

Course Introduction

Welcome! This course will look at some of the great writings that have shaped our world. Besides extensive work in grammar, mechanics, syntax, and usage students will encounter works that are part of our cultural vernacular and thinking. Students will also practice inquiry and critical thinking through literature analysis and debate. Thesis formulation and support is emphasized through frequent practice, study, and revision. You will also learn skills of oratory and deliver several formal speeches. Throughout, vocabulary and principles of vocabulary study are taught and reinforced. All this is done within the context of honoring Christ as Lord, his Word as truth.

Course Description

Grammar and Composition Honors provides students with the foundational elements of the English curriculum in all areas: writing, reading, vocabulary, grammar, and oratory. At the heart of this class is a commitment to thoughtful inquiry about the way words work. All the assignments and discussions seek to build a growing precision in the students' understanding of the connection between language and thought. The focus on grammar allows students to pull apart text word by word and consider why "great" books are great, and the focus on composition pushes students to consider the impact of structure in the articulation of ideas. Through discussion, inquiry and critical thinking, students respond to timeless questions about the nature of man, reflecting on past ideals in light of present realities. Students engage in a refining thinking process through a series of essays, becoming more adept at thesis formulation and textual support. Students also learn to speak confidently about their own ideas through formal speeches and broaden their capacity to read difficult text through targeted vocabulary instruction. The interplay of thought and word supplies the framework for the studies of this course.

This is a yearlong course consisting of 13 units. Upon successful completion students will receive 1 credit towards high school graduation.

Purpose of the Course

To provide students with the foundational elements of English in all areas: writing, reading, vocabulary, grammar, and oratory.

Course Overview

Semester 1

- Language: Syntax, Diction, and Composition
- Nouns, Verbs, Active-Passive Voice
- Modifiers, Conjunctions, Pronouns, Object Complements, and Mechanics

- Phrases and Clauses
- Exploits and Exposition
- The Odyssey
- Beowulf
- Oral Interpretation

Semester 2

- Grammar Review
- To Kill a Mockingbird
- Romeo and Juliet
- Oral Interpretation and Explication
- Fahrenheit 451

Required Course Materials

Please access the list of course materials from the OC Online book ordering system and order your materials as soon as possible. Oftentimes, course materials are on back order and you may experience a delay in receiving them, causing students to fall behind in their online coursework. When ordering used or rented materials, be careful that online access codes are also current.

Methods of Instruction

To enable you to reach the objectives, you will be assessed in the following ways:

- Quizzes
Quizzes will regularly assess your understanding of grammar, mechanics, and vocabulary.
- Tests
Tests will assess your cumulative knowledge periodically.
- Essays
Essays, which should be revised with the help of your instructor, will regularly ask for analysis supported by textual evidence presented in a grammatically and mechanically sound essay.
- Oral presentations
Oral presentations will be a common occurrence and will incorporate all aspects of the course in a well-organized spoken format.
- Discussions
Regular discussion board participation is integral to your success in this course as you will participate in writing workshops, writing practice, and literary analysis
- Synchronous Sessions
You must be ready to discuss the literature and practice grammar at each session.

Methods of Evaluation

- Tests: 15%
 - Review Tests will be held regularly to assess your knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, and writing. You are accountable for all of the vocabulary and grammar presented before that review test, not just the list/concept that comes right before the test. Expect the composition on review tests to focus on the most recent literature.
- Quizzes 10%
 - Quizzes on grammar (including mechanics) and vocabulary will be given regularly.
- Participation 10%
 - Discussion posts, synchronous sessions
- Assignments 40%
 - Assignments include discussions, papers, writing practice, exercises, and oral presentations. You will need to be current on reading to do well on any assignment. For papers, it is in your best interest to send drafts to your instructor and rewrite and revise, even without prompting.
- Final exam 25%
 - These are cumulative tests.