Syllabus and Policies for American Literature

2021-2022 School Year

**Instructor: Johnathan Simmons** **Planning Period: 1st E-mail: johnathan.simmons@hcbe.net** **Room Number: 2414**

***Welcome back to school and a wonderful year of American Literature! I’m excited to have you in my class. My promise to you is that at the end of the year, you will be a better reader, better writer, better/deeper thinker, and better all-around than when this year started.***

**Course Description:**

This course surveys the works of American writers from the nation’s early establishers to its contemporary innovators. We will take a close look at what defines this country’s literature, what role the literature plays in our culture and society, and how it has developed from its beginning to its present state. We will be doing a great deal of writing on a daily basis in the form of journals, written responses (formal/informal) to articles, handouts, and text material.

**Course Objectives:**

Course objectives correlate with the *Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE)*:

<https://www.georgiastandards.org/Georgia-Standards/Pages/ELA-9-12.aspx>.

**Course Goals:**

Upon completing the American Literature course, students should be able to:

* Read and explore classic and contemporary American literature.
* Learn to read like a writer, paying careful attention to the elements of craft and style, and discern how those elements are effective (or not).
* Apply critical analysis to literature through discussion and writing.
* Continue the development of writing style and grammar skills.
* Understand yourself, others, and the world through considering the universal ideas that connect to the texts.
* Understanding that all the world is a “Text” that conveys meaning and can be read/understood to enrich and broaden your life
* Learn to be a better thinker and intelligent speaker by considering issues from all sides while limiting your biases.

**Textbooks:**

Class Notebooks and Journals are considered texts in the class and are considered mandatory every day.

Houghton’s Into Literature Grade 11 American Literature

\*Price for a lost textbook will be determined by the county.

**Writing/Composition:**

This course is a writing intensive course designed to improve the students’ ability to clearly discuss/analyze ideas from literature/media in the form of essays, research papers, and short response timed-writings.

Analysis of poetry, short essays, articles, images, novels, critiques, and plays will generally take three forms: (1) timed in-class essays that require students to either read and analyze rhetorical devices used in a short piece of literature and construct a response – or analyze a longer work through the lens of a specific prompt, (2) revisions of in-class writing (3) journal reflections/responses/analysis

**Grades:**

* Grades will be computed as follows:
  + 1. Major assessments 45%
    2. Minor assessments 20%
    3. Daily work 15%
    4. Semester Exam/EOC (if applicable) 20%
* You are allowed to retake two major tests. However, you must retake it within one week of receiving the test results back, and you must attend tutoring/remediation before retaking the exam.
* This course includes a cumulative exam at the end of the semester.
* You have 5 class days to make up an assignment for credit. After 5 days, you will receive a permanent 0.
* Late work will be credited as follows:
  + No more than 50% on daily assignments.
  + No more than 70% on minor and major assignments.

**Behavior:**

* Be respectful to all people including me, you, others, the classroom, and all materials
* Be responsible for your own work and your own actions. Absolutely no plagiarism and/or copying will be allowed. You will earn an automatic zero.
* Be involved with your learning and your class on a daily basis. If you are not involved, you will not learn.
* Follow all school and county policies and general classroom rules. Please refer to the student handbook for a complete listing of all policies.

**Absences:**

* If you are absent from this class, you have 5 days to make up any missed work in my class. It is your responsibility to obtained missed information and know when to turn work in. You cannot turn in any work after 5 days – “I didn’t know” is not an acceptable excuse.
* ***When you are absent, email me at*** [***david.ondike@hcbe.net***](mailto:david.ondike@hcbe.net) ***that day while you are out of school, and I will send you your assignments – or – log in to Google Classroom and get your work for the day there.***
* ***Otherwise, if you don’t email me, you must see me before 7:45 AM or after 3:00PM to get your missed work. I will NOT take time out of class to stop and give you your missed work. So……..don’t even ask – email me or be here before 7:45 AM.***

**Routines:**

* **See the list of rules at the front of the classroom.**
* Absolutely no gum, food, suckers, drinks other than water.
* Spit gum into trash if you have it when you enter.
* Participation in class is expected – will be expected to participate during graded discussions (minor/daily grades)
* All journal entries must be a minimum of one page to receive full credit. Anything less than one page will be given half credit. Anything less than one half page will be given a 0. I will collect journals after 10 entries at 10pts. Each resulting in 100 point minor (quiz) grade. Journals must be up to date at all times – please email me or ask a classmate for the entries you have missed due to absences.

**Discipline:**

* 1st offense will consist of a warning.
* 2nd offense will result in classroom detention and parent contact.
* 3rd offenses (and following) will result in an Office Referral.

**Technology:**

* This class will allow the use of BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) in specified lessons only. Devices **are not required** but are allowed to enhance, supplement, and support students’ learning experience.
* Responsible and respectful use of the device is always expected. Students are responsible for the decisions made with technology during the specified class period. Make wise decisions.
* Noncompliance with the following will result in an immediate administrative referral:
* No devices should be out until the teacher announces the BYOD lesson.
* Devices should only be visible when instructed by the teacher for the prepared lesson.
* Devices will only be used for tasks directly related to class instruction and work. This includes the work session portions of class.
* During assessments of any sort, devices should be put away, unless the device is being used in the assessment.
* Follow all guidelines and policies in your student handbook.

**Online Access:**

SSO Portal/ Office 365

Each student has their own log in provided by the school system that can be accessed by going to www.hcbe.net and clicking on the SSO portal link. Once logged in you will see a bunch of tiles one being for our textbook, office 365 and google classroom.

Username: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Password: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Google Classroom:**

To encourage blended learning, assignments will be posted online through Google Classroom. **Students are expected to access their work through Google Classroom when they are absent.** Students should be familiar with how to navigate the online platform, communicate with their teacher, and submit assignments on time. If there are technology limitations, please notify the teacher.

How does a student access Google Classroom?

1. Go to www.hcbe.net and Click on SSO Portal in the navigation menu.

2. Login with your school username and password.

3. Click on the Google Classroom app. – then enter the class code for your period.

**Materials**:

* The following is a list of required materials for this class:
  + **Three ring binder (1 ½” suggested)**
  + **Notebook paper (at least two packages each semester)**
  + **Composition notebook–college ruled** – do not get wide ruled - **(any color cover but it’s that black and white one that looks like marble.**
  + **Highlighters**
  + **PENS not pencils**.



**Student Printed Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Class Period:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Syllabus Contract**

***I have read, understand, and agree to all of the policies and requirements listed on the student’s syllabus.***

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Student Signature

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Parent/Guardian Signature

**Parent/Guardian Information**:

Parent/Guardian Print

Name:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Best Contact #:

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Best time to reach you at this #

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