

Wachusett Regional High School

Course Name: Humanities II

Level: Honors, Academic Foundations (AF)

Grade (s): 11 & 12

Course Description:

(From Educational Guide): A thematic study of art, music, and literature from the Renaissance to the present. Students explore not only the creative processes of great artists and their legacies, but their own creativity as well. A variety of projects are assigned.

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 be able to make decisions and solve problems using logical processes (e.g., scientific method, induction, deduction, syllogism, etc.).
5. All students will demonstrate the use of creative and critical thinking skills in the area of the Fine Arts.

Interdisciplinary Connections:

- ✓ American and European Art History and Criticism
- ✓ American and European Music History and Criticism
- ✓ Philosophy
- ✓ Ethics
- ✓ Comparative Religion
- ✓ History
- ✓ Archaeology
- ✓ Architecture
- ✓ Anthropology
- ✓ World Literature
- ✓ Dramatic Literature
- ✓ Poetry

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, music, 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 own personal style of self expression.

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Student Objectives:

1. Students will learn to recognize the common threads, elements, and characteristics that link works of art, music, and literature into specific genres.
2. Students will develop an understanding and an aesthetic appreciation for art and literature from a diverse sampling of styles and genres.
3. Students will independently research and write an essay on one artist's contribution to his/her genre.
4. Students will read and discuss the impact that philosophical movements have had on societies from the Renaissance to contemporary culture.

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 attend a field trip.

List of Texts:

- ✓ Selections from Arts and Ideas
- ✓ Selections from In Search of Personal Freedom
- ✓ Frankenstein
- ✓ Amadeus
- ✓ The Plague
- ✓ Lust for Life
- ✓ Selections from Kafka
- ✓ Selections from Marquez
- ✓ Macbeth
- ✓ Selections from Sartre
- ✓ Selections from Machiavelli
- ✓ Selections from More

Suggestions for Assessment:

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

Curriculum:

This course may be taught chronologically or thematically.

Units may include:

- ✓ Renaissance
- ✓ Enlightenment
- ✓ Romantic Era
- ✓ Existentialism
- ✓ Magic
- ✓ Realism

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Curriculum continued

Artists:

- ✓ da Vinci
- ✓ Michelangelo
- ✓ Raphael
- ✓ Donatello
- ✓ Titian
- ✓ Rubens
- ✓ Rembrandt
- ✓ Van Gogh
- ✓ Monet
- ✓ Dali

Composers and musicians:

- ✓ Bach,
- ✓ Mozart
- ✓ Beethoven
- ✓ Tchaikovsky
- ✓ Copeland
- ✓ Lennon and McCartney

Lesson Extensions:

- ✓ Field trips
- ✓ Guest speakers
- ✓ Independent reading
- ✓ Create a sculpture or painting