**British Literature Syllabus**

**Wheeler High School**

**Fall 2019**

**Ms. Jennifer Sellman**

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**Sellmansclass.Weebly.com**

**Rm 2073**

**Course Description**

12th British Literature and Composition is a **rigorous** performance-based, interactive course focused on the study of British literature, reading, and composition. Works will be studied thematically through representative literary works that are surveyed for content, style, form, diction, and relevancy to our time and culture. Various print and non-print texts from British literature will be discussed and analyzed through written, verbal, and non-verbal methods. The course is based on the Georgia Standards of Excellence; the standards are broken down into 5 main categories: Reading for Literature, Reading for Informational Text, Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Language. Emphasis is placed on the development of critical and analytical thinking skills through classroom discussion of texts, writing, and presenting. Outside reading and the study of vocabulary are required in this course.

**Course Objectives**

Each student will work toward meeting the Common Core Standards outlined for 12th grade on the Cobb County School District curriculum website. Everything you do in this class, whether written assignments, group assignments, oral presentations, etc. will focus on meeting a standard.

**We will cover the following units throughout this semester:**

Unit 1: Anglo-Saxon History and the Epic Hero: *Beowulf* and selected poems from Springboard

Unit 2: The Middle Ages: *The Canterbury Tales* and selected writings from Springboard

Unit 3: Senior Project Research Paper

Unit 4: Feminist Criticism with *Pygmalion* (Springboard)

Unit 5: Marxist Criticism with *Othello* (Springboard)

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**Cobb County Grading Scale**

A = 100-90 B = 89-80 C = 79-74 D = 73-70 F = 69 and below

In accordance with Core Curriculum Standards students will be evaluated on the following:

**Reading Summative 10%**

CC Standards:

* Key Ideas and Details
* Craft and Structure
* Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
* Range of Reading/Text Complexity

**Writing Summative 15%**

CC Standards:

* Text Types and Purposes
* Production/Distribution
* Research/Present Knowledge
* Range of Writing

**Final Exam 10%**

**Language /Vocab/Grammar 5%**

CC Standards:

* Grammar/Vocabulary/Class Discussion

**Formative (Daily Work/Homework/Quizzes) 30%**

**Speaking and Listening Summative 5%**

**Senior Project 25%**

A semester-long project that exposes students to real-world applications and expectations, including resume, portfolio, research paper, presentation creation.

**Classroom Guidelines and** **Expectations**

1. **Be Here**: your absence from the classroom has a negative impact on your grade.
   1. **Tardy**: ***You will need to be in your seat when the bell rings or you will be considered tardy***. Bags on your desk will not count as being on time. 5 tardies will receive an administrative referral and a call home. If a student comes to class 15 minutes late without a pass, they will be referred for skipping class.
   2. **Late Work**: It is **your responsibility** to turn in completed work to me. Late work will not be accepted without penalty (-5% off late same day, -15% off next day). See below for further clarification.
2. **Be respectful:** class time is reserved for learning – EVERYONE should have a chance at academic success
   1. Raise your hand before talking or leaving your seat
   2. Do not talk while the teacher is talking
   3. Listen to directions
   4. Phones are put away during working time
   5. Use your words wisely: Swearing or snide comments are not respectful and will be addressed.
3. **Be prepared**:
   1. Have a pen or pencil ready to go (sharpened, in working order)
   2. Have materials out: composition notebook, loose-leaf paper, handouts from the previous day
      1. Handouts are available on my blog or will be in a crate in the classroom. Students should have the habit of looking in the crates (there are folders for each day in the month) before class begins.
   3. Students will not be allowed to leave for the restroom the first and last 15 minutes of the class period per Administration policy.

**Consequences**

This is the order of consequences. However, if I feel that you are totally disrupting the classroom or putting anyone in danger, I reserve the right to skip any of the consequences on the list and go straight to an office referral.

1. Verbal warning 2. Phone call to the parent. 3. Office referral.

**Late Work:**

If you have missed class, here are the policies:

* Check the blog for any assignments/handouts you need and/or email me for information
* You have the amount of days you were absent plus one day to make up your assignment/test
* I will put in a zero for your grade until it is made up in the appropriate time frame
* If your assignment is late, you will receive -5% if it is turned in by the end of the day, or -20% after that due date.
* The semester has three six-week periods. You will have six weeks to make up an assignment or test (late penalties apply) within that period. I will remind you in the classroom, blog, and Remind before the deadline. Once the deadline has passed, I will not accept late work from that time period. Deadline dates are as follows: 9/13, 11/1, and 12/13 (this is one week early due to finals and time needed for grading).
* There are different late penalties for Senior Project assignments: most can earn up to a 70 if the assignment is turned in late. See the Student Senior Project manual for information. These assignments are graded by committees and are not under the purview of the classroom teacher for late penalties.

**Plagiarism**

All work completed for a grade must be completed by the student wishing to receive the grade. Plagiarism is the use of another author’s (student’s) words or ideas without giving credit where credit is due. If any portion of the assignment is plagiarized, I will give a zero for the **entire assignment to everyone involved**. Unless it is specifically designated as a group assignment, I will not accept “we worked together” for work that is abundantly similar on multiple papers. Administration will also be notified of the incident.

**Remediation Policy**

If a student wishes to receive recovery for a summative assessment, they must have scored a 69 or below on the assignment. They must choose either retake the test or they may do test corrections and receive ½ credit for each question that they missed. Students will need to follow the test correction format to receive credit. Students must complete the retake or test corrections within the six-week block outlined in the late work policy.

**Extra Credit**

Students are responsible for initiating an Extra Credit opportunity. Any extra credit given will be **up to** 20% of the assignment overall value.

**Grade Conferences**

If you do not agree with a grade you have earned, you may schedule a grade conference. The grade conferences may only be scheduled a day after a student has received his/her grade. You may set up an appointment with me before school. I will do my best to grade all assignments within one week, all written assignments within two.

## Leaving the Classroom

No student is allowed to leave the room first and last 15 minutes of class. Only one student will be allowed out at a time. You will need a pass or lanyard to be able to leave the class.

Bathroom passes are handed out at the beginning of the semester. Students have 10 opportunities to leave class. These 10 times include “emergencies.” It is the student’s responsibility to keep up with these passes. When you need to use a pass, come up to me with the pass filled out and ready for me to sign. I will not sign post-its, random papers, etc. If you do not have your pass, do not approach me until you do. If you turn in an unused pass at the end of the semester, I will provide 10 points toward a summative assessment during the semester.

**Phone Policy**

**Phones are to be placed in the backpacks and in the front of the room at the beginning of class.** If there are extenuating circumstances that you need your phone, please talk to me in between classes and we will work something out. There is a charging station at the front of class students are welcome to use; however, the phone must stay there for the block. If you have a phone out without permission, you will receive a consequence. **Any phones out during a test or quiz will be considered plagiarism and student will receive a zero.** If you are finished, then move on to the next assignment until everyone is done.

**Help Sessions:**

I am generally here before and after school. If a student needs additional help for a lesson, I am happy to sit and help clarify lesson points. Please check with me before or after class, and we will find a time we can both be available.

**To my students**:

I am excited to be your teacher this year! I absolutely love teaching British Literature and Senior Project.

I want you to know that I will do what I can to help you succeed this semester. I am working on including some different strategies to increase your involvement in our material. I hope you develop an appreciation for British Literature as it is the foundation for many movies, books, and tv shows you see today.

For me to help you the most, I need you to communicate with me. You might want to talk to me directly, or you might want to send me an email to help me understand where can help you most effectively. I am interested in who you are and your interests so that I can incorporate them into our classroom. The more I know, the more we can work together for your success.

This will be an exciting and challenging semester. Senior Project will test your skill set and help you gain new ones. The best advice I can give is to NOT PROCRASTINATE. However, if you hit a snag, please let me know sooner rather than later. I will help you to the best of my abilities to complete the activities and deliver the best presentation possible at the end of the semester.

I am looking forward to having you in class and working together for the best Senior English semester!

Sincerely,

Ms. Sellman

Student Name (print): Student Signature:

Parent Name (print): Parent Signature: