

Wachusett Regional High School

Course Name: New Literature

Level: Academic Enrichment (AE) and Academic Foundations (AF)

Grade (s): 11 & 12

Course Description:

A study of contemporary writing, both fiction and nonfiction, reflecting the voice of today's writers. The major focus is literature of the 1970's to the present and includes work by such writers as Raymond Carver, Arm Beattie, Tim O'Brien, and Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

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 develop skills to promote a sense of confidence in tackling the rigors of standardized tests such as the required MCAS and optional AP, SAT.

Interdisciplinary Connections:

- ✓ Art
- ✓ Film
- ✓ Music
- ✓ Social History
- ✓ Cultural History

Essential Concepts:

1. Contemporary Literature reflects social issues and cultural changes.
2. Contemporary Literature exposes students to a wide variety of styles and voices.
3. Contemporary Literature encourages a life long love of reading.

Student Objectives:

1. Students will read and discuss literature by contemporary writers with a focus on themes, style, voice, and literary techniques.
2. Students will analyze the literature with a focus on developing an understanding of the social context.
3. Students will make connections between contemporary literature and its literary roots.
4. Students will develop their writing voices with an awareness of audience, genre, and purpose.

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Student Objectives continued

5. Students will develop their analytical writing skills through essays, journals, reviews, and research projects.
6. Students will participate in large and small group discussions as well as develop and deliver individual oral presentations.

Suggestions for Instruction:

1. Students will read contemporary writing with a focus on short fiction.
2. Students will work in cooperative learning groups.
3. Students will work individually to develop a voice in written expression.
4. Students will hone critical thinking and writing skills by analyzing literature.
5. Students will use the technologies in the Media and Writing Centers both for research purposes and for word processing.
6. Students will design and present oral presentation to demonstrate their understanding of writers, their works, and the social context in which they write.

Suggested Texts:

- ✓ *Louder Than Words*
- ✓ *The Norton Anthology of Contemporary Literature*
- ✓ *Scribners Anthology of Contemporary Short Fiction*
- ✓ *In Country*
- ✓ *The New Yorker*
- ✓ *The Things They Carried*

Suggested Films:

- ✓ *Chilly Scenes of Winter*
- ✓ *Hanoi Hilton*
- ✓ *Letters Home from Vietnam*
- ✓ *Bright Lights, Big City*
- ✓ *In Country*

Suggestions for Assessment:

- ✓ Quizzes for close reading
- ✓ Tests for analytical understanding
- ✓ Essays for critical thinking
- ✓ Oral presentations
- ✓ Self-reflection and evaluation
- ✓ Groups and individual projects

Curriculum:

Suggested Themes/Units

- ✓ Vietnam Literature
- ✓ Minimalism
- ✓ The Brat Pack
- ✓ Author Research Project

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Lesson Extensions:

- ✓ To encourage students to attend cultural performances and author readings.
- ✓ To encourage students to read and enjoy newly published works.
- ✓ To encourage students to read reviews and critical commentary of newly published works.