**Course Syllabus**  **Teacher**: Colton Jones

**Literature & Composition I**  **Room**: 2413

**2025–2026 Academic Year**  **E-mail**: colton.jones@hcbe.net

**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.

We will use [Georgia’s K-12 English Language Arts Standards](https://case.georgiastandards.org/391c3abe-c1ec-4a4a-a942-c9e152b35102/fe29649e-79e6-47d4-8614-7b69498d8f19/1748) 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.
   1. 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.

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| --- | --- |
| 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 |

**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.

**Exemptions:**

The final exam can be exempted as per the guidance delivered in the student handbook.

• They have a B average (80 or above).

• Are absent no more than 5 days during the semester.

• Must not have been assigned to ISS or OSS during the semester.

• Must have cleared all obligations to the school

• Must not have received Hospital Homebound Services.

**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 each week. A daily grade will be assigned for each in class ISR day. If your student receives a ZERO for the ISR assignment, it means they chose not to participate and either sleep, work on something for another class, or any other behavior besides reading their chosen book. Periodically, minor assessment grades will be taken over your student’s chosen ISR novels. Further information pertaining to these assignments will be sent home later in the semester.

**Policies and Procedures**

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| --- | --- |
| **Late Work** | Work will not be accepted after a unit’s completion. |
| **Textbooks/Novels** | We use HMH’s *Into Literature* 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 two 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 Mr. Jones’ expectations of me.

\_\_\_\_ I have read and understand the policies and procedures.

Print Student’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**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 colton.jones@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 Mr. Jones’ classroom library.
* No, I do not want my child to check out books from Mr. Jones’ 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: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_