**9th Grade Honors Literature and Composition**

**Dr. Jane Weatherred**

**Course Syllabus 2025-2026**

**\*Syllabus subject to change.\***

**Course Description**

This course focuses on a study of literary genres; the students develop initial understanding of both the structure and the meaning of a literary work. The students explore the effect of the literary form in regards to interpretation. The students will read across the curriculum to develop academic and personal interests in different subjects. While the focus is technical writing in ninth grade literature, the student will also demonstrate competency in a variety of writing genres:  narrative, expository, persuasive, and technical.  The students will engage in research, timed writings, and the writing process. Instruction in language conventions will occur within the context of reading, writing, and speaking, rather than in isolation. The students demonstrate an understanding of listening, speaking, and viewing skills for a variety of purposes.

By the end of this year, we should be able to:

* Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what a text says explicitly and implicitly.
* Determine a theme and/or central idea of a text and investigate its development through structure and supporting details.
* Analyze how complex characters change over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or theme.
* Explain how an author unfolds analysis or a series of ideas or events.
* Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text including figurative and connotative meanings and analyze the impact of word choice on meaning and tone.
* Analyze how an author’s choices concerning structure and organization create such effects as mystery, tension, or surprise.
* Consider how an author’s ideas or claims are developed and refined by sentences, paragraphs, or larger portions of a text (e.g., a section or chapter).
* Determine points of view, purpose, and reflected cultural experiences in texts spanning genre and name key elements of fiction writing (i.e., characterization, theme, and plot) and their impact on what a text means for individuals and larger communities.
* Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts.
* Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately.
* Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.
* Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.
* Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
* Analyze how an author draws on and transforms source material in a specific work (e.g., how Shakespeare treats a theme or topic from Ovid or the Bible or how a later author draws on a play by Shakespeare).
* Analyze seminal U.S. documents of historical and literary significance (e.g., Washington’s Farewell Address, the Gettysburg Address, Roosevelt’s Four Freedoms speech, King’s “Letter from Birmingham Jail”, Nelson Mandela’s Nobel Peace Prize Speech, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights), including how they address related themes and concepts.

**Textbook**

HMH Into Literature 9th Grade (Physical and Digital copies provided for all students)

**Unit/Concept Names**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Semester 1:  Unit 1: Poetry  Unit 2: Argumentative Techniques  Unit 3: Expository Techniques | Semester 2:  Unit 4: Narrative Techniques  Unit 5: Research and Analysis  Unit 6: Review Unit |

**Course Materials**

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| --- | --- |
| * 2” 3-Ring Binder * Spiral Notebook or Composition Book * Binder Dividers | * Loose-Leaf Paper * Highlighters * Pens/Pencils |

**Grade Breakdown**

Participation and Minor Assessments 60%

Major Assessments and Projects 30%

Semester Exam 10%

**Grading Scale**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A= 90-100 | D= 70-74 |
| B= 80-89 | F= <60 |
| C= 75-79 |  |

**Course work/Classwork**

Students will receive a variety of assignments designed to enhance their learning. If a student is absent, the student is responsible for the missed assignment.

Students are expected to submit work on time. Doing so exhibits pride in producing quality work and fulfilling student responsibility. This work habit is a behavior that supports academic achievement and demonstrates characteristics from our Richmond County School System Profile of a Graduate. Late work can negatively impact learning and your ability to demonstrate mastery of the standards.

When the assignment calls for students to produce original work, students will not use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to generate the assignment for them. Assignments are given to help students learn and demonstrate what they know. While there may be appropriate times for students to use AI during the learning process, using AI to generate original work in place of the student completing the work, is considered Academic Dishonesty and can be punished according to the rules outlined in the Code of Conduct. *See RCBOE IHA-R Grading Practices*

**Academic Dishonesty:**

You will not receive credit **if you copy and/or allow another student to copy**. You will also be referred to administration if you are caught cheating or plagiarizing.

**Plagiarism:** plagiarism is defined as the use of intellectual material produced by another person without acknowledging the source. For example:

* Copying passages of someone else’s work in to any document or posting (physical or electronic) without citing or acknowledging the source.
* Using the views or opinions of others without citation or acknowledgement
* Paraphrasing the ideas or writing of others without citation or acknowledgment

**Minor Assessments**

Minor assignments are assignments that serve as practice materials to assess understanding *before* a major assessment. These are also meant to keep students accountable for their learning. Minor assessments include (but are not limited to) daily work, in-class activities, and homework. Grades may be determined through both completion or accuracy. Unless stated otherwise by the teacher, students should submit their own work; no credit will be given if a student submits another students’ work, copies from the internet, or uses artificial intelligence.

**Major Assessments**

Major assessments require students to apply or demonstrate what they have learned. This includes projects, formal writing assignments, tests, and quizzes. Grades will be determined by accuracy and completion. Also, students will be given rubrics for writing assignments and projects.

**Attendance/Make-up Work:**

If you are absent:

* It is your responsibility to **check the absent binder** for anything you missed on the day of your return to class.
* Check with Mrs. Dunn for a new due date for your make-up work.

Punctuality:

* Students are expected to be in class on time every day and for each period of the day.
* The school day begins promptly at 7:25 am and ends at 2:15 pm.
* Students are given five minutes between each class. A one-minute warning bell will ring in order to give students ample notice. Students are expected to be in class and ready for instruction when the tardy bell rings.

Absences:

* Excused Absences- turned into the main office (see handbook for specifics)
* All work will be posted on Canvas or will be available in the Absent Binder. Please make sure to pay attention to due dates for make-up work and/or reteaching opportunities.

**Late Work (Grading Policy- See RCBOE IHA-R Grading Practices)**

* Students will earn an “0” in the gradebook, until the assignment is turned in.
* Students may have their scores reduced by 5% per school day for a 25% maximum reduction (five school days). ***Late work submitted after the fifth school day will only be accepted at the teacher’s discretion.***

**Make-Up Work (Grading Policy)**

Students are expected to make-up assignments and assessments that were missed due to absence from

school. Students are responsible for asking teachers for the make-up work upon returning to class.

Make-up work should be completed by the student within the time specified by the teacher. In most cases, students have 2 school days per absence to submit work once they return. If a student is absent on the day a project is due, the student should submit the project on the assigned due date. If a student misses a test or quiz, they should be prepared to complete the assessment before or after school within 3 days of when the assignment was administered. Students are responsible for emailing the teacher to arrange that time. There will be no make-up days on Thursdays.

**Relearn and Reassess Plan**

For any major assessments, students will have the opportunity to submit a relearning plan for parent and teacher approval. Upon satisfactory completion of the plan, as determined by the teacher, students will be given a minimum of **ONE** opportunity to be reassessed. Only students scoring below 70 on a major assessment can complete a relearning plan unless exempted with parent approval.

Reassessments may be different from the original.

The reassessment score will replace the original score (the scores will not be averaged).

Reassessments should be completed **within 7 school days** of receiving the original grade. Teachers should have discretion to extend the timeline to address extenuating circumstances.

*See teacher class page for Relearn/Reassess Procedure*

**Classroom Procedures & Expectations**

The overarching expectation in this class is to represent WAR (W, Accountable, Respectful)

Below are the expectations for how to W.A.R. in class!

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Wholehearted** | * **Commit to learning rather than grades.** * **Maintain a positive attitude.** * **Accept mistakes as steps towards progress.** * **Tell the truth-Even if it is not pretty.** |
| **Accountable** | * **Listen/look for instructions.** * **Ask for help.** * **Take responsibility for my own learning and growth.** * **Arrive to class prepared with my laptop, notebook, textbook, and writing utensils.** |
| **Respectful** | * **Show human decency.** * **Use language to uplift and encourage my classmates and myself by avoiding profanity, slurs, and insults.** * **Protect the classes’ resources, time, and space.** |

**Teacher contact information:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Email: WeathJa@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us | **Remind Codes:**  1st period weath-1 6th period weath-6  2nd period weath-2 7th period weath-7  3rd period weath-3  5th period weath-5 |
|  |  |

**Student Contract:** I understand that all work should be completed on time. I understand that my teacher may deduct five points per day and communicate this in my Infinite Campus gradebook. I also understand that work turned in after the learning has occurred may not be graded (no more than 5 school days from the due date). I understand that using Artificial Intelligence to complete assignments where I am asked to produce original work will be considered Academic Dishonesty.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Contract:** I understand that my child is expected to complete assignments on time. I will

remain in communication with my child’s teacher and monitor missing and late work as noted in Infinite Campus Parent Portal. If my child continues to submit work late, I understand that a parent-teacher conference will be needed to co-develop a plan of action. I understand that my child should not use Artificial Intelligence to complete assignments where students are asked to produce original work.

Parent Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Return this last page to Mrs. Dunn by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_