

Virginia English 12, Semester A

Course Overview

English is the study of the creation and analysis of literature written in the English language. In Virginia English 12, Semester A, 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 Virginia English 12, Semester A, 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 Student Orientation, found at the beginning of this course.

Credit Value

Virginia English 12, Semester A is a 0.5-credit course.

Course Materials

- notebook
- pencil or pen
- 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 course description and pacing guide is intended to help you keep on schedule with your work. Note that your course instructor may modify the schedule to meet the specific needs of your class.

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	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>	Lesson
4 days: 35-38	Sonnets <i>Investigate the history of sonnets while analyzing the sonnets of Shakespeare and Petrarch.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 39-43	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>	Lesson
5 days: 44-48	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>	Lesson
5 days: 49-53	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>	Lesson
4 days: 54-57	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>	Lesson
4 days: 58-61	The Metaphysical Poets <i>Investigate the historical context of metaphysical poetry, including its place in Jacobean and Carolinian England.</i>	Lesson

4 days: 62-65	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 2	Unit Activity/ Discussion
1 day: 66	Posttest—Unit 2	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
3 days: 79-81	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: 82-85	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 3	Unit Activity/ Discussion

2 days: 86-87	Course Activity	Course Activity
1 day: 88	Posttest—Unit 3	Assessment
1 day: 89	End of Semester Review	
1 day: 90	End of Semester Test	Assessment

Virginia English 12, Semester B

Course Overview

English is the study of the creation and analysis of literature written in the English language. In Virginia English 12, Semester B, you will explore the relation between British history and literature from the romantic period to the modern era. You will read and analyze a variety of literary works from this time period in the context of relevant cultural and political history. In Virginia English 12, Semester B, 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. In a Course Activity, you will examine ways to present events and communicate information among people.

Course Goals

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

- Explore the history and characteristics of the romantic period, especially the major poets of this era.
- Examine how gothic literature developed some similar themes as romantic poetry but in the form of fiction, especially by reading Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*.
- Explore the development of the novel from the romantic era to the Victorian and modern eras, including examples of realism (as a response to industrial development and class struggles) and modernism (stream of consciousness and the internalization of the narrative voice).
- Explore the poets and novelists of the Victorian era as well as the causes and effects leading to the end of that era.
- Examine the characteristics of Victorian drama, the importance of theater in Victorian society, and the works of famous Victorian playwright Oscar Wilde.
- Analyze social critiques in H. G. Wells' science fiction novel *The Time Machine* and in poetry produced during World Wars I and II.
- Evaluate the persuasive techniques of some of the most influential wartime speeches of the twentieth century.
- Explore modernist poetry and novels, especially how changing times fostered experimentation and departure from earlier conventions in the twentieth-century novel.

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 Student Orientation, found at the beginning of this course.

Credit Value

Virginia English 12, Semester B is a 0.5-credit course.

Course Materials

- notebook
- pencil or pen
- 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 course description and pacing guide is intended to help you keep on schedule with your work. Note that your course instructor may modify the schedule to meet the specific needs of your class.

Unit 1: The Romantic Era

Summary

This unit focuses on the romantic era of British Literature. It begins by exploring the historical roots and characteristics of the romantic period. You will analyze the works of

Byron, Shelley, and Keats and examine the development of gothic literature by studying Mary Shelley's novel *Frankenstein*. The unit ends with a lesson on Jane Austen's literary techniques and her novel *Pride and Prejudice*.

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	An Introduction to Romanticism <i>Explore the historical roots and characteristics of the romantic period, as well as the common themes and literary devices of the time.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 7-11	Byron, Shelley, and Keats <i>Examine the lives, careers, and works of the romantic writers Byron, Shelley, and Keats, and analyze how they reflect the romantic period.</i>	Lesson
6 days: 12-17	Gothic Literature <i>Examine gothic literature and its historical roots, focusing on major gothic themes by analyzing Mary Shelley's <i>Frankenstein</i>.</i>	Lesson
6 days: 18-23	Jane Austen <i>Explore Jane Austen's life and analyze the literary themes and techniques of her novel <i>Pride and Prejudice</i>.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 24-28	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 1	Unit Activity/ Discussion
1 day: 29	Posttest—Unit 1	Assessment

Unit 2: The Victorian Era

Summary

This unit focuses on British literature of the Victorian era. Students analyze the common themes of the era while reading selections from the work of poets such as Lord Tennyson and Elizabeth Browning. They analyze the influence of the Industrial Revolution on Charles Dickens's works and his literary techniques in the novel *Oliver Twist*. Students are also introduced to Victorian drama through a comedy of manners by Oscar Wilde. The unit ends with the study of a selection from Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights*.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
5 days: 30-34	The Victorian Era I <i>Explore the Victorian era, its common themes, and one of its most famous writers, Lord Tennyson.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 35-39	The Victorian Era II <i>Explore the literary styles and the most influential novelists and poets of the Victorian era.</i>	Lesson
6 days: 40-45	Charles Dickens <i>Explore Charles Dickens's background, including how the Industrial Revolution influenced his work, and analyze his literary techniques in <i>Oliver Twist</i>.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 46-49	Emily Brontë <i>Explore Emily Brontë's life and analyze her literary techniques.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 50-53	Victorian Drama <i>Examine the characteristics of Victorian drama, the importance of theater in Victorian society, and the work of famous Victorian playwright Oscar Wilde.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 54-57	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 2	Unit Activity/ Discussion
2 days: 58-59	Course Activity	Course Activity

1 day: 60	Posttest—Unit 2	Assessment
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Unit 3: The Modern Era

Summary

This unit begins by exploring literature from the end of the Victorian era and the outlook of the writers of the time. You will analyze the work of H.G. Wells and read selections from the science fiction novel *The Time Machine*. You will also analyze poetry written during World Wars I and II, as well as historic speeches by political leaders of the time. The unit ends by examining the modern and postmodern movements and the effect of the changing times on the twentieth-century novel. Towards the end, in a Course Activity, you will examine ways to communicate information among people.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
4 days: 61-64	The Decline of the Victorian Era <i>Explore the causes of the end of the Victorian era and how writers of the time reflected societal concerns in their work.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 65-68	H. G. Wells <i>Explore H. G. Wells's life and analyze his social critiques in his science fiction novel The Time Machine.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 69-73	War Literature <i>Examine literature produced during World Wars I and II, and analyze some of the most influential wartime speeches of the twentieth century.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 74-77	The Twentieth-Century Poetic Revolution <i>Explore the departure from Victorian literature to modernist literature, focusing on how writers experimented with and redefined poetry in the twentieth century.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 78-81	The Modern Novel <i>Explore the modern and postmodern periods, including how changing times affected conventions of the twentieth-century novel.</i>	Lesson

3 days: 82-84	Media Literacy <i>Compare and contrast how events are presented and information is communicated by visual images versus nonvisual texts in different media.</i>	Course Activity
4 days: 85-88	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 3	Unit Activity/ Discussion
1 day: 88	Posttest—Unit 3	Assessment
1 day: 89	End of Semester Review	
1 day: 90	End of Semester Test	Assessment