

Course Syllabus

Literature I QSI Virtual School 2021

Instructor Information

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Preferred Method of Communication: Email

Course Description

Literature I is a survey literature course that should be taken in the first year of secondary school (grade 9). It introduces students to literary works such as short stories, novels, plays and poems as well visual and rhetorical texts. In order to complete the course, students must master all six essential units and four selective units. Two of the selective units will be S01 *Vocabulary Acquisition* which is the creation of annotated glossary of literary terms as well as vocabulary lists and S08 *Sustained Silent Reading* where students will select a novel to read as independent study. S01 will open at the beginning of the course and run until winter break. S08 will open toward the end of the year. The other two selective units are enrichment units for rhetoric and short story.

The course is approximately 10 months in length. With the exception of S01 and S08, which run alongside the others, each unit is approximately three weeks long and will require about 6 hours of class and work time per week.

Course Credit Equivalency: 10 QSI credits are equal to 1 Carnegie credit.

Course Prerequisites

Grade 8 English or equivalent

Required Materials

None

Technology Information and Requirements

Computer with internet access

Microphone and webcam

Course Grading

QVS is a mastery learning school where students must demonstrate that they meet certain criteria (The Student Will, or TSWs) before closing a unit and receiving credit for it. The assignments for each unit are designed to give students a chance to meet the TSW criteria for either B Level Mastery or A Level Mastery (see below). You will find the TSW criteria in the unit description document on the course Moodle page.

Assignments may be graded as follows:

Attempted /NOT Completed - the student has attempted the assignment but it is not done correctly or completely.

Completed – the assignment in question is not being used to evaluate mastery and is marked as complete.

Mastery “B” - the student has met the TSW criteria covered by the assignment for B Level Mastery.

Above Mastery “A” - the student has exceeded the TSW criteria covered by the assignment for B Level Mastery and meets the criteria for A Level Mastery. This is also referred to as “Above Mastery.”

Units may be graded as follows:

B “Mastery” - the student has met all of the required criteria (TSWs) for B Level Mastery as demonstrated in the assignments.

A “Above Mastery”- the student has exceeded all of the required criteria (TSWs) for B Level Mastery for the unit as demonstrated in the assignments and has met the criteria for A Level Mastery. This is also referred to as “Above Mastery”.

D “Deficient” - this grade may be assigned to the unit if the student has not submitted one or more assignments on time and has fallen behind (typically 10 or more days late) OR if the student has plagiarized material. In the event of late work, a D warning will be sent to the student and parent with a deadline by which the missing work must be submitted or a D may be entered into the QVS gradebook until the work is done. In the case of plagiarism, a D may be automatically entered until the matter has been resolved.

It is important to note that a “D” is not in itself a grade or a punitive measure but rather an indication that the student is not performing as required.

H “On Hold” – for whatever reason, the student is unable to complete a unit and it is put on hold.

Teacher feedback and revision of work:

- The instructor will endeavor to return work within 24 hours, excepting weekends and holidays.
- If a student does not receive feedback within 48 hours, the student should contact the instructor.
- The student will endeavor to revise any assignment that requires it within 48 hours.

Progression through course units:

- Students must close a unit with at least a B before beginning the next (unless a unit is intended to remain open for the duration of a term or the entire year, or an “H” was assigned to the unit). The teacher will work closely with students to ensure they attain B level mastery on a unit, regardless of the time it takes.
- The instructor may allow students to ‘upgrade’ their results on an assignment or on a unit from B to A level mastery. Since this is an English course, major assignments are typically essays that require drafting and there will be an opportunity to work towards an A during this process. **However, outside of this, the ability to upgrade from B to A hinges upon the ability of the student to keep up with progression through units and therefore, upgrades to A for units and assignments may not be possible if a student is behind in the course.**
- Students may only complete two (2) units in June. That is to say that if a student has fallen behind during the school year it is not possible to close more than two units between June 1st and the last day of school (typically, mid-June).

Course Content

S01: Vocabulary Acquisition ~ (Sept- Feb. Runs concurrently with E01, E02, E03, E04 and E05)

Assignment #1: Glossary of literary terminology
Assignment #2: Glossary of literary terminology part II
Assignment #3: Annotation of texts

E01: Short Story I ~ 3 weeks

Assignment #1: The Scarlet Ibis Annotation and Questions
Assignment #2: Most Dangerous Game Annotation and Questions
Assignment #3: Analysis of Sample Response
Assignment #4: Reader Response

E02: Novel Study *Animal Farm* ~ 4 weeks

Assignment #1: Capitalism Pyramid
Assignment #2: Questions and Quotations on Orwell
Assignment #3: Animal Farm Chapters 1-5--Questions, Vocabulary and Character Chart
Assignment #4: Animal Farm Chapters 6-10 Questions, Vocabulary and Character Chart
Final Assignment: Mind Map of Animal Farm as Allegory OR Essay on Animal Farm as Allegory

E03: Rhetoric ~ 3 weeks

Assignment #1: Rhetorical Vocabulary (evaluates S01).
Assignment #2: Annotation of MLK's Speech
Assignment #3: Preparation--SOAPStone, Rhetorical Appeal, and Syntax Diction in MLK's Speech
Assignment #4: Rhetorical Analysis Essay on MLK's I Have a Dream Speech

WINTER BREAK

E04: The Epic *Odyssey* ~ 4 weeks

Assignment #1: Traits of an Epic Hero
Assignment #2: Literary Elements in Homer's Odyssey
Assignment #3: Epithets in the Odyssey
Assignment #4: Narrative Structure of the Odyssey
Assignment #5: Timed Writes

E05: Poetry ~ 3 weeks

Assignment #1: Glossary of Poetic Devices (S01)
Poetry Analysis #1: The Snake
Poetry Analysis #2: The Raven
Poetry Analysis #3: Summer's Day
Poetry Analysis #4: Masters of War

E06: Classic Drama *Romeo and Juliet* ~ 4 weeks

Assignment #1: Questions on Shakespeare's Life and Times
Assignment #2: Questions and Quotations
Assignment #3: Franco Zeffirelli's *Romeo and Juliet*
Assignment #4: Extension Activities

S02: Short Story II ~ 3 weeks

Assignment #1: 10 Things I Didn't Know About Gothic Fiction and Edgar Allen Poe
Assignment #2: Questions on Tell Tale Heart
Assignment #3: Reader Response to Tell Tale Heart
Assignment #4: Reader Response to The Pit and the Pendulum

S04: Rhetoric II ~ 3 weeks

Annotation and Rhetorical Analysis Essay #1
Annotation and Rhetorical Analysis Essay #2
Annotation and Rhetorical Analysis Essay #3

S08: Sustained Silent Reading ~ 4 weeks

Students will select a novel of their choice and report through a reading log.

Attendance Policy

5 periods of 'class time' per week (equivalent of 225 minutes) to read materials and interact with instructor as needed plus about 120 minutes for completion of assignments.

Classroom Behavior Expectations

For synchronous (video) communication:

- School appropriate attire and location
- Camera on at all times
- Microphone muted on login

For asynchronous (email, etc) communication:

- Be polite and respectful in responses to forum posts of other students. Bullying and inappropriate language will not be tolerated.
- Upload only appropriate material.

- Write formally in email communication with instructor.

Submit work on time and inform the instructor if you need an extension. Extensions will only be granted on occasion for exceptional circumstances.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism is not accepted in this or any other QVS course. Prior to taking a QVS course, students must complete the **plagiarism contract** which specifies the QVS policy on plagiarism.

Regardless of whether a student has intentionally or unintentionally borrowed someone else's work without acknowledging it correctly, plagiarism will be dealt with as follows:

First offence: The student must redo the assignment(s) in question. The instructor will make sure the student understands how the plagiarism came about and will give strategies to avoid it going forward. If it appears the plagiarism was intentional, parents and the director will be informed. A "D" may be assigned for the unit in question depending on how the matter is resolved.

Second offence: The QVS director and the parent/guardian will be informed. A "D" will be assigned until the student has redone the assignment(s) in question.

Third offence: The instructor will refer the matter to the QVS director for further action.