St. Athanasius Academy

Class Syllabus - 11th and 12th Grade English

**Instructor**

Very Rev. Fr. Fred Shaheen

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**Course Description**

Using short stories, poetry and audio/video, this course will have students examine literature and reflect on it in class discussions. They will be asked to learn new vocabulary and identify common themes and motifs. In addition to the texts listed here, we will read modern British poetry with applicable themes; we will also watch video clips of popular songs and discuss lyrics and images that tie into the literary themes of the readings. Students will write several short essays in which they express their own way of seeing. I will meet with each of the students mid semester and help them determine the topic and approach for a final, longer writing assignment.

**Required Texts**

*The Gospel According to Peanuts* by Robert L. Short

*Nine Stories* by J.D. Salinger

*Winesburg, Ohio* by Sherwood Anderson

**Course Objectives**

* Students will learn to appreciate reading and engaging with different types of literature.
* They will make connections between the literature and their own experiences and learn ways of confidently expressing those connections.
* They will learn new vocabulary.

**Grading Breakdown**

* Smaller writing assignments (5) - 10% each
* Participation in class discussions - 25%
* Final writing assignment - 25%

**Classroom Expectations**

* Arrive to class on time (don’t be late).
* Be prepared (do the assigned readings before class).
* Participation and respect for others (be willing to share and take turns).