

American Literature and Composition Syllabus

2013-2014

General Course Information:

Instructor: Michael L. Clarington **Room 823**

Preferred Contact Time: After school 3:30 – 4:30

Email: michael.clarington@henry.k12.ga.us Phone: 770-883-7946

Seize the Day Philosophy: This school year, I will ask you to challenge yourself, and I will push you to take **personal responsibility** for your education while being inspired to think creatively and critically. In school, like in life, we should strive to become life-long learners to fulfill our dreams and reach our fullest potential. So everyday, you should come into class with the attitude that you are working to fulfill your dreams and improve your life now and in the future. So, seize the day, and seize the opportunity to the best you can be. If you have that attitude, you will do well in my class.

Course Description: This course content will include the study of chronological context and the relevance of period structures in American Literature. Students will demonstrate developing competency of specific standards in persuasive writing, as well as the ability to regularly progress through the stages of the writing process. In addition to reading and writing, students will practice speaking, listening, and viewing skills while learning vocabulary and grammar standards within the context of American literature.

Important Assessments: There are two State tests students are required to complete in Language Arts during their junior year:

The Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHSWT) in **Writing**,

End of Course Test (EOCT) for English III. (Students will **not** be required to pass the EOCT to graduate, but must pass the course to earn credit.)

This year the EOCT will count at **20%** of the semester grade.

Grading Scale:

A= 90-100 B=80-89 C=74-79 D=70-73 F=Below 70

Grading Policy:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Tests/Papers/Projects/Quizzes | 60% |
| Daily/Homework/Participation | 40% |
| Semester Average | 80% |
| Final Exam or EOCT | 20% |

A final exam will be given at the end of each semester; second semester it will consist of an End Of Course Test given and scored by the State. The grade will be averaged into the course average at the end of each semester.

Classroom Rules and Routine:

1. Be on time to class.
2. Bring all materials to class (3 ring binder, paper, pens, pencils).
3. Be respectful, responsible, and reasonable in making your own decisions for your own behavior.
4. Be in class EVERY DAY.
5. Report to class BEFORE the tardy bell rings.
6. Begin and complete the Vocabulary warm up activity located on the screen.
7. Participate in classroom activities and assignments.

Tardy Policy: Students must be seated and ready for class when the bell rings. If you are late for class, you must report to the attendance office. I will adhere to the guidelines in the Student Handbook when disciplining tardies.

Absences/ Make-up Work: Being present and participating in class everyday usually leads to academic success. However, if you must be absent, when you return to school check the Absentee work folder **BEFORE** class instruction begins. If you have missed a quiz or a test, please check with me before or immediately after school to make an appointment for missing work. If you are to miss a vocabulary quiz, you must make it up the day you return, as these are on the calendar weekly. I will adhere to the policy in the Student Handbook when dealing with all other make-up work.

- Extra help will be available for ALL students after-school during tutoring hours unless faculty meetings are taking place.

Supply List:

- Composition Notebook/Journal
- 3-ring binder (1 inch or larger)
- Loose leaf college ruled notebook paper
- Blue or Black ink pens and several pencils
- 5 Dividers
- 1 pocket folder

Academic Honesty: Cheating/ Plagiarism is considered a serious matter. The parents of a student who has been involved in cheating or plagiarizing will be notified and the student will receive a zero for the assignment.

For this course, cheating is defined as, but not limited to the following:

- Copying anyone's answers to assigned work
- Taking any information, verbatim for any source, including the internet, without giving proper credit to the author
- Looking onto another student's paper during a test or quiz.
- Having available any study notes or other test aides during a test without the teacher's permission (including cell phones or other devices that have internet access).
- Collaborating on assignments when independent work is expected.

Teacher: Mrs. Leslee Meek

By signing below you indicate your agreement to the following:

- I have read and understand the academic integrity policy.
- I have reviewed the class syllabus and understand the grading policy.
- I give permission for my child to view G, PG, or PG-13 movies if they are related to the curriculum of the class.
- I will review with my child his/ her parallel reading choices (choice lists to be given at a later date)
- I am willing to be contacted by email.
- I have access to the internet and will access Infinite Campus to check my child's progress. I understand that teachers will make every effort to post grades within two weeks of accepting the assignment, but that posting grades for larger papers and projects may take extended time beyond the twp week frame.

Student Name _____ (please print) Class Period _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Student Email (if available) _____

Parent(s) Name _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Phone number _____

Email _____

Return this form with all signatures by August 9, 2013.

Please feel free to contact the instructor if you have any additional questions or concerns.

Thank you for the privilege of working with you and your child, I look forward to this year!