

English 9H
Course: 1142–Honors
2010/11 Syllabus

Ms. Scott
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Course Title: Introduction to Literary Analysis and Academic Writing

Course Description: This course has a dual focus. The curriculum provides extensive direct instruction in persuasive and expository writing, essay structure, syntax, grammar, and mechanics. The curriculum also includes the study of five major works of Western literature: *The Odyssey*, *Antigone*, *Inherit the Wind*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Lord of the Flies*.

Course Objectives: By the end of the course, students will demonstrate competency in the following skill areas related to writing:

- Developing and supporting a thesis with strong content and clear organization
- Utilizing revision and editing techniques to improve style
- Identifying and correcting usage, style, punctuation, and capitalization errors
- Identifying and revising faulty syntax and sentence structure
- Utilizing persuasive and rhetorical devices
- Utilizing, evaluating, and documenting primary and secondary sources
- Facility in the three modes of academic writing

Students will also demonstrate competency in the following skill areas related to the study of literature:

- Utilizing strategies for reading comprehension and analysis
- Making logical inferences
- Identifying and analyzing literary themes
- Making personal and general connections to literature
- Identifying and analyzing uses of literary devices, styles and forms

Writing Texts: *Evergreen: A Guide to Writing*, by Susan Fawcett and Alvin Sandberg; *SHHS Language Arts Handbook*, published by the SHHS ninth-grade English teachers.

Course Outline

Summer Reading

Literature focus: *Life of Pi* and student-selected summer reading text

Literature topics: elements of literature, vocabulary, Bloom's taxonomy

Writing focus areas: the five steps of the writing process, topic sentences, well-developed paragraphs, the essay, responding to a prompt, supporting a thesis, writing summaries, developing and following a rubric, plagiarism

Grammar/mechanics focus areas: parts of speech, commonly confused words, possessives, general MLA format

Required writing: persuasive essay on summer reading/ summary

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The Odyssey

Readings: *The Odyssey*, excerpts from Edith Hamilton's *Mythology*, selected short stories and poetry

Literature focus: effective reading strategies, epic poetry, heroes and "anti-heroes," vocabulary, research in mythology, irony, foils, allusions, parodies, theme vs. topic

Writing focus: business letters, effective openings, quote weaving, MLA citation, journal writing, narrative essays, in-class (timed) essays vs. take-home essays

Grammar/ mechanics focus: punctuation of clauses, sentence types and common sentence errors, titles, quotation punctuation, capitalization, verb tense, consistency and parallelism

Required writings: informational essay/ personal narrative essay/ business letter

The Individual vs. Society

Readings: *Antigone*, *Inherit the Wind*, and non-fiction readings related to civil disobedience and the Scopes Trial

Literature focus: Theban legends, characters and characterization, elements of Greek and modern drama, satire, vocabulary

Writing focus: interview writing, developing content, writing effective conclusions for informational essays

Grammar/ mechanics focus: common errors in pronoun usage, subject-verb agreement

Required writing: comparison/ contrast essay on character, language, or theme

Shakespeare

Readings: *Romeo and Juliet*, excerpt from *The Art of Courtly Love*, and selected sonnets

Literature focus: researching Shakespeare's life and times, Shakespeare's language, figurative language, poetic scansion and terminology, sonnets, vocabulary, symbolism

Writing focus: improving essay content, style, and organization, smaller creative pieces (character diary, legal brief for Romeo's punishment, sonnets)

Grammar/ mechanics focus: appositives, relative clauses, comma clinic

Required writing: PSSA-type essay/ literary analysis essay related to *Romeo and Juliet*

What Is a Leader?

Readings: *Lord of the Flies* and related non-fiction readings

Literature focus: symbolism, allegory, vocabulary, and mini-debate on topic of leadership

Writing focus: methods of persuasion, logical fallacies

Grammar/ mechanics focus: avoiding wordiness, minor marks of punctuation, active vs. passive voice

Required writing: persuasive essay taking a position on the question of the best leader in *Lord of the Flies* and/or final exam essay