

Lee County High School

Class Syllabus 2020-2021

Course: American Literature and Composition
Text: Elements of Literature, Fifth Course

**Instructors: Deborah Howell, Jason Millsapp,
Angie Teal, and Sue Youngblood**

Replacement Cost: \$63.00

Novels covered in class have a replacement cost of \$10.00

I. Course Description/ Educational Philosophy

This course implements the Georgia Standards of Excellence for American Literature and Composition (link to standards: <https://www.georgiastandards.org/Georgia-Standards/Frameworks/ELA-11-12-American-Literature-Standards.pdf>)

and is designed to give juniors a strong foundation of skills necessary for a successful life. Emphasis is placed on improving student comprehension, grammar, writing, and vocabulary. The course is taught in thematic or genre-focused units with emphasis on enhancing critical reading skills and using evidence from texts, both informational and fictional, in expository and persuasive writing. Literary terms and techniques are identified and analyzed in works of literature in a variety of differentiated student-focused activities. Writing skills and techniques are studied and then developed by students writing all year on a variety of topics and using a variety of styles. Instruction is student focused with assignments that incorporate written and oral reports, project-based learning, individual and collaborative work, presentations of projects created, peer evaluation of work, and peer tutorials. At the end of second semester, students may be required to take a final exam which will assess the level at which they have mastered the skills of the course. For best probability of success, students should come to class well rested and prepared every day with the required materials to learn. Students are expected to listen, participate, be respectful, and obey classroom and school rules.

II. Course Goals/ Objectives

1. Students will improve their reading levels through in-class and outside readings.
2. Students will improve their vocabulary skills through the close reading of challenging texts.
3. Students will improve writing proficiency by emphasizing appropriate research and writing processes.
4. Students will gain an understanding of the importance of literature through an introduction to a variety of influential American authors and literary selections as well as skills to comprehend, analyze, and synthesize information from a variety of genres.
5. Students will learn that literature is a reflection of life by studying universal themes and archetypal patterns.
6. Students will develop critical thinking, organizing, and communicating skills.
7. Students will utilize technology (such as Chromebooks, desktop computers, and any number of applications, programs and online resources) appropriately to enhance learning.

III. Major Assessments and Works

Major works that will be studied include *The Crucible*, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, an American Literature choice novel, and *The Great Gatsby*. Major assessments will include tests, writing assignments, and projects, all designed to prepare students for 12th-grade English, college, and careers. All starting dates and due dates for these assignments will be clearly indicated to students.

* The Lee County Board of Education requires me to note that, according to the American Library Association, these works have been challenged in the past because of their language and content. These works are part of the course curriculum because they are universally recognized classics—without which any educated American's reading career would be incomplete and lacking. They are widely read by high school and middle grade students throughout the United States, they appear regularly on the suggested reading lists of numerous prestigious universities, they serve as traditional representatives of their respective literary periods, and they are listed often as choices for analysis on Georgia's High School Graduation Test and End-of-Course Tests. Alternate assignments of literary merit will be provided upon written request from parents or guardians.

** Text subject to change based on the continuing development of the curriculum and availability of resources.

*** Some units will also involve films that enhance instruction and engagement. By signing the agreement statement you are agreeing to allow your child to watch these educational/literary films and participate in the required activities that accompany them.

IV. Assessment Plan

Student achievement will be evaluated in various ways. Typical tests and quizzes will be given to assess skills, knowledge, and understanding, with major tests always including discussion questions and open-ended questions. Writings, presentations, and projects will be assessed using holistic rubrics with pre-set criteria. General homework and class work will be checked randomly for effort and completion. Pop quizzes may be given on reading assignments. Numerical grades will be determined on a point/category system with major tests, writing assignments, and projects having the highest values. For each semester, the two nine-week grades will make up 80% of the semester grade with the semester exam accounting for the other 20%. Students may be eligible to exempt the semester exam based on their semester average and attendance requirements as outlined in the student handbook.

Late work policy: In an effort to encourage students to turn in assignments in a timely manner, late work will only be accepted up to one week past the due date. Points will be deducted for assignments turned in late.

For each nine weeks' grading period: Formative Assessments (daily assignments, homework, quizzes, etc.) will be 50% and Summative Assessments (major essays, tests, etc.) will be 50% of the student's average.

V. Course Requirements:

1. **Students will be responsible for coming to class prepared. This includes having assigned books, 3-ring binder (with notes/handouts), paper, dividers, pen (blue or black), outside reading materials, assignments and projects.**
2. **Students are required to follow all classroom rules and adhere strictly to the Lee County High School Handbook.***
3. Students will be responsible for some reading and writing outside of class time. It is expected that all homework will be completed on time.
4. Students will create and maintain several online accounts for class assignments and will be responsible for recording and being able to access their personal usernames and passwords for those accounts. Not being able to access an assignment because of lost passwords could result in zero grades for assignments that cannot be completed.
5. Students will complete a major assessment at least three times during each nine weeks. Students will be given advance notice with appropriate time to complete the assessment. Smaller assessments, tests, and quizzes may be given as appropriate. Pop quizzes and notebook checks may be given without notice. If an assignment requires turnitin.com submission, it will not be graded until it is submitted and points will be deducted for submitting late. It is the student's responsibility to listen to and read all instructions in order to be aware of these deadlines.
6. Students are required to complete projects in a timely manner. Students will be given specific directions and ample time for completing their projects.

Note: Some projects and assignments are computer or Internet based. Students must have a signed Acceptable Use Policy on file in the Media Center. Blank copies are available from the Media Center. It is important that each student have one on file as soon as possible.

VI. Consequences for Disruptive/ Irresponsible Behavior:

- 1st Offense: Verbal Warning
- 2nd Offense: 1 Day of Detention and/or Parent Contact
- 3rd Offense: 2 days of Detention and/or Parent Contact
- 4th Offense: Office Referral

Keep in mind that discipline problems listed in the handbook will be dealt with in the manner outlined in the student's handbook.

Tardy Policy*

1-2 tardies Warning	7th tardy Discipline referral-2 days ISS
3rd tardy Lunch Detention	8th tardy Discipline referral-2 days ISS
4th tardy Lunch Detention/Parent contact	9+ tardies Discipline referral-administration discretion
5th tardy Discipline referral-Before/After School Detentions-Parent contact	
6th tardy Discipline referral- Sat. School-loss of good standing(pg. 32 student handbook)	

Note to Parents:

You can access the gradebook through Parent Portal. Please check it on a regular basis. Your child's teacher also offers a Remind messaging service that sends texts or email reminders of upcoming work to students and parents.