

**MVLA
2025-26
COURSE INFORMATION SHEET**

Course Title: English IV

School: AVHS

UC/CSU requirement: No?

Textbook and/or other learning resources:

- *They Say, I Say, 6th Ed. with Readings* By Graff, Gerald and Cathy Birkenstein:
 - *along with various other essays and articles*
- *Kaffir Boy* Mark Mathabane

Course Description/Student Learning Outcomes:

English IV is designed to demystify and break down the process of forming academic arguments while practicing the writing conventions to communicate a student's thoughts and opinions. It intends to prepare students to write for a range of college applications while reinforcing reading skills and practices begun in English III. Students will deal mainly with non-fiction essays around current topics of public discourse as well as Mathabane's Memoir.

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

- I. *They Say, I Say 6th Ed.***
 - A. *Joining the Academic Conversation***
 - B. *The Art of Summarizing***
 - C. *The Art of Quoting***
 - D. *Responding to Another Author's Ideas***
 - E. *Using Personal Stories to Energize Your Argument***
 - F. *Counterarguments: Planting a Naysayer in your Text***
 - G. *Entering Class Discussions***
 - H. *Determining a Writers's Motivation***
- II. *Kaffir Boy***
 - A. *Road to Alexandria: Apartheid as a Setting***
 - B. *Passport to Knowledge: Education as Opportunity***
 - C. *Passport to Freedom:***

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 and their percentage weights:
 - a. Classwork/homework, 0%
 - b. Discussions & Activities, 0%
 - c. Cumulative assessments 100%
2. Achievement evidence collected within each grading category:
 - a. Note-taking & Reading guides, Response paragraphs and minithemes
 - b. Exit Tickets, guided notes, interview notes, rubrics for verbal presentations and discussions
 - c. Writing and Presentation Rubrics, Goal-setting reflections and revisions
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](#)):
 - a. 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 and therefore half credit.

5. Excused absence make-up practices ([Education Code 48205\(b\)](#)):
 - a. Absent students with an excused absence are expected to see their teacher the day they return to arrange any make up work. In general, students have one week to make up missing assignments.
6. Academic integrity violation practices ([LAHS Academic Integrity Policy](#) / [MVHS Academic Integrity Policy](#)):
 - a. 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, submitting work generated using a LLM AI such as ChatGPT, 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.
 - b. Assignments completed outside the classroom that don't match the achievement witnessed inside the class may be held and their credit denied until the student can explain and/or reproduce work at an equivalent degree of competence.
7. Late work practices:
 - a. Late work is accepted for full credit at any time during the academic year. However, if a student is missing a Summative Assessment or is more than 30 points behind, he or she will be required to attend 6th period until caught up.
8. Revision practices:
 - a. Students are expected to revise essays. As the rough draft is written, I will provide comments, suggestions, and directions for revision. For full credit, The final piece of writing must meet all requirements of the assignment and address all comments and suggestions provided by the teacher. After the writing is scored on the rubric, students may further revise their writing to achieve a higher score. This opportunity may be limited by the teacher's available time.
9. Extra credit practices:
 - a. Extra Credit is available to any students in good standing in the class. To be in good academic standing, a student must:
 - i. Have completed all summative assessments and major assignments
 - ii. Have earned at least 70% of daily points
10. Additional grading practices: Students who wish to participate in the graduation ceremony on June 3rd, 2020 will be required to meet the following deadlines for assignments:
 - a. Friday, May 22, 2026: Last day for missing essays to be submitted to teacher
 - b. Wednesday, May 27, 2026: Last day for short stories to be submitted to teacher
 - c. Friday, May 29, 2026: Last day for all completed work to be submitted to teacher
11. LMS Used:

Students will use Google Classroom for writing assignments.

Instructors' email addresses:

matthew.phillips@mvla.net
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Additional information:

The use of electronics in the classroom is limited to classroom instructional goals. Students who

Cell Phones are not allowed in the classroom unless expressly requested by the instructor.

No videotaping inside the classroom, including audio recordings, is permitted. Videotaping without individuals' consent violates both EdCode ([51512](#)) and the Penal Code ([PC 632](#)).