

Alexis I. duPont High School – 9th Grade English (College Preparatory)

Course Description: This course is a study of literary elements through the use of popular and classic literature; the main areas of critical study and skill building will be reading, literary analysis, and writing -- using independent work, discussion, and hands-on group activities. Your grade will be made up of the points you earn for all assignments -- your grade is then figured by dividing these points by the possible total points. During the **first marking period**, we will be working on a plot, setting, character, narrator/voice study. For the **second marking period**, we will be working on thematic, ironic, symbolic and allegorical studies. The **third marking period** will entail poetry and research studies. Lastly, the **fourth marking period** will involve studies on epic/myth, drama, and a novel study. Vocabulary studies will be based on the literature. Grammar studies are a constant throughout the year.

Course Expectations: Each student is expected to arrive promptly to class **PREPARED** with writing materials, class notebook, and any materials being studied at that time. **FAILURE** to meet these requirements will result in LOSS OF POINTS (see **Daily Requirements** section of this syllabus). The five classroom behavior requirements apply at all times, in all situations: **RESPECT, FAIR PLAY, PEER SUPPORT, SENSE OF HUMOR, AND ADHERENCE TO ALL SCHOOL RULES.** **DEFIANCE** of my authority or these requirements **WILL NOT BE TOLERATED** and will result in loss of daily points, administrative referral, and removal from my class. Additional rules will be established as the need arises.

Texts:

Elements of Literature – Third Course (Holt, Reinhart, Winston, 2007)

Novels -- Monster (Meyers) and Animal Farm (Orwell)

assorted teacher-generated materials (short stories, essays, articles, etc.)

Grades:

According to the Red Clay Consolidated School District requirements:

100 - 93	A
92 - 85	B
84 - 77	C
76 - 70	D
Below 70	F

MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMS MAKE UP 20% OF YOUR GRADE

Daily Grade Requirements: In addition to your work grades, you will be responsible for 10 points each day in class. Simply, to earn the full 10 points for each day, you must be present, on time, participate, and be prepared with the appropriate text, notebook, homework and writing materials. Basically, you earn points for being a normal student. Any shortcomings concerning these requirements will result in subtractions from your daily grade. Some examples are below:

unexcused late	loss of 4 points
no notebook, text, other materials	loss of 3-5 points
no participation	loss of 5-7 points
disruption/lack of attention/sleeping	loss of entire 10 points

An **unexcused absence**, removal from my room or sleeping will result in a 0 for the day. These points can **NOT** be made up. However, the daily points for an **excused absence** will be replaced if you make up the work for that time period.

IMPORTANT: A bad daily grade average can turn an A into an F; a major part of your success in this class is your ability to conduct yourself as a student. A bad performance in day to day class will erase points earned by good paper work. YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!!!

Our Agreement as to Late Work/Absences/ Make-up/Extra Credit: If you do not attend my class **REGULARLY AND CONSCIENTIOUSLY (acting like you care), YOU WILL FAIL THIS COURSE -- GUARANTEED.** Acceptance of late work (**NOTE: some work CANNOT be turned in late and some will lose points for each day late**), make-up work, and work provided for absences is **SOLELY UP TO ME.** I am willing to work with you for your benefit under almost any circumstances; **HOWEVER, IF NO INTEREST OR EFFORT IS SHOWN CONSISTENTLY ON YOUR PART, I WILL BE EXTREMELY RELUCTANT TO MAKE EXCEPTIONS, OR BE LENIENT IN ANY WAY.** It is **your responsibility** to meet me at LEAST half way. ***If you don't care, you can't expect others to work harder than you for your grade. The real world works this way. Trust me!!!***

Extra Credit Policy: I accept both writing and artwork for extra credit. The artwork MUST be related to the unit or literature we're reading presently in class. The writing can take just about any form: poetry, lyrics, journal entries, stories, papers, etc. I prefer that extra credit NOT be work done for other classes. **ALL WRITTEN WORK MUST BE CORRECT GRAMMATICALLY AND SPELLING-WISE.** You can earn up to 200 points of extra credit a marking period (up to 25 points a page – maximum of 8 pages), ONLY IF **ALL** YOUR CLASS WORK AND ASSIGNMENTS ARE TURNED IN.

Re-Do Policy: A good portion of class assignments can be **RE-DONE** for a higher grade. You can re-do an assignment until you receive the grade you desire. **However, you must TELL me that you wish to re-do an assignment, so I can give you a due date.** The re-done assignment CANNOT BE turned in after the due date. Also, THE ORIGINAL ASSIGNMENT **MUST BE ATTACHED TO THE RE-DONE VERSION, OR IT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** The re-do grade replaces the original grade completely.

Admit Slips and Early D's

1. I MUST see admit slips for excused absences within **ONE WEEK** of the absence for it to be considered excused. There will be NO long lists of dates excused/piles of admit slips accepted at the end of a marking period, so DON'T ASK. I don't want to hear "I forgot to show you the slip(s). . . ."
2. I prefer to see early dismissal slips THE DAY OF THE DISMISSAL. That way, my records are accurate, and you can get the work/information for that class period. **IF A MAJOR ASSIGNMENT OR PROJECT IS DUE THAT CLASS PERIOD, IT MUST BE TURNED IN BEFORE YOU LEAVE – NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!**

9th grade Notebook

Purpose #1: YES, THIS IS A COURSE REQUIREMENT!!! The notebook has many purposes. It is a record of your and the course's movement throughout the year. This is a record for BOTH of us. Sometimes we need to look back on materials covered, and you need a study guide for papers, midterms, and finals.

Purpose #2: MAJOR PAPERS AND YOUR PORTFOLIO: Your major pieces of writing should be saved and used to form your own writing portfolio – you never know when you could need/be asked for a writing sample.

WHAT YOU MUST DO:

1. Take notes when required or asked to do so -- date them and keep them organized.
2. Keep **ALL WORK** . This means anything I give you, anything you complete, articles, stories, etc. It is advised that you keep these in chronological order, according to the date stamp I give all turned in work. These will be checked each marking period. You will need the following sections CLEARLY divided in your notebook: 1) NOTES 2) ASSIGNMENTS/HOMEWORK 3) ESSAYS 4) VOCABULARY 5) JOURNAL. Failure to keep a notebook will not only cause you to become clueless about what we've previously covered, it is a requirement, and 100 points of each marking period point total. Your notebook eliminates the possibility of lost work, or **"I handed that IN!!!!"** arguments. **APPEARANCE OF THE NOTEBOOK CAN EITHER DESTROY, OR BOOST YOUR NOTEBOOK GRADE.**

**CONTRACT/PARENT (or guardian)/CHILD PARTNERSHIP
AGREEMENT**

Both parties have **read, discussed and understood ALL** the above material and requirements contained in this document and **AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE REQUIREMENTS STATED THEREIN.** We understand that the student's educational success depends on a THREE-WAY PARTNERSHIP of support and guidance, involving us and Ms. Conner. We reserve the right to question, discuss, and involve ourselves in this course whenever one member of this partnership feels it is necessary. [A copy of this will be retained for records, and **the student must keep the original course description and signed contract in his/her notebook for the ENTIRE year.**]

STUDENT: _____ **Date:** _____

Print Name: _____

PARENT(S) GUARDIAN(S): _____ **Date:** _____

_____ **Date:** _____

Ms. Conner's contact information:

(home phone) 302-792-1202
(school e-mail) leslie.conner@redclay.k12.de.us