**Ninth Grade Literature and Composition Course Syllabus**

**Maynard H. Jackson High School**

**Principal: Stephanie Johnson**

**Address:** 801 Glenwood Ave. SE Atlanta, GA 30312 **Phone:** 404.802.5200

***Mission Possible: Motivate, Educate, Graduate***

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**Tutorial:** Wednesdays after school 3:30pm-4:30pm

**Remediation:** Tuesdays after school 3:30-4:30pm on a rotating basis

**Course Overview**

This course will focus on preparing students to become college and career ready in Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening, and Language. By utilizing the English Language Arts Georgia Standards of Excellence we will read, write, think critically, speak, and listen every day in class. This framework will allow for the students to demonstrate independence, build strong content knowledge, and build strong reading comprehension skills. This course will have a strong focus on writing and grammar as well. Additionally, this course will focus on the use of technology and digital media.

**Grammar:** punctuation, pronoun usage and agreement, subject-verb agreement, phrases and clauses

**Literature:** Balanced approach to literature using modeling, cooperative, and independent work models.

Selections of short stories, poetry, and informational text.

**Composition:** Development of the writing process with emphasis on assertion, evidence, and evaluation including: development of composition related to literary analysis, using and incorporating effective argumentative techniques, and understanding the research process.

**Vocabulary:** Selected vocabulary and word roots appropriate for ninth grade.

**Projects:** Project based learning will be assigned with most units of study.

**Major Units of Study**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **UNIT** | **SEMESTER** | **TOPIC** | **EXTENDED TEXTS** |
| 1 | 1 | The Hero’s Journey | *The Odyssey by Homer* |
| 2 | 1 | Defining Courage | *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass by Frederick Douglass* |
| 3 | 2 | Paradoxes of Life and Literature | *Romeo and Juliet* *by William Shakespeare* |
| 4 | 2 | Biographical Approach to Literature/Comparing Multiple Works by One Author | *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou* |

**General Information**

* Please note that on-time class attendance is imperative for classroom success. However, emergencies and/or sickness may arise; hence, you have three days to request make-up work when you return. Please see me after school to receive makeup work or if you have questions. **NOTE: If you make an appointment and do not show up, this will be noted in Infinite Campus.**
* We are teaching and learning under new standards called the English Language Arts Georgia Standards of Excellence. These standards are much more rigorous than previous standards, and students will be exposed to complex text on a regular basis. Thus, the students will be required to read in the classroom as well as at home. Daily reading outside of the classroom will be monitored with a weekly reading log. Students are required to read at least 20 minutes per night. This will help with the students reading comprehension and fluency.

**Atlanta Public Schools Grading Policy**

1. **Grading Practices**
   1. The grade book of record shall be the official Atlanta Public Schools student information system (SIS).
   2. Each student should generally receive at least one (1) academic grade in each subject each week. Grades should be entered in the grade book on a weekly basis. Principals may approve alternate grading plans that support student achievement.
   3. For special classes that meet only once per week (e.g. elementary school art, music, physical education and foreign language), students must receive a minimum of one (1) academic grade every two weeks.
   4. Teachers should provide opportunities for reteaching and reassessment for students who have not yet provided evidence of basic mastery. This may occur during regular instructional time, during “lunch and learn” sessions, or at other times when students will not miss required instruction.
   5. Evaluation of Non-Academic Goals
      1. Student progress toward non-academic goals that are critical to student success shall be assessed on age-appropriate competencies which may include, but are not limited to, conduct, citizenship, class participation, preparation, punctuality, meeting deadlines, neatness, organization, etc.

2.      Mastery of non-academic goals are assessed separately and should not impact course grades.

* 1. Academic Integrity
     1. Instances of cheating should not impact students’ academic grades. Violations of [policy JFA Academic Integrity](http://www.boarddocs.com/ga/aps/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=9CKTW868A3B2) shall be handled as violations of the student code of conduct and addressed via the progressive discipline guidelines in the Student Handbook. Student mastery of the standards covered by the assignment on which cheating was detected should be reassessed with supervision.
  2. Long-term Teacher Absences and Vacancies
     1. In a case when a substitute teacher(s) is employed to teach a course for more than five (5) consecutive instructional days, the principal or designee will establish a plan for assuring the quality of instruction in the course, including the proper evaluation of student mastery. The principal shall designate an appropriate full-time certified staff member to be responsible and accountable for the timely and accurate maintenance of grade books for the courses.

1. **Grade Reporting**
   1. Students shall receive report cards after the end of the 9th, 18th, 27th and 36th weeks of the school year. The report cards received after the semester midpoints (9th and 27th weeks) will be considered progress reports for all students.
   2. For grades K-5, evaluation of student mastery shall be cumulative throughout the year. Students will receive report cards at the midpoint of each semester and at the end of each semester.
   3. For grades 6-12, evaluation of student mastery shall be cumulative for the semester.
   4. All students shall receive interim progress reports at least four (4) times per year—4.5 weeks into the school year and midway between report card issuance dates.
   5. Dates for progress reports and report cards will be noted on the student calendar.
   6. To the extent practicable, schools shall take steps to communicate about student grades in a language the parent/guardian understands.
2. **Students in Danger of Not Meeting Academic Expectations**
   1. As soon as there is evidence that a student is in danger of not meeting expectations, teachers shall hold individual conferences in person or by telephone with the parents/legal guardians to discuss a plan for student remediation. Except in unusual cases, teachers should request conferences no later than the interim progress report deadline.
   2. Response to Intervention (RTI) protocols should be followed for students in danger of not meeting expectations based on the needs of the individual student.
   3. A social work referral should be completed if the teacher cannot establish contact with the parent/legal guardian via telephone, email, or US mail within five (5) business days of a conference request.
   4. If a student earns a “Not Yet Meeting Expectations” or a numerical grade below 70 on a final report card and the teacher has not conducted a conference with the parent/legal guardian or documented contact attempts and a social worker referral, the student shall temporarily receive an incomplete (I) and the opportunity to have mastery of the standards reassessed via a performance plan (See Section 4. Incompletes).
3. **Incompletes**
   1. Students who have not demonstrated mastery of standards due to documented medical absences or other reasons approved by the principal may receive a temporary grade of “Incomplete” (I) with a written performance plan approved by the principal.
   2. Student mastery must be reassessed and incompletes changed to an evaluation/grade within 4.5 weeks. The principal shall authorize all grade changes. (See Section 6. Grade Changes.)
4. **Repeating Courses/Recovering Credit (High School Students Only)**
   1. Students may not retake courses for which they have already earned credit.
   2. Students may repeat courses for which they have earned a grade below 70. In such cases, both grades shall appear on the student transcript and shall be factored into the student’s grade-point average (GPA).
   3. Credit Recovery – Students may recover credit through the Atlanta Virtual Academy (AVA), Alonzo A. Crim Open Campus High School, and APS summer school programs. When a student successfully participates in a credit recovery course, both grades shall appear on the student transcript and shall be factored into the student’s grade-point average (GPA).
   4. Seniors Testing for Credit – Second semester seniors currently enrolled in a course required for graduation with a grade below 70 may request to test for credit. See [policy IHE Promotion and Retention](http://www.boarddocs.com/ga/aps/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=9CKT6U675237). Once approved, a student who scores 70 or above on a rigorous comprehensive examination covering the course content approved by the principal or his/her designee shall have the course grade replaced with the numerical examination score.
5. **Grade Changes**
   1. Errors in grade entry or calculations affecting student grades may be corrected at any time.
   2. Challenges to grades based on objective criteria may be considered by the principal within 15 days of the issuance of a final report card. Any grade changes approved by the principal shall be documented in writing with a detailed explanation of the rationale. Disputes shall be settled by the school’s Associate Superintendent.
   3. Incompletes must be changed to a numerical grade no later than the midpoint of the following 9-week grading period.
   4. Notification of grade changes made for any reason shall be sent to the parent/legal guardian and the school’s Associate Superintendent.
6. **Transferring Grades**
   1. APS accepts final grades for elementary, middle, and high school students who transfer from schools outside the Atlanta Public Schools in accordance with [state board rule 160-5-1-.15 Awarding Units of Credit and Acceptance of Transfer Credit and/or Grades](https://eboard.eboardsolutions.com/rules/policy.aspx?RC=0833155424&Sch=1262&S=4004&RevNo=1.32&C=&T=E). See regulation JBC-R (4) School Admissions – Transferring Credits.
   2. APS shall accept final grades issued by public schools and private schools accredited by agencies recognized by the Georgia Board of Education. Course grades from transcripts issued by accredited schools shall be transcribed exactly and shall not be changed.
   3. When a transcript with letter grades is submitted for a student transferring to APS, it is the parent/guardian’s responsibility to request an official school system document or a notarized statement on the transferring school/system’s letterhead with the actual numerical grade the student earned for each course. If that information cannot be determined by the sending school, the following conversion scale will be used.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Letter Grade | Numerical Grade Transcribed to APS Transcript |
| A+ | 100 |
| A | 95 |
| A- | 90 |
| B+ | 89 |
| B | 85 |
| B- | 80 |
| C+ | 79 |
| C | 75 |
| C- | 70 |
| D+ | 70 |
| D | 70 |
| D- | 70 |
| F | 60 |

1. APS staff trained in international transcripts and international educational practices will review and transcribe all international transcripts. Numeric grades will be assigned in accordance with recognized grade equivalency scales.
2. Final grades issued in a non-accredited school or home study setting will be recorded as Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U). No numeric or letter grades will be recorded.
3. Late Enrollment
   1. No grade is required on a report card if a student has been enrolled in the school for fewer than 20 school days of the grading period and no assignment grades have been received from the sending school.
   2. Students entering from another public or accredited private school will be subject to the assignment grades provided by the former school. The assignment grades earned in APS during the enrollment period will be combined with these grades to determine the final grade for the student.
   3. For students who entered mid-semester without assignment grades from a public or accredited private school (including all students enrolling from home school or a non-accredited school), the school should evaluate each situation, assess the students’ mastery of the standards taught during the portion of the semester the student has missed, and develop a plan of support. If assigning a grade will not fully reflect the student level of mastery from the time of enrollment to the date of the report card, students may receive an Incomplete (I) on the report card temporarily. (See Section 4. Incompletes.)
   4. Students who enroll after the deadline without transfer grades for assignments from the prior school will receive the code No Grade – “NG” on the report card. High school students will not earn credit for courses with a grade of “NG.” Grades of “NG” will not be calculated into student grade-point averages (GPAs) or class rankings.

Your grade will be based on the following school wide percentages/grade weights:

* Homework--5%
* Exams--35%
* Projects/Essays--25%
* Quizzes--20%
* Class work--15%

For a student to receive a failing grade in a course, a progress report or deficiency notice must have been issued by the notice date *or* as soon as the student's grade falls below a 75 after the notice date. For high school students, teachers must contact parents to the best of their ability via telephone, e-mail and other means. **To ensure that the proceeding occurs, deficiency notice distribution occurs every four weeks. Students will have a specified amount of time to return the progress report signed and dated by a parent.**

**Classroom Management/Behavior Expectations**

It is the expectation that all students follow all rules of the Atlanta Public School System, Maynard Jackson High School, and classroom rules at all times. All students will be made aware of the rules and have a clear understanding of the expectations from the instructor. It is imperative that we have a safe, respectful, and orderly environment. These elements are necessary for learning to take place. Classroom disruptions and distractions take away from quality instructional time. Any violations of the rules will follow a consequence hierarchy which can include removal from the classroom, In School Suspension, Out of School Suspension, and a call home. Please discuss with your student the importance of fostering a rich learning environment free from disruptions and distractions. Students must attend class on time. Students must be in Maynard Jackson approved uniform attire Monday-Friday. All electronic devices including cell phones, headphones, and other media must be turned off and put away. Failure to adhere to the strict electronic device policy will result in confiscation and monetary fines. Parent contacts are made for any blatant disrespect, repeated behaviors, attendance, tardiness, cell phone violations, sleeping, uniform violations, cheating, profanity, or refusals in the classroom. Depending on the severity of the circumstance or the situation an in person parent conference will be required.

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT POLICY ON PLAGIARISM/CHEATING**

Plagiarism is the presentation of the words, ideas, or opinions of someone else as your own. You are guilty of plagiarism if you submit as your own the words, ideas, or arrangement of material found in sources such as books, magazines, or pamphlets (including book jackets, *Cliff’s Notes* and similar publications), without crediting the source. The ideas and opinions of someone else, even though expressed in your own words, must be acknowledged in the text and in the Works Cited Page.

You are guilty of plagiarism/cheating if you copy the work of a fellow student, a friend or a relative who is no longer in school, or use an essay or any part of another source and submit it as your own. A student who allows such copying is also guilty of cheating. Cheating is outlined in the student handbook, but also includes the use of unauthorized resources on assessment instruments. Students who have cell phones or other unauthorized electronic devices out during tests/quizzes--will be regarded as cheating on the assignment.

**BRING YOUR OWN TECHNOLOGY (BYOT)**

Students will be given the opportunity to use their devices at specified times only. All other times cellular technology, IPADS, tablets, and smartphones, and any other devices are expected to be turned off and out of sight. If students(s) abuse the policy, a ban on personal technologial usage in the classroom will occur as well as the appropriate consequence as defined by the Atlanta Public School System policies and procedures.

**Dress Code/Uniform Policy**

The Maynard H. Jackson Uniform and Dress Code Policy will be monitored and enforced at all times. Infractions or violations of the dress code will be referred to administration for the appropriate consequence. Please refer to the handbook for the Dress Code/Uniform Policy.

**Supply List**

1. Loose-leaf Notebook Paper 2. Navy Blue/Black Pens 3. (1) 1 ½ inch Binder (labeled English Literature) 4. Tab Dividers 5. Colored Pencils 6.Glue Sticks 7. Highlighters 8. 8 GB Flash Drive

**Nondiscrimination Notice---** Maynard H. Jackson High School abides by state law and state regulations regarding Individualized Education Plans (IEP) and 504 plans. The Atlanta Public Schools shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, handicap, sexual orientation, or gender identity in its programs and activities.

**\*This syllabus is subject to be updated or changed at any time. If any updates or changes are made to the syllabus, the teacher will provide written notice to the parents and students.**

**RECEIPT OF SYLLABUS SIGNATURE PAGE**

**Ninth Grade Literature and Composition**

**Ms. Barner’s Copy (sign and hand in)**

By signing this page and giving it to my teacher, we (student/parent/guardian) are confirming that:

1. We have read carefully, understand and agree with and will follow all of the guidelines, statements and requirements stated in this Ninth Grade Literature and Composition Syllabus;

2. We are also stating that we have read the Plagiarism Policy attached and agree to the mandate outlined;

3. We understand the grading policy and that the grade the student earns in this class is his/her responsibility to earn and to track with Infinite Campus (IC) and progress reports printed from IC;

4. We understand that our class is a learning community. The student will support his/her learning and the learning of his/her classmates and instructor by coming to class prepared, participating fully and completing his/her work; and

5. We commit to giving our best effort throughout the term of the course and the student will seek out his/her fellow students/teacher to support his/her success.

Please complete and sign below.

Please print student's name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Information Needed | Parent/Guardian 's Name | Parent/Guardian's Name | In Case of Emergency (Please include a different person in case the parent cannot be reached) |
|  |  |  |
| Cell Phone Number |  |  |  |
| Work Number |  |  |  |
| Home Number |  |  |  |
| Email Address |  |  |  |