I. Course Description

Twelfth grade English Language Arts is the study of British literature and informational texts. Students will read fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama. In addition, students will continue to develop and use vocabulary and grammar skills. English IV students are expected to produce coherent and well organized writing using the writing process. Students will write analysis, narrative, and informational pieces. Students will research a topic and produce a completed research project that includes a written paper, oral presentation, and visual aids.

II. Instructional Philosophy

To meet the needs and abilities of all students, classroom activities will include teacher-led, student-led, small group, individual, and project/presentation based instruction. Current events, student interests, real-world experiences, music, and technology will be used regularly in order to enhance student engagement and support instruction and learning. Full participation, high quality work, and assignment completion are required.

III. Central Objectives/Power Standards

The students will be able to:
- Read and comprehend a variety of literary and informational texts in print and non-print formats.
- Use word analysis and vocabulary strategies to read fluently.
- Create written work that has a clear focus, sufficient detail, coherent organization, effective use of voice, and the correct use of the conventions of written Standard American English.
- Write for a variety of purposes and audiences.
- Access and use information from a variety of sources.
- Use technology to conduct research, create presentations, and publish writing.
- Analyze charts and graphs in informational texts.

IV. General Expectations

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory and critical in the student’s ability to achieve the course’s central objectives. Students are expected to be on time every day for class. If absent, please make an appointment with me before or after school to get materials, check the ‘Class Handouts’ folder or contact a classmate. Students will have 5 days
after returning to class to make up any missed work. Make-up work turned in after these 5 days will receive half credit at most.

**Textbooks and Materials:** Students are expected to have a 1 1/2 - 2 inch binder with at least four dividers (Bellringer, notes, homework, graded work), paper, pens, and pencils. Students are required to bring the McDougal Littell *British Literature* textbook to class every day, along with unit materials and supplemental literature distributed in class.

**In Class:** Cell phone use is *not allowed* in class. If a student is caught using a cell phone (including but not limited to checking text messages, looking at the time or using the internet) the phone will be taken away from the student. The student can pick up the phone from me at the end of the day. NO EXCEPTIONS. Headphone use is not allowed either. No food, drinks (except water) or hats allowed in class.

**Participation/Behavior:** Students are expected to participate every day during class. This includes but is not limited to casual and formal discussions, group work, projects, Socratic Seminars and question and answer sessions. Included in the participation grade is the student’s effort to be a conscientious contributing member of the class and/or group in which they happen to be working. Students will receive a participation grade out of 20 points at the end of each week.

**Homework:** Homework will be checked at the beginning of class each day. Students are expected to enter the classroom, take out the homework due, and begin working on the day’s bellringer. *I do not* accept any late homework and *I do not* accept notes from parents unless it’s an extenuating circumstance. However, *I do* give one freebie per semester for daily homework. This does not include papers, projects or long term assignments. Each homework assignment will be worth 10 points.

**Texts/Major Assignments and Assessments (subject to change):** Students will read a variety of British plays, poems, novels, and informational texts including but not limited to *Beowulf*, *Canterbury Tales*, Shakespearean Sonnets, etc. Students will be formally and informally assessed during the semester through written assignments, projects, presentations, tests, quizzes, homework, and class participation. Students will compose a variety of written assignments including compare and contrast, cause and effect, persuasive, literary analysis, and research papers. All papers are due at the beginning of class. Broken computers/printers are not an excuse. Use the school computers/resources available to you! Five points will be taken off for each day a paper, project or assignment is late. Students will be given a bellringer quiz every Friday. Students will be required to maintain a “Charlie Card to Success” and keep track of their daily homework and participation grades. These will be collected every Friday.

V. Writing Expectations

Students will set up and maintain a writing portfolio throughout the semester. All writing assignments will be kept in the writing portfolio in the classroom and will be sent home with students at the end of the semester. All writing assignments will be given with a
requirements/expectations page and rubric. Please hold onto both until the assignment is passed in.

All Writing Assignments Must:
- be typed, size 12 font or neatly written and double spaced (will vary per assignment)
- adhere to MLA guidelines
- include the following heading: name, class, assignment, and title
- be proofread even if only one draft is written.
- be turned in with all pre-writing and writing materials must be turned in with each assignment (including the assignment sheet, brainstorming, drafts, peer reviews, the rubric and a reflection.)

VI. Grading

Students will be assessed and graded using a points system. Major assignments will be worth more points than minor assignments. Final averages will reflect the number of points a student has earned divided by the total number of points possible for each quarter. The final exam will count as 20% of the student’s final semester grade. Students can monitor their own performance in the class by recording their grades for each assignment.

VII. Plagiarism/Cheating

Academic dishonesty in any form is not tolerated. Any student involved in cheating or plagiarism will receive a 0 for the assignment and reported to the administration.

VIII. Recommended Readings

Students are encouraged to sign out books from the classroom library. Please see me to do so. Below is a supplemental list of recommended readings.

*The Once and Future King* by T.H. White  
*Hamlet* by William Shakespeare  
*Doctor Faustus* by Christopher Marlowe  
*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen  
*Grendel* by John Gardner  
*Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens  
*Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley  
*The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde  
*Mrs. Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf
IX. A few ways, which you as parents/guardians can help

1. Help your son or daughter edit their essays by letting them read their essays out loud to you or reading their essays out loud to them. Please observe the line between helping and doing.
2. If you or your son or daughter has questions about an assignment, please contact me at Sara_Missert@charleston.k12.sc.us.
3. Ask your son or daughter what they are doing/reading/writing/working on in English.

X. Signatures for 12th Grade British Literature

Please return this sheet by: _______________. Worth one homework assignment!

Students: By signing below you confirm that you have reviewed the syllabus and understand the expectations and rules of the class.

Student __________________________________________
Signature _______________________________________
Print ___________________________________________

Parents/Guardians: By signing below you confirm that you have reviewed the syllabus with your child and your child understands the expectations and rules of the class.

Parents/Guardians __________________________________________
Signature _______________________________________
Print ___________________________________________