

"Improving Minds, Improving Lives"

*Our goal at Winder-Barrow High School is to promote the academic success of each student. Students are expected to take advantage of all opportunities for success, which are made available to them by all teachers.*

**American Literature and Composition Instructor: Kaitlin Mason kaitlin.mason@barrow.k12.ga.us**

**Course Objectives:**

The curriculum of this course is guided by the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards (CCGPS) for 11th grade/American Literature and Composition. These standards can be viewed at [www.georgiastandards.org](http://www.georgiastandards.org).

Objectives-

* Students will read, discuss, and analyze a variety of American literature.
* Students will develop an understanding of how American literature is affected by historical and cultural contexts.
* Students will complete a variety of informational, narrative, argumentative, and research assignments following proper MLA formatting.
* Students will become more fluent, polished writers and learn to use appropriate grammatical conventions.
* Students will expand their content specific vocabulary as well as general vocabulary.
* Students will strengthen their listening, speaking, and viewing skills.

**Texts:**

In addition to works from our textbook *Timeless Voices Timeless Themes: The American Experience*, supplemental texts will also be used. Some of the content in both the textbook and supplemental texts may contain mature themes and strong language. In addition, several school approved films, some of them rated R, will supplement our texts.

**Grading:**

Summative Assessments 50% Georgia Milestones Exam 20%

Formative Assessments 30%

All American Literature teachers assess students *holistically*. Holistic grading is assessing a product on its progress towards mastery of the associated standard(s). The instructor considers the overall quality and parameters of an assignment *(i.e.* grammar, organization, content, topic, etc.) and these components factor into the holistic grade. Students are assessed over their knowledge and growth over time. This type of grading will be applied to both summative and formative assessments. A more detailed explanation of our grading policy will be given to students within the first week of school.

A reflection of student progress should be evident every two weeks in Infinite Campus. Teachers, students, and parents should be able to monitor student progress through the parent portal. It is the responsibility of the teacher, student, and parent to discuss student progress. This communication should be collaborative and transparent. Opportunities will be given for students to make up missing assignments, but students are required to turn in all missing assignments by the end of each grading period.

**Required Materials:**

\*Students will need to bring a three ring binder, composition notebook, loose leaf paper and a pen/pencil to class every day.

\*Tissues and hand sanatizer would be appreciated but not required.

**Cell Phone Policy:**

Students will not be allowed to have their phones out during instructional time. On occasion, students will be allowed to use the phones for an activity. Phones should be returned to the students’ bags after completing the activity. Teachers should never see students with earbuds in their ears during instructional time. **Students are expected to adhere to the cell phone policy set forth by the school and classroom teacher.  If a student does not adhere to the policy, the student will be referred to the discipline administrator for insubordination. Parents**, please refrain from texting during the school days; maintaining focus on what is taking place in the classroom is key to academic success.

**Cheating/Plagiarism Policy:** If a student is caught cheating and/or plagiarizing (this includes cyber-cheating), a grade of zero will be given for that assignment.  Parental notification and/or an administrative referral are also consequences of this action. There is a possibility of ISS assignment for participating in cheating.  **Please remember—using cell phones to text message answers and/or questions is considered cheating.**

**Parent Portal:** A reflection of student progress should be evident every 2 weeks in Infinite Campus.  Teachers, students and parents should be able to monitor student progress through the parent portal.  It is the responsibility of the teacher, student, and parent to discuss student progress.  This communication should be collaborative and transparent. To sign up please contact the WBHS counseling department at 770-867-4519 or the Barrow County School Board Officeat 770-867-4527. You may also visit the Barrow County School Board website.

**Classroom Rules and Regulations:**

* Be prepared for class each day
* Be in your seat and working on your daily opening activity when the bell rings
* Show respect to teachers, classmates, and school (this includes school property)
* Do not pack up or line up prior to **teacher** dismissal
* Complete all assignments and turn them in *on time*
* Be positive and involved in class.

**Consequences for Failure to Follow Rules:**

1st offense: warning

2nd offense: 15 min. detention (and parent notification)

3rd offense: 30 min. detention (and parent notification)

4th offense: administrative referral

**Food for Thought:**

* Be prepared to read and write on an almost daily basis.
* Do not get behind because it is hard to get caught up.
* COMMUNICATE with your teachers.
* **Do not be afraid to enjoy literature. It really can be fun!**

**Expectations of Workload:** Most assignments will be completed in class.  **However, there will be reading that may need to be completed at home, as well as projects, study guides, and general studying.**  Homework should be expected. Effort in class is often the determining factor in homework requirements.  It is the student’s responsibility to give his/her best each day in order to master the objectives. Students will be responsible for maintaining their classroom notebook and keeping up with assignments and materials.

**BYOT:** *Winder-Barrow High School is an active participant in the “Bring Your Own Technology” (BYOT) initiative.  As such, students are encouraged to utilize their devices when deemed appropriate by the classroom teacher.*

**Tardy Policy**

A student is considered to be tardy when he/she is not in class when the bell rings. The intent of this policy is to provide consistency and structure throughout the school and to have students in their seats and ready to begin the initial activity when the tardy bell rings. Upon the bell ringing, teachers will mark a student tardy to class. The tardies will accumulate per period.

**Google Classroom and Remind**

All assignments will be posted on Google classroom. The code to join the class is 60fyiz. You can also join remind for updates. To join remind text @masonhonorsamlit to 81010.