



9th Grade Literature
Veterans High School
Course Syllabus 2020-21



Instructor: Ms. Khayla Owens
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Planning Times: Monday-Fridays from 2:15-3:15 PM

Course Objective:

9th Grade Literature will expose students to a variety of texts while advancing the analytical and deductive skills necessary to succeed in future English courses, AP courses, and on the state assessments.

Classroom Expectations:

All standards and regulations as outlined by the Veterans High School student handbook will be enforced. The following expectations are non-negotiable:

1. Come to class on time **prepared** with pens/pencils, paper, notebook, and textbook/novel.
2. Complete classwork/homework as assigned and have it ready to turn in at the beginning of each class.
3. Respect yourself, your peers, and your teacher.
4. **No food or drink (with the exception of bottled water).**
5. Have a positive attitude.

1st offense: Warning 2nd offense: Call home 3rd offense: Office referral

Repeat offenses will result in an office referral. For more serious infractions, consequences will be superseded by an office referral.

Make-up Work: If you are absent for any reason, students are responsible for acquiring all make-up work after an absence. I will happily meet with you to give you make-up work and/or schedule a time to take a quiz or test you may have missed. You have **one week** to make up any and all work missed due to an absence (this includes tests, quizzes, and project presentations). **Work submitted outside of one week will NOT be accepted.**

Late Work: Per the school handbook, late work will be accepted up to five days after the due date and partial credit will be awarded. On the sixth day, a zero will be entered for any work not turned in. Major projects and papers will be seriously affected when not submitted in a timely fashion. Major assessments will receive a **15 point reduction for each day they are late**. Minor Assessments and daily grades that are turned in late are dropped **10 points for each day they are late**.

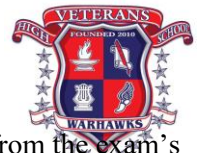
Assignments:

Independent Reading - This class will always require you to have an independent novel/story/book. The skills we learn in class will transfer over into your own reading. You will have various assignments to complete with your independent reading throughout the semester, and there will be random book checks to hold you accountable as well.

Writing – Just as I believe reading is extremely beneficial, so is writing. This class will also focus heavily on writing, as reading and writing go together. For that reason, each student will be required to have a section of their notebooks for my class as a writing section. More details about how to set up notebooks are to come

Plagiarism: Under no circumstances will plagiarism be tolerated. Plagiarism is the use of someone else's work as your own. Be it a test, quiz, or writing assignment (major or minor assessment), a student caught plagiarizing will receive a **ZERO** with no opportunity to resubmit work along with a parent contact and administrative punishment. Plagiarism or cheating on a major assessment (Essay, Exam, etc.) will result in ISS as well as a zero for major assessments.

Retest Policy:



Students have the opportunity to retake any **two major assessments** a semester within **one week's time** from the exam's return date. No re-testing is allowed for tests on which a student was found cheating. Additionally, a re-test cannot replace a zero for a task never initially completed. You must come for tutoring/corrections before you are eligible to re-test.

Required Materials:

- Three-ring binder
- Dividers
- Loose leaf paper
- Pens/Pencils
- Composition Notebook (to remain in class)

Classroom Sanitation Supplies: (Optional and appreciated)

- Hand Sanitizer
- Kleenex
- Disinfectant Spray
- Clorox wipes
- Crayons
- Markers
- Colored Pencils

Curriculum:

The 9th grade literature curriculum is grounded in the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) and may be accessed at GeorgiaStandards.org. We will be completing practice exercises throughout the year to prepare you for success on this statewide test (GA Milestone) that coincides with this course.

Texts:

We will be working out of the *Georgia Collections* textbook as well as an assortment of supplemental texts. A nominal fine will incur if a student loses a textbook or novel (\$36-textbook; \$12-novel). Fines must be paid prior to exemption status being granted for the semester.

Grading:

Major assessments	45%	Tests, projects, presentations, essays, and specific performance objectives. (5 minimum /semester)
Minor Assessments	20%	Quizzes, journals, vocabulary, and writing reflections/drafts. Quizzes will be intermediate assessments that will measure specific objectives and concepts. (9 minimum / semester)
Daily Work	15%	Classwork/homework/seminar preparation and participation (15 minimum per semester)
Final Assessment	20%	Final exam (fall) & GA Milestone (spring)

Major Projects:

Throughout the semester there will be several major projects. These must be turned in on the due date to receive full credit. All projects will be assigned well in advance and notice will be sent home with the student. Some of these projects will need to be completed using a computer or similar device. If there is a technology issue, you must make me aware of the situation well in advance of the due date. **Last minute excuses will not be permitted.** It is your responsibility to save multiple drafts in different locations (OneDrive, Edmodo, flash drive, etc.)

This course includes a cumulative exam at the end of the semester – see final assessment column above.

Exemptions:

The Final Exam (final assessment for the fall semester) can be exempted under the following stipulations:

- The student has **at least an 80 average** in the class at the final grade cutoff
- The student has **missed no more than 5 days** in that class
- The student has not been assigned ISS or OSS that semester

The GA Milestone taken at the end of the spring semester is unable to be exempted.

Google Classroom: To encourage blended learning, online assignments will be posted weekly through Google Classroom. At least one Google Classroom assignment per week will be graded and entered in Infinite Campus.



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.

Please sign and detach this page to return tomorrow.

To a great freshman year,

Ms. Khayla Owens

STUDENT Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____

PARENT Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____

Parent Email: _____
(Email is preferred method of contact)

Parent Phone: _____

Students: In order to receive credit for your first daily assignment (returning signed syllabus) – please include a fun fact about you (interests, hobbies, something unique) in the space below.



Class Library and Book Club Contract

Reading is a central focus in my classroom. Reading is a skill. The only way to get better at reading is to read—this holds true for excellent readers as well as reluctant readers. My goal is for you to read one million words this semester. For the average student, two million words a year translates to forty minutes of reading every day. I will do my best to motivate your student to read academically as well as for fun. Some of the reading will be assigned, but your student will have opportunities to select his or her own books to be read in literature circles and independently.

To help your student reach the one-million-word goal, I have worked hard to develop my own classroom library. This library is available to any student who wants to choose a book to be read recreationally. Furthermore, students have access to the literacy center that hosts a plethora of titles for use in literature circles. Research shows that availability of books is a major motivating factor in getting teens to read. Students who are surrounded by books at school and at home read more. Students who read more, read better. I have found that having my own classroom library has dramatically increased the amount of reading my students do.

I want you to know I am sensitive to having appropriate reading material in my classroom library and in the literacy center. That said, what is considered “appropriate” may vary from one parent to another. Some parents do not mind their child reading Stephen King; other parents object to the horror genre. Please be aware that the selections in my classroom library and in the literacy center, just like any other public library or school library, range from elementary-level to university-level reading material. As a parent, I ask you to remain aware throughout the year of the books your student has chosen to read and assist in gauging appropriateness.

Rest assured the books in my classroom library and literacy center are never assigned. They are checked out on a voluntary basis only. Some students use my library often; others find books elsewhere. Any student who checks books out of my library is asked to have a parent or guardian sign below indicating that this classroom library section has been read and is understood. By giving permission to use my classroom library and the literacy center, also know that you are agreeing pay for any lost or damaged novel. The replacement fee is \$5 per title.

Let’s get reading!

Yes, I have read this section, and my child has permission to use to classroom library and/or VHS literacy center library.

No, I would prefer that my child not have access the classroom library and/or VHS literacy center library.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____