

Course Introduction

Welcome! This course will look at some of the great writings that have shaped our world. Besides extensive work in grammar, mechanics, syntax, and usage students will encounter works that are part of our cultural vernacular and thinking. Students will also practice inquiry and critical thinking through literature analysis and debate. Thesis formulation and support is emphasized through frequent practice, study, and revision. You will also learn skills of oratory and deliver several formal speeches. Throughout, vocabulary and principles of vocabulary study are taught and reinforced. All this is done within the context of honoring Christ as Lord, his Word as truth.

Course Description

Grammar and Composition provides students with the foundational elements of the English curriculum in all areas: writing, reading, vocabulary, grammar, and oratory. At the heart of this class is a commitment to thoughtful inquiry about the way words work. All the assignments and discussions seek to build a growing precision in the students' understanding of the connection between language and thought. The focus on grammar allows students to pull apart text word by word and consider why "great" books are great, and the focus on composition pushes students to consider the impact of structure in the articulation of ideas. Through discussion, inquiry and critical thinking, students respond to timeless questions about the nature of man, reflecting on past ideals in light of present realities. Students engage in a refining thinking process through a series of essays, becoming more adept at thesis formulation and textual support. Students also learn to speak confidently about their own ideas through formal speeches and broaden their capacity to read difficult text through targeted vocabulary instruction. The interplay of thought and word supplies the framework for the studies of this course.

This is a yearlong course consisting of 12 units. Upon successful completion students will receive 1 credit towards high school graduation.

Purpose of the Course

To provide students with the foundational elements of English in all areas: writing, reading, vocabulary, grammar, and oratory.

Course Overview

Semester 1

- Language Precision in Reading and Writing
- Mechanical Rules and Modifiers
- Magician's Nephew

- The Odyssey
- The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe
- Beowulf and Oral Interpretation

Semester 2

- The Chronicles of Narnia Collaboration Unit
- To Kill a Mockingbird Part 1
- To Kill a Mockingbird Part 2
- Fahrenheit 451 “The Hearth and the Salamander”
- Fahrenheit 451 “The Sieve and the Sand”
- Fahrenheit 451 “Burning Bright”

Required Course Materials

Please access the list of course materials from the OC Online book ordering system and order your materials as soon as possible. Oftentimes, course materials are on back order and you may experience a delay in receiving them, causing students to fall behind in their online coursework. When ordering used or rented materials, be careful that online access codes are also current.

Methods of Evaluation

- Tests: 15%
 - Review Tests will be held regularly to assess your knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, and writing. You are accountable for all of the vocabulary and grammar presented before that review test, not just the list/concept that comes right before the test. Expect the composition on review tests to focus on the most recent literature.
- Quizzes 10%
 - Quizzes on grammar (including mechanics) and vocabulary will be given regularly.
- Participation 10%
 - Discussion posts and live classes
- Assignments 40%
 - Assignments include discussions, papers, writing practice, exercises, and oral presentations. You will need to be current on reading to do well on any assignment. For papers, it is in your best interest to send drafts to your instructor and rewrite and revise, even without prompting.

- Final Assessment 25%
 - A culminating performance task.

Additional Course Information

Detailed information regarding OC Online policies on proctored final exams, grading policy, late/missing assignment policy, weekly live sessions, course expectations, and additional school policies can be found on the website.