**2024-2025 American Literature Syllabus**

**Disclaimer: This is the proposed syllabus for the year, but it may be changed or altered as needed.**

**Instructor:** Mr. Robert L. Jackson ([jacksro@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us](mailto:jacksro@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us))

My Goal for each student: To **TEACH** you, to **INSPIRE** you, to **HELP YOU GROW**

2017-2018 STAR Teacher and Golden Bell Recipient

2020-2022 CCHS Teacher of the Year

2022 Top 5 Finalist for RCBOE Teacher of the Year

**Phone:** 706-772-8140 **Availability:** 2:30pm-3:00 pm Monday-Wednesday. Please call guidance if you wish to arrange a meeting. Other meeting times may be available due to scheduling conflicts. I try to answer emails daily during school hours. I also make parental phone calls at varying times during the day or early evening.

**Tutoring Schedule**: I am available on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 2:30 pm until 3:00 pm. Please check and make sure that I am available before you plan to stay. Also, please make sure that a reliable source of transportation is available as Mr. Jackson is NOT allowed to transport students.

**Required Materials: notebook**, loose leaf paper, pens (blue or black), pencils, highlighters, computer to use at home and school as needed with internet access. (The internet will be vital due to Canvas learning modules and the online version of the textbook.) Please be reminded that each child has the capability of having a computer issued to him/her through our Media Center. Therefore, teachers do NOT have classroom computers available for student use.

**Course Description**

This course focuses on the study of American literature, writing modes and genres, and essential conventions for reading, writing, and speaking. The student develops an understanding of chronological context and the relevance of period structures in American literature. The students develop an understanding of the ways the period of literature affects its structure and how the chronology of a work affects its meaning. The students read a variety of informational and literary texts in all genres and modes of discourse. Reading across the curriculum develops students’ academic and personal interests in different subjects. While expository writing is the focus in American literature, the students will also demonstrate competency in a variety of writing genres: narrative, argumentative, and technical. The student will engage in research, timed writing, and the writing process. Instruction in language conventions will occur within the context of reading, writing, and speaking. The students demonstrate an understanding of listening, speaking, and viewing skills for a variety of purposes.

**Course of Study**

Textbook: **HMH Into Literature:** Please note that each student will be issued a consumable copy of the copy, as well as they will be given instructions on how to assess the book in an online version as well. The icon for the textbook will be on each student’s launchpad for easier access. It is the student’s responsibility to keep track of his/her consumable book. Mr. Jackson may not have any additional copies to offer a student.

**Class Rules**

1. Respect yourself, others, and your Surroundings. **No** eating, drinking, or chewing gum is allowed. No sleeping in class is allowed. Please raise your hand to speak or to get out of your seat. Students may have bottled, clear water in class. If it is anything other than clear, it is NOT allowed.
2. Be on Time. You must be in your assigned seat **BEFORE** the bell rings. If you come to class and ask to go to the restroom, you must be back before the bell rings, or you will be counted tardy. I will give you a tardy if a teacher sends you to my class with a note if I have not been pre warned of your tardiness. NO passes will be issued the first 15 or the last 15 minutes of class per school policy.
3. MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS. Please do not use my class time to spread rumors or gossip. Always remain on task!
4. Simply do what is right. We have a great deal of work to do, so we must curtail excuses for not doing what we know we should do.
5. Cell phones are not allowed in the school for any reason. And by no means should one answer a call during class time. Parents may call the phone office if they need to reach their child during school hours. Cell phones are prohibited during all testing times. I will follow the newly established cell phone policy always issued by RCBOE. If a student refuses to release a phone after I have asked for it, I will call for help from administration. I will document all cell phone issues in Infinite Campus as required.

**The following items have been extracted from the IHA-R: Grading Systems-Administrative Procedures**

**Discipline Policy (Conduct)**

Conduct is important in a school setting and important to the learning environment. Misconduct should be addressed with appropriate prescribed school and/or school system consequences in an effort to improve the behavior and to maintain a positive learning environment for all students. Misconduct should not be reflected in a student’s academic grade. With the above in mind, we will address many issues in the classroom before involving office personnel. I will offer a verbal warning first. If this does not help, I will make parental contact to discuss the issue. If the problem is still unresolved and continues to disrupt the learning environment, I will refer the student to the appropriate principal.

**Academic Dishonesty**

The Student Code of Conduct, Rule 1(A)(t), states that no student shall cheat, alter records, plagiarize, receive unauthorized assistance or assist another in any type of academic dishonesty. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty will be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher and a supervising administrator, taking into consideration any written materials, observation, or information from witnesses. Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. Additionally, the task may be entered as incomplete, and the student required to redo the assignment or retake the assessment. The use of any AI material will be considered as a form of academic dishonesty and will not be eligible to be used as a grade and will receive a score of zero. If it is determined that students copied each other’s work, both students will receive a grade of zero.

**Late Work**

Late work is defined as assignments that are submitted after the specified deadline. This does not apply to work submitted late due to absence from school. Students are expected to submit assignments on time. Multiple incidents of late work may result in teacher-student-parent conferences to examine and correct the student’s work habits. Graded assignments that are submitted late should be scored to accurately reflect the level of mastery of standards. **Per RCBOE policy, late work will be accepted within a one-week period in which five points will be deducted for each day that the work is late. After one week, the acceptance of the work is at teacher discretion. I do NOT plan on accepting any work after the one-week period unless a verifiable circumstance has existed.**

**Make-up Work**

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. Teachers should provide reasonable timelines for completing make-up work. Generally, such work should be completed within 5 days of returning to school. A student should not be required to take a quiz or test on their first day back to school if the assessment was first announced during their absence. Graded assignments should be scored to accurately reflect the level of mastery of standards. **Assignments will remain open for a one-week period. Please ensure that you submit all make-up work within that time period. A grade of MISSING, which translates as a zero, will be recorded. This zero will be averaged into your grades until such time as the work is completed for a grade.** If additional time is needed for completion, the child/parent must request the extension through Mr. Jackson before the grade of zero is issued.

**Release & Assesses (R&R) Procedures**

**Certain assignments will be eligible for a retake or do over. Exams, CMAs, etc, are NOT allowed to me redone. The parent/child must present a valid request through Mr. Jackson asking permission to redo the work. In some situations, the work will not be allowed to be redone.**

**Accommodations and Modifications**

1. Accommodations are changes in instruction that enable students to demonstrate their classroom abilities. They provide equity, not advantage. Appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities do not reduce or lower the standards or expectations for content and do not invalidate assessment results. Therefore, students with accommodations may earn the same credit as those not receiving accommodations Accommodations will adhere to the State Special Education Accommodations Manual and the decisions of the IEP/504 Team. ELL (English Language Learner) teachers will follow the accommodations found in the Student Assessment Handbook and the Accessibility & Accommodations Manual.

2. Modifications according to the IEP or 504 Plans are alterations that change or reduce learning expectations. These modifications can increase the gap between the achievement of students with disabilities and expectations for proficiency at a particular grade level. Consistent use of modifications could adversely affect students throughout their educational career. Modifications on statewide assessments may invalidate the results and may not be appropriate or allowed on statewide assessments. The report card will designate modified curriculum by the assigned special education-designated course number

**Grade Reporting Cycle**

1. Teachers should enter grades in the Infinite Campus gradebook on a weekly basis throughout the semester. This allows students and parents to have continuous access to current student grades. 2. Each semester represents an 18-week grading period. • **Progress Report 1** will be issued at the end of the first 6-weeks. • **Progress Report 2** will be issued at the end of 12-weeks. • **Semester Report Card** will be issued at the end of 18-week grading period. 3. Each progress report will reflect the student’s cumulative achievement (the result of all grades since the first day of the semester). 4. The student's final grade will reflect their cumulative achievement from the first day to the last day of the semester. 5. This process allows teachers to evaluate the student’s progress toward mastery of standards based on the full body of evidence from the entire semester

**Parent Conferences**

All parent conferences should be scheduled through our guidance office. They are most often held on Tuesday afternoons. Teachers cannot meet during school time unless prior arrangements have been made. I will answer your emails and /or calls in a timely manner during school time. Parents are also encouraged to attend Open House and any other events to be given an update on your child’s educational success as well as attendance and discipline. I do allow school day classroom visits if they have been scheduled through the front office as required.

**Academic Grading Scale**

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| --- | --- |
| **A** | **Represents an average of 90-100.** |
| **B** | **Represents an average of 80-89.** |
| **C** | **Represents an average of 75-79.** |
| **D** | **Represents an average of 70-74.** |
| **F** | **Represents an average of below 70.** |
|  |  |

**High School Academic Grade Reporting.**

**High school student performance will be recorded and reported in all courses by numerical grades, based on a 100-point scale.**

**Calculation of Final Grades**

**Final grades will be determined by the cumulative semester average using the following criteria**

**Minor Grades = 60%**

**Examples include quizzes, labs, and other graded assignments to assess certain standards in a unit of study. Minimum number of minor grades per 6-week progress report period = 5.**

**Major Grades = 40%**

**Examples include unit tests, essays, research papers, project-based assignments and other culminating assessments to measure mastery of standards that comprise a unit of study. Minimum number of major grades per 6-week progress report period = 2.**

**Content Mastery Assessments and NWEA Map**

**These assessments are prepared by the county using the standards that have been taught during a certain time period. They are usually given quarterly in all EOC Courses. These are scheduled to be counted a:s major grades. I am also including the dates for NWEA Map. NWEA will measure a student’s reading Lexile. The proposed schedule is as follows:**

**NWEA Map Screener: August 12th – 30th**

**CMA #1: October 21st – November 1st**

**NWEA Screener: December 9th – 20th**

**CMA #2: February 3rd-21st**

**NWEA Screener April 21st – May 9th**

**End of Course Testing**

American Literature is a class in which an end of course test is required. These tests are administered at the school, but they are graded by an outside source through the Georgia Department of Education. The tests count as 10% of a child’s final grade. Grades are NOT allowed to be altered in any way including curving the grade or allowing retakes of the test. The EOC must be taken by every student regardless of his/her average in the class. It is also to be noted that regular classroom work will be resumed after testing. EOC testing does NOT indicate that the class is over.

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**Homework**

Teachers are not required to assign homework. However, when assigned on an as needed basis, homework can be a valuable part of the instructional process. It allows students to practice what has been taught; it lets parents see what students are learning and where they are in their level of understanding, and it gives teachers the opportunity to provide useful feedback to students. Most homework assignments in this class will be the result of unfinished classroom work. Special circumstances may arise where homework becomes an act of necessity. Homework will be graded as part of the ongoing standards-based instruction.

***Abbreviated Pacing Guide***

***NOTE: This is a suggested period for study and may need to be adjusted due to events beyond our control. Reading selections may be altered as needed to accommodate student needs. Abbreviated versions of some readings are utilized for various skill sets such as annotation, etc. Our curriculum is approved by RCBOE. Any problems with the reading selections should be addressed with CCHS Administration or Mrs. Rhonda Mathis at RCBOE. The following time frames are taken directly from the 2024-2025 American Literature Curriculum Map. 3Reading selections may vary due to time restraints, etc. Please be advised that teachers are required to teach mastery of standards and are not required to teach certain pieces of literature.***

**Course: American Lit. Content: ELA**

**School Year: 2024-2025**

**Unit # Unit Dates**

**Beginning Of Year BUFFER 6 Days: August 5th- 12th**

**Unit 1 Early American Literature 25 Days: August 13th- September 17th**

**BUFFER 5 Days: September 18th – 24th**

**Unit 2 The Revolutionary Period 25 Days: September 25th – November 1st**

**BUFFER 5 Days: November 4th – 8**

**Unit 3 Literature of the American Renaissance 22 Days: November 12th-December 18th**

**BUFFER 2 Days: December 19th-20th**

**2 Days: January 6th – 7th**

**Unit 4 Literature of the Civil War 20 Days: January 8th-February 5t**

**BUFFER 5 Days: February 6th – February 12th**

**Unit 5 The Age of Realism 20 Days: February 13th-March 14th**

**Buffer: 5 Days: March 17th- 21st**

**Review Unit 18 Days: April 30th-May 23rd**

**\*Teachers should be within 2 weeks of the pacing guide.**

**Parent Communication**

I will do my best to contact you before a problem becomes serious, if I have the necessary numbers or email addresses in order to contact you. Please make sure that you provide any updated information on Infinite Campus to our Data Clerk. We also need to be made aware of those individuals with whom we may share information. If a person’s name is listed under your contacts, I will contact them as needed if I cannot contact a parent or guardian first. Again, please check Infinite Campus to make sure that the persons listed are still valid forms of contact.

**Remind**

I will use Remind to post announcements and reminders as needed. I will provide the code on the first day of class. Parents are welcome to sign up for Remind as well as students.

Return to Mr. Jackson

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Please ensure that you have access to Canvas access through RCBOE. Announcements and assignments will be sent through this portal.**

* **I have access to Canvas: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Parent initial)**  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Student initial)**

**Computer Usage: I agree that I have a computer to use in this class.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent Initial \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Student Initial**

**I have signed up for Remind. Com using the code provided by Mr. Jackson.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Parent Initial \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student Initial**\_

I have read the attached syllabus. I also understand the Academic Dishonestly policy set by RCBOE. I also understand that failure to provide the correct contact information will result in Mr. Jackson not being to reach me as needed. I have also reviewed the contact information of those people listed on Infinite Campus. I agree to contact Mrs. Georgia Jenkins, CCHS Registrar, in case any revisions need to be made. I will NOT hold Mr. Jackson accountable for any errors that I failed to correct as needed.

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**Parental/Guardian Signature** **Date**

Cell Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Are there any medical issues or other concerns of which you would like me to be aware? You may list them below or you may contact our school nurse for further assistance.

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