

Course Outline/Syllabus
Contemporary Literature
Summer 2025
Southern Preparatory Academy
(Grades 9-12)

Course Title: Contemporary Literature

Course Description: An examination of literature exploring global perspective through a wide range of genres (novels, poetry, short stories, and essays) seeking to understand the many voices engaged in accounts of the developing world. Readings will include literature by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Jane Austen, and Joy Williams

Objective(s):

- (1) Students will understand the style, concerns, and characteristics of contemporary literature by understanding the definition and become familiar with some examples.
- (2) Students will explore contemporary literature by analyzing modern text via discussion of themes, narrative techniques, and how contemporary writers reflect on social, political, and cultural issues.

Required Work: Students must complete readings as assigned, participate in class discussion, write stories, give presentations, and complete other projects as assigned.

Attendance and Participation: Students must be prepared for class each day by participating in discussions and having all homework assignments completed prior to class.

Method of Instruction: Instruction may include (but not limited to) discussions, lectures, peer work, videos and video clips.

ESSAY

At least one (1) essay is required consisting of no less than five (5) well-written paragraphs on a teacher-approved topic (a topic relating to contemporary literature). Essays may be submitted early for proofreading before final drafts are submitted. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. All acknowledgement of information obtained from outside the classroom is a must. Outright plagiarism will result in a grade of zero.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Students must alert the instructor in advance if there is a necessary absence. There is only one excused absence allowed for this summer session. There are no headphones, cellphones, or other unapproved electronic devices allowed in the classroom.

Discussions

Each student is required to participate in discussion. Therefore, each student is responsible for out-of-class readings returning to class prepared to engage in meaningful conversation/debates.

ACTIVITIES	Percentages
TEST/ESSAY	40%
Assignments/ classwork	30%
Homework	20%
Participation/ discussion	10%

Required Reading:

“Half of a Yellow Sun” (short Story) by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

“Escapes” (short story) by Joy Williams

“Invisible” (short story) by Jeannean Walker

Where the Forest Meets the Stars by Glendy Vanderah