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# PETERS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

## COURSE SYLLABUS: ENGLISH HONORS 12

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### **Course Overview and Essential Skills**

This course is primarily a survey of British Literature. The study of British literature is a huge undertaking. While the study of American literature involves reading works that may be 500 years old, British literature involves reading epics, lyrics, ballads, dramas, poems, and essays that can be nearly 2000 years old. In scope alone, British literature is daunting. In this course, we will explore a variety of time periods and genres while discussing key components in British history and culture.

Key concepts that will be addressed throughout this course include archetypes and motifs that transcend time and place. Students will also explore the cultural context of each literary selection in order to better understand Western cultural traditions. Students will study the roots of the Western literary tradition through classic works such as *Oedipus Rex*, *Beowulf*, and *The Canterbury Tales*. Students' understanding of these foundational texts will be used to inform their reading of later texts that span from Shakespeare's *Hamlet* and *Macbeth* to twentieth-century works such as William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*.

Students will hone their skills in critical reading by annotating challenging texts and develop their abilities to write effectively at a high academic level in preparation for collegiate level work. Students will also be required to analyze literary nonfiction pieces and synthesize their understanding of these pieces with their analysis of the fictional works we read in the course.

In each unit of study, students may be required to analyze, recall, explain, interpret, apply, or evaluate. These skills are not discreet to ELA, and students should engage in applying these skills to other content areas and other aspects of their lives.

### **Course Textbook and Required Materials**

- *Elements of Literature Sixth Course: Literature of Britain with World Classics*, 2003, ISBN# 0-03-067312-7;
- *Oedipus. The Theban Plays by Sophocles*, 1988, Richard Clay, Ltd.
- *The Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey (Elements of Literature)*
- Golding, William, *Lord of the Flies*, 1954, ISBN# 978-0-399-50148-7;
- *The Tragedy of Hamlet by William Shakespeare – with Connections*, ISBN# 0-03-095769-9
- *The Tragedy of Macbeth by William Shakespeare (Elements of Literature)*
- Teacher-created handouts
- Other materials: a notebook, a planner for due dates, and a binder for all handouts, and a pen / pencil

### **Course Outline of Material Covered:**

Unit or Topic	Concepts/Skills/Resources	Time-frame
Why the Classics?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Determine the value of reading classic literature.</li><li>● Discuss, determine, and define the purposes of close reading or critical reading and identify strategies for attaining those results.</li><li>● Apply close reading strategies to our reading: first to poetry, then to larger prose selections.</li></ul>	Approx. 1½-2 weeks

Application Essay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Apply close-reading strategies to articles related to the college application process.</li> <li>● Apply writing process with particular attention to style, voice, and diction.</li> </ul>	Approx. 1 week
The Golden Age of Athens and <i>Oedipus Rex</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Understand the criteria for a “Golden Age”, the beginnings of democracy, the beginnings of drama and the tragic hero, tragedy, and philosophy.</li> <li>● Apply the criteria for tragedy and the tragic hero to the critical reading of <i>Oedipus Rex</i> .</li> </ul>	Approx. 3 weeks
The Renaissance - <i>Hamlet</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Compare and contrast Greek and Shakespearean Tragedy and the Tragic Hero.</li> <li>● Apply close-reading strategies to analyze characterization, language, structure, and motifs and their impact on meaning throughout the play.</li> <li>● Understand Critical Lens Theory and apply modes of literary criticism to the reading of <i>Hamlet</i>.</li> <li>● Locate an article of literary criticism and synthesize information from research with student analysis of <i>Hamlet</i> in a formal essay.</li> <li>● Compare and contrast the text with film adaptations of <i>Hamlet</i>.</li> </ul>	Approx. 5 weeks
Anglo-Saxon England- <i>Beowulf</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Apply the historical context of Anglo-Saxon England to the reading of <i>Beowulf</i>.</li> <li>● Define and analyze archetypes and the Anglo-Saxon Hero as represented in <i>Beowulf</i> .</li> <li>● Identify a contemporary narrative that uses archetypes and prepare a presentation to compare this contemporary text to <i>Beowulf</i> , examining specific archetypal elements to achieve a clear and focused analytical purpose.</li> </ul>	Approx. 6 weeks
Chaucer’s <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> and Swift’s “A Modest Proposal”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Apply the historical context of The Middle Ages to students’ understanding of <i>The Canterbury Tales</i>.</li> <li>● Analyze a satirical narrative and essay and the way in which Chaucer and Swift develop social commentary in their works.</li> </ul>	Approx. 4 weeks
<i>Lord of the Flies</i> / Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Apply a psychological and sociological critical lens to the reading and analysis of <i>Lord of the Flies</i>.</li> <li>● Analyze the role of imagery, characterization, diction, pacing, perspective, and plot in relation to tone, mood, and theme.</li> <li>● Synthesize information from research with close-reading analysis of the novel to develop and support analytical conclusions.</li> </ul>	Approx. 7 weeks
Poetry – Romantics, Victorians, and WWI Poets – The Hero lives on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Apply close reading strategies to specific Romantic Era poetry, Victorian poetry, and WWI poetry.</li> <li>● Analyze visual art from each era of poetry studied to make connections with the poems of the unit.</li> <li>● Compose poetic analysis essay.</li> </ul>	Approx. 4 weeks
<i>Macbeth</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Connect <i>Macbeth</i> to the motifs and themes explored throughout the course.</li> </ul>	Approx. 4 weeks

**\*Depending on the needs of the class or changes in the school year, the course outline is subject to change.**