



# American Literature and Composition ~ Course Syllabus

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Room 1019

## COMMON CORE

### Georgia Performance Standards

#### Objectives:

American Literature/Composition students will:

- study the **development of American literature** in conjunction with the historical development of our nation.
- employ strong, thorough, and explicit **textual evidence** in their literary analyses and technical research.
- understand the development of **multiple ideas through details and structure** and track the development of **complex characters and advanced elements of plot** such as frame narratives and parallel storylines.
- write to reflect their ability to **argue effectively**, employing the structure, evidence, and rhetoric necessary in the composition of effective, persuasive texts.
- construct **written responses** of various lengths in accordance with the guidelines of standard format styles such as APA and MLA.
- build strong and varied **vocabularies** across multiple content areas, including technical subjects.
- employ **rhetoric and figurative language**, purposefully construct tone and mood, and identify lapses in reason or ambiguities in texts.
- communicate in **multiple modes of discourse** demonstrating a strong command of the rules of Standard English.
- read, analyze and discuss **complex texts** independently and proficiently.

Course Description: American Literature is a comprehensive survey of American authors, from the Pre-Colonial Era to the present. The course is designed to familiarize students with traditional and lesser-known authors while continuing to develop the critical reading, thinking, and writing skills introduced in previous English classes and in alignment with the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards.

#### Pacing Guide

Pre-Colonial Literature

*The Crucible*

Age of Reason and Rationalism

Revolutionary Period

*Walden*

Transcendentalism

Romanticism

\*This is subject to change at teacher discretion.

Civil War/Realism

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

Beginnings of the Modern Age

*The Great Gatsby*

*Of Mice and Men*

Post Modernism

Georgia Milestone

#### Materials Needed

Blue or black pens

LOTS of notebook paper

Notebook with dividers (no particular style)

Highlighters

Positive attitude and sense of humor

#### Grading Policy

Summative Assessments (Tests, Essays, etc.) 71%

Formative Assessments (Quizzes, Daily work, etc.) 29%

Georgia Milestone 20%

#### Make-Up Policy

If a student is absent, he/she has the number of days absent plus one additional day to make up assigned work for full credit. If the student does not make up the work, a zero will be given. It is the student's responsibility to seek out missing assignments and/or make arrangements with the teacher to take missing quiz/test(s).

#### Late Work

For each day a summative assignment is late, 10 points will be deducted. Late summative assignments **will not be accepted** after two weeks from the due date.

#### Plagiarism Policy

**If a student is caught plagiarizing, he/she will receive a grade of zero. For a first offense, he/she will be given an opportunity to rewrite the assignment for a maximum grade of 50.**

<p><b>Classroom Rules:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bring all necessary materials to class (pen, paper, notebook, handouts, etc.)</li> <li>2. Come to class on time, prepared to learn. Just because I don't tell you that I know you were tardy doesn't mean I didn't mark you as such.</li> <li>3. Respect the people and furnishings of the classroom – listen when others speak.</li> <li>4. Adjust your voice to suit the activity.</li> <li>5. Follow directions the first time they are given</li> <li>6. Observe <b>all</b> school and classroom rules</li> </ol> <p>Basically, just follow the Golden Rule. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."</p>	<p>Consequences: when rules <i>aren't</i> followed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Verbal warning</li> <li>2. Parent Contact</li> <li>3. Detention</li> <li>4. Referral (and zero on any assignment where cheating, plagiarism, etc. is involved). (Some offenses may be severe enough that an automatic detention or direct referral is made.)</li> </ol> <p>Consequences: when rules <i>are</i> followed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Appropriate acknowledgments for good behavior given to students and their parents.</li> <li>2. Spartan shields will be given for outstanding behavior 😊</li> </ol>
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**Technology Policy**

There will be opportunities for students to utilize their phones and other electronics during my class but only at teacher discretion. These times will be made very clear to students. During "non electronics" time, Administration has informed us that all electronics (including headphones and earbuds) must be completely out of sight or a discipline referral will be issued.



**Ideas to Ponder:**

"The man who does not read has no advantage over the man who cannot read."

— Mark Twain

"If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music he hears, however measured or far away."

— Henry David Thoreau

"Well done is better than well said."

— Benjamin Franklin

"Some people could look at a mud puddle and see an ocean with ships."

— Zora Neale Hurston