

# English I: Literature and Composition Syllabus 2014-2015

## GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION:

Grade level: 9

1.0 Credit per semester

Instructor(s): Ms. Jennifer Whitaker

Room: 829

Email: [jennifer.whitaker@henry.k12.ga.us](mailto:jennifer.whitaker@henry.k12.ga.us)

School Phone #: 770-957-3943

**LEARNING GOAL:** The students' focus in English I will be to think critically, to improve reading comprehension, to learn research skills, and to sharpen written expression.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION** This course will include the study of composition, grammar, literature, vocabulary, speaking and listening, and research skills.

## GRADING SCALE:

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 74-79

D = 70-73

F = Below 70

## GRADING POLICY:

Tests/Papers/Projects	35%
Quizzes	25%
Daily/Homework/Participation	40%
Final Exam/ EOCT	20%

A final exam will be given at the end of each semester; second semester, the final exam will consist of an **End of Course Test (EOCT)** and will be scored by the state. The student's class grade and the final exam grade will be averaged at the end of each semester.

## CLASSROOM RULES:

First and foremost, Room 829 is a place where students go to learn. Behavior that interrupts other students' right to learn will face disciplinary consequences per the Henry County High School Student Handbook. Students will be expected to arrive to class on time with the materials that are required for the class (see list below). Students who arrive to class late will face disciplinary consequences per the Henry County High School Student Handbook. Students will be expected to respect the learning environment (classroom) by not bringing food or beverages into the classroom. All students will be asked to respect their teachers' authority and their peers' right to learn. Finally, absolutely no cell phone use during class is allowed unless permitted by the teacher. This means no charging cell phones during class.

**ABSENCES/MAKE-UP WORK:** Being present and participating in class daily is important to academic success; however, if you must be absent, please check the absent folder for a list of missing assignments, tests, or quizzes. It is the student's responsibility to make up missed work and to make an appointment to take missed tests or quizzes.

## LATE WORK:

If students fall behind in in-class or homework assignments, they will be required to stay after school to make up the work. However, students will only be permitted to make up work that falls within the current grading period. After the grading period ends, the students will receive a ZERO for unfinished assignments.

**EXTRA HELP:** Ms. Whitaker is always available for students who need extra help or would like to make up work. **It is imperative, however, that you make an appointment with Ms. Whitaker.**

**EXTRA CREDIT:** Several opportunities for extra credit points on specific assignments, tests and quizzes may be offered to students throughout the year. Extra credit is also periodically available for outstanding behavior and contribution in class.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** 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 grade of zero for the assignment or assessment.

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

- Copying anyone's answers to questions, exercises, study guides, class work, or homework assignments.
- Taking any information, verbatim from any source, including the internet, without giving proper credit to the author, or rearranging the order of words and/or changing some words as written by the author and claiming the work as his/her own.
- Looking onto another student's paper during a test or quiz.
- Having available any study notes or other test aids during a test or quiz without the teachers' permission.
- Collaborating on assignments when independent work is expected.

**READING REQUIREMENT:** It is a Georgia State Standard for each 9<sup>th</sup> grade student to read 25 books or the equivalent of 25 books throughout each school year. Through in-class assignments and out-of-class reading, it is expected that each student meet this standard.

**SUPPLY LIST:**

3-Ring Binder (2-inches or Larger)  
6 Dividers

**To Be Kept In The Classroom**

Loose Leaf Notebook Paper  
Blue or Black Ink Pens and/ or Pencils  
Highlighters

**Syllabus Acknowledgement**

**TEACHER:** Ms. Jennifer Whitaker

**PLEASE CHECK THE FOLLOWING BOXES TO THE LEFT INDICATING YOUR AGREEMENT TO THE FOLLOWING:**

- ☐ 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 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 2 weeks of accepting the assignment, but that posting of grades for larger papers and projects may take extended time beyond the 2 week time frame.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

Class Period \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Phone Numbers \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent(s) Signature

**RETURN THIS FORM WITH ALL SIGNATURES BY January 7, 2015**

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

We look forward to working with you and your child this year – it's going to be a great one!!