Syllabus and Policies for English 10

2015-2016 School Year

**Instructor: Christie Wall Phone: (478) 218-7537**

**E-mail: christie.wall@hcbe.net Planning Period: 2nd**

**Room Number: 2414 Tutoring Times: M/T 7:00-7:30am**

Welcome back to school and a wonderful year of English 10! I’m excited to have you in my class.

***My promise to you is that at the end of the year, you will be a better reader, better writer, better thinker, and better doer than when this year started.***

**Course Description:**

This course will provide literacy experiences designed to refine listening, speaking, reading, writing, and viewing skills through the study of World Literature. Language is an interactive experience that integrates learning across all content areas. This course curriculum is based upon that principle.

**Course Objectives:**

Course objectives correlate with the *Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE)*: <https://www.georgiastandards.org/Georgia-Standards/Frameworks/ELA-9-10-Grade10-Literature-Composition-Standards.pdf>

**Course Goals:**

Upon completing the English 10 course, then, students should be able to:

* Read, write, speak, and listen/view for a variety of purposes;
* Apply effective strategies and techniques in their own writing;
* Develop vocabulary for vernacular and content.
* Analyze images and text in various modes showing development of critical thinking skills;
* Develop literacy, fluency, and comprehension through in-class and out-of-class readings; and
* Evaluate and incorporate reference documents into researched papers.

**Textbooks:**

Class Notebooks—This is considered a text in the class and is mandatory every day.

Houghton’s Georgia Collections: Grade 10 and other supplementary material. Students are responsible for replacement costs of $36.12 for textbooks and $12 for novels.

**Grades:**

1. Grades will be computed as follows:
   * 1. Major assessments 45%
     2. Minor assessments 20%
     3. Daily work 15%
     4. Semester Exam 20%
2. This class is measured by a Student Learning Objective (SLO), and the post-assessment will count as a test grade in the major assessments category.
3. You are allowed to retake one major test. However, you must retake it within one week of receiving the test results back, and you must attend tutoring before retaking the exam.
4. Late work will be credited as follows:
   * No more than 50% on daily and minor assignments and
   * No more than 70% on major assignments.
   * No late work will be accepted more than one day after the due date for daily and minor assignment and three days after the due date for major assignments.

**Behavior:**

1. Follow all school and county policies and general classroom rules. Please refer to the student handbook for a complete listing of all policies.
2. Be respectful to all people including me, you, others, the classroom, and all materials.

**Absences:**

1. If you are absent from this class, you must make sure that your absence is excused through the office before I will allow you to make up work. Please see student handbook for attendance policy.

**Resources:**

1. **PLEASE GO TO** [**WWW.CHRISTIEWALL.WEEBLY.COM**](http://WWW.CHRISTIEWALL.WEEBLY.COM) **for a complete list of parent and student resources on the START HERE page.**
2. The ***Warhawk Workshop (Room # 2510)*** is a student-led writing center designed to support students in all areas of the writing process. The student collaborators in the Warhawk Workshop are carefully selected due to their writing aptitude, strong leadership traits, and ability to communicate with their peers. Students may visit the Warhawk Workshop, and are encouraged to do so, to seek collaboration during any part of the writing process for any piece of writing. **Hours of operation are Tues-Thurs 7:15-7:40 and 3:00-3:30.**

**Technology:**

1. This class is a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) classroom. Devices **are not required** but are allowed to enhance, supplement, and support students’ learning experience.
2. Responsible and respectful use of the device is always expected. Students are responsible for the decisions made with technology during the class period. Make wise decisions.
3. Noncompliance with the following will result in an immediate administrative referral:

* No devices should be out until the bell to start class rings.
* Devices should only be visible when in use for the class.
* Devices will only be used for tasks directly related to class instruction and work. This includes the work session portions of class.
* During assessments of any sort, devices should be put away, unless the device is being used in the assessment.
* Follow all guidelines and policies in your student handbook.

**Materials**:

1. The following is a list of required materials for this class: **Three ring binder (1 ½” suggested), notebook paper (at least one package, each semester), and writing utensils**. Recommended materials include highlighters, sticky notes, and index cards.
2. **Wish List—**I keep the following supplies in my room for student use (who hasn’t forgotten a pen at some point? ☺). If you would like to contribute to the classroom supply, it will be greatly appreciated.
   * Tissues, pens, pencils, notebook paper, highlighters, sticky notes, permanent markers/poster markers, and index cards (4X6 or 3X5)

**Additional Information on Edmodo**

**Edmodo** is a free and secure social learning network for teachers, students, and schools. It provides a safe and easy way for all stakeholders to connect with one another, share content, and access coursework. Students will use Edmodo in a variety of ways. Teacher use and classroom incorporation will vary depending on the course and content area.

**Edmodo code for this class is aazg2u.**

**Students** must establish an individual Edmodo account. If a student has an account from a previous course, he/she must only have the course code to add the course.

**Parents** are encouraged to join Edmodo, and add each student course. This allows the parents to be an active and integral part in monitoring the progress of their students. With a parent account you can monitor student progress, receive class notifications, and see class expectations. To join a classroom on Edmodo, follow these steps:

* + Go to [www.edmodo.com](http://www.edmodo.com/)
  + Select “Parent Signup”  (the link is located below the student and teacher sign up buttons)
  + Key in **your unique code:  [XXXXXX]** in the Parent Code field, then create your unique username and password. The student is to provide this code.
  + Select Sign Up.

**There’s an App for that:** Edmodo is accessible online and on any mobile device with Internet capabilities, offering a free iPhone and Android app. Notification settings within Edmodo can be set to receive alerts via text or email.

**Cyberbullying:** As defined by Dictionary.com, “the act of harassing someone online by sending or posting mean messages.” *Please keep in mind that the Edmodo communication system is designed to work as an extension of the classroom; therefore, anything done on the site through the access of a school course group code will be treated the same as if it were said aloud in the classroom. Inappropriate comments or use of the site can result in disciplinary action.*

**Student Print Name: Class Period:**

**Syllabus Contract**

***I have read and understand all of the policies and requirements listed on the student’s syllabus.***

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Student Signature

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Parent/Guardian Signature

**Parent/Guardian Information**:

Parent/Guardian Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Best Contact #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Best time to reach you at this #:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Professional Growth—for students, myself, and colleagues**

As part of my collaboration and professional development with other educators, I will take video/pictures of me teaching and interacting with my students; likewise I would like to video/photograph my students collaborating with one another on innovative projects/lessons and of their student work. The purpose of these videos/pictures will be for the professional growth of me and other teachers and/or students in the county.

With your permission, as a member of my class, your student or your student’s work may be shown in the video/picture. **If so, he or she would NOT be identified by name.**

Likewise, there are times when I would like to celebrate the successes of the class with others, such as posting pictures on my website, posting student work on my professional blog, posting pictures on the class Twitter page, etc. This would only be done with your permission. Please visit my webpage [www.christiewall.weebly.com](http://www.christiewall.weebly.com) or my professional blog [www.reflectionwall.wordpress.com](http://www.reflectionwall.wordpress.com) for examples.

**Please initial one option and sign below:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I have read this section, and my child and his/her work has permission to be videoed/photographed and used publicly on county or school-approved public sites and in professional development. **Student name will not be released.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I have read this section, and my child has permission to be videoed/photographed and used for

professional development only. I do not want my child’s image on any public site.

\_\_\_\_\_ No, I would prefer that my child not to be videotaped /photographed and used for professional development or on any public site.

**Parent/Guardian Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Class Library and Book Club Library Contract**

Reading is a central focus in my classroom. Reading is a skill. The only way to get better at reading is to read—this holds true for excellent readers as well as reluctant readers. With this in mind, my goal is for you to read one million words this semester. For the average student, two million words a year translates to forty minutes of reading every day. I will do my best to motivate your student to read academically as well as for fun. Some of the reading will be assigned, but your student will have opportunities to select his or her own books to be read in literature circles and independently.

To help your student reach the one-million-word goal, I have worked hard to develop my own classroom library. This library is available to any student who wants to choose a book to be read recreationally. Furthermore, students have access to the literacy center that hosts 100s of titles for use in literature circles. Research shows that availability of books is a major motivating factor in getting teens to read. Students who are surrounded by books at school and at home read more. Students who read more, read better. I have found that having my own classroom library has dramatically increased the amount of reading my students do.

I want you to know I am sensitive to having appropriate reading material in my classroom library and in the literacy center. That said, what is considered “appropriate” may vary from one parent to another. Some parents do not mind their child reading Stephen King; other parents object to the horror genre. Please be aware that the selections in my classroom library and in the literacy center, just like any other public library or school library, range from elementary-level to university-level reading material. As a parent, I ask you to remain aware throughout the year of the books your student has chosen to read and assist in gauging appropriateness.

*Rest assured the books in my classroom library and literacy center are never assigned. They are checked out on a voluntary basis only.* Some students use my library often; others find books elsewhere. ***Any student who checks books out of my library is asked to have a parent or guardian sign below indicating that this classroom library section has been read and is understood. By giving permission to use my classroom library and the literacy center, also know that you are agreeing pay for any lost or damaged novel. The replacement fee is $5 per title.***

Let’s get reading!

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I have read this section, and my child has permission to use to classroom library and/or VHS literacy center

library.

\_\_\_\_\_ No, I would prefer that my child not have access the classroom library and/or VHS literacy center library.

**Parent/Guardian Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parental/Guardian Permission for Book Choice**

I believe strongly in giving students choice in reading assignments. According to Ollman (1993), “Real world readers do not wait for a teacher to tell them what to read. They read what interests them, what suits their purpose.... When kids define what they care about, they begin to define who they are.” I want to give students the opportunity to build the maturity to do just that. However, I know we are beginning to build that, and I value your involvement in your student’s reading. I have listed the most popular choices on my website (christiewall.weebly.com) with a link to information on the books, so you can be better informed. Please select one of the following choice for how you would like to give permission for the reading during this semester:

\_\_\_\_\_ I give permission for my student to read any book he or she chooses throughout the year. I understand by allowing my student the freedom to choose a book, this book may be unique to your child’s book club and may not be one the class or teacher has read.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ I would prefer to give permission to each book as my student chooses them. I know I will have to sign a contract each time my student begins a new book. Additionally, I understand my student will not be able to earn credit for work with the book until the teacher has received the contract.

**Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**