



CHARLOTTE'S WEB

Ancient Literature & Writing

Course Description: This course focuses on the literature of the Ancients, focusing on the epics of Mesopotamia and Greeks. The students will read three epics with an emphasis on *The Odyssey*. Other types of writing and documents will be discussed and used throughout the year to better understand the various stories. In class, the emphasis will be on answering students' questions from the week, discussions on themes, literary elements, and various topics to aid the discussion. In addition, a writing component will be another course element. We will split the class time each week with our literature discussion followed by writing instruction. The students will be writing an extensive narrative plot observation of the entire *Odyssey*, writing fables and essays, writing on maxims and proverbs, and a character sketch or theme (as a research paper). Specific instruction into these types of writing will be addressed in class, along with students sharing their work and providing peer reviews. This course will coincide well with the Plutarch and Ancient History offerings this year.

Feedback on compositions will be provided each week, and graded term exams are included in the course.

Course design: The course will have live weekly meetings on Zoom for discussion. Class participation via discussion boards, assignments, and the schedule will all be accessed through the free Canvas platform. Each student will need an email account to register. You can register using a parent's email account, but the student will need it to access the course. If registering with more than two children, there will need to be two email accounts, one for each student.

Course expectations: Students are expected to do the assigned reading, prepare for the Socratic discussion, including the forums during the week, and complete the writing assignments. Outside assignments will require approximately an hour and thirty minutes to two hours (depending on the student) for the reading and writing portions. If a class is missed, each student is required to watch the recording before coming to class the following week.

High school credits: The class as is will be awarded a 1/2 credit. If you would like to complete a full credit for Language Arts, you will need to supplement with a grammar program, and the free reads which are listed as optional below. Letter grades will be provided for this course.

Supplies needed:

- Canvas account (Information sent out during the summer- free.)
- Documents printed (Provided by Charlotte's Web - free.)
- A Book of Centuries
- Commonplace book (Notebook for quotes that stand out to the student.)



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- [*The Epic of Gilgamesh*](#) (Term 1)
- *Holy Bible* if possible a KJV version, used throughout the year.
- [*The Odyssey*](#) (Term 1-2)
- [*Beowulf*](#) (Term 3) This edition is very nice, and includes great pictures for the student's BOC.
- Other printable sources will be provided for the student, and for some books we are only reading a chapter or two; I will include those sources that will aid the student in the context of the book.
- *Optional: [*Bulfinch's Age of Fable*](#) (Term 1-2) If your student did not read it in their earlier years they might enjoy reading to familiarize themselves with the stories of the gods during the summer or term.
- *Optional: [*Classical Mythology from A to Z*](#) by Annette Giesecke. Great resource to aid your students in keeping track of the different gods in *The Odyssey*.
- *Optional: [*Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes*](#) by Edith Hamilton. Another great resource to aid your students in learning of the gods in the *The Odyssey*.
- Optional: [*The Ancient Near Eastern World*](#) by Amanda H. Podany & Marni McGee (Not required, but is used for Ancient History this year in the Alveary. A great resource for learning about the epics before we begin. I will alert the parents for potential reading alerts for sensitive matter.)
- *Optional but recommended: [*The Book of the Ancient Greeks*](#) by Dorothy Mills (Another great option if you have this text and want to dive in a bit.) Any edition is fine, and I recommend buying used if you can. Also recommended for Plutarch this year.
- A secular option if you prefer not to purchase *The Book of the Ancient Greeks*-[*The Ancient Greek World*](#) by Roberts & Barrett (Please note it is written from a secular view so please be aware of some chapters with sensitive content, and I recommend buying used if you can.)

Requirements for a full credit in addition to this course (optional):

- Complete a yearly grammar program. Suggestions are: Michael Clay Thompson (dependent on your child's level) or *Analytical Grammar*.
- I recommend reading **three** of these choices to round out the year: one or two Shakespeare play(s), reading poetry daily or working through a poetry guide, and a novel. Some suggestions relating to the ancients or have similar themes and parallels: *A Midsummer Night Dream & Hamlet*, *The Silver Chair*, *Don Quixote*, *The Hobbit*, *Arabian Nights*, or *Aesop's Fables*. If your student has not completed *A World of Poetry* by MCT or *The Grammar of Poetry*, either would be an excellent choice to work through. For those interested, I will supply a sample plan this summer of additional books to complete the full credit course. *Please note, we plan on focusing on *The Aeneid* and *Dante's Inferno*, in the future, so I would not recommend those.



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Pre-requisites: Grades 8 and up.

1. Completed or currently working through *Essay Voyage*, MCT or a similar program and confident in writing paragraphs. If unsure please contact the instructor.
2. Must be able to type their assignments.
3. Required to participate in the free workshop on self educating, which will be offered in the summer OR have previously participated in the workshop.
4. Parents please make sure you are comfortable with the book choices. We are not reading abridged versions. Please see the information from Common Sense Media: [The Odyssey](#).

If you'd like to learn why I choose the classics and great books please read my essay [here](#):

Course enrollment min/max: 6/12

Live meetings- Meets 1 day a week.

Options available:

- Session 1: Thursday 1:00-2:15 pm EST 1x week.
- Session 2: Thursday 2:30-3:45 pm EST 1 x week.

Cost: \$350 for the year per student for course, grading compositions, and exams.

Instructor: Amy Fluharty

Questions? Email the instructor: charlottesresources@gmail.com