



## Ancient/Medieval Literature Syllabus

Term: 2011-12

**Teacher:** Mrs. Dena Holt  
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**Course Description:** Beginning with Homer, this course focuses upon reading and analyzing the great works of literature that helped shape the consciousness of the ancient and medieval West. Students will explore various literary forms, including epic, tragedy, and comedy, with a view toward identifying their unique characteristics and understanding their contributions to the Western worldview. Students will also engage via discussion the deeply human questions that the various authors raise in their stories. The goal of this study is to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the ancient and medieval worldviews.

**Primary Texts:** See Ancient/Medieval Literature Reading List. Bring book under study to class. Any readings not on the reading list will be provided by the teacher.

**Evaluation:** Exams 25%  
Papers 30%  
Reading Quizzes 20%  
Participation 25%

**Reading Quizzes:** There will be ongoing Reading Quizzes following reading assignments to ensure that the class, as a whole, stays “up to speed” with the material. This is vital if we are to maximize our discussions and learning.

**Papers:** Literature papers will be assigned periodically throughout the year. The papers, which will vary in length, should be typed and formatted as follows: 1 inch margins on all four sides, 12-point font, printed in black ink, double-spaced, and printed on one side of the page only. The class name, followed by the teacher’s name, followed by the student’s name, followed by the paper title, should appear in the upper right-hand corner of the first page. All other formatting should follow the latest edition of either *The Chicago Manual of Style* or *Turabian’s Manual for Writers*.

### Weekly Outline – 1<sup>st</sup> Semester

Weeks	Readings
1-5	<i>The Iliad</i>
6-9	<i>Oresteia</i>

10-13	<i>Aeneid</i>
14-17	<i>Metamorphoses</i>
18	Exam Week

### **Weekly Outline – 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester**

<b>Weeks</b>	<b>Readings</b>
1-9	<i>Divine Comedy</i>
10-13	<i>Canterbury Tales</i>
14-17	<i>King Lear</i>
18	Exam Week