

Norwood Public Schools

Grade 12 Classic Science Fiction Curriculum Overview

Description (including primary objectives and outcomes):

This course is designed for college-bound seniors whose competence in English has been firmly established and/or for those who despite exceptional ability choose commitment to other disciplines over AP English. Students will demonstrate their skill and knowledge through class discussion, papers, tests/quizzes, Socratic seminars, and several projects that implement technology. The course focuses on works of Science Fiction that built the genre and the influence these texts have on society and current scientific study. Authors studied include Shelley, Wells, and Verne and will allow students to compare and contrast science and literature of a past time with today's advancements. Students will draw from current events and scientific exploration as well as study the history and science of the past in relation to the works being studied. The class will cover such topics as ethics in science, morality vs. gain, and the idea of human progress through science. During the summer students must complete the Summer Assignment. Assessment of all grade 12 students includes the department-wide midyear exam and the grade 12 final exam.

Learning Experiences:

Reading

Drawing inferences from a variety of texts
Comparing and contrasting themes in a variety of texts
Analyzing literature within its historical context

Writing

Using discussion to develop original theses independently
Writing a College Essay
Organizing and composing various pieces of both formal and informal writing, including personal responses, literary analyses, and creative writing
Prewriting and revising essays
Gathering literary evidence to support a thesis

Speaking and Listening

Informal listening and contributing to class discussions, using the text to develop and support ideas
Formal listening and contributing to class discussion during Socratic Seminars
Presentations using Power Point

Content Outline:

Five novels and a variety of short stories; writing (literary analyses, research projects, and creative writing); higher level literary devices (tone, irony, voice, theme); vocabulary from literature.

Resources Used:

Frankenstein, The Island of Doctor Moreau, The Time Machine, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, 20,000 Leagues under the Sea, current scientific journals such as *Popular Science, National Geographic, and Science Magazine*, as well as current events from various news sources.

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