Syllabus

Contents

Tips for Success

If you're new to online courses, or if you just need a quick refresher, be sure to take a look at the Student and Parent Handbook.

Course Learning Outcomes

This course will enable you to continue your growth as an effective reader and communicator. Here are the main learning outcomes of this course:

1. Identify themes in literature, as well as the presence of imagery, symbols, and figurative language.
2. Analyze techniques in poetry that intensify and enrich the experience of language; memorize and recite a poem using effective presentation skills.
3. Compare the characteristics of selected genres in literature, including science fiction, fantasy, historical fiction, and dystopian literature.
4. Read and interpret Shakespearean sonnets and excerpts from a play.
5. Use the steps of inquiry and research to investigate your world; compose a research paper that develops a well-supported thesis and avoids plagiarism by citing sources.
6. Apply reading and writing strategies by reading a novel and identifying the key ideas and questions it raises.
7. Expand and enrich your vocabulary by learning word-mastery strategies.

Course Materials

This course requires no additional textbook; however, we will read and discuss a novel throughout the course, which you must acquire:

The Giver by Lois Lowry

Winning the prestigious Newbery Medal in 1994, this short novel has been a thought-stimulating presence in middle school classrooms ever since. Feel free to read any edition of the book. You may find the book at your local library or bookstore.

Assignments

You will complete these assignments during the course.

Assessments

There are two types of assessments for the units:

- **Self Check**
  These questions ask you to remember facts about the literature you read, or they offer you a chance to practice the concept you have been taught. They do not influence your grade, but they will help you to prepare for the unit quizzes.

- **Unit Quiz**
  Each unit has a computer-graded quiz; in addition, there are two cumulative review assignments to help you remember what you have learned throughout the course. Make sure you are well prepared before you complete any of the unit quizzes.

Portfolio Assignments

Each unit has one or more instructor-graded assignments that require writing or presenting on a given topic. You will submit these assignments electronically in two batches called portfolio submissions. The research paper will be submitted in the second portfolio and counts for most of your grade on these assignments.

Portfolio Schedule

Unit 1: Theme

Section 1.2	King Midas Journal Entry	5 points	PA-1
Section 1.5	Novel Response 1	5 points	PA-2

Unit 2: Poetry

Section 2.3	Original Poem	10 points	PA-3
Section 2.4	Poem Recitation	15 points	PA-4
Section 2.6	Novel Response 2	5 points	PA-5

Unit 3: Shakespeare

Section 3.2	A Changing Relationship	10 points	PA-6
Section 3.5	Novel Response 3	5 points	PA-7

Unit 4: Literary Genres

Section 4.4	Novel Response 4	5 points	PA-8

Submit Portfolio 1 (60 points total; 15% of your grade)

Unit 5: Research

Section 5.5	Research	35 points	PA-9
Section 5.6	Novel Response 5	5 points	PA-10

Unit 6: Publishing

Section 6.3	Research Paper	60 points	PA-11
Section 6.5	Novel Response 6	5 points	PA-12

Submit Portfolio 2 (105 points total; 25% of your grade)

Exams

You will complete one final exam for this course.

The final exam will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions.

Grading

Your grade in this course will be based on these assignments and exams:

Assignment or Exam	Grading	Percent of Total Grade
6 Unit Quizzes	Computer	30%
2 Cumulative Reviews	Computer	5%
2 Portfolio Submissions	Instructor	40%
1 Final Exam	Computer	25%

Resubmissions and Retakes

For information about resubmitting assignments, please contact your AK Grad instructor.

Grade Scale

Your letter grade is calculated according to these percentages.

A	100% – 93%
A−	92% – 90%
B+	89% – 87%
B	86% – 83%
B−	82% – 80%
C+	79% – 77%

C	76% – 73%
C–	72% – 70%
D+	69% – 67%
D	66% – 63%
D–	62% – 60%
E (fail)	59% – 0%

Course Policies

For information about how long you have to complete the course, resubmitting assignments, and other questions, please contact your AK Grad instructor.