

Norwood Public Schools

Grade 12 Utopian and Dystopian Literature Curriculum Overview

Description (including primary objectives and outcomes):

This course is designed for college-bound seniors whose competence in English has been firmly established and/or for those who despite exceptional ability choose commitment to other disciplines over AP English. The rigorous curriculum requires students to read critically and analytically and write with a mature style. Students will demonstrate their skill and knowledge through class discussion, papers, tests/quizzes, Socratic seminars, and several projects that implement technology. The course focuses on ways in which utopian and dystopian literature both speculate about the future of society and reflect the fears and anxieties of the cultural context from which they emerge. Reading and viewing a range of novels and films, we will encounter topics such as power, government involvement, reproduction, and how authors use texts to critique and often satirize the society in which we live. Texts will include *Brave New World*, *V for Vendetta*, *Lord of the Flies*, *1984* and *Herland*. During the summer students must complete the Summer Assignment. Assessment of all grade 12 students includes the department-wide midyear exam and the grade 12 final exam.

Learning Experiences:

Reading

Drawing inferences from a variety of texts
Comparing and contrasting themes in a variety of texts
Analyzing literature within its historical context

Writing

Using discussion to develop original theses independently
Writing a College Essay
Organizing and composing various pieces of both formal and informal writing, including personal responses, literary analyses, and creative writing
Prewriting and revising essays
Gathering literary evidence to support theses

Speaking and Listening

Informal listening and contributing to class discussions, using the text to develop and support ideas
Formal listening and contributing to class discussion during Socratic Seminars
Presentations using Power Point

Content Outline:

Six to eight novels and a variety of short stories; writing (literary analyses, research projects, and creative writing); higher level literary devices (tone, irony, voice, theme); vocabulary from literature.

Resources Used:

1984, *Brave New World*, *Herland*, *Walden*, *The Hunger Games*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Lord of the Flies*, *V for Vendetta*, *Harrison Bergeron*; relevant non-fiction texts from *The Boston Globe*, *The New York Times*, and other major news publications.

As of May 22, 2012