**9th Honors Literature and Composition**

**Mr. Michael McKinney**

**Chattahoochee High School**

***2018-2019***

**CONTACT INFORMATION**Email: mckinneymc@fultonschools.org  
School phone: 470-254-7600

**MY 2017-2018 SCHEDULE**1st: AP Lang 4th: 9th Honors  
2nd: Planning 5th: 9th Lit/Comp  
3rd: Lunch 6th: 9th Lit/Comp  
 7th: 9th Lit/Comp

**STAY CONNECTED**  
Website: michaelmckinneyela.weebly.com

**Course Overview:**

Ninth Grade Literature and Composition is a course in which students will have opportunities to develop and expand their knowledge of literature and language and demonstrate their mastery level of new learning through performance tasks and assessments. At the completion of this course, students will take the Ninth Grade End-of-Course Test required by state law.

**Expectations:**

Ninth Grade Honors Literature and Composition is a prerequisite course for Tenth Grade Honors Literature and Composition, and ultimately, Advanced Placement Language in eleventh grade. This course of study is rigorous and should be attempted only by serious readers and writers. If students fall below an 83 average, the student is at risk of being removed from the program at the end of the semester. Further, students who do not maintain a satisfactory average will not be recommended for future honors and/or Advanced Placement classes. Additionally, an honor student’s need to request recovery is a clear indication that the student is misplaced and a course change should be sought. It is important for students to be placed appropriately for the overall good of the student and the class.

The honors student is expected to be self-motivated and willing to do more than what is asked or required to improve him/herself through inquiry and academic rigor. He/she must accept instruction and constructive criticism, make attendance a priority and make up missed work without prompting. Additionally, honors students are expect to prioritize their learning as an ongoing process and demonstrate superior knowledge of the course content through analysis and synthesis of information.

**Grading:**

In accordance with Fulton County Schools, grades will be assigned as:

A = 100-90 B = 89-80 C = 79-70 F = 69-0

Your Grade will be composed of the following assignments:

* Major Assessments (essays, tests, projects, etc.) – 50%
* Minor Assessments (quizzes, minor projects, etc.) – 20%
* Other (homework, classwork, reading checks, etc.) – 10%
* Final/EOC\* – 20%

\*Please note that second semester 9th grade students will take the state’s End of Course Test in place of a final exam.  
  
**Writing Expectations:** All work should

* Be in complete sentences using formal language
* Follow conventions of grammar, usage, and mechanics
* Accurately cite sources used with discipline-specific requirements (ie: MLA, APA)

**Extra Credit:** Extra credit assignments or opportunities are not available in any Chattahoochee English class.

**Dropped Grades:** The Chattahoochee English Department recognizes that unforeseen circumstances sometime prevent students from doing their best work. With that in mind, **it is department policy to drop each student’s lowest quiz grade each semester.**

**Notebook Requirements:** I require students to keep a section in their binder for journal writing, mini-essays, class notes, and handouts. It is up to students to organize their binders in a way that works best for them. Students should bring appropriate materials to class every day.

**Technology Requirements:** All Chattahoochee students will be given the opportunity to receive a Microsoft Surface tablet this school year. Because of the technology available to each student, the following tools are a few that we will utilize in our class this year:

1. **Google Classroom:** I have access numbers for each class listed on my Web site and will be giving students the chance to sign up either in class or at home the first week of school. The majority of work will be done in Google Class, so signing up ASAP is imperative to a student’s success in my class.
2. **Vocabulary.com:** A website that combines the world’s smartest dictionary with an adaptive learning game that will assist in developing students’ vocabulary.
3. **Class Website:** Students are expected to check the class website regularly to stay organized and updated on the work we complete in class.
4. **Remind-**this is a free texting service that I use to remind students of upcoming assignments and any changes in the schedule. There is a class code and, again, I will help students sign up should they need assistance.

**Absences and Make-Up Work:** It is the student's responsibility to request make-up work from the teacher on the first day back to school and are expected to access homework and in-class assignments using the CHS teacher’s website page**.**Students who are present for any portion of the school day are expected to turn in all assignments due on that day in order to receive full credit for the assignments. Assignment due dates that have been communicated prior to a full-day absence are always due upon the student’s return to school when the due date occurred during the absence.

After an ***excused absence***, a student will have the number of school days equivalent to the number of days absent to make up the work. Make-up work missed due to an ***unexcused absence***may be penalized up to 10% of the maximum value of the assignment. Make-up work or pre-approved absence work submitted late will receive a zero. ***Any exceptions for extensions of time will be made at the discretion of the teacher.***

**Late Work:** I expect every student to hand in an assignment on the day that it is due. Homework and daily assignments are due at the beginning of class and will be accepted **one** day late for half credit. Major writing compositions and projects will be accepted one day late; however, a late penalty of **10** points per school day will apply. If a student is in school at any point during the day when an assignment is due, that student must hand in the assignment or receive a late penalty.

**Help and Conferences:** I am generally available at 7:45 am Monday –Thursday, during 5th period homeroom, and after school each day until 4:00 pm to answer questions and offer guidance. Students are welcome to drop by during these times, but please note that sometimes I will have meetings scheduled. If you feel you need extra help, it is best to schedule an appointment with me at the end of class to confirm I will be available. Do not hesitate to ask for help! Parents can reach me at [mckinneymd@fultonschools.org](mailto:mckinneymd@fultonschools.org) to schedule conferences.  
 ***Chattahoochee High School Recovery Policy:***  Students can recover up to 75%.

**Chattahoochee High School Provision for Improving Grades**

1. Students who complete a **major assessment\*** but fail to demonstrate mastery as evidenced by a grade below 75% on the major assessment may pursue an improvement opportunity to show proficiency. In the case of an honor code violation on a major assessment, the grade will stand as a zero with no eligibility for recovery on that assignment. What is classified as a major assessment is determined within the content area; consult your course syllabus for details.
2. Students should contact the teacher concerning recovery opportunities within 5 school days of being informed of the grade on the assessment in class.  Students are allowed one attempt at recovery per major assessment category listed in the course syllabus. All recovery work must be completed 10 days before the end of the semester.
3. The grade on the recovery assignment will replace the original grade if the recovery grade is equal to or below 75%.  If the recovery grade is above 75%, the original grade will be replaced with a 75%.

***\*Projects are not eligible for recovery.***

**School Board Policy:** **Provision for Improving Grades**

1. Opportunities designed to allow students to recover from a low or failing cumulative grade will be allowed when all work required to date has been completed and the student has demonstrated a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements including attendance. Students should contact the teacher concerning recovery opportunities.  Teachers are expected to establish a reasonable time period for recovery work to be completed during the semester. All recovery work must be directly related to course objectives and must be completed ten school days prior to the end of the semester.
2. Teachers will determine when and how students with extenuating circumstances may improve their grades.

**Remediation of Essays:** The English department wants to make sure that students have the opportunity to meet the writing standards of the course. Toward that end, most essay assignments which fail to demonstrate mastery of these standards are eligible to be re-written according to the following guidelines:

1. A student who receives below an 80% based on the merits of the paper will have the opportunity to revise and resubmit the paper. If a student wishes remediation, they must schedule a conference with the teacher within a week of receiving their paper back. During the conference, the teacher will identify specific skills for the student to focus on for revising (grammar, quote integration, organization, internal transitions, etc.)  The maximum grade possible on a remediated paper is an 80%.
2. Papers which have had points deducted for not following the directions of the assignment (i.e., lack of revisions, no pre-writing, being late, etc.) are eligible to be re-written; however, any such deductions will stand. For example, a later paper with a 20-point deduction can be remediated for a maximum score of a 65.

**CHS Tardy Policy:** In all Chattahoochee classrooms, instruction occurs from bell to bell.  If a student is not in class before the tardy bell rings, a Tardy Pass or Check-in Pass will be required in order to enter class. This policy is designed to encourage prompt arrival to class in order to minimize disturbances that occur when students arrive late. Tardies to class will be tracked by the Administration on ***a weekly basis***, and they may result in disciplinary consequences as shown below. Excessive tardies to the same class over ***the duration of the semester*** may also initiate an administrator’s response.

\*\*\*Students will not be admitted into any class without a Teacher Pass or Check-in Pass. A ***class cut*** occurs when a student is absent from class for ***more than ten minutes*** without having permission from their assigned teacher or authorization from the office to do so. The consequences for tardies are outlined in the student handbook.

**Georgia Standards of Excellence:** Because of the flexibility of English Language Arts course offerings at the high school level, the GSE for grades 9 through 12 are organized into grade bands comprised of 9-10 and 11-12. The 9-12 Standards define what students should understand and be able to do by the end of each grade band. Complete lists of all the GSE standards for each grade band are available at <https://www.georgiastandards.org/Georgia-Standards/Pages/ELA-9-12.aspx>

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**Students: Please read this page and review the entire syllabus with your parents/guardians. Sign this page and return to Mr. McKinney.**

**Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parents/Guardians**: Please review the syllabus as well as the additional information listed below and return this form through your student to me by Friday, August 10. Please contact me if you have any questions/concerns at [mckinneymd@fultonschools.org](mailto:mckinneymd@fultonschools.org).

**Parent Connect:** All students and parents are strongly encouraged to sign up for the web-based program for monitoring grades - Home Access Center.  Students should check their averages frequently and see their teachers if they become concerned with their academic performance. Contact the Main Office to obtain your login information.

**CHS English Department Plagiarism Statement**

Plagiarism is the use of another's words or ideas and the presentation of them as though they are entirely one's own. Acts of plagiarism might include, but are not limited to:

1. Using words or ideas from a published source without proper documentation;

2. Using the work of another student (e. g. copying another student's homework, composition, or project);

3. Using excessive editing suggestions of another student, teacher, parent, or paid editor.

Plagiarism on any project or paper at Chattahoochee High School will result in a zero for the assignment and an Honor Code violation. Unless directly stipulated by the teacher, collaboration on written work is not acceptable. Students who willingly provide other students with access to their work are in violation of the Honor Code. Students guilty of cheating will receive a grade of "0" on the assignment or test. The assignment may not be made up (students with zeroes are not eligible for recovery). Additionally, an Honor Violation Form will be completed by the teacher and filed in the school office. Violations may be considered by faculty in making future recommendations. Membership in honor clubs could be jeopardized. Students receiving an Honor Code violation will be assigned to serve two (2) days of Saturday School for the first offense.

**Textbook/Device Replacement Costs:** Students are financially responsible for all books/devices issued by CHS. Textbooks/devices may not be left in classrooms and teachers are not responsible for the whereabouts of these items. The copy which was issued must be turned in at the end of the course.  You will not receive credit for turning in another student’s book/device and may not turn in replacement books/devices.  The cost of replacement will be assessed to any student that fails to turn in the book/device they were issued or turns in a damaged book/device.

* Supplementary novels: $15 for paperback; $20 for hardback
* See device contract for replacement and/or repair costs

**DVD Selections**: Below are some **possible** support films that may be used - in part or in full - throughout the course of the school year. Any additional films rated PG or above will have prior approval by the principal.

*Nacho Libre* (PG) for some rough action and crude humor

*Romeo and Juliet* (PG-13) – 1996 Baz Luhrmann adaptation for violence and mature themes

*The Odyssey* (PG-13) for violent sequences and some sensuality

**\_\_\_\_\_\_Yes, my child has my permission to view all of the films.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_No, my child does not have permission to view the following film(s):**

**Social Media:** One way that I connect with other teachers and grow my professional network is through the use of social media. Often times I will post images and video of activities from our classroom and, with permission from both you and the student, your student may be featured in one or more of these posts. Please mark your preference below regarding student images on my professional social media accounts.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_Yes, my child may be featured on your professional social media platforms.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_No, my child may not be featured on your professional social media platforms.**

**Independent Reading:** Per The Georgia Standards of Excellence literacy standards and to help students achieve the standard of reading "a minimum of 25 grade-level appropriate books or book equivalents (approximately 1,000,000 words) per year from a variety of subject disciplines,” the English department will be adopting Independent Reading Projects for each grade level.  Twice a semester, students will be given an opportunity to have some choice in their reading selections, read independently, and then engage in a variety of different activities to help improve comprehension.

* Since we want to offer choice, students will be asked to get a copy of each of the books they choose to read.  They will not be asked to write in the books, so they can borrow them from friends or the library.   If the student cannot get a book from one of these means, the teacher will make sure your student is provided with a book to complete the assignment.  No student will be required to buy a book.
* Additionally, some of the books available for students to select may contain adult themes, situations, or language.  Your student will be provided with lists of books or guidelines to use in choosing a book, and we recommend you review the selections with your student so you are comfortable with the books he or she chooses.

**Class Supplies Wish List:** Please consider donating some frequently used supplies to the classroom. We are always in need of tissues, hand sanitizer, Clorox wipes, markers, colored pencils, books to add to our classroom library, and magazines. Please note that a donation is by no means mandatory. Whatever you are able to donate will be greatly appreciated!

Signing below indicates that you have read and understood the syllabus, including, but not limited to, the classroom expectations and requirements, outside reading assignments, textbook replacement costs, CHS Recovery Policy, and CHS Plagiarism Policy.

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**Print Parent Name Parent Signature**

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**Parent Email (Please Print)**

**Students:** Please sign below indicating that you have read and understand the course syllabus.

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**Student Name Student Signature**