

Honors Literature and Composition I

9th Grade

Location: Room 523

Instructor: Ian James

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Course Description and Objectives

Honors Literature and Composition is an advanced study of various forms of literature focusing on both literary and informational texts. As an honors course, the material studied will be more complex requiring more time and rigorous study. Throughout the year, we will examine various categories of literature and the literary elements they employ. Honors Literature and Composition will continue to build on the reading and language curriculum established in middle school while adding a level of rigor and rhetorical analysis beyond that of the Ninth-Grade literature course. Throughout this year-long class, students will have opportunities to develop and expand their knowledge of literature, informational texts, writing, and language and demonstrate their mastery of new learning through performance tasks and assessments.

Course Outcomes and Goals

There are four basic components to the Freshman Literature and Composition course: literature, grammar, vocabulary, and composition.

I. Reading Skills and Literature:

The objective of the literature component is to encourage further interest in reading while introducing and refining the basic literary concepts. There will be short essay assignments or a comprehension test pertaining to the reading and we are expected to be ready to discuss the work in class on the assigned day. Your writing assignments will be geared toward bringing together all your learning in composition, grammar, vocabulary, spelling, and reading comprehension.

It is important that all reading assignments be completed and that they are submitted on time.

II. Grammar:

Fundamental grammatical concepts, including punctuation and word usage, will be reviewed throughout the year in conjunction with our writing.

III. Vocabulary:

Vocabulary words are taken from the assigned stories, novels, and plays to help us better understand the readings. These are commonly used words and most likely appear on the ACT, SAT, or AP exams that may be taken during your Junior or Senior years.

Vocabulary tests will be given regularly throughout the year.

IV. Writing:

The writing component is intended to introduce us to the basic skills of writing summaries, synopses, and different types of paragraphs and essays. The ultimate objective is to prepare us to write well-organized and thoughtful texts. Much of the writing that we produce in this course is designed to reinforce our reading. Since reading and writing stimulate and support one another, they are taught together.

Required Materials

A reliable internet connection

A three-ring binder or dedicated folder for this course

Ruled Paper

Pencils and/or Pens

Grading and Assessment

You will be evaluated on preparation, written assignments, projects, quizzes, and exams. Each will have varying degrees of value based on how important that assignment is in the context of the class. Each quarter's grade will be determined by a combination of all work completed up to that point. ***North Pointe does not accept course credit from other high school or online institutions for currently enrolled students.***

1. Grade Distribution and GPA

Evaluation	Percent of Total Grade
First Semester Grade	40%
Second Semester Grade	40%
Final Exam	20%

Honors Classes		
A	≥ 90%	4.5
B	≥ 80%	3.5
C	≥ 68%	2.5
D	≥ 58%	1.5
F	< 58%	0.0

Classroom Policies

1. Class Rules

- Be on time.
- Respect yourself and others.
- Be prepared.
- Do your best work.
- Maintain an environment for learning.
- Keep a positive attitude.
- Take responsibility.
- Dress appropriately.
- Use your time wisely.

2. Cellphone and Technology Use

Please refrain from any unauthorized usages of technology during our class sessions. In this usage, ‘unauthorized’ means unrelated to the tangible learning activity or activities taking place during the class period. Please put all hand-held electronic devices away. Computers and laptops are to be used for classroom activities only. Failure to abide by these guidelines may have a negative impact on a student’s participation grade. Repeat offenders may be seen as disruptive and face reprimands as outlined in the *Student Handbook*.

3. Late Assignments

Assignments will be considered late if they are not turned in by the end of the day that they are due and will be assigned the grade of 0. When the missing work is submitted, the student will receive 75% in place of the 0.

4. Missed Assignments

It is the responsibility of the student to complete any missing assignments or tests due to an excused absence. *A student has **TWO DAYS** for **EACH ABSENCE** to complete missed assignments.*

5. Tutoring

Tutoring in English composition will be available Mondays & Wednesdays from 2:35 pm to 3:30 pm.