

Syllabus

English 12A

Course Overview

English is the study of the creation and analysis of literature written in the English language. In English 12A you will explore the relation between British history and literature from the Anglo-Saxon period through the neoclassical era, including the works of Shakespeare. You will read and analyze a variety of literary works from this time period using relevant cultural and political history presented in each lesson. In English 12A you will also study a variety of techniques to improve your reading comprehension, writing skills, and grammar and mechanics. The instruction covers many types of writing: creative, descriptive, expository, narrative, and persuasive. In addition you will complete writing activities in which you will employ analytical and persuasive skills.

Course Goals

By the end of this course, you will be able to do the following:

- Identify major periods in the development of the English language from Old English to Middle English to Modern English.
- Examine the development of major literary works from the era of Old English (*Beowulf*).
- Investigate the historical and cultural significance of British literature during the middle ages, including Arthurian legends and Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*.
- Recognize the early development of theater in England during the middle ages.
- Examine the importance of the Reformation on the formation of the English Renaissance and its writers.
- Explore the history and form of sonnets.
- Explore the dramatic works of Shakespeare, both tragedy and comedy, in terms of the history of drama in England and the role of women, character development, plot, conflict, and themes.
- Investigate the transition from the Renaissance to the neoclassical period, including the role of metaphysical poetry; explore the significant political events that shaped Britain and their impact on neoclassical writers.
- Recognize ways in which John Milton was a major figure of neoclassicism, even though his work was often atypical of the era.

General Skills

To participate in this course, you should be able to do the following:

- Complete basic operations with word processing software, such as Microsoft Word or Google Docs.
- Complete basic operations with presentation software, such as Microsoft PowerPoint or Google Docs presentation.
- Perform online research using various search engines and library databases.
- Communicate through email and participate in discussion boards.

For a complete list of general skills that are required for participation in online courses, refer to the Prerequisites section of the Plato Student Orientation document, found at the beginning of this course.

Credit Value

English 12A is a 0.5-credit course.

Course Materials

- Notebook
- Pencils or ink pens
- Computer with Internet connection and speakers or headphones
- Microsoft Word or equivalent
- Microsoft PowerPoint or equivalent
- Some course readings may require a visit to your school library or public library.

Course Pacing Guide

This section provides a brief summary of the units in this semester-long course. The semester is divided into six units spread across 90 days. The pacing guide provides a general timeline for completing each unit. It is designed to fit your class schedule and is adjustable. The guide is based on a typical 180-day school year with 90 days per semester.

Unit 1: The Anglo Saxon and Medieval Periods

Summary

This unit focuses on the early periods of British literature, beginning with a lesson on the evolution of the English language and Anglo Saxon literature. Subsequent lessons explore medieval literature. The unit also analyzes the impact of historical changes on literature, from the Anglo Saxon period to the Renaissance. This analysis is supported by readings from texts such as *Beowulf*, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, and *The Canterbury Tales*. The unit ends with a lesson that traces the growth of drama in England and includes a selection from the morality play *Everyman*.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
1 day: 1	Syllabus and Plato Student Orientation <i>Review the Plato Student Orientation and Course Syllabus at the beginning of this course.</i>	Course Orientation
5 days: 2–6	The History of the English Language <i>Examine the stages and key periods in the development of the English language.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 7–11	Beowulf <i>Examine Old English and epic poetry by analyzing Beowulf.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 12–16	Sir Gawain and the Green Knight <i>Examine medieval English society, the legend of King Arthur, and the importance of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight in medieval English literature.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 17–21	Chaucer and The Canterbury Tales <i>Examine the historical context of The Canterbury Tales while analyzing selected tales from the poem itself.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 22-25	The Development of Theater <i>Examine the development of theater in England while studying the morality play Everyman.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 26-29	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 1	Unit Activity/ Discussion
1 day: 30	Posttest—Unit 1	Assessment

Unit 2: The English Renaissance

Summary

This unit focuses on British literature of the Elizabethan and Jacobean periods, with an emphasis on the development of poetry and drama. In this unit, you will analyze plays by Marlowe and Shakespeare, study the history of the sonnet, compare the Petrarchan and Shakespearean forms of the sonnet, and read and analyze a complete tragedy and comedy by Shakespeare. The unit ends by examining the historical context and characteristics of metaphysical poetry.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
4 days: 31-34	<p>An Introduction to the English Renaissance <i>Examine the Reformation and the English Renaissance, and study the influence of this period on the works of Christopher Marlowe and other writers.</i></p>	Lesson
4 days: 35-38	<p>Sonnets <i>Investigate the history of sonnets while analyzing the sonnets of Shakespeare and Petrarch.</i></p>	Lesson
5 days: 39-43	<p>Hamlet, Acts I, II, and III <i>Examine Shakespeare's life and the influence of the time period on his plays while beginning a study of Hamlet, acts I, II, and III.</i></p>	Lesson
5 days: 44-48	<p>Hamlet, Acts IV and V <i>Examine the main elements of Hamlet, including character development and the overarching plot, while reading acts IV and V.</i></p>	Lesson
5 days 49-53	<p>Twelfth Night, Acts I, II, and III <i>Examine the role of women in Shakespeare's England and identify key plot elements of Twelfth Night, acts I, II, and III.</i></p>	Lesson
4 days 54-57	<p>Twelfth Night, Acts IV and V <i>Examine the main plot points of Twelfth Night, including character development, conflict, and main themes, while reading acts IV and V.</i></p>	Lesson
4 days 58-61	<p>The Metaphysical Poets <i>Investigate the historical context of metaphysical poetry, including its place in Jacobean and Carolinian England.</i></p>	Lesson
4 days: 62-65	<p>Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 2</p>	Unit Activity/ Discussion
1 day: 66	<p>Posttest—Unit 2</p>	Assessment

Unit 3: Neoclassicism

Summary

This unit focuses on the religious turmoil in seventeenth-century England and its influence on the growth of neoclassicism. You will analyze the work of various writers of the time, including John Milton. You will also investigate the social changes that Britain underwent in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
4 days: 67-70	The Roots of Neoclassicism <i>Examine England's continuing religious turmoil into the seventeenth century and how it influenced the early neoclassical writers.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 71-74	John Milton <i>Investigate the works of John Milton and their place in the English Civil War and Restoration of seventeenth-century England.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 75-78	Neoclassicism I <i>Examine the political history of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century England and the impact of the time period on neoclassical writers.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 79-82	Neoclassicism II <i>Examine the social changes of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century England and the impact of the time period on neoclassical writers.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 83-86	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 3	Unit Activity/ Discussion
2 days: 87-88	Course Activity	Course Activity
1 day: 89	Posttest—Unit 3	Assessment
1 day 90	End of Semester Test	Assessment