

World Literature

Mrs. Dianne Koch

Room: A-226

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Class Website: <https://canvas.instructure.com/courses/787976>

Availability: 7-7:40 a.m. and 2:20-2:45 p.m.

“It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.”
-Aristotle

We are committed to providing your student with a well-rounded/diverse educational experience, involving a wide variety of topics and relevant social issues encountered in our pluralistic society. In our classrooms, all opinions are valued and critical thinking is expected. The focus of instruction is centered on both the Dubuque Community School District and Iowa State Standards. Parents and/or guardians are welcome/encouraged to read, view, and discuss material with their student.

Course Description: This course provides a survey of literature in translation (fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama) from Ancient Greece, the Hebrew Old Testament, Europe, Asia, India, Africa, and South America. As students relate this literature to a specific social and historical context, they will become familiar with the works of some of the greatest writers of the world, including Dante, Chaucer, Shakespeare, Wordsworth, Maupassant, Tolstoy, and Achebe. This course is recommended for students intending to pursue a four-year college degree.

Course Objectives: At the end of the course, the student will be able to:

- Appreciate the relevance of literature to life.
- Recognize the extent to which literature reflects cultural growth and change.
- Demonstrate, through written and oral expression, an understanding of the non-American cultures of the world.
- Appreciate not only the cultural differences but also likenesses through the best mirror possible—the literature of a people.
- Recognize the growth and development of various literary genres.
- Approach a literary work with sharpened analytical skills.
- Write organized, coherent, and specific analyses of literary works.
- More fully enjoy reading and discussing literary classics.
- Connect literature to real world events, history, or culture.

Alignment to the Iowa Core Curriculum: Instruction, learning, and assessment are built primarily on the 11-12th grade-band expectations of the Iowa Core Reading, and Speaking and Listening Strands.

Standard 1: **Reading Strand – Literature.** Students will effectively comprehend, analyze, evaluate, and create using a diverse range of appropriately complex print materials.

Standard 2: **Reading Strand – Informational Text.** Students will effectively comprehend, analyze, evaluate, and create using a diverse range of appropriately complex print materials.

Standard 3: **Writing.** Students will routinely write to learn and to communicate for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

Standard 4: **Speaking and Listening.** Students will participate effectively in a range of rich, structured conversations, collaborations, and presentations.

Standard 5: **Language.** Students will apply knowledge of the English language and its conventions when reading, writing, speaking and listening.

Materials: You will be responsible for bringing the following supplies to class each day: paper, pen and pencil, binder with dividers, book, agenda, and completed homework. You will be assigned a laptop computer that will remain in the classroom for class work. I know you will take good, responsible care of this great educational tool!

Units of Study & Major Texts: *Literature:* *World Masterpieces* (Pearson/Prentice-Hall) Modern Short Fiction and Nonfiction, Greek and Roman Mythology and Literature (*The Iliad* by Homer & *Antigone* by Sophocles), Creation and Spiritual Literature (*Siddhartha* by Herman Jesse), European Medieval Literature (*The Inferno* by Dante), Renaissance & Enlightenment Literature (*The Tempest* by Shakespeare & *Candide* by Voltaire), Modern Asian short stories and poetry, and Modern Novella and Novel (*Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka & *1984* by George Orwell). Numerous short stories and poetry from a variety of cultures will also be used. Also news events may prompt a change in the course offerings to timely readings and subjects.

Activities: A variety of teaching techniques and strategies will be used to address various learning styles: lecture, small and large group discussion and activities, computer quests and responses online, role-playing, individual student projects or reports, as well as recordings, websites, videos, films, and music.

Assessment: The following methods will be used to determine student achievement: Study guides, reading check quizzes, journal responses, presentations/ reports, small and large group discussions, web quests, Socratic Circles, roleplaying, various formal writing assignments, timed essay writing, and unit tests (objective and essay).

Expectations: I expect respectful, cooperative, and appropriate classroom behavior at all times. Furthermore, you are to be punctual, prepared, and productive in class. No food or drink in the classroom other than water bottles. Cell phones and personal music devices are not be used in class.

Tardies and dismissal: You are to be in your seat when the bell rings and stay seated until you are excused. After four tardies, you will be subject to disciplinary procedures.

Make-up work: This is your responsibility in case of an absence. Due dates will vary based on the length of absence. Homework is due within two days of a short absence and three days of a long absence. Consult the class calendar for homework or ask me if you are unsure of the assignment details.

Tests or quizzes: Tests will be taken on test days as announced. If you are absent, you will take the test within two days if the absence was short, or within three days if the absence was long. Again, consult with me for a test make-up date.

Grades: Assignments will be weighted according to their importance. Longer tests and essays will obviously carry more weight than shorter and easier assignments. Quizzes and short assignments will also factor in with class participation. Late assignments will receive reduced credit and may be turned in up to a week late unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Grading scale: A=90-100% B=80-89% C=70-79 D=60-69% F=59 and below

