**Course Description**

Ninth Grade Literature and Composition is a state-required class that surveys literature from its mythological roots to the contemporary manifestation in media. By participating in the course, students will internalize that literature reflects the human condition by exposing universal truths via critical analysis.

This course involves rigorous reading and writing. Students will be required to read all assignments in entirety prior to class. They will also be required to write on a consistent basis. Writings will primarily focus on literary evaluation; however, in order to evaluate, one must demonstrate understanding by using copious evidence.

As a part of the course, students will take the End of Course Test in Ninth Grade Literature. The EOCT will count as 20% of their grade for the second semester.

All activities are based on the Common Core Standards for Ninth Grade Literature as published at <https://www.georgiastandards.org/Common-Core/Pages/ELA-9-12.aspx>

Students enrolled in Honors or Pre-IB will also have their assignments aligned with the IB standards of assessment objectives for Language A: Literature.

**Requirements for Parents and Students**

**Reading Expectations**

The most important element of this course is that students carefully read each assignment in a timely manner. Students must plan their schedules in order to complete readings.

**Writing Expectations**

As this is a literature and composition course, students must always practice their best composition skills. Compositions will include formal critical essays, paragraphs, timed writing, statements, journals, and creative works. In conjunction with writing, we will study grammar and style.

Formal Essays must adhere to following guidelines:

* All essays must be typed.  Please keep the text of your paper in a "Times New Roman" or “Ariel” font, size 12.
* All text in your essay must be double-spaced, with block quotations single-spaced.  Do not add additional spaces between paragraphs.
* All paragraphs are indented five (5) spaces, or "tabbed."  Block quotations are generally set at five spaces as well.
* Maintain one-inch margins throughout the entire essay, top-to-bottom and left-to-right.
* Please number all pages of your essay except the first in the upper right corner of the page.  You must include your last name, followed by the page number, on each page.  For example: Seskowitz 3
* Always include a Works Cited page, with all texts and literary criticism properly documented according to standard [MLA format](http://webster.commnet.edu/mla.htm).
* Include your rough draft(s) and revision sheets with your final essay.  Your rough draft should display evidence of prewriting, proofreading, and revising. Staple the rough draft and revision sheet to the back of your final draft. Essays without a revision sheet or rough draft will not be accepted.
* **Late essays will not be accepted.**

**Types of Assessments**

**Formative Assessments**

A large part of your assessments will be formative. Just as you will be expected to read and comprehend text, you will also be required to discuss and defend your observations and opinions. Your discussions will be both oral and written.

**Summative Assessments**

Summative assessments will evaluate your knowledge of concepts and themes. These assessments will be frequently used in order to judge your progress.

**Grading Policy**

Grading follows the Atlanta Public Schools policy.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * 1. A   2. B   3. C   69-0 F | 25% Writing  25% Projects  20% Tests  10% Quizzes  10% Participation and Classwork  10% Homework |

**Texts and Materials Required**

**Students are required to read texts outside of their district-provided textbook. These titles will be announced at least two weeks prior to study. Failure to obtain these texts may result in class failure.**

* *Elements of Literature:* 3rd Course
* Teacher/Class Website: [www.msjkeeler.com](http://www.msjkeeler.com)
* Textbook website: https://www.my.hrw.com
* One Three-Ring Binder
* 8 Subject Dividers Labeled in the Following Order:
  + Poetry
  + Drama
  + Short Stories
  + Novels
  + Writing
  + Grammar
  + Vocabulary
  + Handouts
* College Ruled Loose-Leaf Paper (Approximately 500 Sheets) evenly placed behind the dividers
* Blue/Black Pens
* #2 Pencils
* Four Different Colors of Highlighters
  + Blue or Green
  + Yellow
  + Pink or Orange
* A Disk Key, Jump Drive, Thumb Drive, or Portable Computer Storage
* Index Cards (Approximately 800)
* Access to a Computer, Printer and the Internet (the media center is available before, after, and during school hours)
* All Outside Texts (TBA)
* All Project Materials Needed (TBA)

**Tutorials**

Students are encouraged to stay on Wednesdays for tutorial from 3:20-4:30. Other times may be arranged on a case-by-case basis.

**Plagiarism**

Cheating of any kind or plagiarism will not be tolerated. Your thoughts and words must always be your own. You must always cite opinions gathered from sources and support these opinions with your own conclusions. Any proved plagiarism and/or cheating will result in a zero. Also, students who allow others to copy their thoughts will receive a 0. Per district policy, students who have plagiarized will also receive a disciplinary referral.

**Scope and Sequence**

The scope and sequence of this course will roughly follow the one published in the previous state link. All assignments will be based on meeting the Common Core Standards.