

Course Description:

In this course, students will read and analyze literary texts from American history. They will read different types of texts, from short stories to poetry to plays, including all of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*. These reading selections demonstrate ways to understand explicit and implicit ideas through textual evidence; themes, central ideas, and the details that support them; and structural elements and their influence on style, among other ideas and concepts.

As students read a variety of texts in this course, they will practice ways to recognize textual evidence, identify themes and central ideas, make inferences, and identify figurative and connotative language. In addition, they will learn about recognizing patterns of word change, using parallel structure, using active and passive voice for effect, using punctuation to create pauses and breaks, and explaining nuance and shades of meaning. They will also learn the definitions, parts of speech, and etymology of various vocabulary words.

In addition, students will learn the elements of writing so that they can plan, write, revise, and edit their own fictional narrative and literary analysis essays.

Through the lessons provided in this course, students will master techniques that will help them achieve a deeper appreciation of literary texts.

Course Objectives:

- Recognize and analyze central ideas and themes in literary texts.
- Comprehend characters and the author's use of direct and indirect characterization.
- Analyze dramatic and narrative elements, including their interaction with each other.
- Recognize explicit and implicit meaning in literary texts.
- Analyze the impact of diction and syntax.
- Recognize and analyze point of view and the influence of social, historical, and economic context.
- Recognize and analyze structural elements and their impact on literary text.
- Compose a fictional narrative and a literary analysis essay.
- Look for and identify patterns of word change.
- Recognize and use active and passive voice for effect.
- Recognize and use parallel structure in writing.
- Interpret denotation, connotation, and nuance.
- Use punctuation to create pauses and breaks.

Required Materials:

In course

Course Overview:

This course is made up of six units. Each unit has five lessons. Lessons present the material in many different ways so that you can increase your comprehension. These ways include Unit Vocabulary; Language, Reading, and Writing Skills; Lesson Workbooks and Checkpoints; and Discussion Boards. Some activities are graded by the learning management software; others are graded by your instructor. Additional activities are available for you but are not graded. Please contact the course instructor for further information about course guidelines and grading policies.

Course Organization

Each unit begins with an introduction, which includes a brief description of the content and intended learning outcomes. Following the introduction are these standard activities, which may or may not be present in each lesson:

Unit Vocabulary – Includes parts of speech, definitions, and etymology.

Language Skill Instruction – Includes instruction in language skills; contains practice questions.

Reading Selections – Includes reading selections and videos; is part of the Reading Skill.

Reading Skill Instruction – Includes instruction in reading skills; contains practice questions.

Writing Skill Instruction and Activity – Includes instruction in writing skills; contains activities including writing projects, which are assessments graded by the instructor and which require you to apply your knowledge and writing capabilities to demonstrate mastery of the lesson content; includes a research-based informational essay, completed in Units 1, 2, and 3; and an argument essay, completed in Units 3, 4 and 5.

Checkpoint – Uses several questions to assess mastery of lesson objectives; is a graded activity; may be taken up to three times.

Discussion Board – Is an academic discussion board; gives you a chance to share your thoughts and ideas about the topics covered in each lesson.

Exam Prep – Presents a summary of the skills covered in the unit.

In the last lesson of each unit, the Checkpoint activity is replaced with a comprehensive assessment:

Unit Exams – At the end of the unit is an exam that will assess your mastery of unit objectives. It consists of a maximum of 20 questions. You may take the Unit Exam only once.

Final Exam – This exam is in Lesson 30 and consists of questions that test you on the concepts and information you learned in this course. You may take the Final Exam only once.