



**Ephrata High School
Course Syllabus
Contemporary Man
1090**



I. Course Description

Contemporary Man will examine man's hopes, fears, ideas, and feelings about life. Students will trace man's search for truth and meaning in life, primarily through literature and film and, to a lesser extent, through painting and sculpture. A variety of ideas concerning man's place in the universe and his relationship with his fellow human beings will be discussed in connection with the following three units: (1) *The Nature of Man -- His Humanity and His Inhumanity*, (2) *Man's Search for Identity*, and (3) *The Leader and the Group*. By relating these ideas to the modern world, one can more meaningfully assess our present and future.

II. Materials & Equipment

Bibliography (EHS Media Center)

Selected short stories

Casablanca (Movie)

The Shopping Bag Lady (Motivational Movie from the 1970's)

"Letters from a Birmingham Jail" (Written by Martin Luther King during riots of 60's)

"End of the Decades: Making Sense of the 60's" (Essay)

The 60's Miniseries (Movie)

Hotel Rwanda (Movie)

Antwone Fisher (Movie)

The Swimmer (Movie)

Angus (Movie)

III. Course Goals & Objectives

To create a sense of history and empathy toward our fellow man. To understand how man understands his place in this world by using the Social Sciences (Anthropology, Sociology, Psychology) and Literature.

IV. Course Topics (Summary Outline)

- I. The Humanities: An Approach to Living in a Modern World
 - A. Paradox
 - B. "The Road Not Taken"
 - C. Our Town
 - D. Literary Terms
 1. Tone
 2. Foreshadowing
 3. Prophecy
 4. Theme
 5. Irony
 6. Satire
 7. Parody
- II. Three Historical Concepts of Man
 - A. Man is innately good
 - B. Man is innately evil
 - C. Man has a dual nature
- III. Man's Inhumanity
 1. Satire
 2. Allusion
 3. Scapegoat
- IV. Searching for Meaning
 - A. Literary terms
 1. Tragic Her
 2. Archetype
 3. Quest Motif

4. Fairy-Tale/ Cinderella Motif
 5. Legend of the Unicorn
 6. Oedipus Complex
 7. Electra Complex
 8. Monologue
 9. Renaissance
 10. Pieta
- V. Search for Identity
- A. Theory of Evolution
 - B. Mythology
 - C. Tarzanists
 - D. Aggression
 - E. Matriarchy/ Patriarchy

V. Assignments & Grading

Tests

Quizzes

Notebook Tests

Book Talks

Various writing assignments

Vocabulary

Projects

Grades:

A 93-100	A- 90-92	B- 80-82
B+ 88-89	B 83-87	C- 70-72
C+ 78-79	C 73-77	D- 60-62
D+ 68-69	D 63-67	
F 0-59		