

9th Grade Language Arts 2017-2018

Northview High School

Instructors:

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Course Overview.

This course takes you on a world-wide adventure in reading and writing. We will read and examine texts from different ages and from different regions of the world. Through these texts, we will question how reading and writing unite humans through space and time. What brings us together and what tears us apart? We will use writing to put our thoughts into words and to analyze the works we are reading. Ultimately, we will strive to determine how reading pieces from different cultures and our own can deepen and enrich our life experiences. We will wend our way through various texts, including novels, short stories, drama and poetry to charter our way through these ideas.

Course Units-Fall Semester.

A central goal of our 9th grade class is to establish a reading habit in the busy lives of students in high school. Therefore, our course units will be structured in a way that allows choice reading, assigned reading, and book clubs. Additionally, we will develop our writing skills by practicing different styles of writing, including expository essay writing, and formal research writing. We will work on vocabulary and grammar.

Unit 1: Intro to the Writing Process

*An introduction to the writing process students will use and build on throughout their high school career.

Unit 2: Propaganda and Research

*A close study of the historical allegory that is *Animal Farm*. Students will complete an annotated bibliography based on the historical research behind the novel.

Unit 3: Social Justice

*A book club unit where students will be given the opportunity to read and study different social justice issues that high schoolers encounter, today.

Unit 4: Heroism and Character Development

*A mini unit on mythology and the hero archetype that will lead into a choice reading unit where students will study character development.

Unit 5: Intro to Dramatic Elements

*A close look into the dramatic elements used in literature, specifically, in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

Unit 6: Identity

*A book club unit where students will study various non-fiction texts and dive into the subject of identity, from both the author's and readers' point of view.

Class Expectations.

1. Be a thinking, active classroom participant.
2. Be on time and prepared to learn every day.
3. Be respectful of your classmates at all times. Take pride in yourself and your work.
4. When you arrive to class, check the whiteboard for the daily agenda. Be ready to begin class (books, paper, pens out) when the bell rings. If you're not in your seat, your tardy.
5. **Check the Google Classroom page on a daily basis for updates and handouts from class.**
6. Class does not end until the teacher dismisses you; do not pack up your materials beforehand.
7. The work you submit must be your own. Any student caught cheating on a quiz, test, paper or project will receive an automatic zero on that grade. This includes allowing another student to copy papers or homework, or academic dishonesty involving computer technology.

Materials.

- Three-ring binder
- Loose-leaf notebook paper
- Dividers (see details below)
- No. 2 pencils; blue or black ink pens

- Highlighters; markers and/or colored pencils
- Dry erase markers
- Flash drive
- Post-it Notes
- Composition notebook

Class Projects. In accordance with the Georgia Performance Standards and proper preparation for achievement in post-high school studies, students will complete the following assignments through the course of the semester:

- **Reading:** Students will read various essays, stories, novels and poems throughout the semester.
- **Writing:** Students will complete six major assessments, which could include but is not limited to, essays, research projects, creative projects, etc. Additional in-class timed and “smaller” writing assignments (instructions to accompany assignments) will also be used. Writing assignments will introduce and/or reinforce how to write a thesis-driven paper, how to conduct research, how to correctly use MLA citation style, and how to discriminate between general (popular) and scholarly (academic) sources.
- **Class Binder/Notebook:** Students should keep a class binder with dividers. I will tell you what to label the dividers as we reach the beginning of each unit.

Grade Percentages.

Your grades in this class will consist of four major categories; each will be assigned a weight as follows:

- **45%. Major assessments.** Tests, essays, projects.
- **25%. Formative assessments.** Quizzes, minor assignments.
- **10%. Homework/Classwork.**
- **20%. Comprehensive examination.***

**In the spring, the End of Course Test (EOCT) will count as their spring final (20% of their spring grade). This is a state requirement.*

***Note: Each student is capable of earning an A in this class. Students who turn in exceptional work or demonstrate excellence on an assignment or project will earn extra points accordingly.*

Grade Scale.

- A = 100%-90%
- B = 89%-80%
- C = 79%-70%
- F = 69% and below

Missed Assignments/Make-Up Work.

The Language Arts department policy regarding late work is as follows: No late homework will be accepted unless a student has an excused absence. To receive full credit for a major assessment, the work must be turned in on the due date. After the due date, 10% of the earned grade will be deducted per day for 3 days; after the third day, the highest grade attainable is a 50.

Recovery Policy*

1. Recovery is for students who, despite a conscientious effort and communication with their teachers, have failed to demonstrate satisfactory understanding of course standards. It is not for the student who has been failing for many weeks and then wishes to recover during the final days of the course. Opportunities for students to recover from a 74 or below *cumulative* average will be provided when all work required to date has been completed and the student has demonstrated a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements. *Students who have not attempted to complete all course requirements are not eligible for recovery.*
2. Students may initiate recovery on major assessments starting with the second major assessment of the semester as long as they have made a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements including attendance. Unexcused absences may prevent this opportunity.
3. So that students stay focused on the content at hand and don't become overwhelmed and fall too far behind, they must initiate recovery on a major assessment within five school days of being informed of the grade on that assessment. Recovery work must be completed within ten school days prior to the end of the semester. The nature and type of recovery assignment is given at the discretion of the teacher.

***Copied from Northview High School Policy Sheet**

Tardy to Class.

Students are expected to be in their seats and prepared for class instruction when the bell rings! ***Students not in their seats when the bell rings will be counted as tardy.*** 1st tardy: written reprimand; 2nd tardy: private detention 3rd tardy: office referral and 2 days public detention; 4th tardy & subsequent tardy: office referral and one day Saturday Opportunity School.

Extra Help.

- We are available for extra help before or after school. Please make an appointment 24 hours in advance. Feel free to email or use the class Edmodo at any time to supplement your learning.
- We are here to teach you and foster your educational experience. We want you to do well. Please do not hesitate to approach us with any questions or concerns you have regarding class. If you are experiencing a difficult time understanding something or need additional help, please see us so that we may schedule a time to meet.