



ENGLISH 41

Insert Teacher Name

Insert Room Number

Insert Full Year/Semester

Insert Period

Insert Email Address

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Aesthetics of Living: Searching for Meaning Through Literature offers students a chance to explore philosophical concepts evident in literature and in the world today. Through the examination of classical and contemporary texts, students will consider the function of art and evaluate concepts such as truth, evil, ethics, and cultural myths as they are relevant to the human condition. Students are expected to be self-motivated and to actively participate in and lead seminar discussions. Additionally, the study of critical theory will expand students' capacity to analyze, discuss, and write about literature. The Independent Study Project, which includes extensive preparation and a dynamic presentation, is an integral part of the year. This course is an intellectual and philosophical inquiry driven by the underlying question of what makes a meaningful life.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students should:

- understand philosophical concepts evident in literature.
- lead and engage in thoughtful, focused, and inquiry based seminar discussions throughout the year.
- interpret literature through the lenses of three critical theories. (e.g. feminist, Marxist, psychoanalytical, post colonial, historical/cultural)
- create an Independent Inquiry Portfolio that traces the continuous process of exploration and participate in a continuous process of exploration and reflection which will shape the inquiry for their Independent Study Project.
- develop their visual literacy by learning how to “read” paintings, sculpture, and film in order to interpret and evaluate them and the literary texts with which they connect.
- incorporate rhetorical devices in a text.
- identify cultural assumptions of a text and how they reflect and/or challenge their own assumptions.
- demonstrate the ability to recognize their own unique, challenging, intellectual ideas, and thoroughly develop them.
- identify and experiment with stylistic elements in writing.
- develop and pursue a line of intellectual inquiry, related to the literature and ideas examined in this course, by conducting independent research, creating a product, writing a formal piece, and delivering a presentation to further explore an idea or concept from the course. (Independent Study Project)
- write formal papers that go through the writing process, including:
 - o Creative non-fiction
 - o Exploratory essay
 - o Character analysis
 - o Literary analysis
 - o Personal process paper
 - o Independent study writing component
- develop an aesthetic appreciation for literature and other art forms (painting, sculpture, film) as they connect with literature.
- expand vocabulary by compiling list and definitions of unfamiliar words.

UNITS OF STUDY

- Introductory Unit
- The Function of Art in Life
- How We Discover and Discern the Truth
- What is Evil and Why Does It Exist?
- Living an Ethical Life
- Building a House of Meaning

COURSE POLICIES AND REQUIREMENTS

GRADING

Summative Assessments:	Insert % Here (Minimum of 70%). Insert Categories/Weighting (ie. Papers – 30%)
Formative Assessments:	Insert % Here (Maximum of 30%). Insert Categories/Weighting (ie. Quizzes – 50%)
Behavioral Characteristics:	Insert % Here (Maximum of 10%). Insert Categories/Weighting (ie. Particip. - 90%)
Insert Additional Grading Information Here	

MATERIALS

Insert Course Materials Here (ie. Textbook, Binder, Calculator, Highlighters)

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

Insert Course Expectations Here

EXTRA HELP

Insert Course Expectations Here

Insert Additional Information Here