



British Literature

Course Syllabus Fall 2024



Harrison High School

Mission Statement:

Helping **Our Youth Achieve** by

Providing

Real-world

Instruction through

Diverse

Education

Email: Kimberly.McCarter@cobbk12.org

Office Hours: I am available to meet with individual students or small groups of students before and after school.

Web Site: www.kmcauthor.com

Google Drive: [Click here to access the Google drive](#)

Contact:

The easiest way to contact me is via 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.**

BRING YOUR LAPTOP TO CLASS WITH YOU EVERY DAY – MOST ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE COMPLETED ELECTRONICALLY.

Per the [Georgia Standards of Excellence, British Literature/Composition](#) students will do the following:

- study the **development of British literature** in conjunction with historical 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 characters and advanced elements of plot** such as frame narratives and parallel storylines.
- 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 **college-ready 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.

***All school policies outlined in the HHS and Cobb County Handbooks are enforced in this classroom at all times.** Always be courteous; remember that everyone in the classroom has something valuable to contribute to your education.

REQUIRED DAILY SUPPLIES

1. LAPTOPS (EVERY DAY!) and charging cords (as needed)
2. Pen with blue or black ink (ONLY!), pencil
3. College-ruled loose-leaf notebook paper (NOT torn out of a spiral notebook-NO FRINGE, PLEASE!!!)
4. Highlighters in a variety of colors
5. Hand sanitizer and anti-bacterial wipes (and masks if you are ill) – please!!! ☺

TEXTS

- *SpringBoard English Language Arts: English IV*. The textbook is available in electronic format. Students will be provided with the specific pages associated with assignments as they are needed. Students will access these pages within the assignments in CTLS.
- *Prentice Hall Literature: The British Tradition*. This text will be used in the classroom to provide access to many of the classic British texts that we will read and discuss. Many of these texts are also provided in PDF format on the Google drive (with a link in the associated assignments in CTLS), and all of the classic texts are also readily available on the Internet.
- The [Lit Analysis Essay Guide](#) and the [Argument Essay Guide](#). These texts contain critical information concerning components of successful essays, step-by-step guides for writing essays, and MLA formatting criteria with step-by-step directions.

Parallel and School-Provided Novels and Texts:

Students will read the following novels, either in whole or in part. Many texts will be provided only in electronic format. It would be VERY beneficial to students to have their own copies of *Othello* and *Brave New World*. Both are available on Amazon (identification numbers are provided so you get the correct version of the text – if you get a different version, lines and page numbers will not be consistent with the classroom text).

- o *Othello* by William Shakespeare (Signet Classic version: ASIN B000PW4CB6) [+aldous+huxley&qid=1605817821&sprefix=brave+n](#)
- o *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley (978-0-06-085052-4): https://www.amazon.com/Brave-New-World-Aldous-Huxley/dp/0060850523/ref=sr_1_2?crd=3RQU2OLU2FIRF&dchild=1&keywords=brave+new+world+by [ew+world%2Caps%2C158&sr=8-2&pldnSite=1](#)
- o *The Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer
- o A variety of student-choice texts
- o Non-fiction texts from a variety of magazines, scholarly journals, and newspapers.

These texts were selected based on their relevance to Britain, the English language, and/or the human experience. 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 complete the online *Acknowledgement & Approval* that is part of the [Parent Information Form](#).

GRADES will be determined on the following percentages:

- Reading, Formative: 15%
- Reading, Summative: 20%
- Writing, Formative: 15%
- Writing, Summative 20%
- Vocabulary/Language, Formative: 10%
- Language, Summative: 10%
- Final Exam: 10%

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.** 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). Assignments handed in after correct responses have been discussed in class will not receive credit.

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 [Georgia Standards of Excellence 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 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.

WHERE ARE MY ASSIGNMENTS?

Assignments can be found in several places:

- On the board in the classroom.
- The weekly agenda is posted every Monday morning on the Class Board in CTLS. Assignments are generally connected to the coursework specified in the agenda. All assignments AND the materials required to complete the assignments are posted in CTLS. For information on how to locate specific assignments within the CTLS classroom, look at the [Guidelines for the Classroom](#) presentation in the main Google drive.

Handing in Assignments: Unless specified otherwise, assignments should be handed in as specified in the assignment directions. Usually, assignments will be handed in via CTLS or Turnitin. While a few (very few) assignments may be handed in to the basket in the classroom, essays **MUST** be handed in to Turnitin for plagiarism checking. **Assignments should NOT be emailed to the teacher unless the teacher specifically requests it.** 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, it is fine to do so, but please do NOT email the actual assignment to the teacher. She will view the assignment online.

Please note that the actual assignment file should be uploaded to CTLS or Turnitin (as specified in the directions). DO NOT submit a link to a file that exists on One Drive or Google drive or some other external web site. **The teacher will NOT click on a link to access your work.**

Please note that all assignments are due by 11:59 PM on the due date. All assignments are date and time-stamped when they are handed in electronically. Points may be deducted for late assignments. Failure to hand in assignments on time may affect the student's ability to remediate the grade for the standards assessed on the assignment. Assignments may be handed in early to avoid problems and penalties.

ALL essays should be typed in MLA format as specified in the Essay Guides.

TurnItIn.com

You are required to hand in many written assignments to 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. 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 provided in the Announcements of your CTLS class.
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 as found in the Announcements in CTLS, then complete your personal information. **You must use an email address.**
 - c. Click "I Agree."

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.

NOTICE: Essays not submitted to Turnitin WILL NOT BE GRADED. Do NOT send me your paper some other method and expect for it to be graded. It will not be graded.

VERY IMPORTANT TURNITIN INFO:

Once you think your work has submitted, log out of Turnitin. Then, log back in and go back to the assignment and see if it is there. If you don't see your paper, it DID NOT SUBMIT. You should try again, perhaps from a different browser, making sure your work is in a format that Turnitin accepts (Word document, Google doc, text file).

Failure to hand in an essay for plagiarism checking via Turnitin will result in a grade of 30% for all grades associated with the essay.

Please note that it is YOUR responsibility to verify that your work has submitted. If it did not submit, you may receive deductions from your grade for late work.

LATE AND MAKEUP ASSIGNMENTS

Check the gradebook frequently. If you notice a zero, that means you have not handed in the assignment and it is past due. To find the directions to make up the assignment, look at the name of the assignment. Assignments are put into the gradebook bearing Unit, Lesson, and Assignment information that labels the assignment on the Class Board and in the CTLS classroom coursework. Therefore, if you see an assignment that begins U2L3A1, you should go to Unit 2 (U2), Lesson 3 (L3), Assignment 1 (A1). All of the directions and materials you will need to complete and hand in the assignment will be available to you right there.

ALL ASSIGNMENTS MAY BE HANDED IN EARLY. Turning assignments in early is a great way to avoid losing points if the assignment is accidentally late.

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% to 25% for each day it is late, depending on the assignment).** If you're going to hand in an assignment anyway, why not hand it in on time and receive full credit for your work?

Make-Up Assignments.

- 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.** This 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 student's administrator.**
- **It is the STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY to obtain and submit missed work.** All assignments are posted on the Class Board in CTLS and should be completed and handed in in a timely manner. Assignments will be most beneficial to the student if they are completed in the order in which they are assigned.
- **Students should NEVER need to ask the teacher what the class did while they were absent – ASSIGNMENTS ARE POSTED ON THE CLASS BOARD IN CTLS.**
- **Complete assignments WHILE you are absent.** If at all possible, please complete assignments while you are absent. All assignments and materials are available online. If you complete the assignments while you are absent, you should not be behind when you return to the classroom.
- If a student hands in an assignment after the due date, he or she **MUST** email the teacher to advise the teacher the assignment has been handed in or the assignment **WILL NOT BE GRADED.** The teacher receives NO notification that assignments have been handed in, so if an assignment is handed in after the work for the class has been graded, **the teacher will never see the work that has been handed in late unless you email her that it is there.** If you want credit for a late assignment, it is up to you to tell the teacher via email that it has been handed in.
- **Missed class time can greatly affect a student's progress. Some of the activities cannot be made up because they require a class (discussions and such). I will make every effort to fill in a student on what was missed; however, no explanation can make up for the group experience that was missed.** Graded discussions cannot be made up and students who miss the discussion will receive NO CREDIT for the discussion.
- 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 school on a **previously-announced essay or project due date** are **STILL** 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!)

WHERE ARE THE HANDOUTS, PRESENTATIONS, and VIDEOS?

Handouts are available to you in a variety of places and formats. You may need to know the name of the file you are looking for. This name is generally provided in the assignment directions in CTLS or as a direct link to the file in the assignment directions or on the Class Board agenda.

- In the classroom, some handouts are provided in paper copy, but most assignments are provided in electronic copy on the Google drive (links are often provided in the assignments and on the weekly agenda). If you want to see a presentation or video that was used in class, follow the directions below for accessing them.
- If you are getting your assignments from the weekly agenda and a link is not provided, you will need to go to the Google drive to find the handouts, presentations, and videos. To get to the Google drive, go to www.kmcauthor.com and select **Files on Google Drive** from the **Class Materials** drop-down list. Then, select your class, and it will take you directly to the Google drive for your class. Most items are arranged in folders according to what you are looking for.
- The **Essay Guide (Literary Analysis and/or Argument)** is the backbone for the writing instruction in this class and is one of the most frequently used items in this class. It can be found in several locations:
 - In the Resources for the class in CTLS,
 - In the Google drive (in the main directory AND in the appropriate Writing sub-folder folder).

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. Students needing to take an errand must fill out an errand pass and present it to the teacher to sign. Students **MUST** return the errand pass to the teacher when they return to class. ***Excessive errands or failure to return the pass may result in the withdrawal of the privilege.*** Students are encouraged to visit the restroom between classes to reduce time away from instruction. Please plan ahead. There are no errands allowed during the first or last 10 minutes of class.

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 Class Board 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 MLA 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 before and after school, and I would encourage my students to meet with me by scheduling a conference.

Cell Phone Policy

CCSD 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. ***Texting during instruction may result in confiscation of device and/or administrative referral.*** If you have a charging cord, you may charge your phone by plugging it in to any of the multiple power strips provided in the classroom. Please **DO NOT** plug anything into a wall outlet.

TARDINESS

Students are expected to be in each class on time! Tardies will be marked in the school attendance system and school consequences for tardiness will be enforced. The tardy bell indicates that travel time between classes is over (just like your alarm clock indicates that sleep time is over). If you are in the hall when the tardy bell *BEGINS* ringing, you are tardy to class and will be asked to get a tardy pass.

THE SCHOOL DRESS CODE WILL BE ENFORCED. Please dress appropriately for class.

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

Classroom Expectations:

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 that particular 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. **The associated skill WILL be graded in an upcoming assignment, usually a heavily weighted assignment. Doing the classwork to practice the skill will assist you in getting a better grade on the associated major assignment.**
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. Classroom behavior should demonstrate maturity, responsibility, and respect for yourself, your teacher, and each other.

5. **Come to class fully prepared each day, ready to work, and ready to learn!**
6. **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
7. **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.
8. **Be polite to ANYONE who is speaking to the class** by staying *in your seat* until they are finished. Do NOT get up to go to the trash, restroom, phone charger, etcetera when someone is speaking to the class.
9. **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 the class environment. I expect you to exhibit maturity and tolerance for the opinions of others at all times.
10. **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) Administrative Referral.
11. **Practice exemplary academic integrity & honesty. THIS IS A BIG DEAL. Please review the policy which follows concerning Plagiarism and Academic Honesty.**

PLEASE FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THIS DESCRIPTION OF PLAGIARISM.

Cheating and plagiarism are not tolerated and will result in a discipline referral. All assignments, unless specifically noted differently, are INDIVIDUAL assignments, where any collaboration with peers will be considered cheating. Henceforth, no further explicit written or verbal warning regarding plagiarism or cheating will need to be expressed about any assignment, as ALL assignments will be graded based on this policy. Those who provide the work as well as those who copy the work are considered to be cheating.

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 9 Handbook). Consequences for plagiarism include receiving an F (0 points) on the assignment and a referral to the administrators for disciplinary action. According to the Cobb County Code of Student Conduct, plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, tests, quizzes, reports, classwork, homework, and essays.

If a student’s work contains material suspected to have been generated by artificial intelligence, the student will be required to show proof of process. If the student is unable to prove their process through means of rough drafts, dated version controls such as [Google Draftback](#), writing conferences, etc., the work will be deemed plagiarism and receive the consequences stated above. Additionally with regard to AI, College Board states, “Students are categorically prohibited from using any and all Artificial Intelligence tools (e.g. ChatGPT or DALL-E) or essay writing services (e.g. Chegg or Course Hero) to guide, brainstorm, draft, or create student work related to any AP assessment, including written projects and performance tasks.”

Students will submit most work to Turnitin, an online plagiarism detector that identifies the similarity between students’ assignments and other writings or published work. Once students submit their work, Turnitin will make a comparison between the submission and other sources including Internet documents, Internet data, previously submitted assignments, journal registries, and publications. Then, Turnitin will create a “Similarity index,” which indicates the percentage of matching between the submitted paper and other sources; an “Originality report,” which demonstrates all these matches in detail, including the sources found; and an Artificial Intelligence probability check which alerts the instructor to suspected use of AI. Turnitin also stores all submitted work within the Turnitin database for future cross-checking in order to preclude a student from using past students’ work.

STUDENTS: Once you have read this syllabus thoroughly, please acknowledge receipt of the classroom guidelines and expectations:

1. Use the [link provided in CTLS](#).
– OR –
Go to the class web site (www.kmcauthor.com).
2. From the **About Me & Contact** drop-down menu, select **Student/Parent Information Forms**.
3. Use the appropriate link to fill out the [Student Information Form](#).

PARENTS: Once you have read this syllabus thoroughly, please complete this assignment to acknowledge receipt of the classroom guidelines and expectations:

1. Go to the class web site (www.kmcauthor.com).
2. From the **About Me & Contact** drop-down menu, select **Student/Parent Information Forms**.
3. Use the appropriate link to fill out the [Parent Information Form](#).

This is the first class assignment and an easy grade to earn 100% on (50% for each form).