

## 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE HONORS LANGUAGE ARTS

### Northview High School – 2014-2015

#### Texts:

- Literature. Prentice Hall  
Replacement Cost: \$95.00
- Supplementary novels \$20.00 each

#### Other Materials:

- Binder (three-ring) – Different instructors may require different methods of organization. Make sure to check with your instructor about how your binder should be organized.
- Pens (blue or black for class work, homework, and essays; red for self grading), pencil, highlighter, lots of notebook paper, index cards, post-it notes
- **2 dry-erase markers** (Your teacher will not loan these to you...)
- **A flashdrive** (at least 4GB). You can use this for all of your classes (not just Language Arts).

#### A Special Note Regarding Supplementary Novels:

It is encouraged, **but in no way required**, that students obtain personal copies of the novels that we will read this year. This is so that students can mark directly on the text (highlight, underline, make margin notes, etc.) and implement a variety of reading strategies.

“Marking text helps readers interact with the author’s message, hold their thinking, remember what they’ve read, have a purpose so they can better determine what is important in the text, and return to their reading to support written work and classroom discussions. Readers who mark text are more prepared to discuss connections they have to the reading, questions that arise from the reading, inferences or conclusions made while reading, interesting or confusing places found in the reading, writing that demonstrates literary points or establishes factual evidence in the reading.”

*-From I Read It, but I Don’t Get It  
Tovani ‘00*

\*\* Reading strategies that do not require marking the text will be modeled for students. The school will provide each student with a copy of every required text.

#### General Information

1. Email is the best way to contact 9<sup>th</sup> honors instructors. Please allow 24 hours for a response.
2. Students copy homework, quizzes, tests, projects, and important deadlines into their **agendas** on a daily basis. Please refer to the student agenda to check on upcoming assignments and assessments.
3. Homework: We generally assign formal written homework two or three times a week; however, students are expected to read (a novel) every night.
4. Independent Reading: Students will be expected to read two “college bound” books each semester. This college bound reading is in addition to the regular curriculum. Independent reading will be assessed regularly throughout the semester.
5. Teacher classroom libraries may be available for students to use. If a book from a classroom library is lost or damaged, it must be replaced either with its equivalent or at cost. If a parent is concerned about their child’s access to a classroom library, s/he is invited to preview the library or to ask their child not to use it.

#### Class Rules

1. **Be prepared.** This means that students arrive to class on time, have all necessary materials, and begin work quietly at their desk when the bell rings.
2. **Be respectful.** Students must show respect for people and property. Foul language, teasing, and interrupting of fellow classmates or the teacher will not be tolerated.
3. **Be positive.** A student’s attitude and behavior should always have a positive impact on the learning environment of this classroom.
4. All work must be typed or written in blue or black INK. All major assignments must be typed.  
**Technology malfunctions are not an acceptable excuse for late or missed assignments. Make it work.**

5. All materials (pens, highlighter, paper) must be brought to class daily. The teacher will not be responsible for work not completed due to student's failure to bring materials.
6. Students' notebooks must be kept specifically for this class and must be kept up-to-date, containing all completed work, including handouts and notes.
7. Students will be expected to take notes during class. Information delivered via lecture, discussion, or group activities will be included on quizzes and tests. The student is responsible for taking these notes and for obtaining notes missed due to absences.
8. All assignments will be accepted **ONLY** at the **beginning** of the class period. Students will not be allowed to return to lockers to obtain forgotten work.

**Absences/Make-up Work:** *It is the student's responsibility to complete all work within the prescribed time. Please refer to the Student/Parent Handbook.*

It is the student's responsibility to initiate make-up work, not the teacher's. Students will have the number of days absent to make up work (e.g. 2 days absent = 2 days to make up assignment).

**\*\*Assignments are also due at the beginning of the class period on the day they are due. *Homework and major assignments will be accepted late at the penalty of 15% to the final grade per day for three days. After the third day, assignments will be granted no more than 50%.***

Please note:

- Missed tests, quizzes, or presentations that were assigned before the student was absent will be due *the day* the student returns to school. Assignments that were not known will be due according to Fulton County policy - one day's grace for each day absent. Failure to make up the work according to these rules will result in a grade of zero.
- Failure to make up the work according to these rules will result in a grade of zero.
- The instructor will NOT remind the student of work (including papers or tests) that needs to be made up. **It is the sole responsibility of the student to ask for make-up work and to provide late or missing work to the instructor.**

**Tardy to Class:** Students are expected to be in their seats and prepared for class instruction when the bell rings! *Students not in their seats when the bell rings will be counted as tardy.* For each semester:

1st tardy	a written reprimand
2nd tardy	a written reprimand
3rd tardy	1 day private detention
4th tardy	1 day public detention
5th tardy	2 days public detention
6+ tardies	administrator assigned penalties

**Extra Credit Policy:** Extra credit opportunities will be offered periodically throughout the year and will be related to the current unit of study or may involve attending and writing responses to school plays. Each extra credit assignment will be assigned a value (for example, one homework grade or extra points on a test), and that value will be added in the appropriate grading category. No extra credit will be accepted within the last ten school days of a grading period. **Extra credit will be offered at the instructor's discretion.**

**Course Description:** In 2004 the Georgia Department of Education adopted new Georgia Performance Standards for grades 9-12. Consistent with state curriculum, the Fulton County Schools English language arts curriculum implementation aligns with state standards. The content standards for this course are clustered by strands: **Reading and Literature, Reading Across the Curriculum, Conventions, Writing, and Listening/Speaking/Viewing.** Ninth Grade Literature and Composition will continue to build on the reading and language curriculum established in middle school. Throughout this year-long course, students will have opportunities to develop and expand their knowledge of literature and language and demonstrate their mastery level of new learning through performance tasks and assessments. At the completion of this course, students will take the Ninth Grade End-of-Course Test required by state law. The Georgia Performance Standards for Language Arts may be found at <http://www.georgiastandards.org/english.aspx>. Click English/Language Arts, scroll to Grades 9-12, and choose the grade level. You may also reach the link through [www.northviewhigh.com](http://www.northviewhigh.com). Click Academics then Language Arts.

**Novels** and Drama will be chosen from the following Fulton County recommendations for ninth grade honors English:

*Fahrenheit 451*

*1984*

*Things Fall Apart*

*A Midsummer Night's Dream*

*Edith Hamilton's Mythology*

*Great Expectations*

*Speak*

*The Glass Castle*

*Into Thin Air*

*Animal Farm*

*Romeo and Juliet*

*The Old Man and the Sea*

*The Glass Menagerie*

*Today's Nonfiction*

*Odyssey*

*Freakonomics*

*Cold Sassy Tree*

*Stealing Buddha's Dinner*

Articles, poetry, musical lyrics, multimedia materials, additional text selections and contemporary novels may be added. **Your individual teacher will provide a list of the works to be read in your class.**

***\*The teacher reserves the right to alter the course of study and assignments as she deems necessary and beneficial to the students. If changes occur, students will be notified in advance during class. All Northview policies will be enforced within the classroom***

### **HONOR CODE:**

As explained in the student handbook, cheating is defined as "the giving or receiving, in any form, information relating to a gradable experience." Violations of the honor code will result in a zero for the assignment, plus an honor code violation form placed in the student's disciplinary file. Read the handbook carefully to fully understand what constitutes a violation.

**Northview HS English Department Plagiarism Statement:** Plagiarism is presenting another's words or ideas as though they are entirely one's own.

### **Plagiarism is an Honor Code Violation.**

Acts of plagiarism can include, but are not limited to:

1. using words or ideas from a published source or the internet without proper permission;
2. using the work of another student (e.g., copying another student's homework, composition, or project in entirety **or** in part;
3. using excessive editing suggestions of another student, teacher, parent, or paid author.

***Excessive editing note:*** Students learn to write well through practice and independent exploration of language manipulation. This effort, like any learning experience, often requires persistence and "perspiration." Well-meaning parents, siblings, tutors, and others who contribute their own ideas, words, phrases, and revisions to a student's writing, not only cause that student to miss the opportunity to achieve self-reliance, but also inhibit the student from presenting his own voice. Positive ways to help a student grow in his writing process include reading the paper or writing exercise and marking areas that need clarification, punctuation, elaboration, or more precise wording, allowing the student to figure out the error and correct it independently. Oftentimes having the student read the paper aloud will greatly help in error identification. Cues such as, "What exactly do you mean?" or "This sentence seems awkward" are also very appropriate.

Plagiarism on any project or paper at Northview High School will result in a zero for the assignment and an Honor Code violation. Unless directly stipulated by the teacher, collaboration on written work is not acceptable. Students who willingly provide other students with access to their coursework or homework are also in violation of the Honor Code.

### **Turnitin.com:**

All students are required to create an account for turnitin.com. Students must submit all major written assignments to this website in order for the assignment to be accepted. **Assignments will not be accepted if not turned in to turnitin.com.**

### **9<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors Language Arts Grading Scale**

40% Major Assessments (extensive formal papers, tests, projects, presentations at the end of a unit of study)

30% Minor Assessments (minor projects, writing assignments, etc, during a unit of study)

10% Homework/Classwork (includes participation)

20% Final Exam in fall/EOCT in spring

### **NORTHVIEW HIGH SCHOOL GRADING SCALE:**

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
F	below 70

### **Fulton County Policy – Provision for Improving Grades**

Opportunities designed to allow students to recover from a low or failing cumulative grade will be allowed when all work required to date has been completed and the student has demonstrated a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements including attendance.

Students should contact the teacher concerning recovery opportunities. Teachers are expected to establish a reasonable time period for recovery work to be completed during the semester. All recovery work must be directly related to course objectives and must be completed ten school days prior to the end of the semester.

Teachers will determine when and how students with extenuating circumstances may improve their grades.

### **Northview Recovery Procedure**

Opportunities for students to recover from a low/failing *cumulative* grade will be provided when all work required to date has been completed and the student has demonstrated a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements. *Students who have not attempted to complete all course requirements are not eligible for recovery.*

Students must contact the teacher concerning recovery opportunities at the time his/her grade falls below 74. Recovery work must be completed within ten school days prior to the end of the semester. The nature and type of recovery assignment is given at the discretion of the teacher.

**Policy on helping students outside of class:** 9<sup>th</sup> grade honors language arts teachers are available most mornings to help students from 7:45-8:30 with prior notice and scheduling. Speak to your teacher before or after class or contact by email to make an appointment.

### ***SPECIAL NOTE TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS***

*Please email us if you have any questions about the course and allow twenty-four hours for a response. The school sends out grade reports every six weeks. It is the student's responsibility to inform you of his or her grades. Individual student progress can also be tracked through **Home Access Center**. It is always beneficial when there is interest and encouragement at home in student activity and progress. Please refer to the **NORTHVIEW STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK** for important information regarding procedures, school policies, and reporting dates.*