**Hillgrove High School**

**English Department**

**Fall 2019**

**COURSE TITLE:** Honors World Literature and Composition **BLOG:** https://katiecurran.weebly.com/

**TEACHERS:** Ms. Katie Curran with Ms. Theresa Cowart (3rd Block) **REMIND CODE:** Text@curran9 to 810-10

**EMAIL**: katherine.curran@cobbk12.org; theresa.cowart@cobbk12.org

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

9th Grade Literature and Composition focuses on a study of literary genres including the short story, novel, poetry, drama, and nonfiction. Students will continue their development of vocabulary and apply effective reading strategies to a wide variety of literary and informational texts. They will work to establish effective writing habits and refine their language skills as they apply to listening, thinking, and speaking. Students will practice the writing process and produce works that include literary analysis, argument, and research examples. Assignments, activities, and assessments will provide practice toward mastery of 9th Grade Georgia Standards of Excellence, as well as preparation for Hillgrove Senior Project. Students will take the Georgia Milestone Test.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Each student will work toward meeting the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards outlined for 9th grade on the Cobb County School District curriculum website. Everything you do in this class, whether written assignments, group assignments, oral presentations, etc. will focus on meeting a standard.

**GRADING WEIGHTS:**

Reading Literature/Informational Text 25%

Writing 25%

Speaking and Listening 15%

Language 15%

Georgia Milestone (EOC) 20%

**MATERIALS NEEDED**:

* 3 ring binder and dividers
* notebook paper
* pencils/pens/highlighters
* assigned reading materials
* access to internet, USA Test Prep & google drive (gmail or gmail compatible address)

**MAJORTEXTS/READINGS:**

* Springboard 9th Grade Literature Workbook
* *Bronx Masquerade* by Nikki Grimes
* *Romeo and Juliet* by WilliamShakespeare (No Fear Version & Graphic Novel class sets)
* Choices for Independent Reading

\*Additional readings may be assigned including other fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and print selections

\*\*Students are required to purchase *Bronx Masquerade* by Nikki Grimes in either hard copy or electronic copy. E-readers (such as a Kindle, Nook or iPad) are an acceptable format for classroom use; however, **cell phones and iPods are not.**

**Film(s):** Beyond the print texts for this course, we will also consider and “read” portions and/or the entirety of several films*. A variety of other short film clips will be used to teach critical analysis as well.*

**\*NOTE\*:** If a parent/guardian has a concern with any text or other material for the course, please contact me **in advance** so we can discuss an alternate assignment for your student.

**PARTICIPATION:** **ALL** students are expected to actively and thoughtfully contribute to class discussions. Student involvement in the learning activities of the course is **expected** daily from every student. This includes attention to and participation in written and oral exercises, class discussion, being prepared for class, classwork and homework.

**EXTRA HELP:** English tutoring is available after school on Tuesday and Thursday each week.We are personally available by appointment most days before school and can make arrangements to meet after school. If a student would like additional help simply reach out and we will schedule a meeting.

**ATTENDANCE AND MAKE-UP POLICY:** A student who is present and actively participates is more likely to be successful; however, if a student is absent, he/she has the number of days absent plus one day to make up assigned work. Work not made up in this timeframe is considered late and could receive a zero. Making up any assignments and handing it in following an absence is the student’s responsibility. See Hillgrove High School Student Handbook for further policies regarding make-up work. If you are present at school during any part of the day an assignment is due, even if you have missed English, you must bring the assignment to the teacher to avoid a late grade penalty.

**LATE WORK POLICY:** Work turned in after the assigned date will receive a 10% grade deduction for that assignment. Late work must be submitted before the end of the six week grading period in which it was assigned. Late work may not be accepted depending on the severity of lateness/type of assignment/etc. Work is due when the teacher calls for it.

**TARDY POLICY:** When students are late to class they are missing valuable instruction. Being prompt is a skill that can be groomed and should be exercised daily. It shows respect for both the individual and those with whom you associate. Bottom line: BE ON TIME! Please consult student handbook for details on the Hillgrove High School tardy policy.

**USA TEST PREP (due Friday by 8 AM):** This is a weekly online assignment that will help students prepare for the 9th Grade Literature and Composition EOC. Each assignment will be available for 7 days. Students may complete assignments as many times as necessary to achieve the desired grade however these tasks may not be made up once the time window has expired. USA Test Prep assignments will become available on Friday and be due the following Friday by 8 AM.

**REMIND:** This is a site that allows for direct communication between teacher and student. Students must sign up to receive reminders of important deadlines via email or text message. Parents may choose to sign up as well.

**To receive text messages:** Text @curran9 to 81010 (if 81010 does not work, send to 704-271-1506).

**To receive emails**: visit the following link https://www.remind.com/join/curran9 and follow instructions for sign up.

**DRILL POLICY** (this pertains to all school emergency drills): Students are expected to follow drill procedures exactly. Procedures will be thoroughly reviewed before any drill takes place and each drill will be treated as if it were real. Students who do not follow drill procedures put themselves, classmates, and teachers at risk and will receive consequences.

**CLASS EXPECTATIONS:** My expectations are high for my students. REGULAR ATTENDANCE IS IMPERATIVE; class discussions and lessons are group activities and not easily replicated. Students cannot benefit and learn to their potential if they are consistently absent. These are some guidelines for our classrooms which will be thoroughly discussed in class:

* Be respectful to one another.
* Be prepared.
* Be ready and willing to learn.
* Bring ALL materials to class every day. This includes relevant text, notebook, and writing tools. Failure to do so hinders your ability to participate in class, which affects your work and consequently, your grade.
* Dead time will be observed. Do not ask to go anywhere during the first 15 minutes or the last 15 minutes of class. This is a school-wide policy.

**Cell Phone Policy (this includes all personal technology devices)**

* Cell phone volume should be on vibrate/silent throughout the class period to avoid distractions.
* Students must obtain teacher permission to use their cell phones (apps, texts, calls)
* Students may have opportunities to listen to music during independent study times, but must have individual earphones. Students are not allowed to share music devices with other students.
* If cell phone usage causes a distraction to either its owner or others in the class, the teacher maintains the right to first warn and then write an administrative discipline referral for insubordination per Hillgrove High School policy.

**CONSEQUENCES\* for not adhering to Class Expectations**:

1st - Verbal Warning

2nd - Removal from Distraction and/or Parent Contact

3rd - Parent Contact and/or Detention

4th – Detention or Administrative Referral (with Parent Contact)

**\* Teacher reserves the right to move directly 3rd or 4th consequences if behavior is severe**

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

*Cheating is considered a serious matter. The parents of a student who has been involved in cheating will be notified and the student will receive a grade of zero for the test and U in conduct.*

For this course, cheating is defined as, but is not limited to, the following acts:

* Copying anyone’s answers to questions, exercises (including vocabulary), study guides, class work, or homework assignments
* Plagiarism: It 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 Handbook). Plagiarism is not limited to an amount of material that needs citation. It may be seen as a lack of citation for ONE sentence, one paragraph and/or an entire paper.
* Looking onto another student’s paper during a test or quiz.
* Having available any study notes or other test aids during a test or quiz without the teacher's permission.
* Collaborating on assignments when independent work is expected.
* Using cell phones, iPods, or other electronic device to send test answers or information to other students.
* Having a parent, guardian, family member, or friend complete research or assignments for you.
* Sharing correct or incorrect answers from any assignment (quiz, test, homework, etc.) without the teacher’s permission.

\*Consequences for violating the academic integrity policy can range from a zero on the assignment (or larger project if applicable) to disciplinary action with the teacher or administrator. Please refer to the Hillgrove High School student handbook for further information.

**HILLGROVE HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH DEPARTMENT Fall 2019**

**SYLLABUS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**TEACHER:** Ms. Katie Curran

**COURSE:** 9th Literature and Composition

**Parents, please check the boxes to the left indicating your agreement to the following:**

* **I have reviewed the class syllabus and understand the grading policy.**
* **I understand the academic integrity policy.**
* **I understand that Remind is mandatory for students but not for parents.**
* **I give my child permission to view movies/videos/film clips related to the curriculum.**
* **I understand that my child is responsible for his/her Springboard workbook and that the replacement fee for this workbook is $83.**
* **I understand that USA Test Prep assignments CANNOT be submitted late for credit. NO EXCEPTIONS.**
* **I am willing to be contacted by email, phone, and regular mail regarding my student’s progress.**
* **I have a Parent Vue account and can access the Synergy parent feature to check my child's progress.**
* **My child has access to a computer with internet access and a printer.**
* **I understand that teachers will make every effort to post grades within two weeks upon receipt of student work. However, posting of grades for larger assessments/tasks may take longer than two weeks.**

(Print) Student Name

Student Signature

(Print) Parent Name

Parent Signature

Parent cell phone number(s)

Parent e-mail(s)

Is there anything you would like to tell me about your student? Please leave comments here:

**RETURN THIS FORM WITH BOTH SIGNATURES BY Friday, August 9, 2019.**

**Please feel free to contact the teacher if you have any additional questions or concerns.**