



British Literature

Course Syllabus Fall 2021



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

Contact:

The easiest way to contact me is via e-mail or Remind message. 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, 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.

TEXTS

- *SpringBoard English Language Arts: English IV*. The textbook, which includes audio recordings for most selections along with activities, is available online in the Resources section of the virtual classroom in CTLS. Students will also receive a printed copy of this textbook. Selected pages may also be provided in pdf format for specific assignments.
- *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 and all of the classic texts are also readily available on the Internet.
- *Your Essay Guide: What Your Teacher Expects*. This text contains critical information concerning components of successful essays, a step-by-step guide for writing an essay, and MLA formatting criteria with step-by-step directions. Details about accessing this text can be found in the HANDOUTS, PRESENTATIONS, AND VIDEOS section of this document.

Parallel and School-Provided Novels and Texts:

Students will read the following novels, either in whole or in part. While the shorter texts will be provided in printed format, the longer texts will be available 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)
- o *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley (978-0-06-085052-4)
- o *The Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer
- o British texts selected by student
- 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, accompanied by paper handouts that explain the assignment.
- The assignments are posted on the blog on the class web site. To get to the blog, go to www.kmcauthor.com and select your class from the Assignments drop-down menu.

Handing in Assignments: Unless specified otherwise, assignments should be handed in as specified in the assignment directions. Usually, assignments will be handed in via Turnitin. During this pandemic, I would prefer that even students who attend face-to-face instruction hand in daily assignments electronically, but if this is not possible, they may be handed in in the classroom. However, essays **MUST** be handed in electronically, no matter where students are attending class.

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 all assignments are due by 11:59 PM on the due date. All assignments are date and time-stamped when they are handed in to Turnitin. Points will 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 (as well as to receive priority grading).

ALL papers should be typed in MLA format as specified by the Essay Guide.

TurnItIn.com

You are required to use TurnItIn.com for the majority of your written assignments. 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 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, as found in the Announcements in CTLS.

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).

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 date and title of the assignment. The due date will help you find the information on the blog (but keep in mind that assignments are often due a day or two after they are assigned, so you will need to look a day or two before the due date to find the assignment).

A better means of locating the assignment is to 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 blog and in the classroom. 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 you will need to complete 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 in on the blog and should be completed and handed in in order.
- If a student hands in an assignment to Turnitin 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. 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; 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.
- 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 will need to know the name of the file you are looking for. This name is provided in the assignment directions on the web site.

- In the classroom, handouts are provided in paper copy. 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 blog, 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** 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 paper copy in the classroom, and
 - In the Google drive (in the main directory AND in the Writing folder). The Essay Guide is available as ONE file as well as broken into three parts (roughly 1/3 each, breaking where it made the most sense) to provide faster downloads. I have also provide a separate PDF file of JUST the Index (to make it easier for you to find the information you need). Please note that while I have provided a separate file of just the Index, the Index IS included in the PDF of the full essay guide AND in the file that contains the last third of the Essay Guide.

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. Students are encouraged to visit the restroom immediately before class to reduce time away from instruction. Please plan ahead. You may come directly to class, drop off your belongings, and run to

the restroom. If you are not here when the bell rings but your materials are present, I will know you have gone to the restroom, and that is fine – as long as you are back in a reasonable amount of time, you will not be considered tardy.

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 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, and I would encourage my students 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.**

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 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 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. 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. **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.
9. **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.
10. **Practice exemplary academic integrity & honesty. THIS IS A BIG DEAL. Please review the policy which follows concerning Plagiarism and Academic Honesty.**

Plagiarism and Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty of any sort will not be tolerated. 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 or assignments 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 Handbook). Copying, giving, or receiving any work that is done by someone else is plagiarism.

*ALL assignments, including vocabulary, unless specifically noted differently in writing, are **INDIVIDUAL** assignments. Collaboration with peers on individual assignments is considered cheating. According to the Cobb County Code of Student Conduct, plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, tests, quizzes, reports, homework, term paper, and thesis writing. Penalties for cheating and plagiarism will be assessed on ALL assignments: tests, quizzes, reports, homework, essays, projects, etc.*

*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.*

Consequences for plagiarism include receiving an F (0 points) on the assignment, parent notification, and a report to an administrator for disciplinary action. Administration will also conference with the student to review academic integrity; thus, the conference and the infraction will be documented on the student's discipline record. Each time the student violates the Honor Code, the infraction is added to their discipline record. Membership in all Honor Societies requires that candidates for admission (and members) be "students in good standing." Therefore, a violation of the Honor Code may lead to a student not meeting qualifications for membership – or being dismissed from membership – from honor societies and/or leadership positions of clubs and organization.

STUDENTS: 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 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).