

Course – ESOL Ninth Grade Literature and Composition

Teacher - Ms. Sara Tornincasa

Contact Information - stornincasa@cartersvilleschools.org

Information on Teacher - www.cartersvilleschools.org/CHS

Information for Course – <https://cartersville.schoolology.com> (students are provided with account login)

Room M105 (Main Building, downstairs)

Course Description –

Ninth Grade Literature and Composition is designed for students to grow as individuals equipped for lifelong learning by improving grammar and usage, strengthening writing and vocabulary, enhancing reading comprehension, and refining speaking and listening skills. In this course, students will study literature (both prose and poetry), grammar, vocabulary, research skills, and composition.

Learning Objectives-

*To familiarize the student with high school level literature and composition * To improve and strengthen writing skills and critical thinking skills

*To strengthen the use of grammar, mechanics, and vocabulary *To practice and develop formal speaking skills and listening skills

In order to achieve these learning objectives, course instruction is centered around essential standards.

Course Resources –

Electronic and print resources will be utilized as texts for this course. CHS has a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) policy allowing students to utilize their personal electronic devices in addition to school-provided technology to access classroom resources using the school's network at the discretion of the classroom teacher. Students must adhere to the school's electronic device policy, as outlined in the *CHS Student Handbook*, and classroom teacher's directives pertaining to technology. Class-required resources, including texts, handouts, audio recordings, and supplemental electronic resources are posted in the course Schoology profile.

Schedule of Units, Assignments, and Due Dates-

Source materials will be incorporated into units of study. Ongoing modes of assessment are included in each unit to ensure that students are progressing towards mastery of the unit objectives. Students will receive notification of all summative assessments at least three days in advance.

This year our class will be reading The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros and The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie. These works/novels have been approved by the district and support the curriculum. If you wish for your student to have an alternate assignment, please contact me at stornincasa@cartersvilleschools.org.

Method of Evaluation –

The semester grades are made up of a combination of Formative (40%) and Summative (60%) assessments.

At the end of a semester course, the Final Course Average is calculated with 90% (semester grade) and the Final Exam, 10%.

Grade Reporting –

Parents and students are encouraged to utilize Infinite Campus in order to monitor ongoing academic progress and attendance. If you have not obtained your log in and password for this tool, please contact the CHS front office staff at (770) 382-3200 for assistance.

I update grades in Infinite Campus on a weekly basis.

Assignment Completion –

Each student must submit his/her work when due. Work submitted within a grace period of three days from established due date will qualify for partial credit with 10 points deducted for each day late; however, the final point value is subject to my standards-based review.

If you have extenuating circumstances which you believe merit special consideration for assignment submission, it is your responsibility to speak to me privately outside of instruction time; otherwise, I will expect your work in a timely manner.

If an assignment has already been graded by me and returned to other students, I reserve the right to require completion of an alternative assignment.

Assessment, Extra Credit, and Make-Up Work Policy:

For any formative or summative assignments not submitted by the deadline established by the teacher, students have three additional school days to turn in the work for late credit. Each day late results in a ten percent deduction from the student's calculated grade. After three days, the student may not earn a score higher than 50 on the late assessment. If there are circumstances that are affecting your ability to submit your work on time, please speak with me.

Class Supplies –

- Pens with black or blue ink & pencils
- Colored Pencils
- Highlighters
- Notebook paper

Classroom Expectations –

All students are expected to follow the established class code for this course, which is supported by the system-wide Canes Code. Accordingly, students are expected to commit to academic excellence, to own their own behavior, to demonstrate respect, and to exhibit a positive attitude in the classroom. All classroom expectations are clearly established, discussed, and posted in the classroom.

Consequences of Behavioral Infractions –

Failure to comply with the established and posted Class Code will result in the following consequences depending upon the severity and/or frequency of the infraction: teacher warning, counseling, and/or detention; parent/coach/sponsor contact; and/or administrative referral. Teacher detention will be held as necessary on a weekly basis. Detention must be served within one-week of assignment to avoid administrative referral.

Leaving the Classroom –

Students are expected to remain in the classroom. Apart from emergencies, hallway passes are not permitted ***per school-wide procedures*** within the first fifteen minutes and the last fifteen minutes of class.

Should a student have a medical condition necessitating unlimited access to the restroom, he/she should communicate this need to me at the beginning of the school year.

Statement on Plagiarism –

Avoid plagiarism: the act of taking someone else's words or ideas and using them as your own. It may be done intentionally or because of carelessness. All acts of plagiarism are taken seriously. Unless you receive explicit instructions from me to collaborate with your peers, all work submitted by you must be completed by you. If you "borrow" ideas, you must provide a citation giving credit to the primary resource. Plagiarized assignments will result in a grade of zero and possibly more serious consequences as outlined in the *CHS Student Handbook* distributed to each student.

Please sign and date below:

Parent Signature

Parent Cell Phone Number

Student Signature