

Classical Foundations II A & C
Course Syllabus (2011-2012)
Writing, Grammar & Roots

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Course Description:

Writing: This course is designed to give students the tools required to express their thoughts through writing. Throughout the year, students will explore various works of literature from which they will learn to write clear, well-organized five-paragraph essays. The class will discuss the authors such as, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Thomas Hardy, Ivan Longfellow and others. The writing skills, literature analysis and class discussion from this class will lay the foundation for a classical education.

Roots: This portion of the class will focus on learning the basic Greek roots that make up our modern English language. The class will consist of definitions and explorations of the roots as seen in modern language. Quizzes and tests will be used to monitor mastery of the roots.

Grammar: This portion of the class is designed to maintain building a strong grammatical foundations in capitalization, punctuation, parts of speech and sentence structure.

Class Objectives:

1. To organize and produce a well-written essay expressing the analysis of poetry and prose
2. To analyze literature and poetry
3. To apply correct grammar skills in various types of essays.
4. To develop the skills of editing/critiquing of the writer

Course Requirements:

1. Students are expected to come to class with all reading and/or writing assignments completed and ready to contribute to class discussions.
2. All writing assignments are to be typed, double-spaced and handed in on their Due date (No strange fonts---Ariel or Times New Roman are fine)
3. Students will be expected to present their essays and discuss all reading assignments in class.

Office Hours: I welcome the opportunity to meet with students or parents. Parents are more than welcome to contact me to find out how things are going in class. etc. Students should make a point of asking for assistance with any concepts that they are uncertain with. . It is easier to deal with things sooner rather than later! Office hours are posted on my office door.

Books:

1. *Easy Grammar Student Workbook*
2. Handouts and various writings and books

Materials needed:

- Pen and pencils
- Highlighters
- Notebook paper ----College ruled
- Composition Book (9 ¼ x 7 ½) **(2 composition books will be needed)**
- Folder with brads
- Several glue sticks

Grading:

Class Participation/Notebooks.....	20%
Daily Work/Homework/ Quizzes.....	20%
Writing Prompts.....	20%
Tests/ Formal Papers/Projects.....	40%

Students are required to have grammar workbook, writing prompt composition book and roots composition notebook at each class.

Pop quizzes will be given occasionally to ensure that students are making an effort to understand the material.

Assignments:

Assignments are given each class period. Students are encouraged to record the assignments in a assignment book. If they need any clarification of the assigned work -----they should call me. If a student is going to miss class, they need to come by to find out what material they will be missing.

I encourage parents to check Gradespeed regularly to monitor their student's progress in class.

Mastery with Honors: I encourage all students to challenge themselves to achieve Mastery Qualifying for Honors (MQ). To do so, an average of 92.5% or higher must be maintained throughout the fall semester. If a student achieves MQ eligibility at the end of the first semester, the student is eligible to complete a Mastery with Honors (MH) project to be completed by April.

*******Writing Assignment for the First Day of Class*******

Write a clear well-organized paragraph of 10 or more sentences discussing a topic of your choice or one of the topics below. **Remember—topic sentence, supportive sentences and conclusion.**

Some topics:

- ****Something significant from my summer vacation
- *****My seventh grade year
- ***What I read this summer
- *****What I expect out of my eighth grade year

This assignment will be due the first day of class.