

## 12<sup>th</sup> Grade British Literature

**Course Description** - This course is designed to meet and exceed state-mandated Georgia Performance Standards for Language Arts.

**Course Goals** - Students will

- read, discuss, and respond to a variety of poetry, short stories, dramas, novels, and non-fiction which reflect the many themes and genres of British Literature.
- develop an understanding of the relationship that exists between British history/culture/society and its literature.
- identify common themes and symbols found within literature of differing cultures.
- increase their vocabulary through directed assignments.
- communicate ideas clearly and appropriately in a variety of verbal and non-verbal modes for a variety of purposes and audiences.
- demonstrate proper grammar, usage, and mechanics skills in written and spoken English.
- read for meaning, for pleasure, and as a means of discovery about themselves and others.

**Texts** - *Elements of Literature* - British Literature textbook; McDougal Littel British Literature textbook  
Novels – To Be Announced

<b>Materials</b> - (required)	(not required but nice to have)
three ring notebook	white out
college ruled white notebook paper (without frayed ends)	colored pencils/markers
pens and pencils	scissors
highlighter pen	construction paper

**Grading** – Grading will be based on a point system. For example, the daily journal assignment will be worth a minimum of ten points. Homework assignments are worth anywhere from 25 to 100 points. Vocabulary quizzes are worth 100 points. Tests, projects, and similar assignments are worth 100+ points, depending on the material covered. The final examination is worth 15% of the possible points earned for the eighteen weeks. Remember that grading is now consecutive throughout the semester. Please keep this in mind as the semester runs its 18-week course.

**Class Expectations** - All rules and policies found in the student handbook will be enforced. Please make special note of the tardy to class policy and the academic dishonesty policy. In addition:

- Students are expected to meet the expectations outlined under the Work Ethic (WE) section of the syllabus.
- Students are expected to be in their seats and working on the first activity when the tardy bell rings. Classroom standards begin upon entering the room, not when the bell rings.
- All students must remain in their seats at all times during class unless instructed otherwise by the teacher. Some exceptions will be made and announced in class. If any student for any reason needs to leave the room or their desk, they must ask permission by raising their hand.
- Students should keep their belongings under their desks so that a clear, safe, accessible path exists between all desks.
- Students are not to touch any technical equipment or teacher's materials without permission. Please do not cross the "invisible line" that exists at the front of the room without permission.
- Students are not allowed to adjust the thermostat. The classroom will be cool; therefore, dress according to your comfort level. A place in my back closet will be available if you would like bring a jacket.
- Students are responsible for all work missed due to an absence. It is the absent student's responsibility to first check with a classmate for missed work. Assignments must be made up within **five days** of the

absence. Pre-assigned papers and projects should be turned in on the date of return. There are no exceptions to this. Missed tests and quizzes must be made up on the date of return or the grade will result in a zero. You will not have an additional five days to make up a test or quiz. Let me reiterate by saying that **YOU** are responsible for getting your missed assignments. If you do not come to me to get your assignments, I will assume that you do not intend to make up your work. Remember that you may only make up your work if your absence is **excused**. If your absence is unexcused, you will **not** be allowed to make up your missed work, tests, or quizzes given on the date of your absence. Please refer to the handbook if there are any further questions.

- Homework, class work, papers, and/or projects will **not** be accepted late. This is a departmental policy. Assignments are due when I am actively collecting papers. This means you may not turn assignments in five minutes after I have finished collecting them, at the end of class, or at the end of the day. If you are in the front office and miss class time due to a school related issue, you may receive make up time. A common example of this is if your printer suddenly does not work the night before an essay is due, you need to write it out by hand using the specifications listed below in the Manuscript Guidelines section.
- Do not ask for make up work during class time. This time is instructional time designated for the entire class. If you need make up work, please come by immediately after the 2:50 bell, preferably on tutoring days.
- All papers must be labeled with the following three-line heading in the upper right hand corner of the paper.
  - \*Name
  - \*Date
  - \*Assignment

**Papers turned in without a name will be discarded.** I will not waste time trying to decode handwriting to identify the responsible student.

- Extra credit assignments will be given throughout the semester as enrichment opportunities. Take advantage of them as they are offered; extra credit will not be given as what many students consider a last minute way to pass the class.
- Please pay special attention to the tardy policy in your student handbook. You have plenty of time to get to this classroom. You are expected to be working on the assignment on the board as the bell rings.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> tardy – one hour detention (written warning for 1<sup>st</sup> period only)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> tardy – two hour detention
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> tardy – two hour detention
  - 4<sup>th</sup> tardy – one day ISS and one week parking suspensionPlease refer to page 12 in your Student Handbook for the consequences of additional tardies.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Period Pledge of Allegiance – If you choose not to say the pledge of allegiance, be silent and do not move during the duration. Be respectful of those of us who feel honored to live in this great country and want to pledge our allegiance on a daily basis.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Period Moment of Silence – This is a time used for reflection. If you feel like you do not need reflection time, please be respectful for those of us who do. Do not shuffle papers, make audible sighs, talk, scoot your desk, or eat/smack your food or gum. You need to immediately stop what you're doing, and be silent. Some students in dire need of attention feel compelled to make some sort of noise during this time. It is unnecessary and quite immature.
- My classroom is not your locker. You may not store your notebook, random papers, and textbooks in my room. If these are found on the bookshelves, under the desks, or on the floor, they will be disposed of with no questions asked.

**Manuscript Guidelines** - Final drafts must meet the following guidelines or points will be deducted:

- must be written in blue or black ink or printed in black toner
- must be double spaced and written on only one side of the paper
- must display correct use of upper and lower case letters
- must have standard 1 inch margins
- must be legible and, if printed, be in a 12 point font, Times New Roman

**Work Ethic** - Ethics are the principles of appropriate conduct by which a group or profession directs and manages itself. A work ethic grade will be given quarterly and will be counted as a quiz grade. Any deviation from the standards will result in loss of points. For every offense listed below, you will lose the appointed amount of points per notice of behavior. For example, if I have to tell you stop talking three times within a class period, you will have 30 points deducted. This is not a petty way of making sure you behave. This point system is a way to prepare you for your future responsibilities in the work place. Most of these examples are common sense.

## Ways to Lose Work Ethic Points

### 10 Point Deduction

- \*Inefficient use of time/not on task
- \*Disturbing others/Excessive talking
- \*Complaining (see below)
- \*Roaming the room without permission
- \*Lack of necessary class materials
- \*Failure to clean work area
- \*Disrespect of others' property
- \*Using inappropriate language
- \*Talking while the teacher is talking
- \*Not being prepared to begin class when the tardy bell rings
- \*Leaving assignment papers on the floor
- \*Putting your head down during a video
- \*texting during class

### 100 Point Deduction

- \*Academic dishonesty will result in a zero for WE as well as for the assignment itself.
- \*Fighting and/or Bullying – Verbal or Non-verbal – this includes cussing

### **Discipline Consequences -**

- First infraction - warning **and** loss of WE points
- Second infraction – loss of WE points and parent/guardian contact
- Third infraction – parent/guardian contact, loss of WE points, administrative referral

NOTE: The teacher reserves the right to bypass consequences and send a student to the office immediately. Also, all consequences related to specific offenses outlined in the student handbook will be followed.

One issue I want to bring to your attention is over the last few years I have noticed a surge in students complaining about anything and everything. The definition of the verb “complain” is to express feelings of pain, dissatisfaction, or resentment. I simply will not tolerate complaining in my classroom. It is disrespectful to me, and it shows lack of character on your part. In my opinion, this boils down to a respect issue. Most of your assignments and projects have been created solely by me, not copied from a textbook or other ready made resource. I have tailor-made each assignment to bring you the most educational impact for your future, whether it be in the work force, in college, or in the military. While studying the varying time periods of British history and literature, we will do many hands on and real life assignments that connect with the 21<sup>st</sup> century, such as creating a business proposal and a marketable product connected with *Beowulf*, an Anglo-Saxon epic poem. Not only will verbal complaining not be tolerated, but non-verbal complaining will also not be tolerated. Examples of non-verbal complaining are rolling your eyes and other negative body language signals. You are seniors, and this is hopefully the end of the road for you here at JHS. I want you to take pride in your work and yourself and be ready to face the challenges that await you outside of these school walls. Good luck and I hope to see you in May in your cap and gown!





## Signature Sheet – Course Syllabus

Please sign this part of the syllabus as a record that you have received and read all that is expected during this course. This part of the syllabus needs to be returned to me for your child's file. One thing that I would like to bring to your attention is that I will be on maternity leave until Tuesday, September 8. Mrs. Beth Pendleton will be my substitute for the month of August. Please be patient with Mrs. Pendleton and myself during this period of adjustment. Parent portals for grades and attendance should be up and running the first week of school; however, since I will be on maternity leave for the first five weeks, my parent portal will be slower in being updated. If you have an immediate concern, please contact Mrs. Pendleton from 1:15 to 3:00 at 706-367-2881. You may also contact Mrs. Melissa Mullis, my co-teacher for 2<sup>nd</sup> period, with any questions or concerns at mmullis @jeffcityschools.org. I will also be checking my school e-mail periodically from home, so if you would like to e-mail me directly, you may do so at [mooak@jeffcityschools.org](mailto:mooak@jeffcityschools.org). This is the most efficient way to get in touch with me. I am looking forward to another wonderful year at JHS!

I have read and understand all of the supplies needed for the course, grading procedures, classroom expectations, and behavioral standards expected of my child in this class.

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Parent/Guardian Signature

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Date

I have read and understand all of the supplies needed for the course, grading procedures, classroom expectations, and behavioral standards expected of me in this class.

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Student's Signature

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Date