

MVLA
2023-2024
COURSE INFORMATION SHEET

Course Title: English IV

CTE Pathway Sequence (if applicable): N/A

School: Alta Vista High School

UC/CSU requirement: CP/ Non CP offered. English 10/11 fulfills English IV

Textbook and/or other learning resources: *Always Running* by Luis Rodriguez; various non-fiction articles and resources; Various Short Stories from *American Short Stories* textbook Other novels, essays, poems, short fiction, and nonfiction articles.

Student Learning Outcomes:

The purpose of this English class is to develop reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills essential to the subsequent level of English work. Specifically, students will be able to:

1. Determine central ideas, analyze their development, make logical inferences, and cite textual evidence.
2. Produce clear and coherent writing for a variety of tasks, purposes, and audiences; develop and strengthen writing by planning, revising, editing, and rewriting.
3. Prepare for and participate in conversations and collaborations within the classroom
4. Acquire and use general academic and domain-specific words and phrases
5. Structure individual work time to complete and submit quality work demonstrating mastery of content standards.

Course Outline/Units of Study/CTE Industry Standards(If applicable to your course):

Semester 1:

Unit 1: This I Believe

- Students analyze the use of argument and evidence through This I Believe essays.
- Students will write their own This I Believe Essays

Unit 2: Positive Psychology and *Always Running* by Luis Rodriguez

- Students will be exposed to a variety of theories in psychology.
- Students will be reading excerpts from *Always Running* and apply the psychological theories to the main character.
- Students will write a synthesis essay using both the novel and psychological articles.

Semester 2:

Unit 3: Personal Statements, Resumes, Cover Letters

- Students will study structure of each assignment and create their own personal statement, resume, and cover letter to prepare them for college and the workforce.

Unit 4: Research Paper

- Students will learn the basic principles of writing a cohesive research paper.
- Students will understand how to find credible resources for research
- Students will participate in group work (study groups) to formulate a stronger argument of their research topic.
- Students will write a research paper.

Assessment and Grading ([BP 5121](#) / [AR 5121](#)): To ensure that every student has an equal opportunity to demonstrate their learning, the course instructors implement aligned grading practices and common assessments with the same frequency.

1. Grading categories:
 - Quality and completion of classwork and homework
 - Tests and Quizzes
 - Essays
 - Projects
 - Participation and Collaboration

As we progress through a unit, students will be given informal formative feedback on their knowledge, understanding,

and participation through various checks of understanding. In contrast, formal summative assessments of a student's ability to demonstrate proficiency in achieving the course standards will be used to determine final grades. See rubrics and scales for criteria used in the scoring process.

2. Achievement evidence collected within each grading category:
Each category is weighted by the points assigned. Each point represents 50 minutes worth of work. Therefore, assignments (such as projects and essays) that require more time will be assigned more points, and therefore weighted more heavily.
3. Grading scales:
A+ 99 -100 B+ 87-89 C+ 77-79 D+ 67-69
A 93-98 B 83-86 C 73-76 D 63-66
A- 90-92 B- 80-82 C- 70-72 D- 60-62
4. Homework/outside of class practices ([AR 6154](#)):
Students are expected to practice responsible study skills and complete homework given in a thorough manner. Assignments not completed in class are homework. If assignments are not complete the next grading period, it is considered late. Late work may be accepted at a later date within the timeline of the unit.
5. Excused absence make up practices ([Education Code 48205\(b\)](#)):
Absent students with an excused absence are expected to see their teacher the day they return to arrange any make up work. In general, you have one day to make up missed assignments, quizzes, tests, etc., for every day you are absent unless otherwise arranged with your teacher.
6. Academic integrity violation practices:[AVHS Academic Integrity Policy](#)
Honesty, trust, and integrity are vital components of the educational process. Examples of academic integrity violations include but are not limited to: copying homework, allowing someone else to copy your work, plagiarism, copying from another's exam, improperly obtaining and/or using tests and the use of unauthorized notes/ materials on exams. Please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy outlined in the Parent/Student handbook for information about violations of Academic Integrity and how violations will be handled.
7. Late work practices:
All work will be allowed to be submitted late within the course of the unit.
8. Revision practices:
In order for work to receive points, assignments must be complete and proficient. If a student submits assignment that is not proficient, revision will be allowed. We encourage students to utilize sixth period for revision purposes.
9. Extra credit practices:
Extra work can be done outside of class and is given on a case-by-case basis. No student shall receive extra work if they are not in class and producing points through regular coursework. **Independent study contracts** will be granted for students with extenuating circumstances who cannot attend the regular school day for an extended period of time
10. Additional grading practices:
This class is a standards- based class. Therefore, the completion of this class is based upon students reaching proficiency in the standards addressed. This includes (but is not limited to) extended paragraphs and multi-paragraph essays where students provide evidence and commentary to support arguments. Students are expected to revise essays. The first draft will never be the final draft. If, after revision, the student is still unhappy with the final grade, revisions are encouraged (with guidance from the teacher during after school tutorial) to revise the final grade.

In order for a student to earn CP credit, student must regularly participate in all class discussions, and complete all culminating assignments above proficiency.

Instructors' email addresses:

bonnie.michalek@mvla.net
vinicio.rubalcava@mvla.net

Additional information:

NOTE: Topics studied in class involve sensitive subjects, as well as diverse cultures, perspectives and issues relevant to students' own lives and experiences. Students are expected to approach all subject matter with maturity and respect as well as kind hearts and open minds for any views or perspectives shared by peers during presentations or class discussions.

Classroom Rules:

There are three basic rules in this class.

- **Respect yourself.** Do your best work, turn in your work on time, let pride show in your every move.
- **Respect others.** Address people by their names. We will not tolerate verbal or physical abuse in jest or anger.
- **Respect the work environment.** Come to class on time, be physically and mentally prepared to work, adapt your behavior to fit the circumstances.

Electronics in the Classroom:

The use of electronics is allowed at the discretion of the teacher. In general, when students are working with others (lecture, partner work, group work, etc), electronics will not be allowed. *No videotaping inside the classroom, including audio recordings, is permitted. Videotaping without individuals' consent violates both EdCode ([51512](#)) and the Penal Code ([PC 632](#)).*