

MONTE VISTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL  
ENGL 1231, English 1 Honors: Introduction to Literature  
Course Syllabus

Course Description:

Introduction to Literature explores an array of literary genres including fiction, non-fiction, and poetry in order to develop skills in reading, writing, listening, speaking, and critical thinking. The course emphasizes essay organization and essay revision through three types of writing: narrative, analysis, and research. In the process, students study vocabulary, grammar, mechanics, and style. Students will see literature through a biblical worldview.

Introduction to Literature Honors differs from regular Introduction to Literature by the depth of assessments rather than their quantity or length. Students need to realize they will be committing themselves to more challenging assignments and higher expectations for their reading, writing and vocabulary.

Course Objectives:

Upon the successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Read, comprehend and respond to literary texts by referencing themes and literary devices.
2. Demonstrate proper grammar/spelling as they write in their own appropriate style of voice and tone in a well organized structure.
3. Develop the skills of claim-based writing by creating central questions worth exploring, formulating complex theses, and expressing compelling arguments.
4. Integrate Biblical thinking into literary reading and writing through the lens of creation, fall, redemption.
5. Work as part of a team in a collaborative environment to solve real world problems.
6. Use spoken and visual communication skills to present with excellence to a real audience.

Course Texts:

Your necessary digital texts for this class will be part of a “Required Course Materials Fee” thru the EdTech bookstore. This is a bundle purchase of digital texts for your full schedule of classes and will be available for purchase after 7/18/16. For further instructions please visit the [16-17 School Year](#) icon on the MVCS homepage. Please note: some courses may require additional purchases outside of the course materials fee.

## Course Outline

### First Semester:

#### I. Literature

- A. Various select novels (and one independent reading novel)
- B. Short Stories in various genres (fairy tales, fantasy, folktales, and realism)
- C. Poetry: reading and writing
- D. Nonfiction essays by C.S. Lewis, G.K. Chesterton, etc.
- E. Play (Shakespeare)
- F. Independent Reading (one novel)

#### II. Vocabulary—Greek and Latin roots; words taken from our reading

#### III: Writing:

- A. Review of grammar basics
- B. Writing mechanics (spelling, punctuation, etc.)
- C. Narrative Writing: storytelling powered by events with a starting point (conflict) and an ending point (resolution) using setting, characters, plot structures etc. to engage the reader
- D. Literary analysis: focuses on how plot/structure, character, setting, voice, and tone are used by an author to create meaning
- E. Research skills: creating central questions, thesis development, in-text citing, and works cited pages; MLA formatted

### Second Semester:

#### I. Literature

- A. Various select novels (and one independent reading novel)
- B. Poetry
- C. Play (*Our Town*)

#### II. Vocabulary—Greek and Latin roots continued; suffixes; words taken from our reading

#### III. Writing

- A. Focus on syntax (sentence structure) and diction (word choice) in writing
- B. Narrative writing: Developing personal voice and tone in writing with clarity
- C. Literary analysis: identifying an author's use of rhetorical devices to create meaning
- D. Research writing: writing research skillfully through a topic of student choice
- E. Poetry or short story: reading and writing

### Required iPad Applications:

*Notability*   *Quizlet*   *Google Drive*   *Google Docs*   *Google Slides*

Grading: Students will be able to access their grades on Focus.

| <u>Grade Book Categories</u>  |     | <u>Semester Weighted Grading Configuration</u> |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|--|-----|
| Essays/Presentations/Projects | 60% | Quarter  | 45% |
| Quizzes/Tests/Homework/Other  | 40% | Quarter  | 45% |
|                               |     | Final Exam                                     | 10% |

Explanation of Grade Book Categories:

Know that grammar and style are part of the evaluation for every assignment, no matter how small. This course will be graded on the following major components:

Essays/Presentations/Projects      60%

- Analysis Essay
- Narrative Essay
- Research Paper
- Public Products
- Speaking Skill
- Collaboration Skill

Quizzes/Tests/Homework/Other      40%

- Pre-Writing Exercises
- Grammar/Spelling Exercises
- Reading Checks for Understanding
- Notes Checks

Homework Expectations:

We desire to cultivate readers. While there will be time provided in class for reading, it is our expectation that students will read beyond the classroom. It is important that assigned homework or reading be completed by the day it is due. Expect 15 minutes of work at home per night not including required outside reading.

Late Work Policy:

Late work may be submitted for a maximum of half credit (until the end of the unit). If an essay or project is not turned in at the beginning of class on the day it is due, it may be turned in the following class day for a 10% deduction and each consecutive class day for additional deductions of 10% daily.

### Summer Reading Assignment:

The Summer Reading Assignment needs to be completed in full by the first day of school. All summer assignments are posted on the [MVCS website](#).

### High School Policies:

Please refer to the policy and procedures posted online in our Parent-Student Handbook.

### Class Policies:

1. Love, serve, and respect each other as part of a classroom community.
2. Absences-consult the Student Handbook to know what to do if you are absent.
3. Tardiness-you will be marked tardy if you are not in the classroom when the bell rings.
4. Plagiarism and Cheating:
  - a. Consult the Student Handbook under “Student Expectations” and the Bedford Handbook chapter 55 to know precisely what plagiarism or “academic dishonesty” means.
  - b. In cases of intentional or accidental plagiarism, the instructor will issue a referral and a zero for the assignment.
5. MLA and Turnitin.com:
  - a. All of your essays must be formatted according to MLA standards (see the Bedford Handbook). Most assignments will be typed on a Google Document.
  - b. Essays may be submitted to turnitin.com in order to check for academic honesty.
6. Classroom Expectations:
  - a. Be prepared to use the full class time to engage in learning.
  - b. We will attempt to follow our freshman class values in and out of the classroom.
7. Electronic Devices:
  - a. At school, iPads are tools for learning, and are a privilege. This privilege can be revoked at any time for misuse by a student.
  - b. Cell phones, iPods, and other devices must be turned off and put away.
8. Gum, Food, and Drink-dispose of all gum, food, and drink before you come to class. Water is allowed.

### School Policies and Expected Student Learning Results (ESLRs):

Students are subject to all academic policies of the school as found in the Parent-Student Handbook. Furthermore, it is each student’s responsibility to read and follow all academic policies of Monte Vista Christian School. In addition to addressing each ESLR every year, we target a specific ESLR each academic year for particular focus.