

**Honors English IV**  
**Ms. Wagner**  
**Course Overview—Semester I**

The following is an overview of the reading and writing assignments that will accompany the Semester I units for this course. The list is tentative in nature and may change as we progress through the semester. Quizzes, tests, and graded discussions are not reflected in this overview, but will be administered throughout the semester to assess student progress.

<b>Unit Title/Objectives</b>	<b>Reading Assignments</b>	<b>Writing Assignments</b>
Foundations of Drama <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• historical context and influence on literature</li> <li>• structure of comedy, tragedy, and satyr plays; tragic hero; 3 unities</li> <li>• themes = hubris vs. sophrosyne; man vs. divine law; emotion as a driving force; value filial relationships</li> </ul>	Shakespeare— <i>King Lear</i> Sophocles— <i>Oedipus Rex &amp; Antigone</i> Euripides— <i>Medea</i>	Motif Analysis Tragic Hero Paper
Anglo-Saxon Period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• historical context and influence on literature</li> <li>• epic form and epic hero; monsters</li> <li>• literary devices = archetypes; kennings; alliteration; caesura</li> </ul>	Anglo-Saxon Riddles <i>Beowulf</i> <i>The Seafarer</i>	Create and present riddle Create and present Anglo-Saxon boast
Medieval Period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• historical context and influence on literature</li> <li>• genres = satire; romance; poetry</li> <li>• character analysis; diction; evolution of language</li> </ul>	Geoffrey Chaucer— <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> (Prologue and Selected Tales) Sir Thomas Malory— <i>Le Morte D'Arthur</i> <i>Sir Gawain &amp; the Green Knight</i> Middle English Lyrics	Create and present modern character description In class essay (2-3 pages)
Renaissance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• historical context and influence on literature</li> <li>• symbolism; return to classic structure (3 unities)</li> <li>• themes = morality; filial relations; disruption of order</li> </ul>	Sonnets Edmund Spenser— <i>The Faerie Queene</i> William Shakespeare— <i>The Tempest</i>	Create a sonnet <i>The Tempest</i> paper (2-3 pages) Memorize and recite a scene
Independent Reading: Research & Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• thesis development</li> <li>• organization</li> <li>• research</li> <li>• revision</li> <li>• MLA format</li> </ul>	Students choose one of several novels to read independently	Create thesis statement Rough draft for peer editing Second draft for teacher editing Final draft (4-6 pages)