US Great Hall Literature: Medieval World to Reformation

Mr. Andy Newman

Yearlong Course

2023-2024

ELIGIBLE STUDENT:

Grades 9-12. This course introduces high school students to some of the classical literary texts, or Great Books, of the Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Reformation. These texts have influenced the development of the West. While studying these texts, students explore the ideas, events, and cast of characters that molded societies, arts, and ideas from the Middle Ages through the Reformation.

Students are expected to have strong reading and writing skills as well as an interest in and capacity for engaging in discussion about literature and history.

Please note: This course is the equivalent of one high school credit in literature.

REQUIRED TEXTS:*

A Choice of Anglo-Saxon Verse, Richard Hammer, editor. ISBN: 978-0571325399

Inferno, Dante; Anthony Esolen, translator. ISBN: 978-0345483577

Purgatory, Dante; Anthony Esolen, translator. ISBN: 978-0812971255 (alternates with
  Paradise: read in school years beginning with an odd number)

Paradise, Dante; Anthony Esolen, translator. ISBN: 978-0812977264 (alternates with
  Purgatory; read in school years beginning with an even number)

Penguin Book of Renaissance Verse, 1509-1659, David Norbrook and H. R.
  Woudhuysen, editors. ISBN: 978-0140423464

*Paradise Lost,*John Milton. ISBN: 978-0140424393

*Required texts are not included in the purchase of the course.

NOTE: While our primary texts will be those listed above, the teaching staff will be adapting
and augmenting the curriculum as they see best for the learning objectives of the course. As
such, students should also be prepared to print PDF files supplied by the instructors.

COURSE SCHEDULE

ORIENTATION SESSION:
The date and time of the student/parent orientation will depend on the particular section in which you are enrolled, but all orientation sessions will be scheduled during the week prior to the start of the class.

CLASS SESSION DATES: The dates of your class depend on the particular section in which you are enrolled. Consult the Scholé Academy [academic calendar](#) for details concerning scheduled, school-wide breaks.

OFFICE HOURS: Your teacher is available outside of scheduled class times. Students may raise questions, seek assistance, or review class material. This can happen via email (through our Canvas online learning platform) or through scheduling a meeting in the Zoom classroom. Your teacher will do their best to respond within 24-48 hours.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

US Great Hall Literature: Medieval World to Reformation introduces high school students to some of the great literary texts of the Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Reformation which have influenced the West. While studying these texts, students explore the ideas, events, and figures that molded societies, arts and ideas from the Middle Ages through the Reformation.

This course focuses on literature, but also integrates some study of medieval and Renaissance history, helping students to see and enjoy the integration of both history and literature. In this upper-school course, students will seek and examine the virtue and wisdom in a selection of the Great Books, while also noting the ways in which the authors influence one another and participate in the Great Conversation of Western civilization.

Students are asked to consider and engage with carefully crafted questions as their window into the Great Conversation. Occasionally, the teacher will present historical context through brief lectures, but otherwise, classes are seminar-style discussions on the classical texts. Students are assessed for their curiosity, participation, and diligence during discussions, as well as by means of response papers, tests, and essays.

This class is paired with our high school course US Great Hall History: Medieval World to Reformation taught by the same teacher and scheduled back to back with that course in a "block." Students who take both courses receive a discount. This course may also be taken as a standalone literature study.

QUARTER 1

A Choice of Anglo-Saxon Verse

Inferno, Dante

QUARTER 2

Inferno, Dante

Purgatory, Dante (alternates with *Paradise*: read in school years beginning with an odd number)

QUARTER 2, continued

Paradise, Dante (alternates with *Purgatory*: read in school years beginning with an even number)

QUARTER 3

Purgatory, Dante (alternates with *Paradise*: read in school years beginning with an odd number)

Paradise, Dante (alternates with *Purgatory*: read in school years beginning with an even number)

Penguin Book of Renaissance Verse, 1509-1659

QUARTER 4

Penguin Book of Renaissance Verse, 1509-1659

Paradise Lost, Milton

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS: EXECUTIVE FUNCTION SKILLS

Students enrolling in US Great Hall Literature: Medieval World to Reformation will be expected to show development of Executive Function Skills throughout the year. Executive Function Skills speaks to a set of qualities and skill sets students can develop and hone the better to approach the courses, lectures, readings, and teachers they will encounter in their future academic coursework.

This disposition is that of an 'engaged student'. Scholé Academy commends four other important skills which ought to be observed by students.

1. **An Engaged Student:** One who is willing to step into the arena of class discussion, ask questions, supply answers, and consider how the discussion at hand applies to oneself.

2. **Note Taking:** A student must be engaged with the class by taking notes on important and relevant content in an organized fashion. They should then independently consult those notes for assignments and in preparation for assessments. It is essential that all students acquire a notebook for use during the class, as this will keep them organized by subject.

3. **Attention to Detail & Preparedness:** These students are ones who consistently adhere to deadlines, submission requirements, adhere to style guides and codes, confirm technology is working prior to the start of class, are responsible to determine how to proceed after an absence, are responsible for consulting their course syllabus and adjusting as the class proceeds, etc.

4. **Critical Reflection:** These students are ones who receive feedback to their submissions, and then apply that feedback to future assignments rather than repeating mistakes. These students also glean information from the live class critiques of fellow students and learn from others what mistakes to avoid.

5. **Initiative/Maturity:** This student will be proactive in listening to the teacher's comments, assessing how they apply to his/her work, taking the initiative to schedule office hours with the teacher if necessary.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS IN ACTION

Students will follow the sequence of readings and assignments. During class discussion, students will reflect upon the material through answering and reflecting upon questions related to the texts, as well as posing their own.

In this class, students will be expected to listen attentively, participate actively in class discussions and practices. Students are expected to arrive to class on time and with all assigned material completed. The instructor will facilitate learning for the student, but the responsibility for staying up-to-date with classwork and assignments ultimately falls to the student.

All students will be due by the time designated in Canvas and submitted there. Students turning in late work may earn a 10% penalty for each day the assignment is late.

STUDENT GRADING AND EVALUATION

While pursuing studies through Scholé Academy will be "restful" and enjoyable, we also recognize the need to provide grades for students who will be using this course as part of their prepared college transcript. It's a delicate balance to achieve both restful learning and excellent academic performance. Earning a specific grade should not overshadow achievement goals for mastery of this discipline. The teacher will assign the following grades to your student's level of achievement: *magna cum laude* (with great praise); *cum laude* (with praise); *satis* (sufficient, satisfactory) and *non satis* (not sufficient).

Ideally, every average student working diligently should do praiseworthy work (*cum laude*). Those who excel beyond this expectation will receive *magna cum laude* for their efforts. Work which demonstrates minimal but sufficient mastery will be designated *satis*. *Non satis* designates work that demonstrates insufficient mastery; a student with a consistently *non satis* grade will not be recommended for continuation to the next level of Latin. Additionally, we will provide a transcript with a traditional percentage grade to the requesting parent at quarterly intervals. All students will receive both a Scholé evaluation and a percentage grade at the end of the year.

STUDENT EVALUATION: ASSIGNMENTS, TYPES & WEIGHTS

The teacher will communicate with students regarding assignment feedback and grading through the free online grading and learning management system Canvas. The teacher will provide students with more detailed information and access to the US Great Hall Literature: Medieval World to Reformation course page.

Students' grades will be calculated as follows:
1. Class Participation: 40%
2. Essays: 30%
3. Journal Assignments: 20%
5. Tests: 10%

Typically Speaking:
      - magna cum laude is the grade range of 94% or above.
      - cum laude is the grade range of 85-93%
      - satis is the grade range of 75-84%
      - non satis is any grade lower than a 75%

This reflects the student's mastery and ability to move on to the next level.

Students and their parents will receive quarterly feedback from their teachers in the form of a quarterly update.

STUDENT EVALUATION: ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students may take tests and/or quizzes privately at home. Students are on their honor to abide by Scholé Academy's Learning Philosophy which assumes the personal cultivation of Student-Virtues described in the Student-Parent Handbook. We ask that parents proctor quizzes and tests to help keep their children accountable.

Specifically, cheating and plagiarism are punishable offenses. Copying the work of other students is prohibited and proper citation of all sources is essential.

THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM:

We will be using the free online "virtual classroom" software provided by Zoom. The live, interactive nature of our courses is foundational and we require cameras to be on during all class sessions. The virtual classroom will provide students with interactive audio and an interactive whiteboard in which texts, diagrams, video and other media can be displayed and analyzed. We will provide students with a link (via email) that will enable students to join the virtual classroom. Courses will be managed through our learning management system, Canvas.

Specific information regarding the technology used by Scholé Academy (including required technology) can be found by visiting the Technology in the Classroom section of the Student Parent Handbook.

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

Andy Newman calls western Nebraska home, the borderland where Midwest and West shake hands. There he has taught literature, composition, history, journalism, and humanities at the high school and college levels for twenty years. He has long been drawn to classical Christian education. And he is as excited as he is thankful to now be fully in its orbit.

His education is varied, having earned master's degrees in history and English from the University of Wyoming and the University of Nebraska at Omaha, respectively. Most recently, he earned a MTh in Applied Orthodox Theology from the Antiochian House of Studies and a MA in Biblical Theology from John Paul the Great Catholic University, and, in fall of 2021, completed his coursework for the PhD in Humanities from Faulkner University and has begun work on the dissertation. He is a member of Assumption Orthodox Christian Church in Bayard, Nebraska.

Please note: While this syllabus addresses details specific to this course, it is not extensive. Parents should also read the Student-Parent Handbook located on scholeacademy.com and be familiar with the ideas, policies, and procedures outlined.