

**Syllabus: 12th. British Literature and Composition**  
**L. Douglas, Instructor**

*I reserved the right to modify  
this syllabus in anyway.*

The goal of this course is the honest and effective use of language and the organization of ideas in a clear, coherent, and persuasive way. You will be involved in the study of the development and the effective use of the English language, the practice of writing, and the study of literature. Through speaking, listening, and reading, but chiefly through the experience of your own writing, you should become more aware of the resources of language: connotation, metaphor, irony, syntax, diction and tone.

Writing assignments in this class will focus primarily on the critical analysis of the literature you read and will include essays in exposition and argument. Nevertheless, even the occasional writing on a variety of subjects and in a variety of modes is designed to further develop your sense of how style, subject, and audience are related.

Our study of the literature of the English language will be treated more or less chronologically, concentrating on representative authors and works. The rationale for a chronological study is the desire to reinforce your understanding of literature as a cultural record of a people.

This class will be conducted in a manner as much like a college level course as your maturity and co-operation will permit. It is my hope that, as a result, you will make the transition from high school to post-secondary level courses as smoothly and as successfully as possible.

**You will be expected to:**

A. Attend class regularly: You will find that there is no way to make up all that we do in class, and you will be held responsible for anything that we say in class. Do not rely on asking a classmate about assignments; when you are absent, check with me, preferably in advance. Never make the mistake of asking me, "Are we going to do anything important in class tomorrow?"

B. Be prompt: The door to this classroom will be closed when the tardy bell rings.

C. Bring to class EVERY DAY these materials:

1. At least one black ballpoint pen and one pencil;
2. A 1 1/2 or 2 inch, 3-ring notebook.
3. Your text (with cloth book cover) or novel

\* \* \* I also suggest a dictionary/ thesaurus for home use\*

D. Keep up: Be responsible for your outside reading, unit project work, class preparation assignments, and everything else. Turn all work in on time. **Late work will not be graded.** Your success in this and in many other classes is directly related to your sense of responsibility and self-discipline. I do not nag or remind. It's up to you.

E. Produce on the computer: At least your research papers and your unit projects or major essays will be produced on the computer. The media center is available to you before school, after school, and during lunch.

F. Be alert: Sleeping or the appearance of sleeping will result in a zero for a daily grade.

**Homework:** Homework has two legitimate purposes: 1.) practice and mastery of a skill introduced and explained in class, and 2.) background and preparation for skills to be covered in class. On the occasions when one of these purposes can be served, homework will be assigned. It

will always be either graded or used as classroom work. I expect it to be tackled with the same accuracy and diligence as class work. Written homework is to be placed in THE BASKET as soon as you enter the room on the day it is due. When the tardy bell rings, I will pick up the work from the box, and papers will not be accepted after that time. A partially completed homework assignment will receive a 0. When a long-term assignment such as a major writing assignment, research paper, project that is assigned several days ahead, is due, I expect it to be submitted on time, even if you have an excused absence that day. Send it by a friend, turn it in early, whatever. If for some reason this is impossible, contact me in advance!

**Outside Reading:** All English classes are required to read novels outside of class. These novels are your responsibility, and I expect them to be read. You will be made aware of test dates for these novels and it is your duty to be prepared for them. Possible novels/ longer works include *Everyman*, *Macbeth*, *Hamlet*, *Emma*, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, and *The Professor and the Madman*.

**Grading:** The number of points earned will be divided by the number of possible points to determine the overall grade. These are approximate values for various assignments.

100 points = test/projects/ essays

20-30 points = quizzes: vocabulary, grammar, announced and unannounced quizzes

And other point/assignments as determined by the teacher

You should make the approximately the same grade under the point system as you would under the percent system.

I keep my grades on the computer, and your grades will be posted online. I go strictly by school policy ... see your Student Handbook for policy on make-up work, excused, and unexcused absences. Every writing assignment will be accompanied by a rubric that will be used for evaluating your work. Anytime you are not sure what I expect of you, ASK. **Do not ask me about your grade during class.** If you have a question or a concern, come by after school to discuss it.

Failure to follow correct presentation procedures in any written assignment will result in the paper not being graded. For example, failure to write your name will earn you a zero. Failure to double space, use correct font size, use correct font type, and other errors will result in a zero.

**Exams:** The semester final exams will be comprehensive of all material covered at that point. The final exam will be an end-of-course type test. Both will involve both an objective portion and a free-response section. Expect unit tests regularly. About half of these will be in the form of a major reading/writing assignment. You do not want to be in a position to take one of my make-up tests.

**Honesty:** Cheating on any assignment will result in a zero. You are cheating any time you are not doing your own work. Examples: copying off someone's paper (looking=cheating), having someone tell you the answers, having someone point out to you where all the answers are in the

text book, writing the letter of the test version you copied from your neighbor, putting your study guide on the floor, using a cheat sheet, looking up the answers on your cell phone, using essays or parts of essays from the internet, etc. I have seen many different ways. The creativeness amazes me; however, no matter how creative you are you will receive a zero. If your cell phone is not put away during any quiz or test, then you will receive a zero.

**Important:** Grades are computer generated so that you will not be at the mercy of my math skills. It is your responsibility to keep up with your grades and to ask about work missed when you are absent. Be aware that I go strictly by the rules and at grade time the numbers will fall where they fall. My email address is [douglal@pike.k12.ga.us](mailto:douglal@pike.k12.ga.us). I usually check my email each evening. Contact me if:

- a. a major assignment is due the next day, and you know you will not be present to submit it;
- b. you need help with an assignment you're working on;
- c. you have questions about a reading assignment. Do not contact me to ask

what page the selection is on, which chapters you are supposed to read, or if you can write your assignment in orange ink!

Do not contact me to ask what page the selection is on, which chapters you are supposed to read, or if you can write your assignment in orange ink!

It's always best to get information from a reliable source, ME!

