Honors Literature and Composition II
2026-2027

Instructor: Salina Mendez E-mail: salina.mendez@hcbe.net

Welcome back Warhawks! I look forward to working with each of you this school year, and just as I will invest my time and hard work to create a safe, engaging learning environment, I expect each of you to set ambitious academic goals for this course. Have patience, an open-mind, and a willingness to learn as we navigate Honors Literature and Composition II together.

Relating to Course Description:

This course will provide literacy experiences designed to refine listening, speaking, reading, writing, and viewing skills through the study of different genres. Language is an interactive experience that integrates learning across all content areas. This course curriculum is based upon that principle.

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.

Relating to Course Objectives:

Course objectives correlate with the Georgia's K-12 English Language Arts Standards:

https://case.georgiastandards.org/391c3abe-c1ec-4a4a-a942-c9e152b35102/391c3abe-c1ec-4a4a-a942-c9e152b35102

Relating to Course Goals: Upon completing the Honors Literature and Composition II course, then, students should be able to:

- Read, write, speak, and listen/view for a variety of purposes;
- Apply effective strategies and techniques in their own writing;
- Demonstrate understanding of the conventions and mechanics;
- Progress effectively through the stages of the writing process;
- Develop vocabulary for vernacular and content;
- Analyze images and text in various modes showing development of critical thinking skills;
- Develop literacy, fluency, and comprehension through in-class and out-of-class readings; and
- Evaluate and incorporate reference documents into researched papers.

Relating to Textbooks:

- Class Notebooks—This is considered a text in the class and is mandatory every day.
- Chromebooks are expected to be charged and ready for use every day.
    - 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.
- HMH's Into Literature: 10th Grade
    - As a student of this course, you will be required to complete assigned reading and tasks from the listed text, Into Literature 10. You must have uninterrupted access to the text's material. We offer the assigned text in both digital and hardcopy formats. You may choose not to request a hardcopy and in doing so fully understand it is your responsibility to maintain digital access to the text's material. If at any time you or your teacher feel you cannot guarantee this, a hardcopy will be issued to you. If the hardcopy text becomes damaged or lost, you will be responsible for the cost of replacement (as set by HCBOE).
- Independent Reading Novel
    - Students are required to have this with them every day in class.

Relating to Grades:

You may always check your grades on Infinite Campus. Please see the counselor's office if you are having trouble with Infinite Campus. However, since you have access to your grades from the Internet, please do not ask me for your grades during class.

You may re-take **TWO** exams per semester (after one hour of tutorial); this must be done within a week of the return of the original exam. You may NOT "re-take" an exam that was never taken to replace the zero.

Grades will be computed as follows:

Major Assessments	45%
Minor Assessments	20%
Daily Work	15%
Final Exam	20%

Late Grade Policy:

Students must have all work turned by the end of each unit. No late work will be taken from a previous unit. Unit dates will be communicated at the beginning of each unit.

Academic Integrity:

Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated, including the use of AI. See handbook for consequences.

Exams:

You will complete a cumulative exam at the end of each semester worth 20% of your final grade. Please see the student handbook for exemption policies.

*All students will take an End of Course exam worth 20% of your grade in the Spring.

Tardies and Absences:

If you are absent from this class, you must make sure that your absence is excused through the office before I will allow you to make up work. You have five days once you return to complete make-up work. See your student handbook for tardy policy.

Relating to Classroom Expectations:

1. Be Respectful: Maintain a respectful and positive attitude towards the teacher and other students. Bullying will not be tolerated.
2. Be Prepared: Come to class with the necessary supplies. Complete all assignments and be ready to work.
3. Be Engaged: Give me your attention, curiosity, interest, and optimism. Be ready and willing to participate.

Bathroom Policy:

All bathroom trips will be approved and recorded by SmartPass. Students have two opportunities a day to use the restroom during classes and anytime within the 5 minutes between classes. However, you cannot be late to class because you were in the restroom between classes. It will be counted as tardy.

Cell Phones:

Cell phones, personal devices, smart watches/glasses, are explicitly prohibited. Students will be referred to the office for having any of these devices.

Canvas:

To encourage blended learning, online assignments will be posted through Canvas. Students should be familiar with how to navigate the online platform, communicate with their teacher, and submit assignments on time. If there are technology limitations, please notify the teacher.

Apptegy:

This year, we will use Apptegy Rooms to share class announcements, important updates, and reminders, as well as communicate with families. Please log in using the information provided by the school and enable notifications so you don't miss important information.

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 unit. 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.

Syllabus and Policies for English 10 Honors- Mendez 2026-2027

Student Print Name:_____ Class Period:_____

I have read and understand all of the policies and requirements listed on the student's syllabus.

X_____
Student Signature

X _____
Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Print Name: _____

Parent Phone Number: _____

Parent Email: _____

Student Email: _____

*Email is my primary means of communication. Please ensure that you list a working email address that is regularly checked.

Class Library Agreement

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 that students read in my classroom and 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. 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.

_____ Yes, I have read this section, and my child has permission to use the classroom library
_____ No, I would prefer that my child not have access to the classroom library and/or VHS literacy center library.

ISR Acknowledgement

_____ Yes I have read and understand the ISR information

Parent/Guardian Signature:_____
