**Gulf Breeze High School**

**English IV**

**Syllabus**

**Ms. Cynthia L. Carter**

**Interim Instructor**

**Course Description**

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a deeper understanding of English language communication skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking. The intent is to prepare students for future employment, to do their best on the ACT/SAT exams, and to prepare them to succeed in entry-level English college courses. Students will develop their collaborative and independent study skills, and will explore the theme of perception through analysis of fiction and nonfiction. Students will gain a familiarity with early British Literature through the lens of different literary theories. Students will also learn how to incorporate research into their writing, and to assess the credibility of research sources.

**Materials**

* Folder/Binder/Notebook ((choose your organization system)
* Loose-leaf notebook paper
* Pens/pencils
* A book, magazine or other reading material for daily reading.

**Make-up work**

There are many opportunities during the school year for students to participate in a wide range of activities, such as sport, drama, arts, music, ROTC, forensics and student government. These activities will sometimes require students to miss class. If a student knows they will be out in advance, I expect that they will see me ahead of time to get their work, or to make arrangements to take tests, etc. All make-up work is the responsibility of the student – that means you! Please do not fall behind because you do not complete make-up work. The make-up work timeline policy is outlined in the student code of conduct and will be followed with no exceptions.

**Late work**

I will not accept late work for daily grades (homework, quizzes, weekly articles or exercises). If it is not turned in on the day it is due, it will be counted as a zero. Major grades, such as essays, tests and projects will be accepted one day late for half credit.

**Extra Credit**

There will be no extra credit offered in this class. Students will not be permitted to make up any missing work at the end of a term. This policy is consistent with the practice in many college-level courses, and students should be prepared to meet the expectations of their professors when they leave high school. I may, at my discretion at the end of the semester, decide to drop the lowest quiz or test score for the entire class. I will not do this on an individual basis.

**Cell phones**

When students enter the class, and before the bell rings, they will silence and put away their cell phones or other electronic devices in their backpacks, purses or pockets, and remove any headset or ear buds. No student is to use a cell phone or other electronic device in class at any time without my prior permission, or for anything other than assigned instructional purposes. Students are not to get out their cell phones for entertainment when they feel their work is completed at any time between the first bell and the dismissal bell, unless I give permission. *Do not ask for permission*. There may be times when I ask students to take out their smart phones or other devices to participate in an activity in class. The device will be put away promptly when the activity is completed.

Students who violate this standard will be asked to place their cell phones on my desk until the bell rings. If you are using a cell phone or other device while I am lecturing, reading, or holding a class discussion, the device will go on my desk and a letter will go home to your parents/guardians. Repeated violations or disruption of class may result in referrals.

Parents are asked to refrain from calling their students during class time. Please use text message or IM services if you need to contact your child during class time. Please understand that the student may not be able to receive or respond to your message until class is over. In the case of emergency, please call Student Services and ask them to page the classroom.

**Tardies**

We will follow the GBHS tardy policy:

* 1st tardy – verbal warning
* 2nd tardy – written notation in gradebook
* 3rd tardy – referral
* each additional tardy beyond the 3rd will also result in a referral.

**In-class passes**

There will be a bathroom pass and sign-out sheet at the back of the classroom. Only one person will be permitted to visit the bathroom at a time. Sign out on the sheet when you leave and take the pass. Sign back in when you return. Please keep trips out of class to a minimum, as students have to pass through Mr. Killam’s class to get out, in order to minimize disruption to his classes. Ask me for a pass if you need to leave class for any other purpose.

E**xtra Help/Make-up tests**

I am available before school at 8:15 am, and after school by arrangement. Please see me for a pass the day before you want to come. I will work with you if you make the effort. If you need access to a computer/printer, please see me and I will arrange it.

**Rules:**

These rules are a supplement to the Code of Conduct, and do not replace or modify the Code of Conduct in any way.

1. **Be in class on time, every day.** “On time” means when the bell rings, be in your seat, cell phones off and stored away, no talking, and ready to work.
2. **Be prepared** with all of the books and materials you need.
3. **Follow directions the first time they are given**.
4. **Do your own work**.
5. **Be kind and respectful to everyone.** No foul language, no name-calling. Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.
6. **Cell phones are on silent or off and put away unless teacher gives permission for use.**
7. **Clean up after yourself.** If you drop it, pick it up. Dispose of food and drink containers promptly.

-------------------------------------------Cut here------------------------------------------------------

Please detach, fill out and sign the form below, and have your parents sign and initial where indicated, then return it to me.

I have read and understand the contents of Ms. Carter’s syllabus and the student handbook and Code of Conduct. I agree to adhere to the rules and policies described therein.

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Student Signature Parent/Guardian Signature

Class Period \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parents/Guardians please initial yes or no**: My student may watch school-class related videos rated PG or PG-13 that pertain to the class curriculum.

Yes\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_