

English 1C **2011-2012**

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Course Description:

For centuries men have been writing down their thoughts and understanding in books. Many of these have had a great impact and shaped western culture. Great Books 1 is the first year in a multiyear study of some of these books. It will focus on the early literature from western culture written by the Greeks. This course is designed to parallel what the students are studying in their history class on Greece and Rome.

Course Objectives:

1. For the students to learn to read a Great Book and have fun doing so.
2. For the students to interact with the thoughts and ideas of great writers.
3. To develop the students' writing skills.
4. To develop the students' thinking skills.
5. To develop the students' communication skills.

Course Requirements:

1. Students will be expected to read prior to class based on the schedule that will be handed out the first day of class.
2. There will be regular, non-revisable reading quizzes to determine if students are prepared for class and have a basic understanding of the material.
3. There will be writing practice on our weekly lab day.
4. Over the course of the year, the student will write thesis papers on assigned topics.
5. Students will be expected to discuss the reading as well as respectfully listen to and interact with other students.

Office Hours:

My office hours will be posted on my door. I encourage students and parents to drop in at any time to discuss progress in the class and seek assistance when needed. It is better to get help as soon as a problem is noticed!

Books:

- Homer- *The Iliad*
 The Odyssey
- Sophocles- The Three Theban Plays
 Oedipus Rex
 Oedipus at Colonus
 Antigone
- Aeschylus- *The Oresteia*
- Plato- *The Last Days of Socrates*
 Euthyphro
 Apology
 Phaedo
 The Republic

Materials needed:

- Bible
- Notebook paper
- Pen and Pencil
- Dictionary

Grading:

Participation.....**30%** This includes being on time, active participation in discussions, being prepared, and being respectful .

Papers.....**40%** There will be a number of thesis papers assigned over the course of the year. These will be revisable (up to 70% of points can be regained). Papers will typically be worth 100-150 points. Rough drafts will be worth 25 points and will also go into this category.

Homework Proofs**30%** These will consist of quizzes, essays, and summaries that are designed to determine if the students are keeping up with reading. If a student is consistently failing these despite reading the material, they need to make it a priority to see me!

First Assignment:

Read the first paragraph of information on Achilles that is found on p. 45 -46 of *The Iliad*. Be sure you understand what caused the war. Then read Books 1 and 2 of *The Iliad*. You should take reading notes, paying careful attention to which characters are on the Achaean side and which are on the Trojan side.