

Wachusett Regional High School

Course Name: Humanities I

Level: Honors, Academic Foundations (AF)

Grade (s): 11 & 12

Course Description:

A study of the classical heritage in art, literature, and music from antiquity to the Middle Ages. Students study ideas and ideals of Western civilization, which have affected our lives, e.g., justice, politics, virtue, and heroism.

Links to Student Expectations:

1. All students will develop skills to utilize technology to gather, to evaluate, to assimilate, and to present information.
2. All students will utilize critical thinking by using skills to identify and to provide resources to solve a problem.
3. All students will learn to communicate critically, persuasively, and personally in both oral and written expression.
4. All students will demonstrate the use of creative and critical thinking skills in an area of the Fine Arts.
5. All students will be able to make decisions and solve problems using logical processes (e.g., scientific method, induction, deduction, syllogism, etc.).

Interdisciplinary Connections:

- ✓ Philosophy
- ✓ Ethics
- ✓ Comparative Religion
- ✓ Architecture
- ✓ World Literature
- ✓ Dramatic Literature
- ✓ Poetry
- ✓ Art
- ✓ Music

Essential Concepts:

1. Humanities examine mankind's use of artistic creativity as a means of expressing the social, moral, ethical, and philosophical mores of a specific era.
2. Art, literature, and philosophy are agents of change.
3. The Humanities create a critical analysis and dialogue of major contemporary issues through an examination of our shared past.
4. Humanities provide an analysis of various modes of artistic creativity, which enables the student to develop his/her own personal style of self-expression.

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Student Objectives:

1. Students will gain personal insight and develop viewpoints by studying and applying the philosophy, literature, and architecture/art of the ancient world.
2. Students will learn to recognize the common threads, elements, and characteristics that link works of art, architecture, and literature.
3. Students will research a Greek vase and analyze how its mythological artwork reflects the ideals of the society.
4. Students will read and discuss the impact of the Greek philosophers on their society as well as contemporary society.
5. Students will study the influence of earlier cultures in the development of later civilizations.

Suggestions for Instruction:

1. Students will work individually to develop a voice.
2. Students will work in cooperative learning groups.
3. Students will read primary and secondary texts.
4. Students will use technologies and other resources in the Media/Writing Center.
5. Students will use the Perseus Project.
 - ✓ Aiskhylos-Agamemnon
 - ✓ Sophocles-Oedipus Rex, Antigone
 - ✓ Plato-selections from the Republic
 - ✓ Aristotle- selections from Poetics
 - ✓ Selections from Arts and Ideas
 - ✓ Selections from The Humanities in Western Culture

Suggestions for Assessment:

- ✓ Quizzes for detail
- ✓ Essays for critical thinking
- ✓ Test for comprehension
- ✓ Written and oral projects of various types with rubrics

Curriculum:

Early Civilizations:

- ✓ Greeks
- ✓ The Iliad
- ✓ The Odyssey
- ✓ Drama
- ✓ Romans
- ✓ Medieval Period

Lesson Extensions:

- ✓ Field trips
- ✓ Guest speakers