

# Advanced Literature

2011-2012

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## Course Description:

After the prerequisites of English I through IV have been met, students are eligible to take the Senior Seminar elective. There is no particular genre or historic time-line relegated to the books selected for Senior Seminar (unlike in Eng I-IV, where the books chosen generally correspond to the time-line of history studied in that grade). Senior Seminar is viewed as a rewarding elective for students who have persevered through MCA's Great Books curriculum. Choosing from a variety of books like, *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*, and the *Adventures of Robinson Crusoe*, to C.S. Lewis' *The Great Divorce*, and Harper Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird*, classics, both old and new, are studied and discussed in this far ranging class. This is a senior's chance to be introduced to a collegiate level "seminar" class, and the credit/grade given will appear on their MCA transcript as 'Advanced Literature'. Please note that this is primarily a PARTICIPATION based class and attendance is critical. (No test or daily quizzes.)

## Goals and Objectives:

One obvious objective of this course is to expose students to the great ideas of Western Civilization, and introduce them to superior thinkers, writers, and communicators. A secondary objective is to let the student read a smattering of great literature not limited to any time period, genre, or political or religious system. Senior Seminar will hopefully rekindle an expectation of wanting to know more, wanting to learn more, and wanting to read more.

## Literary works:

*To Kill a Mockingbird*

*Last of the Mohicans*

*Brave New World*

*Cyrano de Bergerac*

*A Tale of Two Cities*

*The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*

*Silas Marner*

*The Scarlet Letter*

*The Great Divorce*

Other selected works selected by tutor

## Grading:

**Participation 50%**

Show up ready to discuss the assigned reading. Have a basis of knowledge for discussion through research done on your own.

**Assigned Papers 50%**

These are papers which center on a thesis and present a philosophical argument, or analyze and aspect of the book. These papers will have between a 2 - 4 week deadline with the majority being non-revisable. The student will be told if revisions will be accepted.

**Expectations:**

Students are expected to come to class fully prepared to discuss passages from the assigned reading. Their preparedness strongly affects Participation especially since 50% of their overall grade is related to this category. When reading their assigned texts there should be an interaction with the work which includes knowing the ideas the book is communicating and an understanding of what it means. Students are also expected to be willing to share their thoughts and opinions in any open discussion with consideration for all viewpoints. Total comprehension is not always achievable, but through dialog and discussion (especially through difficult passages) the Socratic Method provides an arena for a new awareness (or epiphany) to present itself through others' perspectives.