Students who are eligible for recovery will be allowed two weeks after the grade posting date to demonstrate mastery. They must first complete a reflection/correction sheet and then meet with me to complete the recovery assignment process. Students will receive the average of the two scores (up to 70%).

About Homework

Complete it! You need to be prepared for class in order to participate intelligently and to glean the most from it. I promise never to insult your intelligence nor waste your time or mine with "busy work."

About Late Work

Avoid it! Late work will be accepted up to **1 week** after the scheduled original due date. Academic students will receive **no higher than 65%** of the original grade for the late work.

About Your Progress

I will update grades in Powerschool every Friday and send progress reports home halfway (4 ½ weeks) through each quarter. Keep up with your assignments and grades; any recovery or late work acceptance has an expiration date!

About Tardiness

Tardiness disrupts the flow of the class and, therefore, the learning process. I expect that you will respect the learning rights of others and be on time to class; otherwise, detention will ensue. Remember that three tardies = one absence, seniors.

About Absences

Consistent attendance is an important part of taking responsibility for your learning. Missing a class means losing learning that you cannot make up simply by reading and answering questions. You will have missed valuable collaborative class interaction and coaching activities that are virtually impossible to make up. **Always check our class Web site to get your assignments before returning:** spartanweb.org/jbennett. In the case of any team or partner assignments, you must update your team's Google docs before class begins so that your team has every piece it needs to continue moving forward in your absence.

About Make-up Work

If it is necessary for you to miss class, you can find out what you missed *before* you return. Making up work is your responsibility! Use the class site, and check in with your chosen **Learning Buddy**. Then see me (outside of instructional time) for any further instruction and/or to schedule a time to make up any assessments. Work missed during an *excused* absence must be made up within two days to receive full credit. Assignments due the day of an absence are due as soon as you return to school unless they are major papers or projects (**See BOX below.**) Since tests/quizzes/projects are assigned in advance, interim absences do not excuse students on the test/quiz day.

About Student Conduct

One rule of conduct reigns supreme in this class: *Every student has a right to learn, and no other student may infringe upon that right.* Be considerate and support each other. **Homecourt** rules!

Integrity is also a choice that is paramount to your academic success. I do not tolerate unauthorized assistance (cheating) on any assignments or assessments, including homework, whether you are the giver or receiver. Also, per WCPSS **plagiarism** is "the intentional or unintentional copying of the language, structure, or idea of another and representing it as one's own work. . . . Any student who engages in or attempts to engage in cheating, plagiarism, falsification, violation of software copyright laws, or violation of computer access shall be subject to disciplinary action: short-term suspension not to exceed five (5) days/possible long-term suspension with aggravating factors."

Remember that trust, once broken, is one of the most difficult things to earn back. Besides, if you're cheating, you're missing the whole point of being here.

About WCPSS/SHS Dress Code

Your primary job here at school is to learn, so dress for the job. Students who take time from the rest of the class and from their own learning to deal with dress code issues will make up that lost time in lunch- or after-school detention.

Important Note

I believe that every student can succeed and thrive here, and I will do everything within my power to make that goal possible. If you are having difficulty understanding anything, *please ask for help as soon as possible!* I will gladly work with you on an individual basis. My after-school support hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:30–4:00 pm.

I truly look forward to working with you this semester!

Mrs. Jennifer Bennett
English & Web Development
Email: jbennett@wcpss.net
Web Site: spartanweb.org/jbennett

Important Addendum—Absenteeism:

If you are absent the day a major assignment is due, you are required either to make it digitally accessible to me or have a hard copy sent to the office *before* class time that day. I will make exceptions *only* in cases of extreme emergencies.

I have read and agree to uphold the above policies.

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Printed Name: _____ Pd. _____