



Masterpieces of Literature Syllabus
9th-12th Grade Class
2022-2023

Catalog Description:

The title of this course is Masterpieces. Though there are thousands of books available to read, only a select few have risen above and caught our attention. Some will even say that you are not well-educated until you have delved into these particular novels. But what makes these books masterpieces? Do they really deserve this title? Do they still apply to us today? These are only the surface questions we will ask of each novel. The account of literature we will be using rests on the idea that literature (written or in movie form) is the imitation or representation of reality or the human experience of reality. When a friend has just read a new novel or seen a new movie, our first question is, "What is it about?" We expect, above all, a description of the characters as they act and relate to one another. We wish to know what this particular work shows us about how life is lived. You will be challenged to read carefully, think analytically, and speak persuasively. You will learn the skills to continue reading, watching, and discussing these beautiful masterpieces far beyond the formal classroom.

Short Description:

Discovering how to think carefully and truthfully about life situations and then express one's thoughts clearly and persuasively.

Goals:

1. Students will develop the capacity to think carefully about important issues.
2. Students will learn to explore and discuss topics from a Socratic questioning approach. They will experience the benefit of learning to work through an idea even when those involved in the discussion are in disagreement.
3. Students will learn that it is not the complacent and self-assured intellectual who exemplifies wisdom, but the genuinely curious, open-minded seeker of truth.
4. Students will learn through the example of literary characters how godly and ungodly people respond differently to life's challenges. By reading the consequences of character choices, students will learn to apply character lessons to their own lives, thereby building Christian character in a meaningful way.
5. Students will write reflective and argumentative essays dealing with the ideas that have been explored. They will consider how these ideas interact with the biblical Christian worldview. These essays will serve as tools to help the student think through and clearly, logically, and persuasively express their own thinking on these issues.
6. Students will know the story line, cultural context, and major themes of key literature.

Course Outline:

1. First Quarter ---Mere Christianity
 - a. Our Sense of Right and Wrong
 - b. What's Behind Our Sense of Right and Wrong
 - c. The Rival Conceptions of God
 - d. Free Will and the Shocking Alternative
 - e. Christian Behavior and the Great Sin of Pride
 - f. The Christian Virtue of Hope
 - g. God in Three Persons
 - h. Counting the Cost
2. Second Quarter---The Chronicles of Narnia
 - a. The Magician's Nephew
 - b. The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe
 - c. The Horse and His Boy
 - d. Prince Caspian
 - e. The Voyage of the Dawn Treader
 - f. The Silver Chair

- g. The Last Battle
- 3. Third Quarter---Out of the Silent Planet, Perelandra, The Abolition of Man
 - a. Out of the Silent Planet
 - b. Perelandra
 - c. The Abolition of Man
- 4. Fourth Quarter---Introduction to C.S. Lewis: Writings and Significance, That Hideous Strength
 - a. Introduction/ "Men Without Chests"
 - b. Lewis's Apologetics: Imagination and Reason, Part One
 - c. Lewis's Apologetics: Imagination and Reason, Part Two
 - d. Lewis's Fiction: Narnia and the Storied Moral World
 - e. Lewis's Fiction: The Space Trilogy---A Cosmos of Old Wars and New Battles
 - f. Lewis's Literary Criticism: The Value of Indirect Communication
 - g. Lewis's Literary Criticism: Medieval Cosmology
 - h. "The Way"
 - i. "The Abolition of Man"
 - j. That Hideous Strength

Assignments:

- 1. First Quarter 8/17/22-10/13/22
 - a. 8/17-8/19
 - 1.) Why study Literature?
 - 2.) What is the relationship between reason and imagination?
 - 3.) What is moral imagination?
 - b. 8/22-8/26
 - 1.) Watch video "Discussing Mere Christianity"—Our Sense of Right and Wrong
 - 2.) Discussion
 - 3.) Read Mere Christianity: Preface, pp. 3-15
 - 4.) Quiz 1.1
 - c. 8/29-9/2
 - 1.) Watch video "Discussing Mere Christianity"—What's Behind Our Sense of Right and Wrong
 - 2.) Discussion
 - 3.) Read Mere Christianity, pp. 16-34
 - 4.) Quiz 1.2
 - d. 9/6-9/9
 - 1.) Watch video "Discussing Mere Christianity"—The Rival Conceptions of God
 - 2.) Discussion
 - 3.) Read Mere Christianity, pp. 35-46
 - e. 9/12-9/16
 - 1.) Watch video "Discussing Mere Christianity"—Free Will and the Shocking Alternative
 - 2.) Discussion
 - 3.) Read Mere Christianity, pp. 47-68
 - 4.) Quiz 1.3
 - f. 9/19-9/23
 - 1.) Watch video "Discussing Mere Christianity"—Christian Behavior and the Great Sin of Pride
 - 2.) Discussion
 - 3.) Read Mere Christianity, pp. 69-87, 121-128
 - g. 9/26-9/30
 - 1.) Watch video "Discussing Mere Christianity"—The Christian Virtue of Hope
 - 2.) Discussion

- 3.) Read Mere Christianity, pp. 88-120, 129-152
- 4.) Quiz 1.4
- h. 10/3-10/7
 - 1.) Watch video “Discussing Mere Christianity”—God in Three Persons
 - 2.) Discussion
 - 3.) Read Mere Christianity, pp. 153-186
- i. 10/10-10/13
 - 1.) Watch video “Discussing Mere Christianity”—Counting the Cost
 - 2.) Discussion
 - 3.) Read Mere Christianity, pp. 187-227
 - 4.) Quiz 1.5
2. Second Quarter 10/18/22-12/16/23
 - a. 10/18-10/21
 - 1.) Introduction to the Narnia Chronicles
 - 2.) Discussion
 - 3.) The Magician’s Nephew
 - 4.) Discussion
 - b. 10/24-10/28
 - 1.) The Magician’s Nephew
 - 2.) Discussion
 - 3.) Quiz 2.1
 - 4.) The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe
 - 5.) Discussion
 - c. 10/31-11/4
 - 1.) The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe
 - 2.) Discussion
 - 3.) Quiz 2.2
 - d. 11/7-11/10
 - 1.) The Horse and His Boy
 - 2.) Discussion
 - e. 11/14-11/18
 - 1.) The Horse and His Boy
 - 2.) Discussion
 - 3.) Quiz 2.3
 - 4.) Prince Caspian
 - 5.) Discussion
 - 6.) Hand out prompt for final exam in-class essay
 - f. 11/21-11/25---Thanksgiving Vacation
 - g. 11/28-12/2
 - 1.) Prince Caspian
 - 2.) Discussion
 - 3.) Quiz 2.4
 - h. 12/5-12/9
 - 1.) The Voyage of the Dawn Treader
 - 2.) Discussion
 - i. 12/12-12/16
 - 1.) The Voyage of the Dawn Treader
 - 1.) Discussion
 - 2.) Quiz 2.5
 - 3.) 1st Semester Final Exam (in-class essay)

3. Third Quarter 1/9/23-3/10/23
 - a. 1/9-1/13
 - 1.) The Silver Chair
 - 2.) Discussion
 - b. 1/17-1/20
 - 1.) The Silver Chair
 - 2.) Discussion
 - 3.) Quiz 3.1
 - 4.) The Last Battle
 - 5.) Discussion
 - c. 1/23-1/27
 - 1.) The Last Battle
 - 2.) Discussion
 - 3.) Quiz 3.2
 - d. 1/30-2/3
 - 1.) Out of a Silent Planet
 - 2.) Discussion
 - e. 2/6-2/10
 - 1.) Out of a Silent Planet
 - 2.) Discussion
 - 3.) Quiz 3.3
 - 4.) Perelandra
 - 5.) Discussion
 - f. 2/13-2/17
 - 1.) Perelandra
 - 2.) Discussion
 - 3.) Quiz 3.4
 - g. 2/21-2/24
 - 1.) The Abolition of Man
 - 2.) Discussion
 - h. 2/27-3/3
 - 1.) The Abolition of Man
 - 2.) Discussion
 - 3.) Quiz 3.5
 - 4.) Watch video "An Introduction to C.S. Lewis: Writings and Significance"---
Introduction/Men Without Chests
 - i. 3/6-3/10
 - 1.) Watch video "An Introduction to C.S. Lewis: Writings and Significance"---Lewis's
Apologetics: Imagination and Reason, Part One
 - 2.) Discussion
 - 3.) Watch video "An Introduction to C.S. Lewis: Writings and Significance"---Lewis's
Apologetics: Imagination and Reason, Part Two
 - 4.) Discussion
 - j. 3/13-3/17 Spring Break
4. Fourth Quarter 3/20/23-5/25/23
 - a. 3/20-3/24
 - 1.) Watch video "An Introduction to C.S. Lewis: Writings and Significance"---Lewis's
Fiction: Narnia and the Storied Moral World
 - 2.) Discussion

- 3.) Watch video “An Introduction to C.S. Lewis: Writings and Significance”---Lewis’s Fiction: The Space Trilogy—A Cosmos of Old Wars and New Battles
- 4.) Discussion
- b. 3/27-3/31
 - 1.) Watch video “An Introduction to C.S. Lewis: Writings and Significance”---Lewis’s Literary Criticism: The Value of Indirect Communication
 - 2.) Discussion
 - 3.) Watch video “An Introduction to C.S. Lewis: Writings and Significance”---Lewis’s Literary Criticism: Medieval Cosmology
 - 4.) Quiz 4.1
- c. 4/3-4/6
 - 1.) Watch video “An Introduction to C.S. Lewis: Writings and Significance”---“The Way”
 - 2.) Discussion
 - 3.) Watch video “An Introduction to C.S. Lewis: Writings and Significance”---“The Abolition of Man”
 - 4.) Discussion
 - 5.) Quiz 4.2
- d. 4/10-4/14
 - 1.) That Hideous Strength
 - 2.) Discussion
- e. 4/17-4/21
 - 1.) That Hideous Strength
 - 2.) Discussion
 - 3.) Quiz 4.3
- f. 4/24-4/28
 - 1.) That Hideous Strength
 - 2.) Discussion
- g. 5/1-5/5
 - 1.) That Hideous Strength
 - 2.) Discussion
 - 3.) Quiz 4.4
- h. 5/8-5/12
 - 1.) That Hideous Strength
 - 2.) Discussion
- i. 5/15-5/19
 - 1.) That Hideous Strength
 - 2.) Discussion
 - 3.) Quiz 4.5
 - 4.) Hand out 2nd Semester Final Exam (take home)
- j. 5/22-5/25
 - 1.) Review for final
 - 2.) 2nd Semester Final Exam due

Methods of Instruction:

1. Extensive use of the Socratic discussion
2. Student presentations based on outside reading
3. Lecture
4. Audio and video materials

Methods of Evaluation:

Since classroom participation is a primary element of this class, it constitutes a significant portion of your total grade. The grade is determined by the teacher based on daily student observation. The elements included in

these observations include: classroom discipline, daily preparedness, classroom discussion, involvement in discussion, thinking skills demonstrated in discussions and completion of daily reading assignments. The reading assignments are critical to this class. They constitute the “lecture” part of class. Discussion is driven and enriched by out of class reading and thought.

1st Quarter

Quiz 1.1	20 points	8/25
Participation 1.1	20 points	8/25
Quiz 1.2	20 points	9/1
Participation 1.2	20 points	9/1
Quiz 1.3	20 points	9/15
Participation 1.3	20 points	9/15
Quiz 1.4	20 points	9/29
Participation 1.4	20 points	9/29
Quiz 1.5	20 points	10/13
Participation 1.5	20 points	10/13
Quarter Total	200 points	

2nd Quarter

Quiz 2.1	20 points	10/25
Participation 2.1	20 points	10/25
Quiz 2.2	20 points	11/3
Participation 2.2	20 points	11/3
Quiz 2.3	20 points	11/15
Participation 2.3	20 points	11/15
Quiz 2.4	20 points	12/1
Participation 2.4	20 points	12/1
Quiz 2.5	20 points	12/13
Participation 2.5	20 points	12/13
Quarter Total	200 points	
1 st Semester Final Exam	100 points	12/15

1st Semester

$$1^{\text{st}} \text{ Qtr} + 2^{\text{nd}} \text{ Qtr} + 1^{\text{st}} \text{ Semester Final Exam} = 1^{\text{st}} \text{ Semester Final Grade}$$

$$40\% + 40\% + 20\% = \text{Final Grade}$$

3rd Quarter

Quiz 3.1	20 points	1/17
Participation 3.1	20 points	1/17
Quiz 3.2	20 points	1/26
Participation 3.2	20 points	1/26
Quiz 3.3	20 points	2/7
Participation 3.3	20 points	2/7
Quiz 3.4	20 points	2/16
Participation 3.4	20 points	2/16
Quiz 3.5	20 points	2/28
Participation 3.5	20 points	2/28
Quarter Total	200 points	

4th Quarter

Quiz 4.1	20 points	3/28
Participation 4.1	20 points	3/28
Quiz 4.2	20 points	4/6
Participation 4.2	20 points	4/6
Quiz 4.3	20 points	4/20

Participation 4.3	20 points	4/20
Quiz 4.4	20 points	5/4
Participation 4.4	20 points	5/4
Quiz 4.5	20 points	5/18
Participation 4.5	20 points	5/18
Quarter Total	200 points	
2 nd Semester Final Exam	100 points	

2nd Semester

3rd Qtr + 4th Qtr + 2nd Semester Final Exam = 2nd Semester Final Grade
 40% + 40% + 20% = Final Grade

Examples of Assignments:

1. Discussion will be drawn from related reading assignments.
2. Quizzes to assist in constant accountability and practice.

Textbooks Required:

C.S. Lewis

Mere Christianity

ISBN: 978-0-06-065292-9

HarperCollins

1952

C.S. Lewis

The Chronicles of Narnia

ISBN: 0-06-623850-1

HarperCollins

2001

C.S. Lewis

The Abolition of Man

ISBN: 978-0-06-061294-4

HarperCollins

1944

C.S. Lewis

The Space Trilogy

ISBN: 978-1-4516-6482-9

Scribner

2011

Behavior Policy:

1. We expect all students to express Warrior's core values of Godliness, Obedience, Leadership, and Scholarship in and out of class.
2. We expect each student to respect the person and property of fellow students.
3. Since class discussion and debate is common, the following principles should be followed:
 - a. Genuine disagreement is an achievement because it enables people to learn. We assume that a disagreement is valuable until proven otherwise.
 - b. Deepening our understanding of truth or wisdom is more important in this class than winning an argument.
 - c. Respect is important in this class. The merits of a position may be debated, but persons may not be attacked.
 - d. If a student feels attacked, they should say so respectfully, and the teacher and class will assess the situation together.
4. In accordance with I Peter 3:15, students must express themselves with gentleness and respect to those in authority and to their peers.