

Faith of Our Fathers:

World Literature, World History, & Theology (Honors)

Course Objectives

This course culminates the critical thinking and writing skills of the first two courses and provides a rich foundation in medieval and Renaissance literature, Church history, and theology. Students study the letters, histories, poems, narratives, and theology produced by the Church and society from the New Testament through the Reformation. Authors include Athanasius, Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Dante Alighieri, Petrarch, Geoffrey Chaucer, Martin Luther, John Calvin, and others. Selected creeds, the Gospel of Luke, the Acts of the Apostles, and the epistles to the Galatians and Ephesians will also be discussed and studied. We recommend that parents and independent study programs count this class as meeting the requirements for thirty high school academic credits: Honors World Literature (ten credits), Honors Bible/Theology (ten credits), and Honors World (or Church) History (ten credits).

Students will analyze and interpret Medieval and Renaissance literature. They will

- synopsise the major argument or theme of a written work in five sentences
- explicate the key themes of particular literary works
- support their interpretations of a text with textual citations
- research and present the background, historical context, and authorial information for a particular text
- analyze and articulate key themes and ideas in medieval and Renaissance literature
- characterize the different genres of allegory, epic poem, essay, and homily
- compare and contrast the ideas and writing styles of the various authors studied
- trace the literary development of early Medieval and Renaissance culture and identify key movements

Students will analyze and interpret the texts of world/Church history, including biblical texts. They will

- trace major historical developments of the Medieval and Renaissance West as expressed in literature
- identify the ideas that shaped Medieval and Renaissance culture and trace their evolution
- analyze the historical development of the Christian Church from the time of Christ through the sixteenth century
- articulate the interrelationship of the Christian Church and the medieval and Renaissance West

Students will apply knowledge gained from a synthesis of multiple texts and discussions. They will

- evaluate ideas based on the Bible as the ultimate authority on Truth
- synthesize the relationship between Christian faith, the life of the mind, and daily living
- exhibit discernment in moral and ethical issues
- demonstrate a willingness to change beliefs and behaviors due to the insight of others
- apply a historical perspective to Christianity, Christian doctrine, and the contemporary church

Students will contribute in intellectual discussion confidently, critically, and charitably.

They will

- ask relevant, critical questions about texts and ideas
- distinguish between good and bad arguments
- recognize, imitate, and produce sound, compelling, and logical arguments
- assess multiple perspectives with fairness and precision in reading, discussion, and writing
- articulate significant historical and cultural theses via formal outline and oral presentation
- assert opinions and beliefs about history and culture of Western civilization with courteous and reasonable arguments
- respond to opposition to opinions and beliefs with courteous and reasonable rebuttals

Course objectives will be realized through the intensive reading, writing, discussion, research, and oral presentation required of the students. The oral presentations, discussion, and writing assignments will serve as the evaluative tools to assess the student's progress toward the set objectives. Student notebooks serve as a catalog of the student's progress through the course of the academic year, and the final term paper is equivalent to a final exam.