# Course Description

The Language Arts 7 course is designed to strengthen students’ skills in listening, speaking, writing, literature, and language. The content includes, but is not limited to, developing an understanding of listening responsibility, a tolerance for other points of view, and knowledge of various listening techniques for various situations; using standard English in classroom situations; developing an appreciation for the importance of speech in problem solving and the importance of skill in organizing information, thoughts, and ideas logically, leading to clear, concise oral presentations; practicing the process of composition, including prewriting, drafting, revising, proofreading, and publishing; writing in complete sentences; using proofreading skills to correct spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar and usage in final drafts; experiencing different types of literature (e.g., short stories, novels, non-fiction, poetry, mythology; applying information found in the dictionary and the thesaurus; using the media center research facilities; and reading self-selected books to help students learn to view reading as a useful and pleasurable activity.

More information about this course and the DODEA Language Arts standards are available at **http://www.dodea.edu/Curriculum/ELA**.

# Course Materials

## *Elements of Literature: First Course.* Orlando: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 2006.

* *Holt Handbook*

Supplementary materials may be added by your teacher and via independent reading selections.

# Supplies

## Students are expected to bring the following supplies with them to class daily:

* A 3-ring binder with pockets
* Loose leaf paper for notes
* Composition or wire-bound notebook for warm-ups
* Working writing implement
* A planner or calendar to keep track of deadlines

# Grading

## 100-90 = A 89-80 = B 79-70 = C 69-60 = D 59 and below = F

Writing Assignments: 30%
Reading Quizzes 20%
Participation 20%
Homework and Classroom Activities 20%

Warm-ups: 10%

**Writing Assignments –** Students will engage with a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts from a range of literary genres and periods and will produce a variety or expository, descriptive, narrative and persuasive writing. Assignments will be posted in the classroom and to the class website, **cyphers.weebly.com**. Students will be given specific guidelines and deadlines for each assignment. Writing assignments cannot be accepted late except in emergency circumstances.

**Reading Quizzes –** Students will be assessed on critical reading, comprehension and vocabulary in reading quizzes weekly or at the discretion of the teacher. The best way to prepare for these assessments is by completing the assigned reading either in class (when time is given) or at home. Quizzes will be administered online at Quia.com. Students will be given a logon username and password for Quia. They should either memorize or store their Quia logon credentials in a safe place. They will need them frequently.

**Participation –** To be a successful learner, a student must make the most of his or her time in the classroom. Students will have the opportunity to earn participation points based on their level of engagement in the classroom. The scale for daily participation is as follows:

 3 – Student consistently contributes to class by making an effort to answer questions. Student listens when others talk and engages others respectfully. Student is consistently prepared with materials and assignments.

 2 – Student sometimes contributes to class by making an effort to answer questions and engage others. Student is mostly prepared with materials and assignments.

 1 – Student occasionally displays disruptive behavior, does not engage when posed a question, does not collaborate with classmates respectfully or is not prepared with assignments and materials.

Students are expected to follow these rules:

* **Be Present** – Come to class every day
* **Be Prompt** – Arrive on time and be ready to work when the bell rings
* **Be Prepared** – Being al of your required materials every day
* **Be Polite** – Do not leave your seat without permission, raise your hand to speak, do not speak when others are talking
* **Be Productive** – Follow all directions carefully and complete all assignments and do not waste class time.

**Homework and other classroom activities -** Students will regularly complete written assignments in class and at home that reinforce the material and concepts presented in class. Homework will be posted in the classroom and online at the class website. Daily homework cannot be accepted late except in emergency circumstances.

**Warm-up –** Students will begin each class with a warm-up activity. This short exercise is designed to prepare students for the lesson ahead and should be completed within the time given during the first ten minutes of class. Warm-ups may be review of grammar concepts, journal prompts or other short activities.

# Classroom Discipline

**Respect –** Students are expected to follow all school rules, act in a way that is respectful to everyone in the class, and help promote a positive learning environment. The following do not promote a positive learning environment and should be avoided:

* Distracting others from learning
* Leaving your seat without permission
* Unauthorized use of electronic devices
* Offensive language
* Disparaging or criticizing others in a mean spirited way
* Bullying or harassment of any type

Your teacher will correct negative behaviors with a warning before disciplinary action is taken. Your teacher reserves the right to contact parents about positive and negative behavior in class.

# Policies and Procedures

**Academic integrity -** Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment will result in a zero score for that assignment and possible referral to administration.

**Bathroom policy –** Students will receive three bathroom/locker/water fountain passes per quarter. Students may trade unused hall passes for bonus points on reading quizzes.

**Daily routine:** Students should be in their seats ready to work when the bell rings. Your regular routine includes picking up any handouts, making note of any announcements and starting your warm-up right away.

**Late work –** Late work cannot be accepted except in emergency situations. Work is due even when the student is absent. Electronic submissions are due at 11:59PM the night before the due date.

**Materials –** Students are expected to provide their own materials daily. A limited number of materials will be available to borrow, but lack of preparation will affect a student’s participation grade.

**Missing class –** It is a student’s own responsibility toobtain missed work, notes and assignments when he or she is absent. Assignments and homework are posted online at the class website: **cyphers.weebly.com**. I recommend teaming up with a friend who can inform you of work and assignments when you have to miss class.

**Tardy policy** **–** A student is expected to be in his or her seat ready to work when the bell rings. Tardiness will result in a reduced participation grade or disciplinary action. Tardy students should go immediately to the office for a pass.

# Contacting your teacher

**My schedule:**

|  |
| --- |
| Blue Day |
| Period 1 | Language Arts 10 |
| Period 2 | AP Language and Composition |
| Period 3 |  |
| Period 4 | Language Arts 10 |
| Red Day |
| Period 5 | Seminar |
| Period 6 | Language Arts 7 |
| Period 7 |  |
| Period 8 | AP Language and Composition |

**Questions or comments?** Please do not hesitate to see me or write me an email. My email address is in the header of this document and I am always available after school or during seminar to help you succeed! Students who have read this syllabus carefully in its entirety may, for one bonus point on the first quiz, send me a brief email with the following information: your favorite animal, your favorite food and your favorite color.

**CYPHERS.WEEBLY.COM**

**Name:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Username | Password |
| Holt Elements of LiteratureBook Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |  |  |
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| Quia: |  |  |
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| Weebly: |  |  |
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**Notes:**

**Please complete the following and return it to your teacher.**

I have read and understand the above rules and policies for Mr. Cyphers’ class.

Student name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Parent signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Parent phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a computer and Internet access at home? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_