

## Course Outline for:

### Shakespeare in Literature (online)

<b>Grade Levels:</b>	12	
<b>Assignments:</b>	18 lessons	<b>Credits:</b> 5 units
<b>UC a-g Requirements:</b>	Fulfills Requirement b: English	
<b>Instructional Materials:</b>	online	

#### **Course Description**

Shakespeare in Literature begins by giving students a wealth of background material on the life and times of William Shakespeare –the Renaissance, London life, the Plague, the Reformation and the influence of the Puritans. Students learn about the theatre repertory companies of Shakespeare’s London, The Globe Theatre; they look at the Italian influences on the Bard’s scripts. They read *Julius Caesar* and *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* as well as some of Shakespeare’s sonnets. The class culminates with an original sonnet assignment.

#### **Learning Objectives:**

- Become familiar with the characteristics of different forms of Shakespeare, in particular, and dramatic literature, as a whole, (e.g., comedy, tragedy, drama, dramatic monologue)
- Compare and contrast the presentation of similar themes or topics
- Realize how the selection of genre shapes a given theme or topic
- Analyze interactions between main and subordinate characters in dramatic literature (e.g., internal and external conflicts, motivations, relationships, influences) and explain the way those interactions affect the plot
- Determine characters' traits by what the characters say about themselves in narration, dialogue, dramatic monologue, and soliloquy
- Compare works that express a universal theme and recognize evidence which supports the ideas expressed in each work
- Analyze and trace Shakespeare’s development of time and sequence, including the use of complex literary devices (e.g., foreshadowing, flashbacks)
- Recognize and understand the significance of various literary devices, including

- figurative language, imagery, allegory, and symbolism, and explain their appeal
- Interpret and evaluate the impact of ambiguities, subtleties, contradictions, ironies, and incongruities in Shakespeare
- Understand how voice, persona, and the choice of a narrator affect characterization, tone, plot, and credibility
- Identify the function of dialogue, scene designs, soliloquies, asides, and character foils in Shakespeare
- Analyze the way in which a given work of literature is related to the themes and issues of its historical period

## Course Outline

### Lesson 1: Introduction

- A) Biographical sketch - questions
- B) Shakespeare's genealogy - make your own family tree - questions
- C) Grammar

### Lesson 2: Renaissance

- A) Introduction: historical context of Renaissance - philosophy - developments - questions
- B) Life in London - questions
- C) Household management - questions
- D) The Plague: origins & results - questions
- E) Grammar: comma splices & fused sentences

### Lesson 3: The Puritans

- A) The Reformation - The Puritans & Shakespeare - questions
- B) Shakespeare vocabulary definitions
- C) Independent web search: life & times of Shakespeare - summary of site

### Lesson 4: Repertory Companies

- A) Shakespeare's company - questions
- B) Words of Shakespeare's time - writing assignment
- C) Grammar: comma splices & fused sentences

### Lesson 5: Italy

- A) The Classics - Roman history & politics & Shakespeare - questions
- B) Julius Caesar: historical background - sources - questions
- C) Grammar: fixing comma splices & fused sentences

### Lesson 6: Julius Caesar

- A) Reading: Act I, scenes ii-iii - reading questions
- B) Grammar: using irregular verbs

**Lesson 7: Julius Caesar**

- A) Act II, I & ii - reading questions
- B) Grammar: verbs with irregular tenses

**Lesson 8: Julius Caesar**

- A) Act II, iii & iv - true & false reading questions
- B) Reading questions
- C) Grammar: irregular verbs

**Lesson 9: Julius Caesar**

- A) Act III: the climax - reading questions
- B) Grammar: plural nouns

**Lesson 10: Julius Caesar**

- A) Act III; ii, iii - reading questions
- B) Exercise: Identifying speaker of quotes
- C) Grammar: placement of modifiers

**Lesson 11: Julius Caesar**

- A) IV; I, ii - reading questions
- B) IV; iii - reading questions
- C) Grammar: spelling rules, suggestions, & practice

**Lesson 12: Julius Caesar**

- A) The final act: V; I, ii, iii - reading questions
- B) Denouement - questions
- C) Essay: destiny & fate in Shakespeare
- D) Grammar: proofread & correct your essay

**Lesson 13: Julius Caesar (The End)**

- A) The last 2 scenes: reread - reading questions
- B) Exercise: match characters with manner of death
- C) Research exercise: find the number & dramatic genre of Shakespeare's plays
- D) More questions on Julius Caesar
- E) Grammar: spelling

**Lesson 14: Julius Caesar (Recap)**

- A) Reading questions
- B) Grammar: spelling

**Lesson 15: A Midsummer Night's Dream**

- A) Read synopsis of play (independently) - cast of characters
- B) Act I; scene I - reading questions
- C) I; ii - reading questions
- D) II; I - reading questions
- E) II; ii - reading questions

F) Choose sonnet by Shakespeare - questions

**Lesson 16: Shakespeare's Sonnets**

- A) Overview of Shakespearean Sonnet: form & content - types of sonnets - questions
- B) Interpreting sonnets
- C) Write 5 of your own metaphors
- D) Write 5 of your own similes

**Lesson 17: Interpreting Sonnets**

- A) Site on sonnets - example interpretations of Shakespeare's sonnets
- B) Assignment: interpret a sonnet by Shakespeare
- C) Write and submit an original sonnet

**Lesson 18: Review**

- A) Review questions: response to Shakespeare & course as a whole
- B) Survey