
Advanced Literature and Composition Syllabus

PART ONE: DRAMA

Unit 1 Sophocles, *Electra*

- Greek Drama
- The Greek Chorus
- Acting Conventions in Greek Drama
- Rhetoric Used in Greek Plays
- Modes of Expression in Greek Plays
- Men and Women in Greek Drama
- Special Effects on the Greek Stage

Unit 2 William Shakespeare, *King Lear*

- Themes and Motifs
- Major Characters
- Literary Terms
- The Subplot
- Elizabethan Concepts
- Poetic Devices
- Symbolism
- Madness
- Folio and Quarto
- Fate
- Animal Imagery
- Human Selfishness

Unit 3 Luigi Pirandello, *Six Characters in Search of an Author*

- Literary Terms
- Real characters vs. fictional characters
- Dramatic Irony
- The role of the audience
- Verisimilitude

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PART TWO: NOVELS

Unit 4 Voltaire, *Candide*

Satire and Parody
Leibniz's Philosophy
The Enlightenment
The Lisbon Earthquake
Allegory
Comedy and Comic Relief
Deism
El Dorado
Optimism and Pessimism
Epic
Meliorism
Gardens in *Candide*

Unit 5 Charles Dickens, *David Copperfield*

Major Characters
Literary Terms and Themes
Dialect
Dickens' Writing Style
Victorian Child Rearing
Byronic hero
Melodrama
Influence of Shakespeare and the Bible
Victorian morality
Dickens' attitude toward work
Donkeys in *David Copperfield*
Flower Imagery
Middle Class in Dickens
Literary Innovations
Stream of Consciousness
Symbolism
Elements of autobiography in *David Copperfield*
David Copperfield as a social novel
Victorian attitudes toward sex
The family unit in Dickens' works
Dickens as an early feminist
Australia

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Unit 6 Henry James, *The Turn of the Screw*

- Mystery
- Freudian imagery
- Point-of-view
- The Governess
- Characteristics of the Ghosts
- The Identification of Peter Quint
- Motifs
- Governess' character
- Language
- Theme Development

PART THREE: POETRY

Unit 7: Poetry

- The Ballad
- The Sonnet
- The Elegy
- The Dramatic Monologue
- The Ode
- Other Forms of Poetry

Unit 8: *The Epic of Gilgamesh*

- Introduction to the Epic
- Introduction to the Epic of Gilgamesh
- Preparation for Battle
- The Cedar Forest
- Ishtar
- Enkidu's Death
- Gilgamesh's Search
- Utnapishtim
- Ending