

PETERS TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
CORE BODY OF KNOWLEDGE
HUMANITIES
GRADES 9-12

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Learn to think more critically and to analyze the human experience through studying the humanities. From every period of history and from every corner of the world, people have defined and documented the human experience through philosophy, literature, the visual arts, and the performing arts. Connect with the great minds from the past, and explore these branches of culture – philosophy, literature, art, architecture, music, theatre, and dance – to better understand and appreciate life.

STUDY SKILLS:

- Compile a variety of materials and keep an organized notebook.
- Maintain a complete journal. Entries should reflect creative brainstorming and sometimes include more cohesive written responses on a variety of writing prompts and thought-provoking questions.
- Abide by the writing process and write more effectively, creatively, and confidently.
- Practice effective discussion techniques and participate in a variety of discussions with more clarity and willingness.

UNIT TOPICS AND MAJOR THEMES:

PHILOSOPHY

- Contemplate and respond orally and in writing to selected issues in *The Big Questions*.
- Explore the concept of the meaning of life, freedom, and other philosophical issues/topics, and interpret and evaluate different points of view and expressions of selected issues/topics.
- Examine the lives and ideas of classic philosophers.
- Define vocabulary pertinent to the study of philosophy.
- Incorporate sound reasoning into daily decision-making.
- Utilize the writing process as a means of personal growth.
- Practice the art of dialectic and rhetoric.
- Practice the Socratic Method.

LITERATURE

- Examine why we study the humanities.
- Interpret and expound in depth on famous and profound quotations.
- Identify and analyze literary themes, characterization, imagery, and symbols in short stories and poetry.
- Establish thematic connections among literary works.
- Discover and express personal responses to literary works.
- Appreciate literature as a fine art and become a creative reader.
- Peruse essays for content and connotations.
- Utilize the writing process to develop a creative writing style.

VISUAL ART

- Recognize and appreciate individual painters and sculptors.
- Examine more closely the life and works of Leonardo da Vinci.
- Analyze works of art on a personal level and reflect on them in writing and speaking.
- Creatively interpret artistic works in a variety of modes.
- Create an original work of art, emulating the style of a selected artist, or copy an existing work from a selected artist.
- Define vocabulary pertinent to the study of art.

ARCHITECTURE

- Recognize and appreciate the work of selected famous architects.
- Define vocabulary pertinent to the study of architecture.
- Discover and express personal responses to the wonders of architecture.
- Sketch an original work of architecture, emulating the style of a selected architect, or sketch an existing work of architecture.

PERFORMANCE ART

- Explore the history of music, theatre, and dance, and examine the various styles of music, theater, and dance throughout the world.
- Listen to and interpret a variety of music.
- Observe a variety of theater and dance performances.
- Analyze works of music, theater, and dance on a personal level and reflect on them in writing and speaking.
- Define vocabulary pertinent to the study of music, theatre, and dance.

MONUMENTS and MUSEUMS

- Recognize and appreciate famous American monuments.
- Recognize and appreciate the world's most famous museums.

- Research and report on a selected famous museum.
- Establish an original museum.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS:

America's Greatest Monuments. Smithsonian Networks, 2008. DVD.

DaVinci and Mysteries of the Renaissance, Six Disks. Questar, Inc. DVD.

Gothic Cathedrals: Notre Dame to the National Cathedral. The History Channel, 1994. DVD.

Solomon, Robert C. *The Big Questions: A Short Introduction to Philosophy, 6th Edition.* New York: Harcourt College Publishers, 2002. Print.

Understanding the Art of the Renaissance: Ideas and Ideals. Educational Dimensions, A McGraw-Hill Media Company, 1986. DVD.

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