

12th Grade British Literature

I have no way and therefore want no eyes
 I stumbled when I saw. Full oft 'tis seen
 Our means secure us, and our mere defects
 Prove our commodities. O dear son Edgar,
 The food of thy abused father's wrath,
 Might I but live to see thee in my touch,
 I'd say I had eyes again.

The gods are just, and of our pleasant vices
 Make instruments to plague us.

King Lear

I. Course Description and Expectations

This course will introduce students to some of the great works of fiction in British Literature - including Shakespearian sonnets, plays, short stories, novels, and poetry. This course seeks to engage students in active and critical reflection about these works in light of a Christian Worldview through the use of Socratic discussions. Students will also develop writing skills through frequent writing assignments, expository essays, and research writing.

Much class time will be dedicated to seminar discussions of each literary work. You will be expected to engage in seminar discussions by active listening and active dialogue. In addition to inspiring and encouraging your growth in the skill of discourse, this course will also seek to mature your written expression.

II. Texts and Supplies

The following is a list of books and sources that each student is expected to have for this course:

Semester I

1. *King Lear* – Summer Reading
2. *Pride and Prejudice*
3. *Frankenstein*
4. *Taming of the Shrew*

Semester II

5. *Wuthering Heights*
6. *Hamlet*
7. *Canterbury Tales**
8. *Utopia**
9. *Brave New World**

Semester I and II

Sadler-Oxford Vocabulary Workshop
Sadler-Oxford Grammar for Writing

For class materials, please bring

1. A **standard three-ring binder** supplied with loose-leaf paper, and section dividers for writing exercises and folders to safely retain completed essays, notes, assignments, returned tests, and handouts.
2. A blue or black pen for taking notes and completing tests and assignments
3. Colored highlighters for annotating texts
4. Relevant texts

* All important handouts and student work should be kept in the binder or in a folder in the binder.

III. Homework

Homework will most always consist of careful and critical reading of assigned pages that will be discussed the following class period, totaling roughly twenty-five minutes per evening. Students are expected to come to class ready to discuss and ask questions of their peers. Homework will also be assigned in connection with vocabulary and grammar. Other types of homework assignments will include writing essays and responding to short answer questions.

IV. Quizzes

Frequent written quizzes and/or other short written assignments will be given at the start of many class periods. These quiz questions will be largely based on the assigned reading and will be easily answered after diligent reading.

V. Tests

Tests will consist mainly of short answer and paragraph reflections. One cumulative exam will be given at the end of each semester.

VI. Essays

At least one essay assignment will be given per literary work. Each student is expected to demonstrate an understanding of the formal essay structure, show an understanding of the literary work and what was discussed in class, and the skill of defending one's position/thesis. Generally, students will have opportunity to utilize guidance from the teacher prior to the final draft.

VII. Participation

As this course is conducted mainly in seminar format, student participation is expected and essential. Students are required to come to class prepared, with an attitude of seeking to know, and engage actively in each discussion. *It is not enough merely to read the assigned homework (this is the first step ☺)*. Students must bring ideas and a sense of wonder and enthusiasm about the material to the discussions. **Students who do not participate in discussions will make up participation grade by answering oral quiz questions at the beginning or end of class.**

VIII. Absences and Make-up Work

It is always the student's responsibility to find out what was assigned when he/she is absent from class. An absent student must turn in any written assignments the day he/she returns to school unless prior arrangements have been made with the teacher. The student is responsible for gathering notes and reading assignments from fellow classmates or the teacher. If a student is absent from class and a test or quiz is missed, the student is expected to make up this quiz/test as soon as possible. Ideally, students should expect to take the missing quiz/test the day the student returns to school (unless arrangements have been made with the teacher). If a student is absent the day an essay is collected, the student must email the teacher an electronic copy on the due date. Any other arrangement for turning in a late essay will need to be arranged with teacher approval.

IX. Grading

Although a letter grade will be given for each student, it is important to realize that the assessment of each student's performance will be based on several areas, which do not all reflect "objective" grading. Assessment of the student is based upon the growth of the individual student, his/her sense of enthusiasm and commitment to the process of learning and thinking critically.

A True Points system for grading will be utilized in this class. In order that students may anticipate accordingly, the following list reflects which categories would be weighted more given the overall amount of true points designated for each category:

1. Participation (including reading, discussion, and homework)
2. Essays
3. Quizzes and Tests

X. Tutoring

Tutoring is available during Help Times (Wednesday 3:15-4:00) and/or by appointment. Students may come with questions about readings, homework, or to discuss any topic relating to class, including essay prompts.

Signature Form

I have read and understand the course overview.

X _____
Student's Signature

X _____
Parent's Signature