

Read Close-ly: Literary Analysis with Composition

Grades:	9th-10th
Prerequisites:	Students should have completed middle school writing with Eva/Jonathan (or its equivalent), or Perspectives with Eva.
Day of Week:	Monday
Time of Class:	9:00am -10:30 am ET
Length of Class:	20 weeks
Semester:	Fall 2023- Winter 2024
Tuition:	\$400.00
High School Credit:	1 credit of English or Elective

Class Dates:

Week 1: Week of September 11

Week 2: Week of September 18

No classes from September 25 – October 6, 2023 – Jewish Holidays

Week 3: Week of October 9

Week 4: Week of October 16

Week 5: Week of October 23

Week 6: Week of October 30

Week 7: Week of November 6

Week 8: Week of November 13

No classes from November 20 – 24 – Thanksgiving Holidays

Week 9: Week of November 27

Week 10: Week of December 4

Make-Up Days: Week of December 11

Week 11: Week of January 8

Week 12: Week of January 15

Week 13: Week of January 22

Week 14: Week of January 29

Week 15: Week of February 5

Week 16: Week of February 12

Week 17: Week of February 19

Week 18: Week of February 26

Week 19: Week of March 4

Week 20: Week of March 11

Make-Up Days: Week of March 18

Instructor's Name:

Carrie Mokry

Instructor's Email:

askmrsmokry@gmail.com

Instructor's Phone:

757-810-4858

Description of Class:

This course is ideal for both the voracious and reluctant reader. Students will increase their critical thinking skills through the practice of close reading. Research indicates that close reading helps the student learn how to think, and it increases student focus.

Using teacher selected short stories and excerpts from various genres (novels, poetry, non-fiction), students will learn to analyze great literature for the author's purpose and stylistic choices. This involves repeated readings and student annotation of literary (setting, character, plot) and rhetorical (diction, allusion, theme) devices. With the teacher as their guide, students will dive deeply into texts by international authors from both classic and modern times. The depth and length of assigned readings will increase over the twenty weeks but to nothing longer than George Orwell's novella, *Animal Farm*. Building this stamina for reading is an important college and workplace readiness skill.

Each week, students will be asked to write a brief analysis of their close reading using a blueprint provided by the teacher. Students will also have practice with grammar and writing mechanics while editing teacher provided passages. To conclude the course, students will write a five paragraph analysis of a rhetorical device of the student's choosing utilizing text evidence gathered from the readings during the course.

Students are expected to read for pleasure. Although electronic formats are acceptable, a public library card is highly suggested as students will be asked to participate in daily reading of titles of their choosing; anticipate the inspiration for these titles to come from excerpts and

authors read during class. Each student will set a personal goal and maintain a log with the goal of showing increased stamina over time.

By taking a closer look at the art of literature, students will discover that literature mirrors the world and our understanding of it. Great literature reveals to us truths about being human. We read to discover who we are.

Class Approach:

This course will build an engaging and positive community of readers who share personal responses to literature. Students will read, re-read, analyze, and write.

Goals:

This course will promote critical thinking through the close reading of classic and modern literature. Student writing will improve from analyzing mentor texts, and the repeated practice of composing formal responses to literature. Students will be introduced to a gamut of authors and main characters inspiring additional reading.

Textbook: May purchased used as students will be encouraged to write in the books.

Short stories, poetry, etc. provided by the teacher (PDF to be printed or Internet link)

Based on the student's current stamina for reading, choose one:

How to Read Literature like a Professor for Kids by Thomas C. Foster (ISBN-10: 0062200860)

How to Read Literature like a Professor by Thomas C. Foster (ISBN-10: 9780062301673)

Animal Farm by George Orwell (ISBN-10: 1840228032)

Additional Supplies/Resources Needed:

Microphone/Headset for class discussions

Word Processing program

Internet access and device for accessing PDFs and links

Printer and printer paper

Scanner or Scanning App

Notebook: Spiral bound with pockets or three-ring with loose leaf paper

Pen/Pencil

Colored pencils or pens

Highlighter

Post It notes (Helpful for annotating in a Public Library owned book)

Public Library Card or access to electronic library

Requirements:

One hundred percent effort, honesty and politeness are expected in class.

Weekly Homework:

Approximately 4-6 hours of homework a week can be expected. This includes reading (and re-reading) selections, writing and editing assignments, viewing additional recorded lessons and extension videos correlated with weekly topic of study.

Homework Policy:

Students are expected to come to class having completed all homework. It is imperative that students stay up to date with coursework; otherwise they will be unable to participate in the class discussions.

Additional Policies:

Students are expected to read daily for pleasure. Students will establish a daily reading goal with the teacher. They are expected to maintain a reading log to include title, author and daily completion of reading goal. Teacher will provide a printable calendar for ease of management.

Evaluation:

Weekly assignments, class participation, short responses to literature, and a final 5-paragraph essay.

Grading Scale:

The student will be graded using a ten point grading scale.

100-90 A

80-89 B

70-79 C

60-69 D

Below 60 F

Anticipated Weekly Course Schedule:

Fall 2023

Week	Literature readings will focus on:
Week 1	Plot diagram; Learning to annotate
Week 2	Setting and foreshadowing; Set daily reading goal
Week 3	Characterization, perspective and point of view
Week 4	Theme and tone
Week 5	Theme
Week 6	Symbolism
Week 7	Symbolism and advertising
Week 8	<i>Animal Farm</i> by George Orwell
Week 9	Allusions

Week	Literature readings will focus on:
Week 10	Shakespeare

Winter 2024

Week	Literature readings will focus on:
Week 1	Dialect, diction and colloquial; Update daily reading goal
Week 2	Hyperbole, irony and epiphany
Week 3	Poetry characteristics
Week 4	Poetry reading
Week 5	Drama characteristics
Week 6	Drama reading
Week 7	Non-fiction and biographies
Week 8	Appeals to authority, emotion, logic
Week 9	Review of course; Students select rhetorical device for final paper
Week 10	The graphic novel; Final paper composition