

8th Grade Advanced Content Language Arts Syllabus

Barber Middle School 2019-2020

Lisa Griffin – lisa.griffin@cobbk12.org
Justin Franco – justin.franco@cobbk12.org

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The eighth grade Advanced Content Language Arts course implements the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) in a way that is differentiated for gifted and advanced learners. These standards include reading, writing, conducting in-depth research, publishing findings, collaborating with peers and teachers, and using inquiry-based learning to solve real-world problems. The goal of the course is to prepare students for the advanced coursework and rigor they will encounter in high school and college. You can learn more about the academic rigor and instruction offered in the AC curriculum by visiting the Advanced Learning page on the CCSD website: <http://support.cobbk12.org/ALP/>.

UNIT OVERVIEW:

Each quarter, students will focus on elements of the GSE within the following Cobb County SpringBoard unit themes:

1 st Unit	1 st 9 weeks	The Challenge of Heroism
2 nd Unit	2 nd 9 weeks	The Challenge of Utopia
3 rd Unit	3 rd 9 weeks	The Challenge to Make a Difference
4 th Unit	4 th 9 weeks	The Challenge of Comedy

TEXTBOOKS:

Each student is provided a student workbook that will be kept at school for the duration of the year. These cannot easily be replaced, so it is vital that each student takes responsibility for his or her own workbook. The textbook is available online at <https://clever.com/in/cobb>. Students will click “log in with active directory” and use their Office 365 (computer) logins.

GRADING SCALE:

40% Formative assessments (classwork, homework, quizzes)
60% Summative assessments (tests, projects, extended writing assignments)

This class will adhere to the Cobb County grading scale:

A	90 and above	D	70-73
B	80-89	F	Below 7
C	74-79		

BLOGS:

Teacher blogs are updated regularly and include summaries of class activities, homework, upcoming assignments, and other pertinent information. Please utilize the blogs anytime you are absent or need access to class information and resources from home.

Ms. Griffin's blog: <https://barber.typepad.com/griffin/>

Mr. Franco's blog: <http://survivingenglish.edublogs.org/>

HOMEWORK POLICY:

Homework is not a regular part of the language arts curriculum, so there is no specific grading category for it. The ability to produce a complete piece of writing in class is a priority. At times, students may be asked to complete unfinished assignments at home; however, these assignments will still be collected and graded as formative assessments (classwork) or summative assessments (essays). On rare occasions, students may be asked to complete a homework assignment that is intended to reteach or improve a specific skill. This decision will be made at the teacher's discretion and is intended to help students who may need additional practice in a particular area.

MAKE-UP POLICY:

It is the student's responsibility to make up any assignments missed while absent. Students will have one day for each day absent to complete missed assignments (per Barber policy). Students should consult their agenda, the class blog, and the missed work/assignments folder when they return. Per page 2 of the Barber Student Agenda under "General Information":

Students who are absent fewer than three days should refer to the teachers' blogs for assignments. For absences of more than three days, parents may call the counselor's office to request assignments. Students will be given one day per day absent to make up work unless there are mitigating circumstances.

LATE POLICY:

The teachers and administrators at Barber believe that 8th grade students have a vested interest in completing their assignments in a timely manner. Any assignment that is turned in late (excluding exceptions addressed above for absences) will receive a 10 point grade reduction for the first day late and an additional 15 point grade reduction for the second day late. Assignments will not be accepted after the third day late, and students will receive a 0 for the assignment.

CHEATING/PLAGIARISM POLICY:

Cheating is any attempt to defraud, deceive, or mislead a teacher in assessing a student's understanding or mastery of a skill or concept. This includes presenting the work of others as one's own (plagiarism), receiving unauthorized assistance on assignments, sharing answers on classwork or tests, and any other act intended to falsify assignments or unfairly alter grades. Disciplinary action for cheating will be taken in accordance with point 13 of the Barber Rules and Expectations found on page 5 of the student agenda.

ACADEMIC PROBATION:

Any student who fails to maintain an 80 (B) average in an AC class may be referred for probationary status. Probation is a twelve-week evaluative period during which the student is given strategies and remediation to help improve the student's academic standing. If the student fails to maintain an 80 (B) average after this probationary period, he/she may be removed from the course and placed in an on-level equivalent course. Parents/guardians and the student will be notified in advance and updated in the event that academic probation is needed.

COMMUNICATION:

If you have specific questions or concerns, please feel free to email your teacher:

Lisa.Griffin@cobbk12.org

Justin.Franco@cobbk12.org

****This syllabus is subject to change depending on the needs of the students.****