**NINTH GRADE LITERATURE & COMPOSITION A**

**Fall 2014**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Joye Swanson (Server)

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**WEBSITE:**[serverenglish.weebly.com](http://serverenglish.weebly.com/)

\*The website provides a TENTATIVE course schedule and due dates for homework. I will attempt to update the website regularly with the most current assignments and due dates. The website also includes various resources for the students and a copy of this syllabus.

**INFINITE CAMPUS: Infinite Campus is the course grade book with the most up-to-date grades.**

\*Please consistently check Infinite Campus to stay current on your student’s progress, and if you do not have parent access to Infinite Campus, please contact the guidance office by calling 770-460-3540; it is imperative that you do so.

**TEXTBOOKS:** *The Language of Literature –*Grade 9 *- $65.00,* (McDougal Littell)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This class guides ninth-grade students to develop, to utilize, and to integrate their skills in writing, grammar and usage, literature, vocabulary, speaking and listening, media skills, and critical thinking. The literature course covers writing persuasive, descriptive and expository papers and includes reading novels, short stories, poetry, drama, and research.

**STANDARDS:**

**-ELACC9-10RL1:** Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the

text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text

**- ELACC9-10RL6:** Analyze a particular point of view or cultural experience reflected in a work

of literature from outside the United States, drawing on a wide reading of world literature.

**-ELACC9-10W1:** Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence

**-ELACC9-10W4**: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

**-ELACC9-10SL1:** Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions(one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grades 9-10topics, texts, and issues, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively

**-ELACC9-10L1:** Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.ELACC9-10L4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grades 9–10 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

**SUPPLIES:** To be successful in this class, students need to bring these materials to class:

\*A three-ring binder \*Tab dividers for eight sections

\*Pencils & Pens (black or blue ink only) \*Paper

\*Colored Pencils/Markers \*Your assigned reading materials (trade books)

\*Highlighters \*College Ruled Notebook Paper

\*School agenda

**EVALUATION:** Students will earn grades by completing all the assignments during a specific time span. The weighing of all assignments for this semester will be as follows:

**Homework = 10%**

**Quizzes = 20%**

**Tests/Projects = 40%**

**Research Paper = 10%**

**Final Exam = 20%**

**\*Note: A maximum of 10 points per day will automatically be deducted for each day FINAL research and/or major test/projects are turned in late.**

**\*The EOCT (End of Course Milestone ) will replace the final for the spring semester and count 20% towards the student’s**

**final grade.**

**Note to Parents:**

Because I teach approximately 120 students at a time, it is virtually impossible for me to contact each student’s parents as often as I would like. If you feel the need to meet with me for any reason or you just want to touch base and have not heard from me, please email me at **swanson.joye@mail.fcboe.org** ,and I will contact you as soon as I can. I also have a website that is meant to aid you as the parents and students this year. It is [**http://serverenglish.weebly.com**](http://serverenglish.weebly.com)**/.** I thank you in advance for your assistance, and I look forward to working with you during this semester!

**Procedures:**

1. If you turn in an assignment the day after it’s due, it is ***late*** and will be taken for up to half credit only. However, if we go over an assignment’s answers in class, you may ***not*** turn it in late. Turning in work after one day late is ***unacceptable***  and will result in a zero***.*** Budget your time and plan your assignment due dates accordingly.

2. All work will be submitted the day it is due at the beginning of the period.

3. Students are expected to be prompt, prepared, polite, and productive during class time.

*\*\*Any cheating or plagiarism on work that you turn in will result in a zero and your parents will be notified.*

**\*\* Plagiarism** Plagiarism is using the ideas or words of **any** other person as if they were your own, whether that person is your friend or a published writer. It doesn’t matter whether you copy from a neighbor or from a book; if the words or ideas are ***not your own***, then you have plagiarized. If you copy out of a book, magazine, encyclopedia, or other source (i.e. internet) without proper documentation (end notes and bibliography), you are plagiarizing. Cheating during a test, homework, or classwork, whether you copy from a friend’s paper, use work for a previous teacher, or your own “cheat sheet is also plagiarism”. The penalty for ***any form*** of plagiarism, including cheating, is a ***zero***. If you have any questions at all, please ask.

**\*\* Cheating** is defined as any of the following: turning in work you have previously completed for another teacher, talking at all during a testing period, using “cheat sheets,” or looking onto another’s work.

**Tardies & Absences:** If you are tardy, you must sign the tardy log. I will be following the guidelines on tardiness and absenteeism as designated by the Fayette County School System. However, each student will be given two emergency passes that they may use for tardies, use of the restroom, or extra credit on their final exam or final test. After these passes are used, students will start receiving disciplinary action.

**Excused Absences:** Assignments and tests missed during your absence may be made up within five days of your return to school. Any assignments or test that you are aware of that is due on a day you are absent must be made up or turned in on the day of your return.

**Unexcused Absences:**  Work that you miss cannot be made up if you have unexcused absence.

**BYOT:** BYOT is an acronym for “Bring Your Own Technology” and is a program that allows students to bring their own technology devices to be used at specific times during the day to support learning. Examples of BYOT devices are: laptops, eBook readers, iPads, Smartphones, etc. All technology usage in the classroom will be left up to the teacher’s discretion. Please refer the to WHS Student Handbook for more understanding.

**Extra Help:** Please plan on making up quizzes/tests or seeking extra help before school.

**Make-Up Work:** Please refer to the FCHS Student Handbook for the policies regarding attendance and associated make-up work.

**IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ANY MAKE UP WORK AND TESTS.**

**Civility Statement:** This class will offer many opportunities for discussion and debate and student participation is encouraged. Please keep in mind, however, that members of our school system are expected to display mutual respect, civility, and orderly conduct in an effort to maintain a safe, harassment free learning environment for our students and teachers. It is not intended to deprive any person of his or her right to freedom of expression. Examples of behavior that would hinder a tone of civility would include excessive use of profanity, becoming physically intimidating to others, and making statements that degrade another person based on their gender, their race, their socioeconomic circumstance, their religion, their sexual orientation or your perception of it.

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**We have CAREFULLY READ and FULLY UNDERSTAND the course outline for 9th Grade American Literature and Composition this semester at Fayette County High School. Furthermore, by signing this syllabus, I understand that email is the best way to contact me, that Infinite Campus is the best way to stay current on my child’s success and that I have a website available for parent and student access.**

**1. (If you do not mind answering the question) do you have internet in your house, and does your child have access to it?**

**Circle one: yes no**

**2. Do you as a parent/guardian frequently check your email? Circle one: yes no**

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**Student’s name Parent’s signature Date**

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**Student’s signature Parent email address Home or cell number**