

**English IV: Media Literacy and Composition – 0410**  
**2008-09 Syllabus**  
½ credit

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**Mr. Maxfield**  
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Daily assignments and handouts from  
class can be found at  
<http://maxfield.synthasite.com>

Course Description:

This course critically analyzes the impact of print and electronic media on American culture. The course enables students to interpret and understand media. It consists of an overview of Media Literacy Theory and analyzes specific media such as magazines, radio, advertising, television, music, film, and the Internet. Three Major projects are required that include Internet research, writing, and oral presentations. In addition, a minimum of 12 written responses using a variety of formats are also required.

Major Content Units

Unit I—Introduction to Media Literacy and Media Theory

Unit II—Advertising

Unit III—Communication in a Digital Age

Materials:

Students will need a 3-ring binder, loose leaf paper, blue or black ink pens, a highlighter, and a flash drive to save work. Materials need to be brought to class every day.

Assessment:

Students will be evaluated on class participation, presentations, critical analyses, journal responses, quizzes, tests, extra credit, and a final exam. Grades will be calculated according to a total point system.

The following scale applies:

A=90-100%

B=80-89%

C=70-79%

I < 70%

Class Absences:

Class attendance is essential for success. If a student is absent, he or she will be responsible for coming to my ANP to pick-up missed work or an alternate assignment if applicable to the situation.

## Late Work: – *The Power of “I”*

Instead of receiving a zero in the grade book for a missing assignment, a student will receive an “I” for incomplete. Additionally, any assignment scoring below a 70% (C) will also receive an “I.”

Those “I’s” will remain in the grade book until the student completes the work at a grade level of 70% or above, thus demonstrating that the assessed academic standard has been met. No grade below a “C” will be acceptable.

A student who does not meet academic standards will:

- be asked why he/she did not do the work assigned;
- have parent(s) notified after 3 incomplete or missing assignments;
- revise work or retake tests until standards are met;
- not receive a grade of “A” if the assignment is not turned in on time;
- be required to attend extra help sessions (before, during, or after school);
- never receive an “F” on acceptable completion of assignment; and
- receive an “I” (incomplete) for any grade reporting period in which the student has one or more incomplete grades. Receiving a grade of incomplete for the semester would require the student to retake the course for that semester.