**Course Syllabus Teacher**: Mrs. Young

 **9th Grade ELA Room**: 2412 **Tutoring:** Wednesdays 3-4 p.m.

 **2024–2025 Academic Year** **E-mail**: melissa.young@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. Please look to the Georgia Standards of Excellence for more detailed information.

 [READING LITERARY (RL) READING INFORMATIONAL (RI)](https://www.georgiastandards.org/Georgia-Standards/Frameworks/ELA-9-10-Grade10-Literature-Composition-Standards.pdf)

**Mrs. Young’s Expectations:**

1. Put forth your best effort and actively participate.
2. Come to class prepared with the required materials listed below.
3. Be respectful of others and their belongings.
4. Clean up your area before leaving.
5. Hall passes will be given at the teacher’s discretion.

**Materials:**

Students need pencils/pens, loose leaf paper, an ELA binder (small 3 ring or plastic folder with brads & pockets), library book, and their charged Chromebook.

**Optional donations for classroom use: these are GREATLY appreciated!**

Kleenex

Pencils (mechanical or wooden)

Loose-leaf Notebook Paper

Clorox Wipes

**Grading:**

I do not *give* grades; you earn them!

 The following is the grading scale:

| Category/Weight | Description |
| --- | --- |
| 15% – daily work | Daily work includes classwork and homework. |
| 20% – minor assessments | Minor assessments include quizzes, essay drafts. |
| 45% – major assessments | Major assessments include tests, projects, final essays. |
| 20% – final assessments/EOC | Final assessments include cumulative exams at the end of the semester. |

 I find myself to be a very reasonable person. If you are struggling with an assignment or concept, please tell me as soon as possible so I can help. I fully understand that life happens sometimes, and we could all use a little grace and understanding. However, it is difficult when students come to me the day an essay or project is due and tell me they do not understand. Come to tutoring, ask questions, and plan.\

**Policies and Procedures**

| **Food and Beverages** | Only bottled water is allowed in the classroom. |
| --- | --- |
| **Late Work** | Course work is assigned in an order most conducive to generating the best product possible for the unit’s summative (end) assessment. Work will not be accepted after a unit’s completion. To earn credit on an assignment, it must be properly completed and submitted prior to the unit’s due date. Unit due dates will be provided at the beginning of the unit. |
| **Textbooks/Novels** | We use HMH’s *Into Literature* in 9th grade ELA. Each student has access to our online textbook through Chromebook. 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. |
| **Proper** **Communication** | Ensure that you respect others when communicating. I will teach you how to effectively communicate your ideas and beliefs within an academic setting.Additionally, ensure that you include your peers when working together. Be kind and help one another learn. When your peers share their opinions, try to understand their perspective and respect it. (This does not mean that you must agree.) |
| **Academic Integrity** | Plagiarism will not be tolerated. When you are caught, you will receive a zero for that assignment, and I will contact your parents/guardians. Plagiarism on major assessments is an automatic office referral. You will receive an opportunity to show learning and replace the zero for that assignment. |
| **Absences** | Students are responsible for acquiring all make up work after an absence. I advise you to attend one of my tutoring sessions if you are struggling with the work. You will be given five days to complete and return assignments missed during your absence. |
| **Retesting** | Students can 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 in the Classroom** | We will use Chromebooks to support the learning taking place in the classroom. However, your Chromebook should remain in your bag unless directed otherwise. Please be sure you are charging your Chromebook and bringing it with you to class. If you do not have a Chromebook, you will be permitted to use one of the extra ones in my classroom. |
| **Tutoring** | I offer tutoring sessions **Wednesdays from 3-4.** Tutoring is also available in the mornings with prior notice. 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 prep any materials needed for the session. |
| **IXL** | Students will be required to utilize IXL as a means of improving specific content skills. This will be a **monthly minor assessment grade** which will be due on the last school day of each month. To earn full credit students will need to get four assigned skills to a score of 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 a skill—and a JOY, so the best way to get better is to practice. 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. A variety of grades will be earned for this work. |

**Student and Parent Signature Page**

Students, I want you to know that your success is important to me. To be successful, my expectations need to be clear. If you have any questions, please ask me in class.

Please initial next to following:

\_\_\_\_ I have read the syllabus, and I understand Mrs. Young’s expectations of me.

\_\_\_\_ I agree to do my best to meet Mrs. Young’s expectations.

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

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

I have reviewed my child’s ELA syllabus and understand classroom expectations.

Parent’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Parents/Guardians, please review the syllabus with your child. 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.

**Please send me an email at melissa.young@hcbe.net** In the email’s subject, please provide your student’s last name, first name and assigned class period. Provide any specific information that will help me instruct your child. This will ensure we have a reliable form of communication and that *the email filter will not grab any future emails*.

If you choose not to send me an email, please be aware that if a need to contact me through email arises in the future, my *response time will be delayed significantly due to our email filtering system.*

**My commitment to students and parents:**

I strive to teach with integrity and authenticity. I am an active reader and lover of words. I make sure I model my own writing process to students to make sure I do not ask them to do what I am not doing. Beyond success in ELA, I endeavor to treat everyone with respect and work towards building a classroom culture that is safe, equitable and even fun.

Wishing you a fantastic freshman year,

M. Young