



10th STEM Advanced Composition Course Syllabus Fall 2019



Harrison High School

Mission Statement:

Helping **Our Youth Achieve** by

Providing

Real-world

Instruction through

Diverse

Education

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Web Site: www.kmcauthor.com

Materials and Daily Assignments can be accessed on my web site (there is a link to my site on the school web site).

Parents and Students:

The easiest way to contact me is via my e-mail. I always respond as quickly as possible to parents and students who contact me. If you feel that I have not responded quickly enough to your request, please feel free to repeat your e-mail. **ALL EMAILS RECEIVED WITHOUT A SUBJECT ARE DELETED.**

Per the Georgia Standards of Excellence, Advanced Composition students will do the following:

- study literary and informational texts for meaning, implication, and development.
- 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 and advanced elements in a variety of texts**.
- write to reflect their ability to **synthesize texts and ideas effectively**, employing the structure, evidence, and rhetoric necessary in the composition of effective, analytical texts.
- construct **research papers** of significant length 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.
- recognize nuances of meaning imparted by **mode of presentation**, whether it is live drama, spoken word, digital media, film, dance, or fine art.
- 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.

Additionally, this course is designed specifically for the STEM student and will focus primarily on the development of reading and composition skills that will assist students in the successful completion of their STEM projects.

***All school policies outlined in the HHS Handbook are enforced in this classroom at all times.**

BOOKS AND MATERIALS

Required Materials (Due by Wednesday, August 7, 2019):

- *The Craft of Research, Fourth Edition*: Each student is required to purchase a copy of this text at the beginning of the semester. This book is available at most major retailers. Students will have an assignment that requires this text on the first Monday of the semester.
- Every student must have a BOUND (NOT spiral or 3-ring) journal or diary that he or she will keep all semester. This journal will be checked and graded every week. Students will use the diaries to record research actions, thoughts, tables, diagrams, data collection, and other artifacts and details of their journey through their research process. This journal is a required part of the science project.
- Students might find it helpful to have a personal copy of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th Edition* (APA handbook). This is the documentation and essay format that is used throughout their entire STEM curriculum and all of their research projects will be required to follow the documentation guidelines in this handbook.

Parallel and School-Provided Novels and Texts:

Students will read the following novels, either in whole or in part:

- o *Alas, Babylon* by Pat Frank
- o *Atlas Shrugged* by Ayn Rand
- o Non-fiction texts from a variety of magazines, scholarly journals, and newspapers.

Because STEM projects often focus on solving problems that individuals in society face, these texts were selected based on their relevance to society, the human experience, the difficulties that societies face, and the interaction of individuals and groups within society. At this grade level, most texts explore a variety of mature themes and subjects and may include mature language. Parents are encouraged to research these titles and direct any questions concerning their content to the classroom teacher. In the case of parental objection to a text, an alternate text will be provided. Cobb County requires English teachers to obtain approval for readings not included in the school's adopted textbook. Please review this list and sign the attached Acknowledgement and Approval Form.

Online Support Materials

Classroom Handouts: Many classroom handouts can be downloaded from the Google shared drive!

Grammar, usage, and mechanics and Standardized Test Preparation: SAT Online program (available at <http://www.satonlinecourseschool.com>); USA Testprep (available at www.usatestprep.com). Additional resources are available on my web site.

Turnitin.com: All major writing assignments must be submitted to Turnitin.com BEFORE they will be graded.

NOTE on items designated as a match: As long as your matching text is in quotation marks and *properly documented*, the match is not a problem. Teachers *expect* to see that you have *properly* referenced an appropriate amount of scholarly support in your writing.

NOTICE: Failure to submit your essay for plagiarism checking will result in a grade of 30% recorded for ALL grades associated with the essay until the essay is submitted.

TurnItIn.com

You are required to use TurnItIn.com for the majority of your written assignments. Here is how to access our class:

1. Go to www.turnitin.com.
2. **If you have an account already**, log in.
 - a. Click "Enroll in a Class."
 - b. Use the section code and enrollment password below.
3. **If you are creating an account**, in the top right corner of the screen, you'll see "Create Account." Click there.
 - a. Under "Create a New Account," click "Student."
 - b. Enter the section code and enrollment password below, then complete your personal information. **You must use an email address.**
 - c. Click "I Agree."
4. Enter your class section code and enrollment password:

3rd Period: Class ID: **21639729**

Enrollment Key: 3englishfa19

To Submit a Document to TurnItIn.com

1. Log in.
2. Find our class and click on it.
3. Find the assignment and click "Submit."
4. Give your submission a title, then **choose a file from your computer documents**. If your file is on a flash drive, insert the flash drive first, then click "Choose from this computer" and find your flash drive. **DO NOT COPY/PASTE YOUR TEXT!**
You MUST submit written work as a Microsoft Word document, a Google doc, or a text file. If you try to submit a type of document that Turnitin cannot check, the document will NOT submit.
5. Click "Upload."
6. Review your submission and click "Confirm."
7. You'll receive a "digital receipt" via email. Keep this! If you do not receive a digital receipt, your document did not submit. You must try again. Make sure you are submitting the correct type of document. Try a different Web browser. If neither of these suggestions help, contact your teacher.

To Contribute to a Discussion on TurnItIn.com

1. Log in.
2. Find our class and click on it.
3. Click "Discussions" and find the correct discussion topic, then click on that topic.
4. Click "Reply to this topic."
5. Enter your comment, PROOFREAD, then click "Submit Reply to Topic."

Supplies. Students will *always* need, and *are responsible for having*, the following items on a daily basis:

- writing utensils: blue or black ink pens ONLY (no pretty colors), pencils, and erasers (white erasers work really well)
- markers, highlighters, and/or colored pencils
- loose-leaf white notebook paper (NOT paper ripped out of a spiral notebook)
- 3 ring binder (suggested divisions: Course Info, Reading, Vocabulary, Writing, Language)
- textbooks/novels (as appropriate – check the blog to see what you need to bring to class each day)
- (Strongly recommended) NON-Google email account, USB drive (available in the Hole in the Wall)

GRADES will be determined on the following percentages:

- Reading, Formative: 10%
- Reading, Summative: 20%
- Writing, Formative: 10%
- Writing, Summative 20%
- Language, Speaking, Listening: 10%
- Vocabulary: 10%
- Journals: 5%
- Final Exam: 15%

⇒ *In the unlikely event of a discrepancy on a student's grade, students **MUST** produce the graded assignment for any possible grade changes. **Keep all your work!***

Grade Reporting:

Grades will be reported through **StudentVUE/ParentVUE**. An app for this system allows parents and students access to grades through many smart phones and tablets. Parents are encouraged to check student grades on a regular basis. Grades are updated regularly. Parents can receive information about account access in the Main Office.

NOTE: When the grade place is first created, the name of the item will appear in the gradebook, but the item will not affect the student's average until a grade has been entered. The space will remain blank until the assignment has been graded and grades have been entered. **If a grade of zero is entered, it means that grades for that assignment have been entered and the student DID NOT HAND IN the assignment.** If a student is absent, he/she **MUST** make up the missed work within 3 school days. Work not made up will be assigned a grade of zero until it is made up (or permanently, if the task is not completed in a timely manner).

Grade Remediation and Standards-based Grading:

By the end of the course, students are expected to demonstrate their ability to perform actions specified by the Georgia Department of Education. These expectations are written in the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards for the

course. Each classroom assignment is associated with one or more of these performance standards. The teacher will determine how well the student has mastered each of the standards associated with the assignment.

NOTE: Assignments will be graded based on the **quality and accuracy** of the student's performance of each standard. **Completion grades are not given.** Please understand that while hard work and long hours spent working on a task often result in a quality product, this is not always the case. Grades cannot be elevated based upon time and effort spent on the task. Grades are based solely on mastery of the standards. If students have questions about how they should complete tasks in order to demonstrate mastery, they are encouraged to ask the teacher.

It is possible that the same standard could be addressed more than once during the class. Typically, when this occurs, the later assignments assess the standard at a higher level of skill than the earlier assignments, requiring that the students acquire and demonstrate an increasingly complex level of skill as the course progresses. If a student demonstrates a higher level of skill later in the course for **the exact same standard** assessed earlier, the new grade can replace the earlier grade (since the student has obtained a higher level of skill). If a student wishes for a later grade to replace an earlier grade for this reason, the student must **detail the request in writing to the teacher.**

Some standards may be assessed only once on a summative assessment during the course. This provides the opportunity for students who can demonstrate mastery to avoid additional work on a skill they have already mastered. It also provides the opportunity for students who have NOT mastered the skill to receive additional instruction and the opportunity to attempt the demonstration of skill again (and improve the associated grade!).

It is strongly suggested that the student meet with the teacher **AFTER SCHOOL** to receive direction and feedback **before attempting grade remediation.** Completing an assessment twice in an inappropriate manner will NOT result in a higher grade. Doing it wrong twice isn't better; it's just MORE. If a student does not understand any portion of an assignment, meeting with the teacher will often clarify what must be done in order to receive a more satisfactory grade.

ASSIGNMENTS

Handing in Assignments: Unless specified otherwise, daily assignments should be handed in to the appropriate class-period basket on the table by the door. **Assignments should NEVER be emailed to the teacher.** Our school spam filter often blocks emails with attachments and we never see them. If you want to send an email to alert the teacher that you have handed in something in Turnitin.com, it is fine to do so, but please do NOT email the actual assignment to the teacher. She will view the assignment in Turnitin.com.

Major assignments will be collected individually – students will be called to bring assignments to the teacher. If students do not have major assignments on the due date, they will be asked to sign to indicate that they did not have the assignment. Failure to hand in assignments on time may affect the student's ability to remediate the grade for the standards assessed on the assignment. All major assignments, including essays, are expected to be handed in, typed and printed, at the beginning of class on the day they are due. Assignments may be handed in early to avoid problems and penalties (as well as to receive priority grading).

Late Assignments. Assignments should be handed in as specified by the teacher.

- **Daily** assignments and homework **may not be handed in after the due date.** Daily assignments will not be accepted after the answers have been discussed in class. The student will receive a grade of zero for these assignments.
- **Extra Credit** assignments **will not be accepted late for ANY reason.** Students are given plenty of time to complete assignments, which may be turned in at any time UP TO or ON the due date, NOT after. If a student is absent from school the day the assignment is due, he/she must arrange for the assignment to be handed in on the due date, even in his/her absence.
- **Major** assignments and summative work, such as the research paper and projects, will incur automatic loss of points if they are handed in after the due date (10% if turned in by 11:59 p.m. on the original due date; 30% if turned in any time during the two days following the due date, weekends included). If you're going to hand in an assignment anyway, why not hand it in on time and receive full credit for your work?

Multi-Media Assignments. Multi-media assignments should be handed in one or more of the following ways:

- through Turnitin.com,
- on a flash/USB drive,
- in a student's school directory,
- on a shared Google drive (when appropriate).

DO NOT EMAIL ASSIGNMENTS TO ME!

Essays. Essays must be submitted in electronic copy on Turnitin.com **AND** submitted in hard copy (printed on paper) to the teacher ON or BEFORE the due date.

Students are expected to appear in class with assignments in hand on the day they are due **OR BEFORE**. **Students may NOT print assignments in the classroom during the class period (before and after school printing is fine).** **Students may NOT leave the classroom to print assignments elsewhere. PLAN AHEAD.** If students do not have the assignments in their possession physically to hand to the teacher when their names are called, the assignments are late and appropriate penalties will be assessed. There are no surprise major assignments – students will have plenty of warning as to when assignments are due and are expected to plan accordingly. Assignments MAY always be handed in early.

Make-Up Assignments.

- If a student is absent, he/she should make every attempt to get and complete the assignment BEFORE RETURNING TO CLASS/WHILE ABSENT (check the assignments posted on the class web site and the Google drive).
- If the assignment materials are not available online, the student may collect the assignment on the day he/she returns to class.
- Students are allowed the same number of days they were absent to complete missing work. (For example, if a student misses class for two days, he/she has two days to turn in the missed work.)
- Assignments handed in beyond the allowed number of days after the student's return to school will be considered **Late** and credit will be reduced accordingly.
- **Students must have an EXCUSED ABSENCE in order to make up work.** The county policy will be strictly enforced. **Work missed due to an unexcused absence cannot be made up unless prior arrangements have been made with the administration.**
- **It is the STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY to obtain and submit missed work.** I post assignments on the class web site; you will need to check the blog for your makeup work. If any handouts were given on the day you were absent, they will be in the "extra handouts" basket in the classroom as well as on our Google drive (if possible). It is YOUR responsibility to retrieve handouts and borrow notes from a classmate.
- **Missed class time can greatly affect a student's progress. Some of the activities cannot be made up because they require a class. I will make every effort to fill in a student; however, it cannot make up for the group experience that will be missed.** Graded discussions cannot be made up and students who miss the discussion will receive NO CREDIT for the discussion.
- Tests and quizzes should be made up within 3 days of an absence.
- All assignments missed due to absence will be recorded as a zero until the assignment is turned in and graded.
- **Missing Long Term Assignments:** Students who miss a **previously announced project due date** are expected to turn in the assignment *on or before* the due date. (If you know you will be out on a due date, make sure you hand in assignments *before* you go!)
- **Students may stay AFTER school on most days to make up assignments.** Please check with me and make sure I will be here after school.

KEEP ALL OF YOUR RETURNED WORK!!!!

In the unlikely event of a discrepancy on a student's grade, students MUST produce the graded assignment for any possible grade changes. Keep all of your work!

EXTRA HELP

Students who are having difficulty are encouraged to stay AFTER school and meet with the teacher for individualized assistance. Please check with me and make sure I will be here after school on the day you wish to come. I am available after school on most days.

SCHOOL AND CLASSROOM POLICIES

Errands: Hall passes are provided for errands, but students are expected to **exercise courtesy in coming and going**. Students are not allowed to leave during important presentations/lectures. Students should leave the room only when absolutely necessary. **Excessive errands from the room may result in the withdrawal of the privilege.** Students must sign in and out on the appropriate clipboard by the door and take the hall pass with them. Students who fail to sign in and out will no longer be allowed to leave the room.

Food and Drink: Only WATER (clear, unflavored, unsweetened) is allowed in the classroom.

Homework: This is an incredibly busy semester with many tasks we must complete: read and analyze literature that traces the development of literature in Britain (focusing on representative selections, authors, and genres from each period), read several parallel texts, review grammar concepts, conduct outside research, write sample pieces reflective of various genres, and the list goes on. There is simply not enough time in 1.5 hours a day to complete all of this in class. Because of this,

students are responsible for completing tasks at home, using class meetings as a time to get instruction and assistance on the tasks they must complete. It is RARE that students will be able to report truthfully that they have no homework. Please check the blog for assignments.

Tutoring/Extended Learning: Many of the concepts and skills we will use in this class are concepts and skills that students already know, such as literary analysis and documentation. We will be working with those skills at a more advanced level and will not have time in class for extended review of the basic concepts. I am available to work with students upon request, and I would encourage my students to come see me if at all possible. Please check with me and make sure I will be here when you wish to come for assistance.

Cell Phone Policy

Students shall not use, display, or turn on cellular phones, video phones, or electronic devices during instruction time except when a teacher authorizes these devices for instructional purposes. The consequences for inappropriate cell phone use include detention, confiscation of device, and/or academic referral. Cell phones may be charged ONLY in the designated charge area. **Texting during instruction may result in confiscation of device and/or administrative referral.**

Students who ignore the class policies may be referred to an administrator for insubordination.

TARDINESS

Students are expected to be in school and in each class on time! Students who are tardy to class or school must report to the Attendance Office or the Freshman Office, as appropriate, for a tardy pass. Please note that the tardy bell indicates the END of the walking period; hence, if you are outside the classroom, you are tardy. **If you are tardy to school or class, disciplinary action will be taken.**

When the bell BEGINS ringing, that means the travel period is OVER. If you are still in the hall – even one foot – you are tardy to class.

THE SCHOOL DRESS CODE WILL BE ENFORCED IN THIS CLASSROOM AT ALL TIMES. Please be aware that disciplinary action based on a dress code violation will result in the revocation of the exam exemption privilege.

Classroom Expectations and Policies:

1. Be prepared to take notes. While my classes are frequently broken up into activities, discussions, lectures, presentations, assessments, etc., expect to take notes on a regular basis. *Never ask the question “do we need to know this?” and instead, assume that if we are discussing it in class, you will be assessed on it.
2. Do not ask, “Are you taking this for a grade?” The answer will be “Yes,” whether I intend to take a grade on the assignment or not. All assignments are carefully constructed to provide students with opportunities to develop skills and master standards. Whether or not the assignment will be graded should not determine whether or not the student takes advantage of the opportunity to develop mastery of the associated skill.
3. This is a course based on learning, not grades. If you do the work, and work to learn, the grades will come on their own.
4. **Please do not get up out of your seat if anyone (including the teacher) is addressing the whole class.**
5. **No student may leave the classroom in the first or last ten minutes of class.**
6. Students **are not** dismissed by the ringing of the bell, but directly by the teacher. **No student will be allowed to stand at the door awaiting the dismissal bell.**
7. Classroom behavior should demonstrate maturity, responsibility, and respect for yourself, your teacher and each other.
8. **Come to class fully prepared each day, ready to work, and ready to learn!**
9. **Have the highest expectations for yourself and plan to succeed.** “*Whether you think you can or think you can’t – you are right*” - - Henry Ford
10. **Participate in all class activities and always bring materials to class.** Students should limit topics of discussion to those relevant to class lessons and should actively participate in all class activities.
11. **Show respect for yourself and others.** My classroom is a learning environment, and we are a class community. Everyone needs to feel comfortable and encouraged within these four walls. I expect you to exhibit maturity and tolerance for the opinions of others at all times.
12. **Behave appropriately at all times.** After a warning is given for inappropriate behavior, the disciplinary action code will be followed: (1) Student/Teacher Conference, (2) Parent Contact, (3) Detention, (4) Administrative Referral
PLEASE NOTE: All detentions are served on **specific** dates set by your teacher. It is **YOUR** responsibility to make arrangements to be here for detentions. Failure to attend an assigned detention will result in a referral to an administrator.

13. Practice exemplary academic integrity & honesty.

Plagiarism and Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty of any sort will not be tolerated. Students cheating on assignments or tests will earn a zero and disciplinary action will be taken. Academic dishonesty consists of but is not limited to copying homework, cheating, plagiarism, and using films and Cliffs Notes (or a similar device) in place of reading the original works; we will use Turnitin.com as a safety net. I am certain all my students will rise to the challenge of providing insightful, intelligent, and original products for this course. To avoid plagiarism, seek help from your teacher or the writing center.

Plagiarism is the act of using another person's ideas and expressions in your writing without acknowledging the source. Repeating another's words, phrases or sentences without quotation marks and proper citation is one form of plagiarism. Restating another's "apt phrase," argument or idea without proper citation is also plagiarism as it indicates the work is your own rather than that of the original source (MLA and APA Handbooks).

Consequences for plagiarism include receiving an F (0 points) on the assignment and a disciplinary referral an administrator for disciplinary action. According to the Cobb County Code of Student Conduct, plagiarism is "copying of another person's words or the expression of an idea and representing it as one's own." Penalties for cheating and plagiarism will be assessed on ALL assignments: tests, quizzes, reports, homework, essays, projects, etc. All assignments given in this class are individual assignments unless otherwise explicitly stated in writing. Collaboration with peers on individual assignments is considered cheating.

***Keep in mind: Being a member of the National Honor Society is something to work toward. If you receive a referral for any reason, especially for cheating — at any time in your high school career — membership in this prestigious society will be jeopardized.*

After reading the above guidelines, please sign & return the attached sheet for a daily assignment grade. These policies are subject to change at any time. Students and parents will be notified of any significant changes.

These policies are to remain in the front of your class binder for the entire semester.

Honors 10th Advanced Composition Policies & Procedures Contract

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the policies & procedures, including the policy on cheating and plagiarism, for Honors 10th Advanced Composition, taught by Dr. Kimberly McCarter at Harrison High School.

Printed Student Name: _____ Class Period: _____

Student's Signature: _____

Student Email Address: _____

Parent's/Guardian's Printed Name: _____

Parent's/Guardian's Signature: _____

Parent's/Guardian's E-mail Address: _____

(If you check your e-mail often, please include your address. I have found that, because of our varying schedules, contact via e-mail is most successful.)

Additional Parent E-Mail Address: _____

Parallel Readings Acknowledgement & Approval

I have specifically read the portion discussing the planned texts for this semester. I acknowledge these selections and give approval for my child to participate in these class reading assignments. Please note questions or concerns below.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parents' Homework

Please visit my web site, www.kmcauthor.com and fill out the Parent/Guardian Information Form accessible from the About Me & Contact drop-down selections. Students will receive an extra credit opportunity if both the student AND a parent/guardian fill out the information within the first two weeks of the semester.