

Course Syllabus
Honors Literature & Composition I
2025–2026 Academic Year

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Course Description:

This course is designed to build on students' reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Students will be exposed to a variety of texts where they will learn to analyze the text, understand perspective, and identify its purpose. Students will also explore various genres of writing where they will learn to develop a story, effectively present information, conduct research, support claims, and defend their reasoning. These skills will support students in academic classes, and it will allow students to develop critical skills necessary for life. This course includes a cumulative exam at the end of the semester. Please see the student handbook for exemption policies.

As an honors class, expect for the course load and responsibilities to be more rigorous and demanding than a general literature and composition course. While there may be overlaps in the curriculum, there will be times when we pull in canonized literature and higher level texts to strengthen and enrich each student's mastery of the standards.

We will use [Georgia's K-12 English Language Arts Standards](#) to guide instruction and learning.

Class Rules:

1. Be respectful of others and their belongings.
2. Come to class prepared with the required materials listed below.
 - a. Students need pencils/pens, loose leaf paper, charged Chromebook, and an independent novel.
3. Water is the only food or drink allowed during class.
4. Clean your area before leaving.
5. In order to protect instructional time and cut down on class interruptions, students will be afforded a limited amount of bathroom breaks throughout the semester.

Consequences:

Failure to adhere to classroom rules will not be tolerated. Minor infractions will be handled as follows:

- First offense: warning
- Second offense: parent contact
- Third offense: administrative referral

Serious infractions will result in immediate administrative referral.

Grading:

Students and parents can use Infinite Campus to monitor grades.

Category/Weight	Description
15% – daily work	Classwork and homework
20% – minor assessments	Formative and summative quizzes, IXL, one-pagers, and essay drafts
45% – major assessments	Unit tests, projects, essays, and presentations
20% – final assessments	Cumulative exam at the end of the semester

Grades are not given to you; they are earned by you!

IXL

Students will be required to utilize IXL as a means of improving specific content skills. This will be a minor assessment grade which will be due on the last school day of each month. To earn full credit students will need to get assigned skills to a score of at least 80%. There will not be an opportunity to earn a late grade on this assignment due to the abundance of time afforded to complete it.

Independent Sustained Reading (ISR)

Reading is an important part of our course's curriculum and is vital in growing our students in other disciplines as well. In order to grow our students as successful readers, we will provide protected reading time within the classroom and support student choice in reading. We encourage parents to be involved in this reading process and engage your children in conversation regarding their reading selections.

Students will be held accountable for their reading by creating and submitting one-pagers every two weeks. Each one-pager will count as half a minor assessment grade and cannot be turned in late; however, students will be given a calendar of due dates and directions at the beginning of each semester to give them the opportunity to be successful and plan for absences and extracurricular activities. These will be used to support the construction of an in-class essay that synthesizes ideas and evidence from the eight one-pagers. This in-class essay will count as a major assessment grade.

Policies and Procedures

Late Work	Work will not be accepted after a unit's completion.
Textbooks/Novels	We use HMH's <i>Into Literature</i> in 9th grade ELA. There is a class set we will use in the classroom. If students need access to the textbook outside of the classroom, they can access the digital text through Ed, located in their SSO portal. Students may be assigned a novel for a unit of study. If a student fails to return or damages an assigned textbook or novel, they will be responsible for replacing it.
Academic Integrity	Plagiarism will not be tolerated, including the use of AI. Please see the handbook for the full plagiarism policy.
Absences	Students are responsible for acquiring all make up work after an absence. I advise students to attend one of my tutoring sessions if they are struggling with the work. Students will be given five days to complete and return assignments missed during their absence.
Retesting	Students have the opportunity to retake <u>two</u> tests a semester. The retake must take place within one week of the date the original test is returned to the student. (A retest cannot replace a zero for a task never initially completed.)
Technology	All students are issued a district-provided Chromebook for instructional purposes, student engagement, and student learning. Chromebook use is at the direction and discretion of the classroom teacher.
Canvas	To encourage blended learning, online assignments will be posted and completed through Canvas.
Tutoring	I offer tutoring sessions each week. Students should let me know when they plan to attend tutoring and what they want to work on—this will allow me to plan and prepare any materials needed for the session.
Classroom Library	I have a number of books in my classroom available for checkout by students. Students will be required to have parent permission to check out books from my classroom library. While I monitor the books I add to my classroom library, please know that different parents have different opinions about what is appropriate for their child. I ask that parents monitor what their child is reading, including books chosen for ISR. By giving permission to use my classroom library, also know that you are agreeing to pay for any lost or damaged books. The replacement fee is \$10 per title.

Student and Parent Signature Page

Students, I want you to know that your success is important to me. In order to be successful, my expectations need to be clear. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask me in class. I'm looking forward to a great year!

Please initial next to following:

_____ I have read the syllabus, and I fully understand Mrs. Wheeler's expectations of me.

_____ I have read and understand the policies and procedures.

Print Student's Name: _____

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parents/Guardians, please review the syllabus with your child. I truly believe that parental support is a critical component in a student's success. I hope this syllabus gives you an idea of what to expect this year. If you have any questions, please feel free to send an email to lonna.wheeler@hcbe.net.

Please choose one of the following pertaining to the classroom library policy:

- ☐ Yes, I have read the classroom library policy and give permission for my child to check out books from Mrs. Wheeler's classroom library.
- ☐ No, I do not want my child to check out books from Mrs. Wheeler's classroom.

I also ask that you provide an email address and phone number for contact. I will use email as the preferred method of contact.

Parent Email: _____

Parent Phone Number: _____

Print Name: _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Finally, please use the rest of this space or the back of this paper to tell me anything about your child you think I need to know to help them succeed. I'm looking forward to a great year!