

January 7, 2019

Dear Parents:

Welcome to American Literature and Composition (ALC)! Your child has received the course syllabus and we will discuss it tomorrow, so please ask to review it with him/her. Please find the supply list on page 2. You can also download the syllabus and other important forms at the class web page: <http://mrslawsonsclasses.weebly.com>. You will find a link to the state standards for this course there as well.

To succeed in this course, students must be organized, conscientious, and present in class. Students cannot easily comprehend lessons from borrowing another's notes or by attempting assignments without my instruction. When students know they will be absent, they must see me in advance. Those who have unexpected absences must email me as soon as possible, so I can email them that day's agenda and assignments. Catching up after an absence can overwhelm students, causing them to fall more and more behind, so being proactive is the key to avoiding that stress and frustration.

Please help your child accept that he/she will have homework frequently, and much of that will be reading. The Policies and Procedures section of the syllabus details reading requirements and explains the purpose behind non-graded-yet-vital-to-learning assignments. A major part of learning is practice, and each practice does not need a grade for students to know what skills they still must develop. Plus, students need more practice than I can possibly grade. Many assignments build on other assignments, so while I may okay earlier steps, I will only grade the final product. Nonetheless, students must do all the steps in the process so they can produce a quality product (paper, test, or project). They will earn zeroes for final products that do have previous steps attached.

I teach using a variety of methods to reach all learners and require a range of assignments to reinforce learning. Students will receive a toolkit of advice, resources, guidelines, and practice that they will not only use throughout this course, they should take it to college to help them. Their roommates will want to borrow it!

Students should check the class web site (see above and front page of syllabus). They will find due dates and upcoming assessment dates there as well as downloads and helpful links.

Usually, I only contact parents if students' grades drop below passing. During the semester if you are concerned about your child's learning, please see the syllabus again and discuss the requirements with your child. Problems usually arise because students have decided to take shortcuts or to neglect assignments, especially reading and non-graded tasks. Helping your child find ways to motivate him/herself intrinsically so that he/she values learning and understands that true learning rarely comes easily is the most successful way of turning around poor grades. To contact me, e-mail me at cathie.lawson@cobbk12.org. For students, I am available until Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays until 4:30 so they can work in my room or seek help. Students also should seek assistance from their in-class, before-, and after-school tutor(s). Thank you for being involved in your student's learning and success!

Sincerely,

Mrs. C. Lawson

Keep above for future reference. Return only bottom portion.

Student's name	_____	Student's cell	_____
Student's email	_____		
Mother's name	_____	Cell phone	_____
Mother's email	_____	Other phone	_____
Father's name	_____	Cell phone	_____
Father's email	_____	Other phone	_____

Parent Signature
