

Humane Letters: • Grade 9 • Literature

Description: The works of literature in this course have been selected to correspond with the topics covered in ninth grade history. Students will be expected to draw conclusions and examine critically the people and events connected to the literature and learn the major events, people, places, and intellectual trends of the era being studied.

Method: Students are expected to be polite, prepared, and persistent in their efforts to achieve understanding and knowledge. To that end, homework assignments will be completed carefully. Unit tests and a final examination will be given each grading period, and reading quizzes are also possible. Other assignments and projects will be given periodically. Quality participation in class discussion will be expected, and will count for a percentage of the students' grade each grading period. One class period per week will be devoted to grammar and technical writing, whilst the remainder of the classes will focus on the content of the literature itself.

Required Texts:

- *The Epic of Gilgamesh*. Translated and edited by N.K. Sandars. New York: Penguin, 1972.
- Cicero. *Selected Works*. Translated and edited by Michael Grant. New York: Penguin, 1971.
- Hamilton, Edith. *Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes*. New York: Penguin, 1969.
- *The Greek Way*. New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 1964.
- Herodotus. *Histories*. Translated by Aubrey De Selincourt. New York: Penguin, 2003.
- *The Holy Bible*. Douay Rheims version
- Homer. *The Iliad*. Translated by Robert Fagles. New York: Penguin, 1990.
- *The Odyssey*. Translated by Robert Fagles. New York: Penguin, 1996.
- Plato. *The Last Days of Socrates: Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, Phaedo*. Translated by H. Tredennick and H. Tarrant. New York: Penguin, 2003.
- *The Republic*. Translated by D. Lee and H.D. Pritchard. New York: Penguin, 2003.
- Shakespeare, William. *Julius Caesar*. Edited by Barbara A. Mowat and Paul Werstine. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1992.
- Sophocles. *Three Theban Plays: Antigone, Oedipus the King and Oedipus at Colonus*. Translated by Robert Fagles. New York: Penguin, 1984.
- Thucydides. *History of the Peloponnesian Wars*. Translated and edited by Rex Warner. New York: Penguin, 2003.

SEMESTER ONE

Topics

- Creation stories
- Primeval history of Genesis (through the Flood)
- Mesopotamian creation and flood stories; The limits of humanity
- The creation of the Israelite nation
- Trojan War and Greek honor
- Home and hospitality

Materials

- Genesis, chap. 1-3, Hamilton, *Mythology*, pp. 65-77
- Genesis, chap. 4-8
- *The Epic of Gilgamesh*
- Genesis, chap. 9-50, Exodus, chap. 1-20, 24, 32-34, 40, Numbers, chap. 12-14, 20, Deuteronomy, chap. 29-34 Joshua, chap. 1-7, I Samuel, chap. 1-13, 15-24, 28-31, II Samuel, chap. 1-7, 9, 11-16, 19, 23-24
- Hamilton, *The Greek Way*, pp. 173-183, Homer, *The Iliad*, Bks. 1-3, 8-11, 16-17, 22-24
- Homer, *The Odyssey*, Bks. 1-5, 9-12, 15-17, 19-24

SEMESTER TWO

Topics

- An inquiry into the causes of the Persian War
- Athens and empire
- The nature of tragedy and the problem of pride
- Plato's idealism; Plato's account of Socrates, Aristotle's literary criticism; the definition of tragedy
- On duty and tyranny
- Rome's waning republicanism and rising empire
- Organization and achievement of the early Christian Church

Materials

- Herodotus, pp. 3-39, 70-80, 81-85, 154-170, 178-191, 355-363, 365-371, 374-383, 390-393, 439-447, 471-481, 510-513, 521-530
- Thucydides, pp. 72-87, 124-164, 212-225, 334-347, 356-363, 400-408, 414-429, 525-537, 538-599
- Hamilton, *The Greek Way*, pp. 138-144, 184-186, 200-201, Sophocles, *Oedipus the King* and *Antigone*
- Plato, the Cave Allegory, in *The Republic*, pp. 255-265, *Apology* & *Crito* (Entire)
- Cicero, pp. 101-211
- Shakespeare, *Julius Caesar*
- Acts of the Apostles

Humane Letters • Grade 10 • Literature

Description: Our tenth graders study important events, major texts and works of art that formed the civilization of modern Europe—from the Carolingian Renaissance through the first half of the 20th century. We pursue thematic coherence and centrality in our choices, not coverage.

Method: The works of literature in this course have been selected to correspond as closely as possible with the topics being covered in tenth grade history. Students are expected to be able to identify and explain connections between the historical context and the literature studied. Toward that end, the class includes instruction in reading, writing, grammar, spelling and vocabulary, speaking and listening and critical thinking. Quizzes and tests are given throughout the school year, with a final exam at the end of each semester.

Required Texts:

- Alighieri, Dante. *The Inferno*. New York: Penguin Putnam, 1982.
- Burke, Edmund. *Reflections on the Revolution in France*. Edited by J.G.A. Pocock. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing Company, 1987.
- Cawley, A.C., ed. *Everyman and Medieval Miracle Plays*. London: J.M. Dent, 1993.
- Churchill, Sir Winston. *Memoirs of the Second World War* (abridgement). Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1987.
- Damrosch, David, ed. *The Longman Anthology of World Literature*. New York: Pearson Education, Inc., 2004.
- Dickens, Charles. *A Tale of Two Cities*. New York: Bantam Books, 1989.
- Luther, Martin. *Selections from his Writings*. Edited by John Dillenberger. New York: Doubleday, 1962.
- Machiavelli, Niccolò. *The Prince*. Translated by Harvey C. Mansfeld Jr., 2nd ed. Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 1998.
- More, Sir Thomas. *Utopia*. New York: Knopf, 1992.
- Rummel, Erika, ed. *The Erasmus Reader*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1990.
- Shakespeare, William. *The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark*. New York: Washington Square Press, 1992.
- Shakespeare. *The Tragedy of Richard III*. Edited by John Jowett. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.
- Solzhenitsyn, Aleksandr. *A Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*. Translated by H.T. Willetts. New York: Farrar, Straus and Gireux, 1991.
- *The Song of Roland*. Translated by Dorothy Sayers. New York: Penguin, 1957.
- *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. Translated by Brian Stone. New York: Penguin, 1971.
- Tuchman, Barbara. *The Guns of August*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1994.

Supplemental Texts:

- Bacon, Francis. *Novum Organum*. Translated by Peter Urbach and John Gibson. Chicago: Open Court Publishing Company, 1994.
- Descartes, Rene. *A Discourse on Method*. New York: E.P. Dutton Company, 1924.
- Dostoyevski, Fyodor. *The Brothers Karamazov*. Translated by Constance Garnett. New York: MacMillan, 1928.
- Hobbes, Thomas. *Leviathan*. Edited by Edwin Curley. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing Company, 1994.
- Locke, John. *Two Treatises of Government*. Edited by Peter Laslett. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1967.
- Macaulay, Lord Thomas Babbington. *The History of England* (edited and abridged). New York: Penguin, 1968.

SEMESTER ONE

Topics & Readings

- Cawley, *Everyman and Medieval Miracle Plays* (entire)
- *The Song of Roland* (entire)
- *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (entire)
- Shakespeare, *Richard III* (entire)
- Dante, *The Inferno* (entire)
- Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, in Damrosch, pp. 449-56
- Machiavelli, excerpts from *The Prince*, More, *Utopia* (entire), Montaigne, excerpt from *Essays*, in Damrosch, pp. 409-445
- 8-10 page research paper on Humane Letters thematic topic
- Luther, “Preface to Latin Writings,” “Preface to the New Testament,” “Preface to the Psalms,” “Two Kinds of Righteousness,” “The Bondage of the Will,” pp. 3, 14, 37, 86, 166

SEMESTER TWO

Topics & Readings

- Erasmus, “On Education for Children,” “The Ciceronian,” “The Luther Affair,” “The Education of a Christian Prince,” in Rummel, pp. 65, 123, 249, 980 Moliere, *The School for Wives*, in Damrosch, pp. 206-251
- Shakespeare, *Hamlet* (entire)
- Goethe, *Faust*, in Damrosch, pp. 131-250 Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, pp. 1-40 Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities* (entire)
- Flaubert, “A Simple Heart,” in Damrosch, pp. 489-508 Tolstoy, “After the Ball,” in Damrosch, pp. 595-600 Dostoevsky, *Notes from Underground*, in Damrosch, pp. 604-69
- Ibsen, *A Doll’s House*, in Damrosch, pp. 862-910 Chekhov, “The Lady with the Dog,” in Damrosch, pp. 938-948
- Tuchman, *The Guns of August* (entire)
- Solzhenitsyn, *A Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* (entire)
- Churchill, excerpts from *Memoirs of the Second World War*, pp. 3, 34, 94, 165, 247, 274, 356, 381, 487, 544, 699, 817, 877, 911, 939
- 8-10 page research paper on Humane Letters thematic topic

Humane Letters • Grade 11 • American Literature

Description: In this course, we will emphasize the major authors and texts that represent and clearly illustrate what is unique and central to the American literary tradition. Consideration of the historical and cultural context of the readings will add substantially to each student's understanding of the works and provide additional insight into what it means to be an American.

Method: By the end of the school year, each student will be able to evaluate a text, analyze literature and explore related thematic topics, demonstrate logic and organization in writing and speaking, and write clearly and coherently. Disciplined time management outside of class is essential to complete and comprehend the assigned reading and writing. Each unit consists of reading assignments, writing activities, grammar and language usage, vocabulary exercises and speaking exercises. Midterms and final exams are given each semester, and quizzes and tests occur periodically. All students are required to maintain a writing portfolio that includes a wide variety of writing assignments, both formal and informal. Generally, a paper or project is assigned each semester in addition to regular coursework.

Required Texts:

- Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby*. New York: Scribner, 2003.
- Fuller, Edmund, ed. *Adventures in American Literature*. New York: Harcourt, Brace and World, 1963.
- Hawthorne, Nathaniel. *The Scarlet Letter*. New York: Bantam Classics Edition, 1986.
- McMichael, George, ed. *The Concise Anthology of American Literature*, 5th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1998.
- Miller, Arthur. *The Crucible*. New York: Penguin, 1982.
- *Grammar for Writing*. New York: Sadlier-Oxford, 2000.

SEMESTER ONE

Topics & Readings

- Crèvecoeur, “What Is An American?” in McMichael, pp. 350-358 Modern American short stories, in Fuller, pp. 9-112
- Narratives, histories and poetry from Puritans and early Americans: *The General History of Virginia*, in McMichael, pp. 24-35 *Of Plymouth Plantation*, in McMichael, pp. 54-67 *The Bay Psalm Book* and *The New England Primer*, in McMichael, pp. 79-89 Poetry of Anne Bradstreet and Edward Taylor, in McMichael, pp. 91-124 Jonathan Edwards, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God,” in McMichael, pp. 172-184 Selections from Sarah Kemble Knight and William Byrd, in Fuller, p. 438 and 443 (if time allows)
- Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter* (entire)
- Franklin, *Autobiography* and selections from *Poor Richard’s Almanac*, in McMichael, pp. 199-322
- Letters, documents and speeches from Revolutionary leaders and writers, in McMichael, pp. 339-395
- Selections from Washington Irving and James Fenimore Cooper, in McMichael, pp. 447-468 and 502-535
- William Cullen Bryant and Edgar Allen Poe, in McMichael, pp. 544-603
- Selected writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Herman Melville and Henry David Thoreau, in McMichael, pp. 614-919.

SEMESTER TWO

Topics & Readings

- Selected writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Herman Melville and Henry David Thoreau, in McMichael, pp. 614-919. Cont'd
- Poetry of Longfellow, Whittier and Lowell, in McMichael, pp. 919-951 Poetry of Holmes, in Fuller, pp. 607-611
- Songs, letters, diaries, speeches and other Civil War literature: Selections from Harriet Beecher Stowe, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, in McMichael, pp. 952-1014
- Poetry of Emily Dickinson and Walt Whitman, in McMichael, pp. 1018-1142
- Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, in McMichael, pp. 1196-1380
- Selections from Sarah Orne Jewitt, Bret Harte, Joel Chandler Harris, Mark Twain, Henry James, Kate Chopin, Stephen Crane and Edith Wharton, in McMichael, pp. 1160-1522
- Selected short stories, essays and poetry by Edwin Arlington Robinson, E.E. Cummings, Robert Frost, T.S. Eliot, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway and Langston Hughes, in McMichael, pp. 1562-1870
- Selections from Katherine Anne Porter, Theodore Roethke and Flannery O'Connor, in McMichael, pp. 1888-2126
- Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby* (entire)
- Miller, *The Crucible* (entire)

Humane Letters • Grade 12 • British Literature

Description: This course examines the major authors and texts of the British literary tradition by focusing on works from the 16th century through contemporary times. Students will analyze literature and identify well-known authors by style, content and historical context.

Method: By the end of the school year, each student will be able to evaluate a text, analyze literature and explore related thematic topics, demonstrate logic and organization in writing and speaking, and write clearly and coherently. Disciplined time management outside of class is essential to complete and comprehend the assigned reading and writing. Each unit consists of reading assignments, writing activities, grammar and language usage, vocabulary exercises and speaking exercises. Midterms and final exams are given each semester, and quizzes and tests occur periodically. All students are required to maintain a writing portfolio that includes a wide variety of writing assignments, both formal and informal. Generally, a paper or project is assigned each semester in addition to regular coursework.

Required Texts:

- Bolt, Robert. *A Man for All Seasons*. New York: Vintage Books, 1990.
- Brontë, Emily. *Wuthering Heights*. New York: Penguin, 1993.
- Damrosch, David, ed. *The Longman Anthology of British Literature*. New York: Pearson Education, Inc., 2004.
- Milton, John. *Paradise Lost and Other Poems*. New York: Penguin Putnam, 1961.
- *Prentice Hall Literature: The British Tradition*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education, Inc., 2002.
- Shakespeare, William. *The Tragedy of King Lear*. New York: Washington Square Press, 1993.
- Swift, Jonathan. *Gulliver's Travels and Other Writings*. New York: Bantam, 1962.

SEMESTER ONE

Topics & Readings

- *Beowulf*, in Damrosch, pp. 27-91
- Excerpts from Bede, King Alfred, Taliesin and Geoffrey of Monmouth, in Damrosch, pp. 112-117, 120-121, 125-126, 126-133, 137-143
- Sir Thomas Mallory, excerpts from *Le Morte D'Arthur*, in Damrosch, pp. 225-246 Geoffrey Chaucer, excerpts from *The Canterbury Tales*, in Damrosch, pp. 246-253, 271-351
- Scottish ballads, in *The British Tradition*, pp. 194-200 Spenser, "The First Booke of the Faerie Queene" and excerpt from "The Second Booke, Canto 12," in Damrosch, pp. 425-568 Spenser, selected sonnets, in *The British Tradition*, pp. 236-238 Sidney, selected sonnets, in *The British Tradition*, pp. 239-240 Pastoral poetry, in *The British Tradition*, p. 245 Shakespearean and Petrarchan sonnets, in *The British Tradition*, pp. 252-261 Elizabeth I and King James, in *The British Tradition*, pp. 268-280 (and optional selections in Damrosch, pp. 616-631) Bolt, *A Man for All Seasons* (entire)
- Shakespeare, *MacBeth* (entire), in *The British Tradition*, pp. 301-388
- Shakespeare, *King Lear* (entire)
- Ben Jonson, selected poetry, in Damrosch, pp. 796-804 John Donne, selected poetry, in Damrosch, pp. 804-815 Poetry of Robert Herrick, George Herbert and Andrew Marvell, in Damrosch, pp. 844-862 Sir John Suckling, "Song," in *The British Tradition*, p. 450
- John Milton, *Paradise Lost* (entire)

SEMESTER TWO

Topics & Readings

- Samuel Pepys, excerpts from “The Diary,” in Damrosch, pp. 1065-1075 Daniel DeFoe, excerpts from “A Journal of the Plague Year,” in *The British Tradition*, pp. 503-508 Swift, *Gulliver’s Travels* (entire) Alexander Pope, excerpts from “An Essay on Man” and “The Rape of the Lock,” in *The British Tradition*, pp. 530-542 Thomas Gray, “Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard,” in Damrosch, pp. 1373-1377 Samuel Johnson, excerpts from *A Dictionary of the English Language* and *The Preface*, in *The British Tradition*, pp. 548-553 Introduction to James Boswell’s method and excerpt from *The Life of Samuel Johnson*, in Damrosch, pp. 1398-1408 Cont’d
- William Blake, selected poems, in Damrosch, pp. 74-83 Robert Burns, selected poems, in Damrosch, pp. 188-192 Introduction to *Frankenstein*, in *The British Tradition*, pp. 651-654 William Wordsworth, “Lines Composed a Few Miles Above Tintern Abbey,” “The Prelude,” “The World is Too Much With Us,” “London, 1802,” in *The British Tradition*, pp. 666-676 Samuel Taylor Coleridge, “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner” and “Kubla Khan,” in Damrosch, pp. 326-341, 341-345 Lord Byron, excerpts from “Childe Harold’s Pilgrimage,” “Don Juan” and “She Walks in Beauty,” in *The British Tradition*, pp. 718-726 Percy Bysshe Shelley, “Ozymandias,” “Ode to the West Wind” and “To a Skylark,” in *The British Tradition*, pp. 732-740 John Keats, “On First Looking into Chapman’s Homer,” “When I Have Fears that I May Cease to Be,” “Ode to a Nightingale,” “Ode on a Grecian Urn,” in *The British Tradition*, pp. 746-756.
- Brontë, *Wuthering Heights* (entire)
- Sir Alfred, Lord Tennyson, excerpt from “In Memoriam, A. H. H.,” “The Lady of Shalott” and “Ulysses,” in *The British Tradition*, pp. 818-830 Robert Browning, “My Last Duchess,” “Life in a Love” and “Love Among the Ruins,” in *The British Tradition*, pp. 836-843 Elizabeth Barrett Browning, “Sonnet 43,” in *The British Tradition*, p. 844 Matthew Arnold, “Dover Beach,” in *The British Tradition*, pp. 884-885 Rudyard Kipling, “Recessional” and “The Widow at Windsor,” in *The British Tradition*, pp. 886-890 A.E. Housman, “To an Athlete Dying Young” and “When I Was One and Twenty,” in *The British Tradition*, pp. 933-934 William Butler Yeats, “The Lake Isle of Innisfree” and “Sailing to Byzantium,” in *The British Tradition*, pp. 968, 973-974
- George Bernard Shaw, *Pygmalion*, in Damrosch, pp. 1001-1063
- Christina Rossetti, “When I am dead, my dearest,” “No, Thank You, John” and “Goblin Market,” in Damrosch, p. 758, 759, 771 W.H. Auden, “In Memory of W.B. Yeats,” in *The British Tradition*, pp. 998-1001 Winston Churchill, “Wartime Speech,” in *The British Tradition*, pp. 1064-1067 Seamus Heaney, “Follower” and “Two Lorries,” in *The British Tradition*, pp. 1107-1108 Doris Lessing, “No Witchcraft for Sale,” in *The British Tradition*, pp. 1116-1122
- Joseph Conrad, “The Lagoon,” in *The British Tradition*, pp. 1134-1146 James Joyce, “Araby,” in *The British Tradition*, pp. 1147-1152 T.S. Eliot, “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” and “The Waste Land,” in Damrosch, pp. 1194 and 1202 Virginia Woolf, “The Lady in the Looking Glass: A Reflection,” in Damrosch, pp. 1224-1229 Katherine Mansfield, “The Daughters of the Late Colonel,” in Damrosch, pp. 1289-1302 D.H. Lawrence, “The Rocking-Horse Winner,” in *The British Tradition*, pp. 1176-1189 Graham Greene, “A Shocking Accident,” in *The British Tradition*, pp. 1190-1194 Dylan Thomas, “Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night” and “Fern Hill,” in *The British Tradition*, pp. 1206-1209 Philip Larkin, “An Arundel Tomb” and “The Explosion,” in *The British Tradition*, pp. 1226-1229