

# Exploring Philosophy Through Literature

## I. General Information

Teacher: Dr. Karen Croftcheck

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## II. Course Description

This English elective is a combination of literary and philosophical study. The goal of this course is for students to develop a better understanding of philosophical theories through a variety of literary genres. Students will...

- Define philosophy and the major branches of this subject.
- Identify various ancient and modern philosophers and their theories.
- Analyze philosophical ideas and motifs in literary texts to enhance meaning.
- Gain an appreciation for critical thinking and philosophical analysis.

## III. Text and Supplemental Material

Questions That Matter: An Invitation to Philosophy. New York: McGraw Hill, 2008. Hesse, Hermann. Siddhartha. Clayton: Prestwick House Literary Touchstone Press, 2005. Shakespeare, William. Hamlet. Clayton: Prestwick House Literary Touchstone Press, 2005.

## IV. Supplies Needed

Notebook and journal, folder or binder, and writing utensils

## V. Grading Scale and Evaluations

Student grades will be based on several methods of assessment, including homework assignments, tests and quizzes, journal entries, formal writing assignments, and class participation. Quarterly and final grades will be based on the following grading scale:

96 – 100% = A 93 – 95% = A- 90 – 92% = B+ 88 – 89% = B 85 – 87% = B-

81 – 84% = C+ 78 – 80% = C 75 – 77% = C- 70 – 74% = D 0 - 69% = F

## VI. Guidelines

Students are expected to be respectful of the teacher, their classmates, and school property. They must also show responsibility for their own learning by coming to class prepared and by following all school policies. More information can be found in Geibel Catholic's student handbook.

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Scope and Sequence QUARTER 1

Readings: Chapter 1 – "What is Philosophy?" Various short stories

Philosophy Focus: The fields of philosophy

Literary Focus: Plot structure and theme

#### QUARTER 2

Readings: Chapter 3 – “The Idea of Form” The Republic by Plato (excerpts) and various short stories

Philosophy Focus: Philosophy in Ancient Greece

Literary Focus: Symbolism and allegory

#### QUARTER 3

Readings: Chapter 7 – “Skepticism” and Chapter 9 – “The Way of Experience” Siddhartha by Hermann Hesse

Philosophy Focus: Eastern Philosophy

Literary Focus: Characterization and archetypes

QUARTER 4 Readings: Chapter 11 – “God and the World” and Chapter 12 – “God and Reason” Hamlet by William Shakespeare

Philosophy Focus: Ethics

Literary Focus: Drama structure and terminology