

English IV: Media Literacy and Composition – 0410
2009-10 Syllabus
½ credit

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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.

Class Absences:

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

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%

D = 60 - 69%

F < 60%

The Power of I

Instead of receiving a zero in the grade book for a missing *Power of I* 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;
- be assigned a prescriptive travel pass for TAP;
- be required to attend extra help sessions - first during TAP and then before or after school;
- revise work or retake tests until standards are met;
- not receive a grade of "A" if the assignment is not turned in on time;
- 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. (At the end of the semester all remaining "I's" will be converted to zeros and a student's percentage will then determine the final grade.)

*** Certain assignments will not be *POI* and thus will be ineligible for make-up or late credit. Examples include (but are not limited to) in-class assignments, worksheets, and short answer questions.**