

Syllabus and Overview – 9th Grade Literature and Composition
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This 9th grade survey course will introduce you to the language used to discuss and write about literature from a variety of genre, both fiction and non-fiction. In addition, this course will focus primarily on strengthening reading comprehension and composition skills will also focus on vocabulary acquisition, targeted grammar practice, rhetorical and literary analysis, oral expression, creative learning, and research methods.

Textbooks: *Georgia Collections* for Grade 9 (replacement cost 97.95 +handling and postage)
Georgia Collections Close Reader (replacement cost 15.95 +handling and postage)
Georgia Collections Performance Assessment (replacement cost 15.95 +handling and postage)

Required Materials: 1 ½ **OR** 2 inch Three-ring binder with dividers
Pencils, highlighters, and pens (blue or black ink, please)
School-provided Agenda or other paper calendar
Lined paper

Learning Objectives: This course will encompass all of the Georgia Standards of Excellence for 9th grade, listed below are representative elements of the GSE learning strands.

ELAGSE9-10RL1: Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

ELAGSE9-10RI4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how the language of a court opinion differs from that of a newspaper).

ELAGSE9-10W4: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

ELAGSE9-10W7: Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

ELAGSE9-10SL4: Present information, findings, and supporting evidence clearly, concisely, and logically such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, substance, and style are appropriate to purpose, audience, and task.

Grading Policies

ELA grades reflect my best and fairest assessment of the overall quality of your work, and how well it fulfills the assignment and its purpose. I will make every effort to return work to you in a timely manner and to keep you informed of your progress in the class through returned work and Infinite Campus.

Guidelines for Calculating Grades:

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Formative Assignments | 30% (Daily grades, Classwork, Quizzes) |
| Summative Assignments | 30% (Projects, Presentations, Tests, Essays) |
| Research | 20% (FCBOE policy) |
| Final Exam | 20% (FCBOE policy) |

Disruptive Behavior Statement

Disrespectful or disruptive behavior will be addressed through a variety of means including detentions, calls home, and office referrals. Students are expected to follow the guidelines presented in the System Code of Conduct and the Student Handbook and the FCBOE Civility guidelines.

Homework

Students are expected to read assigned novels and other texts outside of class and at home. Students and parents should expect about 1 or 2 homework assignments per week. Contact the teacher if you have any questions.

Tests and Major Assignments (including Projects and Presentations)

Tests and major assignments will be introduced well in advance of the expected due dates. Students should give their best effort to comply with teacher expectations and school policies for due dates.

Late Work Policies

The FCHS English department will accept late work on tests and research only. No class work or homework will be accepted late.

Homework is due at the beginning of class. If homework is not ready at that time, no credit will be given. Homework, term papers, projects, etc. are due to all teachers before the student checks out or before the end of the day when the student has checked in. Students cannot check in/out to avoid assignment deadlines; the work will not be accepted.

Classwork/Daily Work is designed to be completed during the class period. It is the responsibility of the student to request assignments, complete the work, and give it to the teacher within the deadline established by the teacher. **The student will submit the assignment, even if not completed, or they will receive no credit.**

Makeup work Policies

Students have 3 days after an absence to submit documentation to the Attendance Office. If the absence is excused, you must complete and turn in the missed work within 5 days of your return. If an absence is unexcused, you will not be allowed to receive credit for work missed and zeros will be assigned for all graded activities on those days. Attendance will be recorded in Infinite Campus.

Major projects, research papers, and multi-draft essays: late work will be accepted past the due date with a 10% per day penalty for submitting the work late. After ten days, the grade is zero. Work submitted late will still be assessed for accuracy, etc. with the late penalties added after grading.

If a student is absent on the day the research paper is due, they must submit the paper upon their return to school. If you are **present at school** on the day the paper is due and check out prior to class to avoid submitting the work, your grade will reflect a 10% deduction.

Plagiarism Statement

Plagiarism, cheating, electronic cheating, or other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any attempt to obtain credit for work done by another is not acceptable at Fayette County High School. This includes cheating on class work, homework, quizzes, tests, essays, or formal papers. Do not copy or photograph completed assignments that represent another student's work in order to avoid doing the work yourself. Likewise, do not give another student your work or allow them to photograph it or copy it. All parties would receive a zero in this instance. You will receive a zero for any work that is plagiarized or does not represent your own efforts. FCBOE policies regarding academic dishonesty are explained in your Student Handbook.

Technology Use Guidelines

The use of technology in the class should enhance your learning rather than distract from it. We will use our phones or tablets for learning sites like Kahoot! and Quizlet or Turnitin.com for research and other multi-draft writing assignments. However, you will be expected to store your devices not retrieve them during class, unless otherwise instructed. Students also have access to their textbook online for after school use and homework completion.

Electronic devices may be used in class only when specified by the instructors—that's Mrs. Rabun or Mrs. Hedstrom. Personal access to a cellphone or tablet is not a license for you to ignore the authority of the teachers to restrict or prohibit use of devices in the classroom. **You will not be allowed to use any form of technology during a quiz or test, or any other assignment without permission.

Fayette County schools are adopting the Blackboard Learning Management System. Classes will begin to migrate student resources and some assignments to this platform.

The syllabus will be posted on Mrs. Rabun's website that is linked to the FCHS Homepage. Please visit this site for general information about what students are learning.

These policies are designed to help students make a successful transition to high school. I wish you and your student a happy and meaningful year. Welcome to the Tiger family!

Sincerely,

Student and Guardian Responsibilities

Parents and Students,

First and foremost, this high school experience is your child's demonstration of what he or she has learned and his or her level of maturity as a young adult. However, we all know and understand that for high school students, there is a broad range of mastery of self-governance. For this reason, **Fayette County High School provides twenty-four-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week electronic access to each student's individual grades through Infinite Campus.** Also, your child should use their agenda daily to assist with time-management, organization of assignments, and full understanding of school rules and policies, as there is a section devoted to both in the agenda.

It is expected that all students are aware of their academic standing in their courses and that **parents take part in this process.** This continuity of expectations will help guide students to understand that their progress is based on their own individual efforts, skills, and organizational strategies.

- 1 Access to *Infinite Campus* can be gained at our school's website: <http://www.fcboe.org/fchs>
Please note that on the main page there is a student resource tab that when accessed will provide a link to our online grade book. Students' grades are updated according to the frequency of assignments; generally, there is one update per week.
- 2 Additionally, **FCHS issues progress reports at the four and a half week mark, the nine week mark, and the thirteen and a half week mark.**
- 3 All questions, concerns, and desire for individualized communication regarding your child's progress should be directed promptly to the classroom teacher. The most efficient and preferred method of communication is email.
- 4 Teacher conferences are to be scheduled through our Guidance Department as needed.
- 5 Students are required to return text books at the end of the school year. Failure to return school materials will result in the issuance of an obligation.

Please initial each bulleted point below, sign where indicated, detach, and have your child return no later than Tuesday, January 10th, 2017.

- I have reviewed the syllabus posted on the teacher website. ____/____
- I understand how to access Infinite Campus and that I should be checking my child's grades weekly. ____/____
- I understand the schedule for progress reports. ____/____
- I understand how to reach my child's teachers and how to schedule a conference. ____/____
- I understand that my child is expected to prepare for content and skill mastery as needed ____/____
- I understand that failure to return school materials will result in the issuance of an obligation. ____/____

Parent name (printed): _____

Student name (printed): _____

Parent signature: _____

Student signature: _____