

## Course Syllabus for Senior English (British Literature)

**Description:** Senior English will focus mainly on a study of the literature of the British Isles, from Anglo-Saxon times to modern. Vocabulary and spelling lists are tested bi-weekly in the first semester. In addition to classroom reading, each student is expected to read and write a report on a book from the approved list each quarter. The second semester will include a short review of grammar and writing principles while the students are reading the novel they will evaluate for their major paper. The senior paper is a literary-critical, argumentative essay, focusing on the student's chosen novel.

### Goals:

Writing abilities will be developed through the process of organizing and forming a major paper, with a focus on the qualities of good writing. Thinking skills will be honed through the process of creating an argument while finding sufficient proofs to support that argument.

Study of literature on a more advanced level is reinforced by focusing on the British culture which had a major role in shaping our own, and how its philosophies affected style, content, and moral tone, with the goal of understanding man's thinking and developing discernment of literature and the values it teaches.

Vocabulary and spelling will broaden and strengthen language capabilities.

**Textbooks:** *English Grammar and Composition* (Harcourt Brace), *Adventures in British Literature* (Harcourt Brace), *Hamlet*

**Assignments:** Literature assignments will be checked daily by way of a 5-point quiz, given before any discussion has occurred. Testing will cover class discussion/notes.

Vocabulary/Spelling lists will be sent home for completion by Thursday, to be quizzed Friday (on a bi-weekly basis). After three lists have been completed, a review test will be given in place of the next scheduled quiz. Additional projects, including the different steps of the paper, will be assigned within the unit, usually accompanied by a separate handout.

Grammar review will be tested through class exercises and tests. Novel reading will be checked using open-book review sheets.

**Units:**

LITERATURE UNIT ONE: Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

*Beowulf*

Early English and Scottish Ballads

*The Canterbury Tales*

Thomas Malory

LITERATURE UNIT TWO: Elizabethans

Edmund Spenser

Christopher Marlowe

Sir Walter Raleigh

Sir Philip Sidney

Thomas Campion

William Shakespeare

Ben Jonson

LITERATURE UNIT THREE: *Hamlet*

Study Elizabethan theater

Read all of Shakespeare's play

Evaluate the play through essay writing and other exercises

Memorize several famous lines from the play

LITERATURE UNIT FOUR: Seventeenth Century

John Donne

Sir John Suckling

Richard Lovelace

George Herbert

John Milton

Robert Herrick

John Dryden

LITERATURE UNIT FIVE: Neoclassics

Alexander Pope

Jonathan Swift

Samuel Johnson

James Boswell

Richard Brinsley Sheridan

Thomas Gray

Robert Burns

William Blake

GRAMMAR/WRITING UNIT: The Argumentative Essay

Study the qualities of good writing: concision, emphasis, clarity, precision, variety, organization, unity, coherence, and correctness

Review basic grammar: punctuation, modifiers, agreement, clear reference

Read and complete the review sheets on chosen Jane Austen novel

Follow the steps of writing an argumentative essay, from the formulation of a thesis statement, creating an outline, and finding support to the rough and final drafts

LITERATURE UNIT SIX: Romantics

William Wordsworth

Samuel Taylor Coleridge

George Gordon, Lord Byron

Percy Bysshe Shelley

John Keats

LITERATURE UNIT SEVEN: Victorians

Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Robert Browning

Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Gerard Manley Hopkins

Thomas Hardy

LITERATURE UNIT EIGHT: Moderns

James Joyce

W. B. Yeats

A. E. Housman

T. S. Eliot

Dylan Thomas