

# **PETERS TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **CORE BODY OF KNOWLEDGE**

### **ENGLISH HONORS GRADE 12**

For each of the units that follow, students may be required to analyze, recall, explain, interpret, apply, or evaluate the particular concepts being taught.

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will establish the inherent value of studying the classics. Students will apply close reading skills throughout this course to understand and analyze both fiction and nonfiction texts. They will also develop an understanding of the development of Western literature beginning with the Greeks and leading up to award winning literature of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Key concepts that will be addressed throughout this course include archetypes and motifs that transcend time and place. Students will also understand the cultural context in which each literary selection was written in order to better understand Western cultural traditions.

#### **STUDY SKILLS**

- Students will take notes during discussion and lecture activities.
- Students will read, annotate, and understand challenging fiction and nonfiction texts.
- Students will apply grammatical skills throughout the year.
- Students will adequately prepare for quizzes and exams through the development of study skills.
- Utilize online sources to conduct credible research.
- Utilize Google Drive as a tool for collaboration.

#### **1. GRAMMAR / WHY THE CLASSICS? / COLLEGE ESSAY**

- Combine self-awareness, personal insights, an understanding of audience and purpose, and concise writing skills to produce an effective college essay.
- Apply close reading skills to understand fiction and nonfiction texts.
- Reinforce grammatical skills necessary to develop sentence variety and a concise yet sophisticated academic writing style.

#### **2. THE GOLDEN AGE OF ATHENS**

- Identify aspects of Greek culture that qualify it as a Golden Age.
- Compare this Golden Age to other times in history that had similar attributes.
- Appreciate the breadth of creativity that fueled Athens' Golden Age.
- Understand and apply the components of Tragedy as an art form, particularly the concepts of hamartia/tragic flaw, hubris, and catharsis to the reading of the play *Oedipus*.

- Understand the concept of Greek tragedy and moral engineering.
- Analyze the impact of dramatic irony on the story line.
- Examine the complexities of well-drawn characters.
- Follow the story on more than one level.
- Express ideas orally and in writing.

### 3. THE ANGLO-SAXONS

- Synthesize the historical details that led to the Anglo-Saxons' conquest of Celtic England, and their subsequent society. Understand the Anglo-Saxon culture and apply concepts such as Comitatus and the archetypal journey / hero to the text of *Beowulf*.
- Compare the archetypal journey and the archetypal hero in *Beowulf* to modern literature.
- Understand and apply the concept of allegory to the text of *Beowulf*. Understand the historical context of Christianity and paganism necessary to analyze the text as allegory.
- Appreciate the dominance of heroic and elegiac themes in A-S literature.
- Synthesize the various historical influences that transformed the Anglo-Saxon language into Old English.
- Interpret characterizations in A-S literature.
- Express ideas orally and in writing.

### 4. THE MIDDLE AGES

- Synthesize ideas to understand developments following the Battle of Hastings that impacted the fall and rise of the English language.
- Understand the role of Geoffrey Chaucer as "The Father of the English Language" as well as the creator of the modern short story.
- Identify elements of The Romance as a literary art form.
- Compare the Code of Chivalry to modern ideals.
- Compare medieval professions to modern-day workers vis a vis Chaucer's Prologue.
- Identify ways that medieval culture is reflected through the characterization of the pilgrims in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*.
- Understand direct and indirect characterization and analyze the characters of *The Canterbury Tales* using the text to support analytical inferences.
- Gain exposure to iconic characters, such as Arthur and Gawain.

### 5. THE RENAISSANCE

- Compare the impact of the printing press to that of the Internet.
- Understand the cultural conditions of the Renaissance that facilitated the development of the arts and literature and apply the concept of a Golden Age to the English Renaissance.

- Compare England's Golden Age to Athens'.
- Gain insight into the many reasons why Shakespeare has had such a significant and lasting impact on the English language and literary traditions.
- Explore the complexities of imagery as they augment theme and characterization in *Hamlet*.
- Understand the connections between Renaissance tragedy and classical tragedy. Apply the concept of the tragic hero to the analysis of *Hamlet*.
- Make judgments pertaining to characters' actions and utilize evidence from the text to substantiate those judgments.
- Express ideas and insights orally and in writing.
- Appreciate the challenges of sonnet form and blank verse.

## 6. POST RENAISSANCE

- Analyze the impact of Jonathon Swift's biting social satire.
- Interpret the imagery and themes of The Romantic Movement in English poetry.
- Thematically compare a modern short story with a classic Greek tragedy.

## 7. COLLEGE RESEARCH AND READINESS

- Annotate college level non-fiction texts and write concise critical summaries.
- Understand the process of writing an annotated bibliography and how this fits into an overall college research process.
- Understand what qualifies a source as credible and what makes some credible sources more scholarly than others.
- Understand how to find credible scholarly sources using traditional printed works as well as scholarly articles available in digital formats.
- Understand the pitfalls of plagiarism.

## MATERIALS

*Elements of Literature: Sixth Course, Beowulf, The Canterbury Tales, Hamlet; Golding, The Lord of the Flies, "A Modest Proposal"*

Revised September 2014