

American Literature 2025-2026

Instructor: Leah Jones
E-mail: leah.jones@hcbe.net
Room Number: 2219

Phone: (478) 218-7537 ext 4605
Planning Period: 2nd Period

Welcome back to school and a wonderful year of American Literature! I'm excited to have you in my class. My promise to you is that at the end of the year, you will be a better reader, better writer, better thinker, and better doer than when this year started.

Course Description:

This course surveys the works of American writers from the nation's early establishers to its contemporary innovators. We will take a close look at what defines this country's literature, what role the literature plays in our culture and society, and how it has developed from its beginning to its present state.

Course Objectives:

Course objectives correlate with the *Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE)*: <https://www.georgiastandards.org/Georgia-Standards/Documents/ELA-Standards-Grades-9-12.pdf>

Course Goals:

Upon completing the American Literature course, then, students should be able to:

- Read and explore classic and contemporary American literature.
- Learn to read like a writer, paying careful attention to the elements of craft and style, and discern how those elements are effective (or not).
- Apply critical analysis to literature through discussion and writing.
- Continue the development of writing style and grammar skills.
- Enjoy and discover new, different, and sometimes difficult texts.

Required Materials – bring to class every day:

- 3 Ring binder with notebook paper, writing utensils
- Class Journal — this can be a spiral notebook or composition book, and is considered a text in the class that we use daily.
- Textbook
- Charged Chromebook – please charge at home the night before.
- Students are responsible for replacement costs of \$100 for textbooks and \$12 for novels.

Grades:

1. Grades will be computed as follows:

i. Major assessments	45%
ii. Minor assessments	20%
iii. Daily work	15%
iv. Semester Exam	20%
2. You are allowed to retake two major tests. Retesting will take place after completing test corrections and attending tutoring before retaking the exam and/or participating in a relevant SOAR session.
3. This class will consist of an End of Course Assessment at the end of the year and will constitute as 20% of the course grade. This course includes a cumulative exam at the end of the semester.
4. Late work will be credited as follows:
 - No more than 50% on daily assignments and
 - No more than 70% on minor and major assignments.
 - No late work will be accepted more than one day after the due date for daily assignments and three days after the due date for minor and major assignments.

Behavior:

5. Be respectful to all people including me, you, others, the classroom, and all materials.
6. Be responsible for your own work and your own actions. **Absolutely no plagiarism and/or copying will be allowed. You will receive discipline action for plagiarism and must complete an additional assignment.**
7. Be involved with your learning and your class on a daily basis. If you are not involved, you will not learn.
8. Follow all school and county policies and general classroom rules. Please refer to the student handbook for a complete listing of all policies.

Absences:

9. If you are absent from this class, you have 5 days to make up any missed work in my class. It is your responsibility to obtain missed information and know when to turn work in. Please see student handbook for attendance policy.

Routines:

10. Enter the room quietly, sit in your assigned seat, and follow the instruction on the board.
11. Head papers in the top right corner including the following: name, date, period. Homework is due at the beginning of the period. All homework should be placed in the appropriate box on the front table.
12. Participation in class is expected. Be considerate of others at all times.

Discipline:

13. 1st offense will consist of a warning.
 - For plagiarism, 1st offence on a daily or minor grade is detention and alternate assignment. 1st offense of plagiarism on a major grade results in an office referral and alternate assessment.
14. 2nd offense will result in classroom detention and parent contact.
15. 3rd (and following) offenses will result in an Office Referral.

Technology:

16. All students are issued a district-provided chrome book for instructional purposes, student engagement, and student learning. Chrome book use is at the direction and discretion of the classroom teacher. Responsible and respectful use of the device is always expected. Students are responsible for the decisions made with technology during the specified class period. Make wise decisions.
17. Noncompliance with the following will result in an immediate administrative referral:
 - No personal electronic devices are allowed.
 - Chromebooks should only be visible when instructed by the teacher for the prepared lesson.
 - Chromebooks will only be used for tasks directly related to class instruction and work. This includes the work session portions of class.
 - During assessments of any sort, Chromebooks should be put away unless they are being used in the assessment.
 - Follow all guidelines and policies in your student handbook.

Online Access**SSO Portal/ Office 365**

Each student has their own log in provided by the school system that can be accessed by going to www.hcbe.net and clicking on the SSO portal link. Once logged in you will see a bunch of tiles one being for our textbook, office 365 and google classroom.

Username: _____ Password: _____

Canvas

Some online assignments will be posted periodically on Canvas. Almost all materials (notes, classwork, etc.) provided in class will also be posted to Canvas as an added resource.

How does a student access Canvas?

1. Go to www.hcbe.net and Click on SSO Portal in the navigation menu.
2. Login with your school username and password.
3. Click on the Canvas app.

Contact

Please feel free to contact me at school by e-mail at leah.jones@hcbe.net.

I will make every effort to assist and to be available to parents and students however I may. I invite parents to talk with me about student progress whenever possible. Please sign below indicating that you have looked over this syllabus and understand what is expected of students in order to be successful in this class. Thank you.

Student Name (print) _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Parent email: _____

*Policies and procedures are subject to change.