**Humanities 9: The Ancient World Syllabus**

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**What is this class about?**

* The people of ancient Greece, the history that they lived, and the stories that they loved

**What is the purpose of this class?**

* Introduce you to some of the greatest books ever written
* Improve your skills of expression (both on paper and orally), note-taking, reading complex texts, thinking historically, and processing complex ideas
* Achieve an understanding of ancient Greco-Roman and Hebraic civilizations including their history, mythology, religion, literature, drama, and philosophy
* Explore the values of truth, goodness, and beauty in the human experience
* Lay the foundation for the rest of the Humanities program via an introduction to the underpinnings of Western culture
* Provide the opportunity to gain social studies (i.e. history, geography) & language arts (i.e. writing, reading) credit for successful completion of high school

**What will I need to bring to class?**

* Laptop (and charger)
* Headphones/earbuds
* Planner
* Writing utensils: pencils and blue/black pens
* 3 ring binder or folder(s)
* Loose leaf paper or notebook(s)
* Highlighter(s)
* Current course text

**What will this class look like on a daily basis?**

* Do Now opening exercise/question
* Occasional quiz
* Direct instruction in note-taking, writing, history, or geography
* Socratic Seminar: review and discussion of homework reading
* Possible exit slip regarding what you learned or questioned that day

**What will we read this year?**

Semester One Texts:

* *The Iliad,* Homer
* *The Odyssey,* Homer
* *The Peloponnesian War*, Thucydides
* The Oresteia Trilogy, Aeschylus
* The Oedipus Trilogy, Sophocles
* Selected dialogues of Plato
* Selections from Aristotle

Semester Two Texts:

* *The Early History of Rome*, Livy
* *The Rise of the Roman Empire,* Polybius
* *Roman Lives*, Plutarch
* *On Duties*, Cicero
* *The Aeneid*, Virgil
* *On the Nature of Things*, Lucretius
* *Meditations*, Marcus Aurelius
* Selections from Genesis and Exodus

**What sorts of assignments should I expect?**

* Multiple writing assignments: Humanities is both language arts and social studies, so we will write quite often.  Expect a paragraph or essay every 1-2 weeks.
* Socratic Seminar is a critical component of this course as well.  Expect consistent discussions that will require your active engagement.  These will occur both in the classroom as well as online.
* Notes checks
* Nightly reading homework from our current text
* Guided reading questions to accompany your reading assignments

**How will I be graded?**

* Seminar Participation (40%): do you contribute to discussion constructively and consistently?
* Writing Assignments (40%): are your essays well written, including (cited) textual evidence?
* Quizzes/Other Assignments (20%): are you completing your homework and daily assignments?
* *\*\*Semester grade = Quarter 1 (40%) + Quarter 2 (40%) + Final exam (20%)*

**Which policies are especially important for me to know?**

* Most coursework will be completed via Canvas.  Your laptop is now among your most critical academic tools.
* This class will request your consistent (respectful) participation
* If you are absent, check the modules page for the daily course work.  Keep up from home if you can.  If you cannot, e-mail me or talk to me when you return, and we will set up a custom catch-up plan.
* Homework is considered late if not turned in by the date and time listed in Canvas.
* Late work is accepted within the following guidelines:
  + 1 week after the due date- up to 80% credit
  + 2 weeks after the due date- up to 50% credit
  + After 2 weeks past the due date- 0% credit
* Plagiarism (i.e., turning in work that is not your own or based upon someone else’s) earns a zero
* If you plan to take the AP exam in May, you will need to study beyond your work for this class
* Regardless of whether you are at home or in the classroom, you will be expected to be in uniform.
* Distance learning students:
  + Plan to log in to class on Zoom (using your first and last name) at our class start time.  I will let you in from the waiting room when cleaning is finished.
  + I will ask that you make a habit of keeping your video on and yourself muted, unless you are asking a question or making a comment.
  + if you are struggling with any tech issues, contact me as soon as possible.
* Cohort students:
  + Coming to class prepared is even more critical than usual.  Do not count on having extra laptops, chargers, or writing utensils available.
  + We will be cleaning the classroom and out hands often.  Please prioritize following the cleaning routines.
  + We will not always be online, but you will be asked to use your laptops to turn things in.

**What do I need to do to be successful in this class?**

* Attend class regularly
* Complete homework on time
* Do your reading consistently
* Engage in Socratic Seminar
* Take good notes during lecture and discussion
* Ask for help when you need it