

9th Grade Literature and Composition
Jefferson High School
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2004 - 2005

Course Description: This course is designed to meet and exceed state-mandated Georgia Performance Standards and the Georgia High School Test objectives for language arts.

Textbook to be issued:

The Language of Literature. Evanston, IL: McDougal Littell,
2002.

Materials needed on a DAILY basis:

- notebook - a two-inch, three ring binder
- notebook paper
- pens
- pencils
- notebook dividers
- textbooks
- highlighter

All work turned in for a grade must be done on standard 8 1/2 x 11, white, loose-leaf notebook paper.

Classroom standards:

- no disrespect to the teacher or other students (talking back, making fun, etc.)
- no classroom disruptions (leaving seat without permission, talking out of turn, talking during instruction, or anything else that disrupts the flow of the class).
- No eating or drinking in class
- No hats may be worn in class
- Come to class prepared with pencil, paper, and appropriate books.

Consequences:

(infractions will be cleared on a bi-weekly basis)

1. verbal warning - loss of behavior points
2. isolation - loss of behavior points (25 points)
3. Administrative referral - loss of behavior points (50 points per write-up).

Behavior Point System:

Students will receive a grade for their behavior every other week. Each student begins with a 100 for behavior and will receive deductions from that grade for bad behavior (see scale above). The behavior grade for the week will be counted as a quiz grade (25%) and is considered a very important grade in this class.

ABSOLUTELY DO NOT:

1. leave your desk for any reason without permission
2. approach the teacher's desk without permission
3. touch computers without permission

Standard Procedures:

- Classroom standards begin upon entering the room, not when the bell rings. Students are responsible for knowing and following standards of behavior set forth in the student handbook.
- All students must remain in their desks **at all times** during class unless instructed otherwise by the teacher. Some exceptions will be made and announced in class. If any student for any reason needs to leave the room or their desk, they must ask permission by raising their hand.
- Acts that disrupt the educational process such as belittling others or speaking out of turn are not acceptable behaviors. I have the right to teach, and all students have the right to learn. Anyone interfering with those rights will be referred to the office.
- Assignments are due when the assignment is being collected. **No late work will be accepted - NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- Students should save all notes, handouts, test, papers, daily work, assignments, etc., in their notebooks until the end of the term.
- It is the student's responsibility after being absent (**ONLY excused**) to obtain all missed assignments from the teacher.
- The student has **three days** from the time he/she returns to class to complete all makeup work for an excused absence. Students **SHOULD NOT** ask about work missed during class. Any assignments must be obtained before or after class.
- It is the student's responsibility to make-up all tests and/or scheduled quizzes within **three days** of an absence. Make-up dates and times must be scheduled with the teacher. The teacher will be available to give make up quizzes and tests every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoon from 3:00 - 3:30 p.m.
- Conferencing with students or parents will not be done during class time. If students have questions about class procedures or work that does not apply to the rest of the class, they must be addressed before or after school.

Assessment:

Jefferson High School students are scheduled according to a block system in which students receive a semester grade for each class. Semester grades are cumulative with a continuous grading period. The End-of-Course-Test given for the class will count 15 percent of a student's grade for the quarter. The other 85 percent of a student's grade will be based on grades that the student has earned on work assigned during that period. Student assessment of material taught will take a variety of different forms and will not be limited to paper and pencil tests. Depending upon the objectives for a given course and the Georgia Performance Standards, assessment for student learning will be varied and may include, but are not limited to the following:

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|---------------------|------------|---------------------|
| oral presentations | essays | notebook tests |
| creative writing | portfolios | analytical writing |
| teacher observation | projects | group presentations |

Assignments will be recorded and averaged according to their significance. Daily work, homework, and participation assignments count 25%; quizzes (vocabulary, reading, and grammar) and behavior grades are counted 35%; and major projects, tests, essays, presentations, and portfolios are 40% of the grade.

Notebooks:

Notebooks must be maintained throughout the year in an orderly and neat fashion. Students must keep all graded work handed back to them including but not limited to quizzes, tests, homework, daily work, and vocabulary. Each student will be given notebook quizzes periodically during the year. The following sections should be designated in each student's notebook:

- safekeeping
- notes
- vocabulary
- daily graded papers
- tests and quizzes
- writing assignments

Rewards:

Extra Credit will be given to students periodically during the semester, and the opportunities listed below are ways for students to earn even more extra credit throughout the semester. Extra Credit **WILL NOT** be given upon request by students or parents. Each child in class will be given the same opportunities. Students should be mindful of these opportunities throughout the semester.

- Students have the opportunity to earn ten extra credit points added to a quiz grade by attending a fine arts program, submitting the program handout, and writing a vivid and well-written review of the performance.
- Students have the opportunity to earn five extra credit points by photocopying any vocabulary word in an outside source that has been studied in class. Students must submit a copy of the source with the vocabulary word highlighted and complete a bibliographic entry on the back of the paper.