

ROSLYN HIGH SCHOOL

DEPARTMENT: ENGLISH

NAME OF COURSE: FRESHMAN LITERATURE SEMINAR (H)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

Beginning with the 2015-2016 academic year, all incoming 9th graders will be taking the Freshman Literature Seminar class as a way to begin preparation for the rigorous new Common Core English Regents exam. The course will offer differentiated instruction and assessment, and lab support outside class is available. The course presents the traditional materials of a freshman English class in a challenging and stimulating setting. The Seminar breaks down the walls between English and Social Studies using a theme-based Humanities approach. As the school year progresses, the class evolves from a traditional class setting with teacher-centered presentations to a seminar approach based on student-led discussions.

MAJOR TOPICS

The chronological study of Global History will dictate the unit structure of the class. Starting with a thematic unit covering the journey of the hero, the class will progress through the following areas of study via the literature of the period: prehistory and the civilizations of the Fertile Crescent; Ancient Greece; the Ancient East; Greece; Rome; the Byzantine Era; Eastern Dynasties; Medieval Europe; the Empires of Africa and Latin America; the Renaissance; and the beginnings of the Enlightenment. Most units will feature one major full-length piece of literature. This will be supplemented with short stories, poems and literary non-fiction, as well as explorations into the music, art and philosophy of the various eras. Contemporary works like *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Inherit the Wind* will be addressed as outside reading through our ongoing theme of the hero.

LITERATURE MAY INCLUDE:

<i>The Epic of Gilgamesh</i>	Roman poetry and prose
Old Testament – <i>Genesis</i> and <i>Job</i>	New Testament – <i>Matthew</i> and <i>Revelations</i>
Homer – <i>The Odyssey</i> (excerpts)	Q’ran excerpts and Islamic poetry
Euripides – <i>Medea</i>	<i>Beowulf</i>
Buddhist poetry	<i>The Canterbury Tales</i> (excerpts)
Lao Tzu – <i>Tao Te Ching</i> (excerpts)	William Shakespeare – <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>
Virgil – <i>Aeneid</i> (excerpts)	

REQUIREMENTS

Unit exams, compositions, critical commentaries, reports, projects and individual or group seminar presentations are employed as they coordinate with units of study.

GRADING PROCEDURE

Grades depend on unit exams and major projects, quizzes,