

Kinggold High School

Sophomore HONORS English and Composition Syllabus

- Instructor:** Mark Pierce, *Ed.S* 706.935.2254
English Department Head mpierce.rhs@catoosa.k12.ga.us
- Catoosa County Vision:** CCPS will be a nationally recognized learning community whose graduates are prepared for tomorrow's challenges.
- RHS School Mission:** To empower our students with academic excellence.
- Course Description:** Sophomore English Literature and Composition integrates writing, grammar and usage, vocabulary, literature, speaking, listening, viewing, and critical thinking skills. The course presents the writing process and the various modes of writing along with a study of various genres of literature. The course is designed to meet the AP and GPS/*Common Core Standards* which can be accessed at www.doe.k12.ga.us. Note: Honors classes do get progressively more rigorous at each grade level.
- Required Materials:** Secure a copy of the **Summer Reading** letter and complete the assignments **BEFORE** school begins in August. Acquire the following materials: loose leaf notebook paper, a three-ringed binder, blue or black ink pens (**no** other colors accepted), pencil, one pack of 3 x 5 white, lined index cards, various outside novels, access to email, access to a computer *with* **Microsoft Word** and access to a printer. A flash drive is also highly recommended.
- Homework:** Please expect homework **nightly!!!** The majority of homework will consist of **reading** and **studying** along with various writing assignments. Honors students should expect up to **5-10** hours of homework weekly which is the **AP** standard. Please respect all deadlines and refrain from using excuses such as: "I had company last night," or "I had band practice," or "I play sports," or "I had to go to youth group," or "My computer is broken." All assignments have adequate time allotted for completion well before the due date. ***Parents, please initial: _____**
- Honors Late Work Policy:** Late work will **NOT** be accepted. All assignments must be **ON TIME, EVERY TIME!** Turning in late work and producing poor quality work are unbecoming behaviors for an honor student to display. Extenuating circumstances must be just that...extenuating! ***Parents, please initial: _____**
- Outside Reading:** Students will be required to complete a catalogue of outside reading material in addition to the in-class reading. Outside readings include: 4-6 AP novels, articles, essays, and research materials. Reading is a **major component** for success in this class. Each reading project will be assessed in various assignments: writing, speaking, testing, etc. Class novels belong to RHS and Mr. Pierce. Keeping novels and selling them to McKay's would be unethical.
- Writing Portfolio:** Students will be required to produce a variety of writing samples. Writing samples will be used to measure student achievement and ability. The evidence in the writing portfolio will be a major determiner for recommendation to the next grade level of Honors English.
- Pre, Mid, and Post Tests:** Students will be tested at the beginning, middle, and end of the course in the form of a diagnostic writing essay and/or a Georgia Performance Standards-based examination.
- Alternative Assessments:** A variety of assessments may be used to evaluate students. Each assessment is designed to meet Georgia Performance Standards. Alternative assessments may include but are not limited to the following: speeches, presentations, collaborative groups, skits, peer-editing, group projects, debate, discussion, etc. **Over, please →**

Make-up Work: All make-up work is the responsibility of the student and must be completed in accordance with the policies set forth by the Catoosa County Board of Education. *Parents, please initial: _____

Extra Help: Please notify the instructor immediately if additional help is needed. We are here to help students succeed. Please keep in mind that honors students are expected to work at an accelerated pace and at an advanced level.

Grading Procedure: For the final grade, homework/class work/tests/quizzes/speaking will count 80% (which is 40% per 9 week term). The final examination will count 20% of the final grade. Final exam exemption may apply; see handbook for details. Within each 9 week term, daily grades will count 50% and test grades will count 50%.

Parent Notification: Each parent/guardian will be contacted a minimum of 4 times during each semester. Every 4 ½ weeks, a progress report **or** a report card will be available via Parent Portal. Other contacts may be made on an *as needed* basis only. Parents now have web access to *Infinite Campus* which will serve as a 24/7 ongoing contact. It is imperative that parents make use of this resource! *Please note: English teachers require additional time to post essay grades as the grading time is immense.*

Attendance: Students are **required** to be at school! It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to ensure that students are in school every day and on time every day. Board policy allows 5 days for emergency absences only (illness, bereavement, etc.) Over five unexcused absences will result in failure. Attendance is **REQUIRED!** If possible, please schedule medical/dental appointments after 3:30. *Parents, please initial: _____

Honesty Policy: Students, it is essential that you complete your own work for this course. All work completed in this class must be your own. All writing assignments must reflect your own original ideas unless documented otherwise in your paper. It is **NEVER** acceptable to copy from the internet, steal from a previous student's portfolio or computer files, or allow your *parent* or anyone else to write any portion of a paper for you. Plagiarism in any form is a **SERIOUS** offense and it is insulting to intellectuals, to scholars, and to all of academia. Do not entertain the thought of plagiarizing in this class. Please read and sign the **RHS Honor Code**. *Parents, please initial: _____

Academic Awards: At the end of the school year, academic honors may be awarded for both semesters in the following categories: *Highest Average in Sophomore English and Composition (1-2)*, *Excellence in Literary Analysis (1-2)*, and *Excellence in Literary Writing (1-2)*. The prestigious and coveted **Vande Lune Award** may be bestowed upon the one student who exceeds and excels in all areas of English Academia, and who has unquestionable integrity, and who displays a scholarly attitude at all times.

AP/Honors Track: The AP/Honors track is designed to meet the needs of gifted and talented students. In addition, the program seeks to prepare students for the AP English college level class offered during the senior year of high school. Please understand that as each grade level progresses, so will the expectation and rigor. Prepare yourself now and dedicate yourself now to producing advanced work on time, every time. The AP/Honors track is a learning experience that you will enjoy and grow to appreciate greatly...especially during your freshman year of college.

Acknowledgments: We have read the syllabus and understand the requirements for success.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

*Homework **EVERY** night, attendance is required, 4 contacts per semester, all work ON TIME, EVERY TIME, and no plagiarism.

PACE is the key to success...pace...pace...pace...pace...pace... pace...pace...pace...pace...pace... pace...pace...pace...pace! ☺

