

Brunswick School Department
E.L.A.
Grade 12: Moral Philosophy and Literature

Course Overview

This class is a survey of moral philosophy in the western tradition with emphasis on ancient ethical paradigms (Plato, Aristotle, Stoicism) and modern moral paradigms (Machiavelli, Rousseau, Kant, Nietzsche/Freud). There will be class discussions of current events, present-day ethical debates and references to literature and rhetoric

Essential Understandings

- Philosophy is a branch of the humanities which has influenced literature and history.
- Philosophical texts use literary and rhetorical elements, devices and forms.
- Many philosophical texts are of high literary merit and demand careful readings and literary analysis.
- Moral philosophy is an important branch of western thought - one that includes personal ethics, social morality and political theory.
- There are a variety of ethical ideas and paradigms co-existing within the western tradition.
- Important comparisons and contrasts can be made between ancient, medieval and modern moral paradigms.
- Parallels may be found between themes in modern literature and the moral and ethical themes of modern philosophy.

Priority Standards and Performance Indicators

(as based on Maine Learning Results)

P.S ELA-2 Reading Analysis: Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.

- a. Evaluate the relevant themes and synthesize how they are present in the novel in oral and written responses.
- b. Interpret the implications of setting and circumstance.
- c. Analyze the role of characters in the plot in oral and written responses.
- d. Analyze important quotations from the text in oral and written responses.
- e. Annotate the text.

P.S ELA-3 Reading Craft and Structure Determine an author’s point of view or purpose in a text in which the rhetoric is particularly effective, analyzing how style and content contribute to the power, persuasiveness or beauty of a text.

- a. Understand SOAPSTone: Speaker, Occasion, Audience, Purpose, Subject, Tone
- b. Analyze the plot and/or design of the text, following shifts in time and place.

P.S ELA-4 Writing Analysis: Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

- a. Select and limit a debatable thesis.
- b. Research evidence using credible sources.
- c. Select an appropriate organizational plan.
- d. Acknowledge alternate sides of a position.
- e. Apply the standards of English conventions.
- f. Apply persuasive strategies.
- g. Create a Works Cited for evidence used.

P.S ELA-5 Writing Craft: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

- a. Create an effective introduction.
- b. Use showing details v. telling details.
- c. Maintain a focus on the main idea throughout the body paragraphs.
- d. Write an effective conclusion.

P.S. ELA-6 Research- based Writing: Compose research- based writing to examine a topic through the selection, organization, analysis, and synthesis of relevant content.

- a. Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources.
- b. Assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the task, purpose, and audience.
- c. Integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and overreliance on any one source.
- d. Follow a standard format for citation.
- e. Select and limit an appropriate topic.
- f. Take notes using a minimum of three sources.
- g. Prepare an outline and multiple drafts.
- h. Write a works cited page.
- i. Write a strong introduction and conclusion.
- j. Include precise, effective quotations that directly correspond to the main idea.

P.S. ELA-7 Speaking and Listening: Engage effectively in well-reasoned exchange of ideas

- a. Attentively listen to the words of a speaker.
- b. Summarize what someone has said.
- c. Defend, refute, or challenge the ideas of others.
- d. Use evidence to support a position.
- e. Organize ideas clearly and logically.
- f. Use annotations of the text to contribute to class discussion.

Examples of Formative / Summative Assessments

- Quizzes on ethical terminology
- Outlines of text
- Summaries of text (brief reflections)
- Reflective essay - Aristotle's *Ethics*
- Persuasive essay - Machiavelli's *Prince*
- Persuasive essay – Rousseau's *Discourse on Inequality*
- Reflective essay – Freud's *Civilization and its Discontents*
- Research on modern ethical dilemmas

Sample Texts and Materials/Resources

- Plato's Republic (excerpts)
- *Politics & Nichomachean Ethics* (excerpts) by Aristotle
- *The Prince* by Niccolo Machiavelli
- *The Discourse on Inequality* by Jean Jacques Rousseau
- *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals* by Immanuel Kant
- *Civilization and its Discontents* by Sigmund Freud