

World Literature and Composition
Course Syllabus
2017-2018

Dr. Mosley

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Welcome to World Literature! This class will take us through many of the greatest works of western civilization. We will encounter characters such as Beowulf, King Arthur, the Wife of Bath, Hamlet, Mr. Darcy, and more. We will ask what truths these books reveal and whether they still hold relevance for us today. I hope these questions will spark lively debates and discussions, and that most of all we learn that these books are not only meant to be studied, but also to be enjoyed.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of this class is to gain an appreciation of, largely British, world literature from the Medieval to the Modern period. Students in this course will learn about the major texts of Western Civilization. Be able to identify major plot points and themes in the various works we read. Understand how to put together a good research paper, culminating in a thesis, and be able to present that research to others in the thesis presentation.

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY:

The ancient philosophers, Church Fathers, and medieval theologians all believed that the purpose of education is to help direct the pupil's desires toward the Good and to form them as virtuous and loving beings. While a teacher individually cannot cause these ends in a student, it is my belief that this is what a teacher ought to strive for in any discipline. Therefore, my foundational understanding of teaching is that it be formative for the students. Students ought to come away from any class understanding themselves, their desires, and the world around them better. Teaching ought also to direct students toward the Good, which is to stay that it ought to help them order their desires rightly and move toward a better understanding of the world.

A teacher who understands teaching as I have attempted to describe in brief, is a guide but also a fellow pilgrim. It is my job to let the students know the pitfalls, the boundaries, the safe paths, but also to journey with them discovering and learning new things alongside them and from them. The student-teacher relationship, therefore, is important not simply because we help them earn a grade or a diploma, but because I am helping form them as they are also helping to form me.

SCOPE AND SEQUENCE:

We will begin our reading with the Anglo-Saxon epic, *Beowulf*, and, throughout the year, work our way forward in history up to Leo Tolstoy's *The Death of Ivan Illych*. In essence this class moves forward chronologically, beginning in the ninth century and concluding in the 20th. This class will also include the thesis and so a large portion of the second semester will be dedicated to that.

COURSE TEXTS:

Beowulf

Le Morte D'Arthur, Sir Thomas Mallory

The Canterbury Tales, Geoffrey Chaucer

Hamlet, William Shakespeare

Pride and Prejudice, Jane Austen
Cyrano de Bergerac, Edmond Rostand
The Death of Ivan Illych, Leo Tolstoy
Turabian

Poetry for Memorization and Recitation

TBD

COURSE SUPPLIES:

- Notebook
- Index cards
- 3 ring binder (no spiral notebooks)
- Loose leaf paper
- Black pen or pencils, red pen.

GRADING POLICY (semester 1):

Participation:	10%
Homework:	10%
Papers:	20%
Tests:	15%
Recitation/Presentation:	15%
Exam:	20%
Projects:	10%

HOMEWORK:

Homework will normally be a written reflection on the assigned reading and discussion. Homework is important preparation for class and must be submitted at the beginning of each class. Other assignments may be added as necessary.

PAPERS:

Students will receive two research papers based on their reading and one creative writing assignment. Length and due dates are to be determined. Each paper will include a Key Word Outline, rough draft, and final draft.

PRESENTATIONS:

Students will give one major presentation (about 5 minutes) based on one of their papers. More information will be provided.

PROJECTS:

Students will also be assigned one major, non-written, assignment.

RECITATION:

Students will memorize and present one poem to the rest of the class. The poem will either be assigned or chosen by the student subject to approval.

THESIS:

This class will also include your Junior Thesis (in the second semester). The thesis is to be a 5-10 page paper and a 10 minute presentation on a topic of the student's choosing. Topics will only be considered after a bibliography of 5-10 approved sources has been submitted (Please note that I will assume you will be using the Catechism and the Bible, therefore they will not count toward your 5-10 sources). More will be delivered on this in the second semester.

LATE POLICY:

Assignments will be considered late if not turned in by the end of class on the due date. 2 points will be docked for each day an assignment is late. None of the penalties for the above late submissions will apply if your work is excused due to illness or an emergency. Your parents may also excuse (for any reason) your late submission orally, with a written note, or by e-mail. If your work has been excused, then none of the penalties apply.

Please know that I am committed to each and every one of my students in an effort to help them succeed both in their coursework and in developing an appreciation for the great texts they will encounter in this class. By their nature these texts challenge and stretch the reader beyond his or herself, so please feel free to let me know if you are struggling in the class or with any particular assignment. My email address is dmosley@holyfamilyacademy.com.

I reserve the right to change or modify this course and the syllabus subject to appropriate and timely notice to the students enrolled in this class.