Syllabus and Policies for American Literature

2025-2026 School Year

**Instructor: David Ondike Planning Period: 5th E-mail: david.ondike@hcbe.net Room Number: 2505**

***Welcome back to school and a wonderful year of American Literature! At the end of the year, you will be a better reader, better writer, better/deeper thinker, and better all-around 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. We will be doing a great deal of writing on a daily basis in the form of journals, written responses (formal/informal) to articles, handouts, and text material.

**Course Objectives:**

Course objectives correlate with the *Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE)*:

<https://www.georgiastandards.org/Georgia-Standards/Pages/ELA-9-12.aspx>.

**Course Goals:**

Upon completing the American Literature course, 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.
* Understand yourself, others, and the world through considering the universal ideas that connect to the texts.
* Understanding that all the world is a “Text” that conveys meaning and can be read/understood to enrich and broaden your life
* Learn to be a better thinker and intelligent speaker by considering issues from all sides while limiting your biases.

**Textbooks:**

Class Notebooks, Chromebooks and Journals are considered texts in the class and are considered mandatory every day.

Houghton’s Into Literature Grade 11 American Literature

\*Price for a lost textbook will be determined by the county.

\* As a student of this course, you will be required to complete assigned reading and tasks from the listed text- Into Literature – 11th grade. 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.

**Writing/Composition:**

This course is a writing intensive course designed to improve the students’ ability to clearly discuss/analyze ideas from literature/media in the form of essays, research papers, and short response timed-writings.

Analysis of poetry, short essays, articles, images, novels, critiques, and plays will generally take three forms: (1) timed in-class essays that require students to either read and analyze rhetorical devices used in a short piece of literature and construct a response – or analyze a longer work through the lens of a specific prompt, (2) revisions of in-class writing (3) journal reflections/responses/analysis

**Grades:**

* Grades will be computed as follows:
	+ 1. Major assessments 45%
		2. Minor assessments 20%
		3. Daily work 15%
		4. Semester Exam 20%
* You are allowed to retake two major tests. However, you must retake it within one week of receiving the test results back, and you must attend tutoring/remediation before retaking the exam.
* This course includes a cumulative exam at the end of the semester.
* You have 5 class days to make up an assignment for credit. After 5 days, you will receive a permanent 0.
* Late work will be credited as follows:
	+ No more than 50% on daily assignments.
	+ No more than 70% on minor and major assignments.

**Cell Phones/Smart Watches:**

* **I am required to take all cell phones/smart watches that are out or in use(even if you are hiding it under your desk) - if I do not take them up, I get in trouble. You can pick it up after school or when a parent signs the cell phone agreement.** You may sneak it by me a time or two, but I always eventually see it and have to take it up. Just keep your cell phone put away.
* **Scrolling through messages or using your smartwatch constitutes use and they will be taken up.**
* **Cell phones are always taken up and returned after exams/quizzes.**

**Behavior:**

* Be respectful to all people including me, you, others, the classroom, and all materials
* **Copying any or all of your work/homework will earn an automatic zero.**
* Follow all school and county policies and general classroom rules in handbook.

**Absences:**

* 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. You cannot turn in any work after 5 days – “I didn’t know” is not an acceptable excuse.
* ***When you are absent, email me at*** ***david.ondike@hcbe.net*** ***that day while you are out of school, and I will send you your assignments – or – log in to Canvas and get your work for the day there.***
* ***Otherwise, if you don’t email me, you must see me before 7:45 AM or after 3:00PM to get your missed work. I will NOT take time out of class to stop and give you your missed work. So……..don’t even ask – email me or be here before 7:45 AM.***

**Routines:**

* **See the list of rules at the front of the classroom.**
* **Bathroom can only be used in the last 10 minutes of class if you put your phone and smart watch on my desk until you come back. You have 5 bathroom trips per semester – one will be checked off on the roster every time you want to use it during the last 10 minutes.**
* Absolutely no gum, food, suckers, drinks other than water.
* Spit gum into trash if you have it when you enter.
* Place any drinks on the shelf at the front of the room.
* I do not allow personal grooming in class – no lotion, brushing, rubbing/braiding other people’s hair, nail/toenail clipping (yes…someone actually intended to do this during class….ewww!).
* Participation in class is expected – will be expected to participate during graded discussions (minor/daily grades)
* **Please use a** **PEN – I supply them to you for FREE – The real world uses PENS, so we should too.**
* All journal entries must be a minimum of one page (College Ruled) to receive full credit. Anything less than one page will be given half credit. Anything less than one half page will be given a 0. I will collect journals after 10 entries at 10pts. Each resulting in 100 point minor (quiz) grade. Journals must be up to date at all times – please email me or ask a classmate for the entries you have missed due to absences.

**Discipline:**

* 1st offense will consist of a warning.
* 2nd offense will result in classroom detention and parent contact.
* 3rd offenses (and following) will result in an Office Referral.

**Technology:**

* This class will not allow the use of BYOD (Bring Your Own Device/Cell Phones) Follow all guidelines and policies in your student handbook.
* Technology use will be with the laptop only – no cell phones.
* All students are expected to have their laptop charged and ready 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.

**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**

To encourage blended learning, assignments will be posted online through Canvas. **Students are expected to access their work through Canvas when they are absent.** 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.

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. – then enter the class code for your period.

**Materials**:

* The following is a list of required materials for this class:
	+ **Three ring binder (1 ½” suggested)**
	+ **Notebook paper (at least two packages each semester)**
	+ **Composition notebook–*college ruled***– do not get wide ruled - **(any color cover but it’s that black and white one that looks like marble.**
	+ **Highlighters**
	+ **PENS not pencils**.



This is what your journal notebook will look like – get any color your wish – but make sure is COLLEGE RULED **not** Wide Ruled

**Student Printed Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Class Period:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Syllabus Contract**

***I have read, understand, and agree to all of the policies and requirements listed on the student’s syllabus.***

X\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature

X \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature

**Parent/Guardian Information**:

Parent/Guardian Print

Name:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Best Contact #:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Best time to reach you at this #

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_