

Medieval and Gothic Literature – Class Outline

Mr. Neal | VPHS

Class Description

This course is based on a reading and writing program designed to broaden high school students' literary background. This course is designed as a survey course – which means it covers many important works, both large and small, from cultural viewpoints throughout history. Authors that may possibly be studied include Geoffrey Chaucer, Joseph Conrad, Charles Dickens, William Faulkner, Nathaniel Hawthorne, H.P. Lovecraft, Edgar Allan Poe, Mary Shelly, and others (tbd). Students read widely and deeply and are asked to analyze and write about how the genres relate to each other.

The course will reflect and represent Missouri Learning Standards through a variety of methods such as word analysis/vocabulary, reading comprehension, literary response and analysis, various writing strategies and applications, mechanics of and grammar in writing, cultural explorations, and listening and speaking activities and projects.

Upon leaving Medieval and Gothic Literature students will be able to:

- identify and interpret major universal elements of these related genres
- understand and trace the influence of these works upon later works
- analyze elements of fiction and verse in respect to the gothic influence
- analyze and discuss symbolism as it relates to the characteristics of these genres
- compare and contrast motifs from varying historical periods
- understand historical contexts, recognizing literary timelines throughout history
- increase writing fluency through essays, refining argumentation and support
- find and use reference material for research and development
- write effective summaries which make connections between multiple texts
- develop vocabulary through word association and context
- create an original and compelling short story employing multiple elements of these genres
- create, revise, edit, and publish original compositions

Class Structure and Literary Works

The course will be structured chronologically, beginning with an exploration of the medieval time period, and the lasting influence from medieval literature which influence later genres such as the ones we will explore. Following several weeks of medieval exploration, the course will take us into gothic literature and early horror literature – where we will spend time reading prominent works from the 19th and 20th centuries.

The objective of the course will be to trace the lineage of medieval literature and its impact on the genre of gothic literature.

Although we will attempt to develop a broad understanding of Medieval and Gothic literature, given limitations of time it is impossible to cover every important work of literature from every culture and time period. With this in mind, the following list includes works which we may examine (alphabetical by author):

“Chickamauga,” by Ambrose Bierce (1891)

Heart of Darkness, by Joseph Conrad (1899)

“The Signalman,” by Charles Dickens (1866)

“The Fall of the House of Usher,” by Edgar Allan Poe (1840)¹

Frankenstein, by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley (1817)²

The Picture of Dorian Gray, by Oscar Wilde (1890)

As part of our exploration of Medieval Literature specifically, we will broadly explore:
Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, by Simon Armitage (A New-Verse Translation)
The Canterbury Tales, by Geoffrey Chaucer (Short Excerpts/Stories)

Class Materials

SUPPLIES (your responsibility):

- A three-ring binder with room for notes (SUGGESTED)
- Lined loose-leaf paper
- #2 pencils for class assignments and tests; pens for editing (blue or black)
- Colored Pencils (editing)
- Highlighters (at least two different colors)

Grading

Grades are earned and recorded on a cumulative point system based on tests, writing assignments, major projects; weekly reading quizzes, vocabulary quizzes; in-class work, homework, and participation;

Grades are determined by the following breakdown of assignments and activities:

Tests, projects, quizzes	90%
Classwork	10%
*Final	20% of semester grade

Scores will be entered by percentage according to the following point and grade system:

- A 90-100
- B 80-89
- C 70-79
- D 60-69
- F 59 or Below

Keys to Success

Reading – This is a literature class, and it is expected and required that you keep up with the outside reading. The majority of the reading quizzes will come from your outside reading.

Absences – Daily class attendance is essential to your success. It is expected and required that you make up any and all work missed due to your absence(s).

Late Work – Although it is suggested that students turn work in on time, in certain instances students are allowed to submit assignments after a deadline with a 50% reduction of the assignment’s grade up to two weeks after it’s due – except at the end of the semester when a “no more submissions” date will be announced.

Plagiarism/Cheating – If you plagiarize or cheat on any assignment or test, you will receive zero credit for the assignment or test. Your parent(s) will be contacted, and you’ll be required to attend after – and/or before-school sessions, during which you’ll be required to work on the assignment, and upon completion, will receive credit based on grade earned.

Classroom Behavior – Electronic devices are to be kept away (on silent) during class time unless you have been given permission or instructed to use them; no hats indoors and hoodies must be down not up; profanity, rude behavior, and degrading or disrespectful comments will not be tolerated. There is zero tolerance for bullying or disrespect towards teachers or students.

Discipline – Violations of classroom policies or norms – whether written or otherwise – will result in 1) Separation from classroom 2) Contacting parents and Dr. Luhning 3) Removal from classroom, and/or detention 4) Suspension, or other district measures. The order of the discipline will be based on the demonstrated behavior.

Class Website

My class website is organized with information needed for students and parents. My site includes class outline, important links, schedules, and contact information. Please email me if you have concerns or questions.

Please check out the class website frequently for information: <http://mrnealsclass.weebly.com>

Medieval and Gothic Literature

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Plan: 4th Period

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Please verify below that you have seen and read the class description, discussed this with your child, understand its content, and have no objection to it by **signing below and sending it back with your child**. If you have any questions please contact me immediately concerning anything you have read or may not understand. The lines of communication need to remain open to ensure your child's success in this class. I look forward to working with you and with your child this year.

Student and Period (Print) _____ **Period** _____

Parent/Guardian (Signature) _____

I have signed to confirm that I am committed to the success of your child as s/he proceeds through Medieval and Gothic Literature. I look forward to an outstanding year working with your child to ensure his or her development and success as a student.

Teacher (Signature) _____