**Wheeler High School**

**Semester**: Spring 2019

**Dates**: January, 7-May 22, 2019

**Meeting Days**: Monday-Friday

**Phone**: 770-578-3266 ext: 147

**E-mail**: [amy.mueller@cobbk12.org](mailto:amy.mueller@cobbk12.org)

**Blog:** [www.amuellerwheeler.weebly.com](http://www.amuellerwheeler.weebly.com)

**Tutoring:** Before or after school, by appointment only

**9th Literature**

**Teachers: Miss Mueller, Susan Geraghty**

# COURSE DESCRIPTION

The 9th grade literature and composition class is one that covers a variety of authors, genres, activities, and skills. This course is very reading and writing intensive, as well as focused in the areas of grammar and mechanics. This course *does* include an End-Of-Course-exam (EOC) which is given by the state at the end of the semester.

## Class Assessment Weight Cobb County Grading Scale

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Language/Vocabulary, Speaking, and Listening | 10% |  | **A** | **90-100** |
| Reading Formative  *Unit quizzes/comprehension questions/unit activities/reading logs*  Reading Summative  *Unit tests* | 10%  25% |  | **B** | **80-89** |
| Writing Formative  *draft completion/small writing assignments*  Writing Summative  *Embedded Assessments/projects* | 10%  25% |  | **C** | **74-79** |
|  |  |  | **D** | **70-73** |
| EOC  *End of Course test-state mandated* | 20% |  | **F** | **69 and below** |

## 

## Course Textbook

## *SpringBoard® 9th Literature* is the required text for the course. The text is divided into 5 units. Each unit is comprised of 2 Embedded Assessments or writing tasks. Each unit is introduced by unpacking the Embedded Assessment so that students are aware of the task to come. Each reading and activity within the unit is designed to gradually prepare students to complete the Embedded Assessment that counts as an exam grade (writing summative).

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Additional texts and excerpts of texts are embedded in the *Springboard* text or may be added as appropriate for the selected unit.

## Course Units are organized in the following manner:

Unit 1: Coming of Age

Unit 2: Defining Style

Unit 3: Coming of Age in Changing Times (includes novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee)

Unit 4: Exploring Poetic Voices

Unit 5: Coming of Age on Stage (includes play *Romeo & Juliet* by William Shakespeare)

## Course Progress

9th Literature is reading and writing intensive. It is imperative that students complete each assignment in a timely manner. Revision is critical to the writing process. Revisions will be allowed throughout the semester for writing assignments and reading logs. One test correction will be allowed per test/quiz. Extra credit, however, is not offered in this course. Assignments will be outlined in this syllabus packet as well as on the class blog: [www.amuellerwheeler.weebly.com](http://www.amuellerwheeler.weebly.com). The class blog can also be accessed via the Wheeler High School website under the *Faculty* tab in the *Teacher Blogs & e-mail* section.

## Synergy®

The best way to keep up with current averages, missing assignments, attendance, etc. is through **SYNERGY**. Each student has access to this information. Students who do not have this information should contact the counseling office. Parents can set up a **Synergy** account by emailing [Judy.Collins@cobbk12.org](mailto:Judy.Collins@cobbk12.org) to request access. It is highly recommended that you keep all graded assignments, at least until the end of the semester. An incorrect grade cannot be changed without evidence that it is indeed incorrect.

## Course Technology Component

The completion of several projects throughout the semester will be required. It is expected that students will work to complete assignments both inside and outside of class. All projects will require access to technology. If you do not have technology at home, computer lab access can be arranged before and after school. Ask Mrs. Wernstrom for more information.

***Clever.com*** will be our online learning platform for 9th Literature & *Springboard*. Details for logging in to Clever will be posted on Miss Mueller's blog and distributed in class ASAP.

## Student Accountability

Students are expected to adhere to the daily agenda, participate in class and complete all assignments given in class and for homework. Revisions are offered to each student. Test corrections are offered to each student. Students will receive a wheelerhigh.com e-mail address that will give them access to *Office 365.* This feature will allow students to store and organize assignments in one space and continue working on assignments whether at home or school.

Every assignment quiz, or test submitted for a grade must have an MLA Style heading in the *upper left hand corner*. This heading includes name, date, name of course and block number. **Papers that bear no name will be discarded.** Writing must be in blue or black ink and must be legible. **Papers that are illegible will be returned.** A grade of zero will be entered into the Gradebook until the assignment is made legible.

**Example of MLA Style heading**:

Student Name Benjamin Franklin

Teacher Name Miss Mueller

Class 9th Literature

Date 4 July 1776

**Cheating** is a serious matter. **Plagiarism** or any representation of another's work as your own is cheating. Plagiarism will result in a zero on the assignment. If it occurs a second time, it will result in a second 0 and a disciplinary referral.(I will follow and enforce the school policies outlined in the handbook to address any cases of cheating.)

## Make-Up Work

It is the responsibility of the student to make up the work missed from an absence. Students are required to check the “Absent Bin” each and every time they are absent. Consulting with Miss Mueller about missed work is also advised. It is the student’s responsibility to get with Miss Mueller BEFORE he or she knows they will be absent.

## Tutoring

Miss Mueller is available before school every Wednesday morning from 7:45-8:15 am. Additional hours are available by appointment only. In addition, Learning Links, a school wide tutoring service, takes place every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:45-5:00 pm in the Wheeler Cafeteria. Additionally, the English Department and the Freshmen Focus Department will also host tutorials this semester. Information is posted throughout the Freshman Focus wing of the building.

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# REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS: *due by Monday, January 14th, 2019*

* Springboard® Grade 9 Literature Textbook: *provided*
* 1 3-ring binder (1"-1 ½")
* 1 set of divider tabs
* 1 pack of loose leaf notebook paper
* 3 different colored highlighters
* 1 pack of multicolored Post-It Notes
* Optional:1 container of tissues or hand sanitizer – help me keep our class germ free!

# INDEPENDENT READING

Students will practice independent reading, Monday through Friday for 10-15 minutes of class. Students will also be responsible for reading independently outside of school. Students will need to complete a minimum of 2 Independent Reading projects during the semester. We will visit the school library periodically throughout the semester to check out books and learn how the library can aid 9th Literature students in successful completion of the course.

\* Independent Reading Projects are TBD and will be assigned by Miss Mueller. Details will be found on the class blog.

## Hall Passes

Students will receive 8 hall passes *per quarter.* Students should make bathroom visits prior to entering the classroom. **Students will only be allowed to use their hall passes during independent work time**. Once a student uses all 8 passes, they will not be allowed to leave the classroom unless it is an absolute emergency.

## Student Code of Conduct

Agreement #1: Be Impeccable With Your Word\*

Agreement #2: Don’t Take Anything Personally\*

Agreement #3: Don’t Make Assumptions\*

Agreement #4: Always Do Your Best\*

Agreement #5: Never Argue Foolishness

\*Adapted from *The Four Agreements* by Don Miguel Ruiz

## Classroom Behavior Management Cycle

Incident 1 = warning

Incident 2 = potential move to a new seat/student-teacher conference

Incident 3 = call home

Incident 4 = written referral/removal from classroom

An incident-free learning environment is the expectation. *All serious infractions will result in the student being referred to an administrator immediately.*

## Non-Negotiables

* No food or drinks allowed in class (*except bottled water*)
* Keep your hands and feet to yourself
* Cell phone use or visibility is prohibited unless allowed by the Mrs. Wernstrom
* Backtalk and/or degrading language is prohibited

## Cell Phone Policy

Cell phones are recognized as useful tools for both communication and coursework when used *at appropriate times*. Students are expected to keep their cell phones a) in their backpack or b) in a designated area in the classroom during instructional time. Exceptions to this will be designated by the instructor as appropriate. Students violating this policy will follow the Classroom Behavior Management Cycle.

***If a student refuses to put cell phone away (book bag or phone jail) after initial warnings, parent will be contacted and discipline referral will be issued.***

# ATTENDANCE INCENTIVE POLICY (AIP)

A student may exempt one final exam per semester and all AP class final exams if the following criteria are met. Teachers keep all records on tardies, absences, and grades.

a. Students must be enrolled within the first 3 days of the semester to qualify.

b. Students may exempt if they meet the following grade AND attendance requirements:

90% or above, no more than 3 absences

80-89%, no more than 2 absences

74-79%, no more than 1 absences

70-73%, no absences

c. Students may exempt any AP class final if they register for the AP Exam AND meet the grade and attendance requirement. If student exempts in the fall and fails to take the AP Exam they may not qualify for exemption in the future.

d. Student may NOT exempt End of Course Tests even if they meet the AIP criteria. They MAY exempt the assessment given

on exam day.

e. An assignment to ISS, OSS or Admin Detention voids the exemption for the semester of the incident.

f. Any cheating incident voids the exemption for the semester of the incident.

g. Please refer to the attendance policies regarding full day absences, early dismissals, and late arrivals/tardies.

h. Approved school field trips, recognized religious holidays, two approved official college visits and approved Senior Project

mentor visits (signed off form), do not count against the AIP exemption.

# TARDY POLICY

Any student not in class at the time the tardy bell rings will be marked tardy. To be excused for being tardy to school a student must present a doctor's or dentist's official appointment verification, a note regarding student illness, or a document for a court ordered appearance at the time the student signs in at the attendance office.

**Tardies** due to missing the bus, traffic, oversleeping, car trouble, etc. are **unexcused**. If the student does not have a written, confirmable note from a parent or guardian, the tardy will be considered unexcused. Students will be marked as excused or unexcused tardy according to the previous stated absence policy. Any student arriving to school after 8:35 must report directly to the attendance office. At the end of every 9 weeks, student tardy counts will be reset to zero. All attendance verification correspondence must be submitted to the Wheeler Attendance Office. Continual tardiness will result in disciplinary action. The consequences for **unexcused tardies** will be the following:

5- Administrative Detention

8 - 1 days of ISS

11- 2 days of ISS

14- 3 days of ISS

17- 2 days of OSS

20, 23, 26 etc – 2 days of OSS

## Contact Information

Please feel free to contact me with any concerns. A text message via the REMIND app or e-mail at [amy.mueller@cobbk12.org](mailto:amy.mueller@cobbk12.org). This is the best method of contact. Please allow 24 hours for a response.

**REMIND CODE:**

**Text: @b8f2fk to 81010**

# STUDENT CONTACT FORM MUELLER SPRING 2019

## Parent Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Block:

## Parent Agreement

* I have read the attached syllabus.
* I understand the information presented in the syllabus.
* Please contact me via e-mail regarding my student at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

e-mail address

* Please contact me via phone at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

phone number

## Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# MEDIA PERMISSION FORM

**During the semester, we may watch the following:**

*The Cask of Amontillado*

Selected Scenes from Tim Burton’s2005 *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*

Selected Scenes from Tim Burton’s 1990 *Edward Scissorhands*

Selected scenes from the Zeffirelli's 1968 *Romeo and Juliet*

Selected scenes from Lurman's 1996 *Romeo and Juliet*

Unit related and school appropriate *You Tube* clips for students with auditory and visual learning modalities.

If you DO NOT want your child to watch any of the aforementioned films or clips, please contact Miss Mueller directly.

**\*For Teacher Use Only *beyond this point***

## Contact Date Communication

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