Syllabus

2024-2025 School Year

**Course Title:** 9th Grade Literature

**Instructor:** Brian Neill

Hours of availability for tutoring, remediation and conferences: Very flexible. Most days after school, with prior notification.

Contact: (706) 823-6924, Neilbr1@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us

**Materials provided by the student:**

* Laptop (school-assigned or brought from home) \* Spiral notebook \* Ballpoint pens (blue or black)
* Notebook paper \* A binder to keep graded assignments \* A composition notebook

**Assigned Text:** *HMH Into Literature.*

**Course Description and philosophy:**

This course gives students an overview of world literature and exposes them to a variety of viewpoints about our society today. Students read an assortment of short stories, poems, novels, and non-fiction selections as part of the course. Through exposure to these readings, students will be able to make connections between the themes and ideas contained in historical and modern literature, and the world around them.

Course Outline (*All unit activities are abbreviated and include additional content. Reading selections may change).*

**Unit 1: Identity and Self-Discovery –**

Novel: *The Catcher in the Rye*.

Short stories: “The Leap,” by Louise Erdrich; “Unusual Normality,” by Ishmael Beah.

Various essays and short stories dealing with adversity in life.

**Unit 2: Family Dynamics and Challenges –**

Novel: *The Joy Luck Club*, by Amy Tan.

Short stories: “Everyday Use,” by Alice Walker; “The Scarlet Ibis,” by James Hurst.

**Unit 3: Society and Injustice —**

Novel: *The Invisible Man*, by Ralph Ellison.

Short stories/essays: “The Lottery,” by Shirley Jackson; “Entwined,” by Brian Tobin; “The Mcdonaldization of Society” (excerpts), by George Ritzer.

**Unit 4: Love and Relationships —**

Novel:*The Sun is also a Star, By Nicola Yoon.*

Extended Text: *Romeo and Juliet.*

Short stories: “The Gift of the Magi,” by O. Henry; “The Necklace,” by Guy de Maupassant.

**Unit 5: War and Conflict —**

Novel: *Night*, by Elie Wiesel.

Extended Text: *The Odyssey*.

Short stories: “This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen,” by Tadeusz Borowski; “On the Rainy River,” by Tim O’Brien; Reading selections from John Lewis and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Additional short stories and essays. “The Sniper,” by Liam O’Flaherty.

**Unit 6: Existentiaalism and Absurdism —**

Novel: *The Trial,* by Franz Kafka.

Short stories: “Bartleby the Scrivener,” by Herman Melville; “The Handsomest Drowned Man,” by Gabriel Garcia Marquez; “The End and the Beginning,” by Wislawa Szymborska.

Canvas/HMH online: The majority of all assignments for the class will be turned in through Canvas, Richmond County’s online learning platform, or the HMH textbook online platform. Students MUST be able to access Canvas and have a laptop in order to access and turn in assignments. Cell phones MAY NOT be used in class. ***Students who choose to not check out or bring a laptop will have to bring their assigned textbook to class each day!***

Discipline Policy The following consequences will result for disruptive behavior: 1st incident- counsel student, 2nd incident-parental contact, 3rd incident-office referral. More serious infractions may go straight to referral.

**Consequences for Cheating and Plagiarism**

Plagiarism means copying someone else’s work and claiming it as your own. Plagiarism can be in the form of copying another student’s work, submitting your own previous work from another class, or taking information from another source and submitting it as your own (ex: copy and paste from the internet). All instances of plagiarism will be handled according to school/district policy, *including being given three (3) hours of detention.* Cheating/Plagiarism on any major or minor assignment will not be tolerated in this class.

• This includes any AI (artificial intelligence) detected work. Any detection of ChatGPT work (or any other AI) will **not be tolerated.**The expectation across the board is for you to DO YOUR OWN WORK.

• Additionally, any work found to be plagiarized will not be taken for a grade. You will be required to complete the reassessment procedure.

Class Rules

* Be in your assigned seat and ready to work immediately upon entering the classroom.
* No eating or drinking (water is fine).
* Do not talk while the teacher or a classmate is talking.
* No leaving seat without permission.

**\* Treat everyone with respect.**

**Cell Phones and Communication Devices:**

All cellular phones, smart phones, smart watches, iPads, tablets, any type of headphones, earbuds, and other devices or accessories used to electronically communicate are considered personal electronic communication devices. All devices are prohibited for all students during the instructional day, which is defined as the time a student arrives on campus until the end of the school day. Students are NOT allowed to use cell phones ANYWHERE during the school day! They MUST turn them off (not on silent or vibrate mode) and leave them out of sight. Earbuds & headphones are not permitted. Please see the acceptable use policy and the BYOT agreement for additional guidelines. If a student chooses to bring a cell phone or electronic communication device on school property, it is at their own risk and damage to their property will not be investigated. RCSS is not responsible in any way for lost or damaged devices and cell phones.

IF AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE IS USED INSIDE OR OUTSIDE OF THE AUTHORIZED CLASSROOM, OR WITHOUT THE PRESENCE OF A TEACHER, THE CONSEQUENCES ARE: 1st Offense---- Device confiscated and student can pick up at the end of the day. 2nd Offense--- Device confiscated and parent can pick up Friday of that week. 3rd Offense----Device confiscated and picked up by the parent the Friday of that week. One day of in-school suspension.

Noncompliance: If student refuses to give up their phone/device to a staff member, they will receive two days of suspension.

Methods of Evaluation/Distribution of Grades

Students will have numerous opportunities to demonstrate the skills necessary to successfully master the standards. Students will be given remediation for any standards not met. Assignments may include: daily class work and homework, quizzes (oral and written), tests (oral and written), writing assignments, class discussions, independent work using the computer, projects (individual and group), oral presentations, and reports (oral and written). Maintaining a neat, well-organized notebook is a must. Class participation will be monitored daily and is also mandatory.

There will be two assignment categories:

* Minor grades - 40 %
* Major grades - 60 %

**LATE GRADING POLICY**

Late assignments **must be turned in within five days of the due date**, and will be subject to 5-point reduction in the **earned grade** for each day they are late. **Assignments turned in after five days will not be accepted.**

**Non-negotiables to relearn/and be reassessed on major assignments:**

1. Student **MAY NOT** have missing assignments less than five days late in current tested unit/module.

2. Assessment **MUST** be different from initial assessment, and will be determined by teacher. Only **ONE** reassessment will be given.

3. Student **MUST** relearn/reassess within 7 days once the grade is posted to Canvas.

4. The reassessment grade **MUST**replace the initial grade (*no averages*).

**Mr. Neill’s 9th Grade Literature sign-off for the 2023-2024 school year**

I have read this syllabus and I understand the content and requirements of the year. I understand that this syllabus is to be kept in the front of my notebook after it is signed by my parent/guardian. I understand that course expectations may change due to time constraints or other unavoidable circumstances.

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Signature of Student Signature of Parent or Guardian