**9th Grade Literature & Composition Course Syllabus (Spring SY 18-19)**

**Ms. Kelli Casey (General Ed. Teacher)**

**Mr. Chris Widing (Support Services- 4th period only)**

**Teacher Information**

E-mail: Kelli.Casey2@cobbk12.org

Blogs: The blog is a primary source of communication for this course, particularly for students who need access to weekly agendas and homework assignments. Please check it frequently. http://www.cobblearning.net/caseyk/

Phone: (678) 594-8104 ext. 1108

Location: Room 108, Main Building

Tutoring: Wednesdays, 3:30-4:15 pm. Other times may be arranged by appointment.

**Course Description**

**Ninth Literature has an integrated curriculum designed to increase and refine reading, writing, listening/speaking, and college readiness skills. Students will be encouraged to think critically about literature through text to self, text to text, and text to world connections. They will plan, draft, polish and publish written compositions of narrative, expository, argumentative, interpretive, and reflective modes. Students will also have opportunities to complete research processes that adhere to MLA guidelines. The course is designed to prepare students for the rigor of continued course work in sophomore, junior, and senior English classes. Most importantly, this class will lay the foundation for success in other future classes, the workforce, and beyond.**

## Textbook and Supplemental Readings

*SpringBoard English Language Arts: Grade 9*

The texts studied in this course are selected based on their relevance to the 9th Grade Literature and Composition standards. At this grade level, most texts explore some mature themes and subjects and may include mature language. Parents are encouraged to research the aforementioned titles and direct any questions concerning their content to the classroom teacher. In the case of parental objection to a text, an alternate text will be provided. Cobb County requires English teachers to obtain approval for readings not included in the school’s adopted textbook.  By signing this syllabus, both student and parent agree to reading and studying the texts listed above.

**\*The teacher reserves the right to make adjustments to course content as needed.**

## Grading

## The Harrison High School English Department bases grading on the Georgia Standards of Excellence. Each assignment is categorized according to the standard(s) addressed.

Reading: 35%

Writing: 35%

Speaking, Listening, and Language: 10%

EOC: 20%

100-90 =A 89-80=B 79-74=C 73-70=D 69-0=F

**Plagiarism**

*Plagiarism is the act of using another person’s ideas and expressions in your writing without acknowledging the source. Repeating another’s words, phrases or sentences without quotation marks and proper citation is one form of plagiarism. Restating another’s “apt phrase,” argument or idea without proper citation is also plagiarism as it indicates the work is your own rather than that of the original source (MLA Handbook).*

***Consequences for plagiarism include receiving an F (0 points) on the assignment and a disciplinary referral to the administrators for disciplinary action. Should a student choose to plagiarize, s/he risks forfeiting his or her right to resubmit the assignment.*** *According to the Cobb County Code of Student Conduct plagiarism is, “copying of another person’s words or the expression of an idea and representing it as one’s own.” Cheating and plagiarism includes, but is not limited, tests, quizzes, reports, homework, term paper and thesis writing. All assignments given in this class are individual assignments unless otherwise explicitly stated in writing. Collaboration with peers on individual assignments is considered cheating.*

***Required Resources***

1. A 1 ½ inch 3-ring binder with dividers (5)
2. Highlighters of various colors
3. Blue or black pens and #2 pencils
4. Notebook paper (college rule)
5. Flash drive or access to Office 365 (Cobb County has provided an account for each student.)
6. *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Harper Lee)

***Requested Resource***

1. No Fear Shakespeare: *Romeo and Juliet*

***Classroom Wish List Items***

1. Colored printer paper\*\*
2. Tissues
3. Pens/Pencils

*Label your notebook dividers according to the following sections:*

***Reading, Writing, Language, Notes, Test Prep***

**What You Can Expect from Me:**

1. I will strive to plan lessons that are rigorous and focused on critical thinking and deep analysis.

2. I will monitor and assess your progress often and adjust instruction as necessary in order to ensure that you are receiving the most out of your academic experience.

3. I will assign grades based on merit. Your grades will be a direct reflection of your effort and growth.

4. I will consistently enforce my classroom rules and abide by all of Harrison High School’s rules.

5. I will be enthusiastic about the instruction I provide, and I will run this classroom with passion. I will have high expectations of my students, and I will praise them for taking on new challenges.

**What I Expect from You:**

1. Be respectful to others and express yourself with tact and courtesy.   
  
2. Come to class on time with all of your required materials and be prepared to learn.

3. Take charge of your learning, pay attention to announcements, check the blog, try new things, practice newly acquired skills, and come to me for clarification or help.

4. Be faithful to the school’s safety and academic integrity codes of conduct. **Any violation of safety or academic integrity will have severe consequences as detailed in the student handbook. Please familiarize yourself with the description of plagiarism below.**

5. Be engaged and open-minded. Come to class knowing that it *is* okay to acquire new skills, and it *is* okay to enjoy learning.

**Other Policies to Keep in Mind:**

1. **All work is due on the date assigned**. Due dates for assignments will be clearly expressed, and students are expected to plan accordingly. *Please note that an assignment is considered “due” at the moment the teacher calls for it, whether that is at the beginning or end of a class period. If a student is not ready to turn an assignment in at the time the teacher asks for it, then the assignment is considered late, even if the assignment is turned in during the same class period or day of the announced due date.*

***Advice on How to Handle Late Work or “Assignment Emergencies”***

*Step One: Avoid it at all costs.*

*Step Two: Freak out for a reasonable amount of time, but then talk to me as soon as possible and tell me honestly what’s going on.*

*Step Three: Do the work.*

*Step Four: Turn in the work.*

*Step Five: Accept that late work will incur automatic loss of points. Mourn this loss. Formative work and homework will not be accepted late. Summative and major work will be accepted up to two days after the due date, including weekends (10% if turned in by 11:59 p.m. on the original due date; 30% if turned in any time during the two days following the due date, weekends included).*

*Step Six: Move on.*

*Step Seven: See step one.*

1. If access to a computer or printer is needed, students may access the computers in the classroom *or* arrange to use a computer in the Learning Commons. Students are NOT allowed to print an assignment on the day the assignment must be turned in (unless they do so before school starts), so if a computer/printer is needed, the student will need to arrange to use the computer/printer ahead of time.
2. **Make-up work is your responsibility.** When you are absent, check the blog for work. Only students with an EXCUSED absence will be allowed to make up assignments. If you were present on the day an assignment was given but absent the day it was due, the assignment should be emailed to Ms. Casey on or before the due date. Work missed for an UNEXCUSED absence will receive a zero. Please see HHS Student Handbook if further clarification is needed.
3. A **hall pass** is mandatory when leaving the classroom during class time, and students must sign in and out on the clipboard located near the door. Students are expected to leave during appropriate times, such as when we are transitioning between assignments (NOT when the teacher is instructing). Per school policy, no students will be allowed out of the classroom during the first 10 or last 10 minutes of class. Also, students will not be given permission to leave class for purposes of handling personal matters. (i.e. All visits to the attendance office, to the main office, or to other teacher’s classrooms should be handled before/after school or between classes.)
4. Please make yourself aware of the **dress code and tardy policy**. I support school policy. See your student handbook for details and consequences.
5. To maintain the cleanliness of our learning environment, and to maintain the good health of our friends with food allergies, **no food or drink** is permitted in the classroom. Bottled water and chewing gum are the only exceptions to this rule.
6. Cell phones are **NOT** permitted to be used during class, PERIOD! They should be kept in book bags/purses and either powered off or on silent mode. Failure to follow this protocol **will** result in a warning followed by an administrative referral.

Receipt of Ninth Grade Literature and Composition Course Syllabus

**FOR THE STUDENT:**

I have read and understand the course syllabus, standard procedures, and classroom expectations. I agree to follow the procedures and expectations for the class. I understand that there are penalties for not following the procedures and expectations and that these penalties are to be determined by the teacher.

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Student signature Date

**FOR THE PARENT:**

We have read and understand the course syllabus, standard procedures, and classroom expectations. We further understand that there are penalties for not following the procedures and expectations and that these penalties are to be determined by the teacher.

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Parent signature Parent’s **printed** name

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Date Parent’s daytime phone number

For contact regarding your child’s academic progress, please clearly print an email address here:

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Parent E-mail (please print clearly)

Please detach this signature page from the rest of the document and turn it in to Ms. Casey. The first four pages of this Syllabus are to remain in the front of your Literature binder for reference.