



## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Human Society in Literature is viewed as a rewarding elective for students who have persevered through MCA's Great Books curriculum. This is an MCA senior's chance to be introduced to a collegiate level "seminar" class. In this elective we will read and discuss some of the most memorable literature ever written about human beings and the values that form their society. We will consider the questions these books present to us, examine their presuppositions and hypothesis, and reflect upon the present society we inhabit and the heavenly kingdom to which we are called. We will read literature spanning the millennium and genres that speak to these themes. The class will not offer reading quizzes or "Thesis" papers. Instead, assignments will consist of weekly readings, in-class discussions, and writing original blog posts that further explore the values underpinning human society and thoughtfully contributing to the discussion threads that follow them.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

Human Society in Literature seeks three student outcomes.

1. Immerse students in the "Great Conversation" as they "dialogue" with the great writers and philosophers of Western Civilization. Specifically equip them to "hear" the values, virtues, and vices that these great writers say form human society.
2. Train students to use their critical reading and logic skills to grasp the argument being presented through literature, examine its presuppositions, weigh its proposals, and take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.
3. Enhance students' ability to appreciate and critique literary forms while cultivating a literary style of their own.

## REQUIRED READING

- *The Republic* (Plato)
- *A Tale of Two Cities* (Dickens)
- *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Lee)
- *Brave New World* (Huxley)
- *1984* (Orwell)
- The Advanced Literature Blog: The Advanced Literature blog will be done online but will be by invitation only. In other words, only the tutor, the students, their parents, and Advanced Literature classmates will have access to what is posted.

Students pursuing dual credit will be required to do a 20 plus-hour Mastery with Honors project. This project will entail reading an additional tutor-approved "Great Book" or "Series of Books" and submitting an agreed upon assignment that demonstrates what the student has learned.

## TURN IT IN SYSTEM

**Turnitin** is an internet-based service and tool that promotes academic integrity and original thought from students. Turnitin screens for similarity (plagiarism) and detects unauthorized A.I. usage in writing.

Students for this class are required to submit all their major writing assignments through Turnitin.

Grades for these assignments will not be entered into FACTS/RenWeb until the student has submitted their work through Turnitin. If a required assignment has not been uploaded by the deadline, then the tutor will enter a Missing Grade into FACTS and include a comment explaining why until the paper has been properly submitted.

Tutors will use the tools and the feedback Turnitin provides to help them make a more-informed decision about the integrity and originality of the students' work.

# MCA Schoolwide Policies

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## MCA ATTENDANCE POLICY

**Tardy Policy:** Tardies will be marked at the discretion of the individual tutors. Students or parents should contact the individual tutors to report reasons for tardies as soon as possible.

**Absence:** Parents must inform the school if their student will be absent for any reason. Call the Front Office or email [attendance@mcaknights.org](mailto:attendance@mcaknights.org) prior to the absence or on the morning of the absence. If a student is absent without prior notification by a parent, the school will call the parent to determine the validity of the absence. Call the office, 432-694-0995, or email [attendance@mcaknights.org](mailto:attendance@mcaknights.org).

In the event an Upper School student is absent for more than one-fourth (1/4) of the class sessions during a semester, the student's parents must meet with the tutor and Head Administrator to determine whether the student will receive credit for the class. Additional and/or make-up work may be required.

**Missed Assignment Due Date Guidelines:** In the event of an absence, a due date extension will be given. The extension will not exceed the number of school days missed during the absence. Due dates will be established by the teacher or class tutor. Students must complete all work assigned during their absence. However, the teachers or tutors may, at their discretion, excuse the students from any portion of the assignments missed. Students will receive full credit for submitting assigned work. Note: It is the **student's responsibility** to find out what work was assigned. In the case of extended illness, it is recommended that the student or parents contact the tutors directly to find out what assignments were or will be missed.

## MCA HONESTY POLICY

All students are assumed to be exhibiting the godly fruit of self-control. We anticipate working with students who are characterized by joy, honesty, and diligence. For this reason, upon enrollment, we require that each student affirm that he or she will maintain the highest standards of honesty and behavior in all work done for Midland Classical Academy. **All students will be asked to sign the following.**

## Pledge of Academic Honesty

*I have read and understand the Midland Classical Academy Code of Conduct. I pledge my honor, with God as my witness, to commit myself to the practice and preservation of these standards of academic honesty as long as I am a student of the academy.*

As such, the following actions are considered serious violations of our Honesty Policy.

1. Directly copying someone else's work visually, orally, electronically or otherwise.
2. Use of disallowed devices on assignments such as notes, smartphones, books, etc.
3. Getting test questions or essential information from another student who has already completed an assignment that will later be taken, such as a test or quiz.
4. Any other activity that the tutor has explicitly described as cheating.

## MCA MASTERY WITH HONORS (MH)

Midland Classical Academy offers honors credit, referred to as "Mastery with Honor", but we offer no "honors" classes.

Mastery with Honor credit for a class is given to those students who

- receive a minimum grade of 92.5 at the end of the course
- receive a minimum participation grade of 85 at the end course
- demonstrate character befitting an honor student (1 Corinthians 10:31)
- complete a tutor-approved, 20+ hour project that advances the student's knowledge or skills in the subject while serving either the school or the community in some capacity.

As a student fulfills these requirements in a class at MCA they receive a Mastery with Honor designated by an "MH" for the class. Mastery with Honor applications and a nominal fee are due at the end of October. The projects themselves are due at the end of March with two scheduled checkpoints in between the application and final deadline.

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (A.I.) POLICY

Artificial Intelligence programs are tools that can be used beneficially or harmfully. To the extent that MCA uses these A.I. tools, we desire to use them and instruct our students to use them beneficially. It requires the classical virtue of "Wisdom" to discern the difference between what is beneficial and what is harmful.

Among MCA's core values is "Engaging Minds". Everything we do, including our use of A.I. needs to be in harmony with this value and to cultivate within students the skill of being able to "think for themselves".

MCA offers the following principles for tutors & students to follow as they navigate A.I. in their academic domains. MCA tutors will create and clearly communicate their own instructions for A.I. usage in their classrooms and for their assignments. Students should practice integrity, honesty, and humility in their use of A.I. as in all their work.

**Principle 1: *Why to use A.I.*** - A.I. should only be used by a student to equip them to better understand the material and to learn in a way that facilitates their critical thinking skills.

**Principle 2: *When to use A.I.*** - Tutors will explicitly and clearly communicate which assignments a student may or may not use A.I. tools to assist in their learning.

**Principle 3: *How to use A.I.*** - Tutors will explicitly and clearly communicate the method in which it is acceptable and not acceptable for the student to use A.I. tools.