St. Athanasius Academy

Class Syllabus – 7th/8th Grade English 2021-2022
Section A: M/W 1 pm EST
Section B: M/W 3 pm EST

Teacher Information:
Natalia Wooten
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Please use email to make initial contact with me. You may email to schedule a time for us to talk on the phone or video conference.

Course Description
In this course, students are introduced to some of the Good Books, Legends, and Stories that aid us in discussing themes of Self and Struggle. As. St. Basil the Great says in his address to young men on the right use of Greek literature, “We must be conversant with poets, with historians, with orators, indeed with all men who may further our soul's salvation... if we would preserve indelible the idea of the true virtue, become first initiated in the pagan lore, then at length give special heed to the sacred and divine teachings, even as we first accustom ourselves to the sun's reflection in the water, and then become able to turn our eyes upon the very sun itself.” Students will develop knowledge of the basic components of a story and an appreciation for techniques that authors use to make their work both engaging and beautiful. Class discussions will take place from a foundation of Orthodox Christian values, as we explore how the characters reflect, or fail to reflect, the wisdom which is revealed to us through the Orthodox Christian faith. Writing assignments can be adapted for the needs of each student. We will use The Lost Tools of Writing textbook to guide us in learning to write thoughtful, logical, and engaging writing. Students enrolling in this course can benefit from the option of having a weekly, one-on-one writing conference with their teacher.

Weekly Meetings
40 min class: Mondays/Wednesdays @ 1PM (A) or 3PM (B) EST
One-on-One Tutorial, 10 to 15 min: a sign-up sheet in Google docs will be presented to the class on the first week of school or sooner.
Texts to be Provided by Parents/Guardians:

Note: I recommend buying used books when possible. Amazon.com, thriftbooks.com/, and Abebooks.com all work well. Your local library may carry several of these texts, but not all, and several may be public domain (search Project Gutenberg for Public Domain novels, poetry, etc). Though some texts are public domain, I highly encourage a used copy of novels as reading lengthier texts online can become problematic in the classroom setting.

- Icon by Georgia Briggs (also available at store.ancientfaith.com)
- The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis
- The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame (public domain)
- The Hiding Place by Corrie ten Boom
- The Lost Tools of Writing Level 1

Texts Provided by Instructor:

Note: Links or files will be provided in advance. As with the novels above, having a printed version to bring to class will provide for the best classroom experience.

- various mythologies, folklore, poetry, nonfiction, etc.

Learning Objectives

- Write sentences, paragraphs, and compositions with clarity, structure, and beauty.
- Develop a deeper appreciation for God’s truth and the beauty of the created world, as revealed in good works of literature.
- Begin to develop synthetic thinking skills from a foundation of the Orthodox Christian faith. Through questioning and Socratic conversations, students will have some practice and gain some maturity in discerning what is true, what is beautiful, and what is not.

Grading/Evaluations

Homework: 25%
Tests/Quizzes/Assessments: 10%
Papers/Writing Assignments: 30%
Participation: 35%

Late Policy

Turn in your work on time! You will get the maximum benefit from this class, and the least stress, if you work at a steady pace. If you have special circumstances that would prevent you from completing an assignment on time, please contact me at least two days before the deadline. Assignments turned in late without good cause and prior notification receive a penalty of 10pts per day I have not been contacted.

Attendance

Please make every effort to attend every class. If you have a special circumstance, please contact me at least two days before class to inform me of your absence. Persistent absences will negatively impact your grade in the class. We attempt to record all video calls to make
them available for students who are absent, but we are unable to promise that 100% of calls will get successfully recorded and posted. The recorded videos, while not as useful as live interaction, are made available for enrolled students to review when absent. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to review the videos, read posted assignments, and keep up with deadlines.

**Classroom Expectations**

1. Arrive to class on time and keep your camera on for the whole class.
2. Be prepared, with your books and supplies on hand, at the start of class.
3. Respect your classmates and teacher.
4. Give your best effort and take responsibility for your actions.
5. No cell phones or extra electronics permitted during class time. Please plan to take notes. You are expected to speak up vocally and, unless otherwise told, avoid using the chat feature in place of speaking.

**Plagiarism, Cheating, and Academic Integrity**

Plagiarism is copying words, sentences, images, or ideas for use in written or oral assessments without giving proper credit to the source. Cheating is defined as the giving or receiving of illegal help on anything that has been determined by the teacher to be an individual effort. Both are serious offenses and will significantly affect your course grade. If you are struggling, please let me know right away and I will work with you. I am available to help you understand so you can be successful in this class.