**Course Description:** This course focuses on extending the reading experience through a more complete study and analysis of compelling literature. The student will read a target number of books or word count equivalent from a variety of genres, subjects and disciplines, and will refine his or her skills in production of quality essays and narratives. Writing focuses on writing styles, the use of strong diction, and refining, editing, and proofreading. A study of conventions will build on previous instruction.

**Course Outline:** The course will be separated into four distinctive, thematic units:

1. Facing Fear
2. Making Your Voice Heard
3. Dealing with Disaster
4. GMAS Review and Novel Study

**Texts:**

* *Georgia Collections, 6 (Textbook is also accessible online via MCSD website)*
* *Collections Performance Assessment, 6*
* *Collections Close Reader, 6*
* *Novel (TBD)*

**Required Materials:**

* A composition or spiral notebook- for Smart Start and/or journaling
* A binder with loose leaf paper with 5 tabbed dividers
* Pencils - I will not supply these for you on a regular basis.
* Highlighters
* Sharpie pens and/or markers of any kind **are not allowed**

**Classroom Standards:**

* **Be Punctual and Prepared**: Arrive to class on time with all required materials
* **Be Respectful**: Respect other’s rights and properties; be courteous to the instructor and classmates
* **Remain Seated**: Until the instructor dismisses you or gives you permission to move
* **Do Not Use Electronic Devices**, including: cellphones, tablets, mp3 players, netbooks/laptops, etc. **unless we are using electronics for classroom purposes per the instructor.**
* **Do Not Spray Any Items in the Classroom**, to include: perfumes, deodorants, aerosols, etc.

**Rule Violation Procedures:**

Students who do not follow the classroom rules and procedures will face some or all of the following consequences, based on the frequency and severity of the rule violation(s):

* **Verbal Warning**: This will be the first alert that a rule has been violated.
* **Writing Assignment/Lunch Detention**:The student will receive a writing assignment and/or lunch detention for continual behavior issues. If writing assignment is not completed or lunch detention is not served, the student will receive after school detention.
* **Teacher Detention**: Parent(s) or Guardian(s) will be notified that the student will remain for one hour after school.
* **Removal from the Classroom**: If the rule violation is severe or impacts the learning environment of other students, the student will be sent to the disciplinary office with a referral. These include level two and three offenses.

**Restroom Procedures:**

During individual work time, students will be permitted to use the restroom on an as-needed basis, **five times per quarter**. No restroom use is permitted during the first or last 10 minutes of class time. Students should utilize the time between class changes for restroom breaks. The instructor reserves the right to remove restroom privileges from students who misuse or overuse the restroom without documented medical reasons. *Note: (This does not apply to students with documented medical issues).* All students will be required to sign in and out when leaving the classroom.

**Attendance:**

Students will be expected to be in class on a regular basis. If a student misses a class, **he or she will be responsible for making up any missed work and/or test(s) on his or her own time**. Extra copies of course materials will be available for students who missed work. **Test can be made up during ILT, before or after school. *Please schedule date and time with teacher.***

**Grading:**

Grading for this course will be points based within the following percentage categories:

 **Summative Assessments (Unit Assessments, Projects, Essays, Quizzes etc.) 60%**

Summative Unit Assessments; Unit Performance Tasks: 100 points

 Extended Written Responses; Text Performance Tasks: 60 points

 **Formative Assessments (Smart Start, Class work, Group assignments, etc.) 40%**

Classwork; Constructed Written Responses; Reading Assessments: 40-50 points

 Participation Activities: 30 points

**Assignments and Homework:**

There will be a significant amount of writing in this course. While students will have the opportunity to work on assignments in class, there may be occasions when class time will not be sufficient to complete an assignment. Students will be expected to complete *all* assignments by the due dates. Assignments will be posted on the classroom whiteboard and Canvas calendar.

**Late Work:** Late work will be accepted at a penalty of 10% of the grade per day, up to five days after the due date.