

University High School English Department

Course title: MASTERPIECES OF LITERATURE

1 semester course: 1/2 English credit
Prerequisite: Successful completion of Freshman English
Grades: 10-12

Content	Skills	Benchmarks
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Diagnostic oral and close reading• Goal setting• Masterpiece attributes – characteristics, varied definitions, significant authors, varied “lists” of masterpiece must-reads• Greek tragedies – representative plays include <i>Oedipus Rex</i>, <i>Medea</i>, and <i>Antigone</i>• Begin ongoing genre study, vocabulary building, related topic research, style analysis, author biography, reader response journals, and graded discussions.• Renaissance drama – representative plays include one Shakespeare (e.g., <i>Julius Caesar</i>) and one Marlowe (e.g., <i>Dr. Faustus</i>)	<p>Speaking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oral reading• Whole and small group discussion• Formal project presentation <p>Listening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listening for information, evaluation, interpretation, and appreciation <p>Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Novels and plays supplemented with short stories, poetry, and critical studies• Research <p>Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reader response journals• Dialectical notebook• Analytical writing• Essay exams	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apply strategies for comprehending, interpreting, analyzing and evaluating a range of texts, drawing on their own experience and knowledge as well as other sources.• Write effectively for specific audiences and purposes, adapting language conventions appropriately,• Analyze writing tasks and purposes systematically, use elements of the writing process appropriately, and adopt a variety of strategies during the course of their writing.• Create and communicate knowledge, using technological resources to gather and synthesize information.• Use language to define and represent questions, issues and problems for research.• Analyze diversity in language across cultures, ethnic groups, social and historical contexts, and geographic regions.• Use language knowledgeably, reflectively, constructively and critically.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Philosophies/social concerns as reflected in literature (e.g., existentialism, war and revolution, coming of age, materialism, idealism/utopian worlds)• Novel units vary (representative masterpieces include <i>My Antonia</i>, <i>Great Expectations</i>, <i>Siddhartha</i>, <i>Silas Marner</i>, <i>The Good Earth</i>)• Each unit includes instruction and practice in literary analysis (allusion, theme, symbolism, characterization, point of view, metaphor, diction and style, structure, etc.) and has components of vocabulary study, graded discussion, and research	<p>Media Literacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Video analysis (masterpieces of literature brought to the big screen)• Website evaluation• Powerpoint creation/critique <p>Critical Thinking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Levels of Questions• SOAPS Analysis• LIDDS Analysis• Reader response	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrate an understanding of the relationships between and among the components of the speaking process.• Identify and apply effective strategies for formal and informal speaking situations in public, group work and personal settings.• Use language that clarifies, persuades and/or inspires while respecting the cultural, gender and individual differences of the audience.• (Identify and) apply methods of managing and/or overcoming communication anxiety and apprehension.• Demonstrate an understanding of the relationships between and among the components of the listening process.• (Identify and) manage internal and external barriers to listening.• (Identify and)utilize the listening skills appropriate for diverse types and purposes of listening.• Demonstrate an understanding of the relationships between and among the components of the listening process.• Analyze and evaluate the effects of audio and visual media.• (Identify and) utilize the skills necessary for competent communication across audio and visual media.
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