

Syllabus: Literature Transition

Course Description

Designed to assist students in developing the skill of reading and understanding great literature. Specific age-appropriate literature of varying genres will be read. Discussion will focus on themes of the literature from a Christian worldview, laying the groundwork for the more intense Omnibus courses. Taking this class along with the History Survey and Transition class will assure the student is prepared for Omnibus Primary and Secondary classes, particularly those who are newer to our academic standards. This course is recommended for children ages 11 - 14. Homework will average 2 - 4 hours per week, depending on reading speed.

Course Learning Objectives (CLO)

- Read and understand different genres of literature.
- Present chapter summaries showing comprehension of the literature, as well as, the deeper meaning of the work.
- Identify many different literary devices used by authors to make writing interesting.
- Trace the plot of a narrative.
- Define characters, conflict, setting, plot and theme within a work of literature.
- Identify the theme of a story--what is the main idea the author is trying to convey.
- Explain the difference between content and context, and how context affected the author's work.
- Determine how society affected the content of the author's work, and how the author sought to bring about social reform.

Attendance and Participation

Attendance, while not graded in this course, will nevertheless be recorded by the students' teacher, as students are required to attend all scheduled class sessions and actively participate. It is expected that students will view archives of any missed classes as they are responsible for obtaining any notes or assignments when a class must be missed.

Students will receive quarterly grades for Participation. A percentage of the final grade will be attributed to *relevant class participation*, which typically includes raising their hands, commenting regularly via microphone/webcam, and using the chat box to contribute to the academic conversation. A grading rubric, which contains the percentage attributed to Relevant Class Participation for this course, is located on the course page.

Assignments and Assessments

There are weekly assignments which include reading and responses to the reading. There are also four projects assigned, one for each quarter. Students are responsible to keep up with the reading for every class period.

Students will take a midterm exam at the end of the first semester and a final exam at the end of the year. The exam at the end of the year will cover material discussed during the second semester only. All exams should be taken in one sitting and proctored by an adult. Unless directed by the teacher, students are not permitted to use any helps, books, notes or the Internet on any portion of exams. All exams are due at 11:55 PM ET on the date shown. Specific instructions will be provided by the instructor.

Evaluation

The final grade is determined on the following basis:

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|--------------------------------|-----|
| • Relevant Class Participation | 15% |
| • Quizzes | 10% |
| • Homework | 20% |
| • Projects | 25% |
| • Midterm Exam | 15% |
| • Final Exam | 15% |

Grading Scale

The following grading scale will apply for all assignments and final grades. 100% – 90% = A; 89% - 80% = B; 79% - 70% = C; 69% - 60% = D; 59% - 50% = E; 49% - 40% = F. All grades are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Late Work

If a student fails to submit any assessment by the due date, it is considered "late."

- Assignments submitted 0-24 hours late will result in a 10 point reduction off earned grade.
- Assignments submitted 24-48 hours late will result in a 20 point reduction off earned grade.
- Assignments submitted 48-72 hours late will result in a 30 point reduction off earned grade.
- Assignments over 72 hours late will not be accepted and the student will receive a zero.
- Parent may request an extension from their child's teacher *prior to the due date* or in the case of an emergency.

While we love grace and the opportunity to exercise it, we also desire to instill a sound sense of responsibility in our students, hence these expectations pertaining to late work.

Exam/Test Retakes

Any student may retake a failed assessment (except quizzes), but can score no higher than 70% on the retake. This policy also applies to formal labs in applicable courses. Retakes will be graded as though the student *could* receive a 100%. Assuming the student then scores a grade of 70% or greater on the retake, he will be given a 70%. If the student again fails the assessment, the greater of the two grades (attempts) will be used in the calculation of a final grade.

Academic Dishonesty

Cheating on any assignment is considered academic dishonesty. This includes plagiarism in any form. Cheating will be dealt with in the following manner:

- If a student is caught cheating, he will receive a zero on the assignment and will be placed on academic probation for the remainder of the school year.
- If the same student is caught cheating again, he will likely be expelled.
- No refunds will be granted for students who are expelled due to cheating.
- A Disciplinary Action Form will be submitted by the student's teacher for any instance of academic dishonesty.

Textbooks

The books needed for the class can be purchased through Veritas Press. It is extremely important that the student has the correct version/edition of these materials, and that they be ordered timely so as to have no interruption in a student's progress.

Literature Transition Course Kit (003597)

- Born Again (305150)
- Through Gates of Splendor (305550)
- Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats (290520)
- Jane Eyre (435550)
- The Tempest (305542)
- To Kill a Mockingbird (346800)
- The Light in the Forest (317020)
- Scarlet Pimpernel (490780)
- Watership Down (305585)
- Oliver Twist (435740)
- Murder on the Orient Express (255605)

Course Calendar

See Course Assignment Sheet, located on the course page, for class dates, breaks and all assignments and assessments. Class dates and breaks can also be found on the current academic year calendar.