

Monte Vista Christian School
ENGL 4220, English IV
Course Syllabus

Course Description

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.

The Gospel according to St. John 1:1, 14

If you would profit from it, therefore, read with humility, simplicity, and faith, and never seek a reputation for being learned. Seek willingly and listen attentively to the words of the saints; do not be displeased with the sayings of the ancients, for they were not made without purpose.

Thomas à Kempis, *The Imitation of Christ*

Pray thee, take care, that tak'st my book in hand,

To read it well: that is, to understand.

Ben Jonson, *Epigrams*

The human is a being that lives in words. Our native habitat is not the land we live in, but the stories we tell, the songs we sing, the dreams we dream, and the dramas we play out. We sometimes merit the name *homo sapiens*—the wise man—but we are much more fundamentally *homo poeta*—the making man. Language is our first and only essential building material. The things we make out of language are called poetry. Ultimately, we are called to become *homo adorans*—the worshipping man—and use our makings to bring glory to our Maker.

Curricular Mapping

This course is a rigorous introduction to college-level literary study and composition. As such, it applies the literary elements, grammar, speaking, and writing skills already accomplished in the course of study in MVCS, and extends them. This class is both the culmination of the high school career and the threshold for the post-secondary career. By the end of this course students will be able to read and write at the college level, and ready to speak intelligently about and interpret wisely the imaginative makings of the world around them.

Prerequisites:

English I, II, and III

Course Objectives

1. Read deeply and slowly, responding with annotation, academic writing, and discussion
 2. Read widely, including selections and works from literary classics, major genres (fiction, poetry, drama), and major English literary periods
 3. Read accurately: focus on mature, analytical interpretation
 4. Read for pleasure, developing a personal mind, soul, and heart for literature.
 5. Speak thoughtfully, sharing carefully considered insights, questions, and concerns after reading
 6. Speak with specificity on an assigned topic with the class or a small group
 7. Compose excellent college essays in conformance with collegial expectations
 8. Compose excellent, intelligent in-class analysis essays
 9. Compose a summative senior project
 10. Master English grammar and MLA conventions
- * More technical lists of objectives for senior English will be provided throughout the course.

Materials

Students are required to have

- 1) a **folder** or binder with which to archive physical work
- 2) a bound **notebook** (composition book, moleskin, etc.)
- 3) a **pen** and/or **pencil**

Our regular classroom practice will involve training in note taking methods. Students should expect to have their notebook out on the desk and pencil or pen in hand at all times.

Texts

Your necessary digital texts for this class will be part of a “Required Course Materials Fee” through the EdTech bookstore. This is a bundle purchase of digital texts for your full schedule of classes and will be available for purchase after 7/18/16. For further instructions please visit the [16-17 School Year icon](#) on the MVCS homepage. Please note: some courses may require additional purchases outside of the course materials fee.

Some texts will be provided in class. Book purchases and course materials for outside reading may be required throughout the year. When digital texts are provided, students are highly encouraged to invest in their own physical editions.

As seniors, we expect all students to have a copy of the Bedford Handbook for grammar. If this is not the case, please see your teacher.

Grading

<u>Grade Book Categories</u>		<u>Semester Weighted Grading Configuration</u>	
Essays, Projects, and Tests 70%		Quarter	40%
Class Assignments & Quizzes	30%	Quarter	40%
		Exam [Final]	20%

100–90%	A	Exceptional
89–80%	B	Above average
79–70%	C	Average, at grade level; meets expectations
69–60%	D	Below average, below grade level
Below 60%	F	Fails to meet minimum expectations and standards

Please refer to the policy and grading procedures posted online in our Parent-Student Handbook.

Course Policies

1. Classroom practice

Much of the work we will do in this class requires your full presence—physical, mental, and spiritual. This work will often be accomplished through discussion, both as a whole class, and in small groups, and good discussion can only occur in an environment of respect where participants feel safe to speak, and can trust that their partners are fully committed and engaged. To this end, we will aim to eliminate obstacles to our full presence and cultivate an environment where we actually care to listen to and learn from one another.

2. Devices and Technology

Technology is a blessing to be used and enjoyed. However, technology should not be a distraction in our learning. The word “technology” comes from the Greek root “tekhne,” which means “art or craft.” Our arts and crafts for this course will include the spoken and written word, pencils and paper, printed materials, books, and electronic devices. Unauthorized or inappropriate use of any technology will result in a referral and any other requisite consequences at the teacher’s discretion (e.g. confiscation, grade deductions, etc.).

3. Attendance

Attendance is required. The student is responsible to make up any work that is missed due to absence. If absence is planned, turn in work in advance.

4. Expectations for working at home (homework) and late work

For this course, plan on spending at least 30 minutes per night reading, annotating, studying, researching, preparing for class discussion, or completing anything else that class time did not allow for. Reading, especially, requires uninterrupted and quiet focus. Research has shown that multi-tasking, a noisy environment, distractions, and digital screens or computation/cellular devices nearby are not conducive to doing this successfully; therefore, in order to get the most out of your at-home reading and studying time, make a plan for where and when you will work at home or another venue (public library, quiet grassy knoll, etc.). Suggestions for successful work outside of school will be offered throughout the year.

If work is late for any reason, and will earn no more than 50%. Your work is late if you do not give it to the teacher when asked to do so. For the policy regarding work that is late as the result of an unexcused, excused, or preplanned excused absence, please refer to the Student Handbook.

5. Tardiness

Students will be seated and prepared for class (including all materials, described above, at the ready) when the bell rings. If a student is not seated and prepared when the bell rings for *any* reason other than valid approval from another teacher or the administration, he or she will be marked tardy. The administration will determine consequences for multiple tardies, and the teacher retains the right to determine class-based consequences for excessive tardies.

6. Plagiarism and cheating

Plagiarized writing and cheating of any form are academically forbidden, legally reprehensible, and morally illicit, and will not be tolerated under any circumstances. When cheating or plagiarism is detected, assignments will receive an F (0%). Please see Student Handbook for more information.

7. Accommodations

If you have official learning accommodations, consult your A.C.E teacher regarding how best to succeed in this course given your particular needs. If you have official learning accommodations but are not in A.C.E., make your needs clearly known to the teacher through conversation or e-mail. If you feel that you have extraordinary academic needs but have not official accommodations, seek out parents, your advisor, teachers, and administrators to make your needs known.

8. On-Task Behavior

When time is given in class to work on assignments, the student is expected to work on that assignment. If this is not happening in any form, the instructor has the discretion to deduct points from the assignment's total point value.

9. MLA

All typed essays need to be MLA formatted, double-spaced, and written in 12 point, Times New Roman font. Margins should be set at 1” on all sides. Consult the MLA handbook, 8th edition, for more information.

10. Turnitin.com

To monitor for plagiarism, you may be asked to submit essays or writing assignments digitally to turnitin.com. This submission will be due on the same date, and at the same time, as a physical copy of the same essay. You may not receive credit for the assignment unless it is submitted to turnitin.com, and may incur late penalty deductions if it is submitted late, even if the physical copy is turned in on-time. Make sure to upload these as Word documents only.

School Policies and Expected Student Learning Results (ESLRs)

Students are subject to all academic policies of the school as found in the Parent/Student Handbook. Furthermore, it is each student’s responsibility to read and follow all academic policies of Monte Vista Christian School. In addition to addressing each ESLR every year, we target a specific ESLR each academic year for particular focus.