

Dear Parents and Students,

The English Department at J. Frank Dobie High School will offer Advanced Placement English IV to all interested seniors for fall 2009. We are excited about our program for students who are willing to go beyond the usual reading of a novel into the exploration of the development, style and writing that the author so carefully put together. Advanced Placement English IV is more demanding than English IV, and students are expected to devote more time and energy to it than they would to English IV.

In order to enroll in the course, students and their parent(s) must sign the agreement committing to the following requirements. Please read the following carefully and discuss it with your family.

1. Homework

Because of the core reading list, the student may need to spend an average of 30 - 45 minutes per night on homework.

2. Summer reading list

Brave New World by Aldous Huxley
Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte
Lucky Jim by Kingsley Amis

Requirements: In the third week of school, there will be a test over the four novels.

Also due the third week of school: A formal essay, comparing and contrasting the social customs illustrated in either *Pride and Prejudice* or *Wuthering Heights* with the modern English social customs discussed in *Lucky Jim*, will be due.

3. Core reading list for the school year:

Oedipus the King
Antigone
Macbeth
Hamlet
Candide
Frankenstein
The Return of the Native
A Doll's House

Students will also study poetry, short stories, and non-fiction.

It is important that AP students realize the following:

- a. All assigned reading will be done outside of class.
- b. AP students do not analyze an assigned book chapter by chapter; they analyze it after everyone has read the entire work.

4. Writing

Students will write 3 - 4 major papers and several timed writings each semester. A research paper is also required. Students should expect to write an essay on every piece of literature or unit. Major papers will be 500 - 700 words long. These are analytical and expository essays; we do not teach creative writing in AP English. It is required that all papers, other than timed writings, be typed.

5. Advanced Placement Policy concerning late work.

Under no circumstances is late work accepted in AP classes. If a student will not be attending school for any reason the day a major assignment is due, he/she should arrange to have the assignment brought to the teacher in time for the class period.

6. Changing to English IV.

The teacher may recommend that a student be placed in an English IV class if that student is encountering great difficulty with the workload or with the higher level thinking skills. The student may choose to exit the course with written parental permission. In either case the change must take place during the first six weeks or at the end of the semester. Whenever possible, the student will be placed in the AP teacher's regular class. **No student may enter the AP program the second semester.**

7. Requirements for Enrollment in English IV AP

If you would like to enroll in English IV AP for the fall, sign the agreement on the last page of this letter and return it to Mr. Farrar. This form must be completed and on file before you will be allowed to enter the class. If the form is not returned before Monday, June 1, you will be enrolled in an English IV class. There will be no exceptions

Sincerely,

Jean Ann Williams
Todd Geris
J. Frank Dobie High School

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH IV
AGREEMENT
2009 - 2010**

To the J. Frank Dobie High School English Department:

I would like to enroll in Advanced Placement English IV for fall 2009. My family and I have read the information described in the first three pages of this agreement and agree to the requirements of the class. I also understand that I will be required to take the AP Exam with a fee attached at the end of the year.

Student Signature: _____

Print name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Present English Teacher: _____

Date: _____

Home Phone: _____

This signed form is due Monday, June 1, and should be returned to Mrs. Farrar. Failure to present this signed form on or before the deadline will result in the student being placed in English IV.

It is the policy of the Pasadena Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or handicap in its general and vocational programs, services or activities, or in its employment practices. Lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs.

For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator, Kirk Lewis, at 1515 Cherrybrook, Pasadena, TX 77502, (713) 920-6822, and/or the Section 504 Coordinator, Ricki Fischer, 1515 Cherrybrook, Pasadena, TX 77502, (713) 920-6924.