

Senior English 41 Course Overview

Course Description:

Designed for the college-bound student, this course provides a basic knowledge of the major movements, significant authors, and universal themes in the development of world literature. Works studied may include *Beowulf*, *The Canterbury Tales*, *Macbeth*, *Brave New World*, *All Souls*, and *The Kite Runner*. An effort is made to juxtapose literature from a variety of countries. In preparation for college, students write a major research paper that allows them the opportunity to synthesize their research, writing, and critical thinking skills. Students are required to write expository and analytical papers in preparation for college. Vocabulary work continues, not only for SAT preparation, but also for the general improvement of students' diction.

Essential Questions:

- How does representative world literature reflect the common experiences of humankind?
- What can readers learn about people, their struggles, and society from literature?
- How will improving both oral and written communication skills contribute to success in college?
- How do students build the skills necessary to read, analyze, and understand literature, texts, and “every day” materials?
- How does reflection on learning help everyone to become life-long learners?

Academic Expectations of Student Learning: (as aligned to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks):

Through this course, students will

- Employ active reading strategies to understand text.
- Deepen their understanding of a literary or informational work by relating it to its contemporary context, historical background or critical response.
- Identify, analyze, and apply knowledge of theme in a literary work and provide evidence from the text to support their understanding.
- Identify, analyze, and apply knowledge of structure, and elements of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama and provide evidence from the text to support their understanding.
- Identify and analyze an author's diction and syntax and provide evidence from the text to support their understanding.
- Write with a clear focus, coherent organization and sufficient detail for a variety of purposes.
- Apply knowledge of style, tone, and word choice in writing for different audiences.
- Gather information from a variety of sources, analyze and evaluate the quality of the information they obtain, and incorporate the research in their compositions and projects adhering to the Modern Language Association (MLA) documentation style.
- Students will review and reinforce standard rules of grammar and mechanics.
- Students will study the nuances of vocabulary, applying their knowledge to reading, writing, and speaking.
- Students will pose questions, listen to the ideas of others, and synthesize information with their own experiences in a variety of classroom settings

Literature:

Required texts:

- *Beowulf*
- *The Canterbury Tales*
- *Macbeth*
- *Brave New World*
- *All Souls*
- *The Kite Runner*
- Two primary sources for the Senior Literary Research Paper
- Additional readings as assigned
- Summer reading

Supplemental texts:

- *The Handmaid's Tale*
- "By the Waters of Babylon"
- *Jane Eyre*
- *Maus I*
- Selected short stories

Writing:

Core Writing Assignments:

- Multiple Source Essay
- Senior Literary Research Paper
- Objective and Subjective Essays
- Practical Writing for the 21st Century

Other supplemental writing assignments:

- Multiple paragraph Expository Essay
- Narrative Essay
- Point-of-View Shift
- Literary Analysis
- Additional writings as assigned

Vocabulary:

- Words from Level G of Shostak's *Vocabulary Workshop*
- Word derived from the reading selections