



**Ephrata High School
Course Syllabus
Legends and Folklore
1025**



I. Course Description

Legends and Folklore 0.5 Credit (Semester 2) Grades 11, 12

Legends and Folklore explores how man always has used his imagination to help him face the cruelty, indifference, and mysteries of the world. The folklore of early America, the ancient myths of the Greek and Roman empires and the legendary figures behind the early gothic/horror stories will be examined. Reading short stories, writing compositions, and giving oral presentations will be part of the course.

II. Materials & Equipment

Scope Magazines
Dracula – the abridged novel
American Folklore
Mythology – A Cooperative Unit
Arthurian Legend
Selected videos
Selected PSSA released prompts
Teacher notebook

III. Course Goals & Objectives

Improved student reading comprehension focusing on main idea, tone, purpose and plot
Improved student writing of expository and persuasive style essays and impromptus
Understanding of society's influence upon its literature – both historically and modern day

IV. Course Topics (Summary Outline)

Introduction

1. Definitions of legend, fable, myth folktale
2. Plot outline review of terms and create
3. Diagnostic test on terminology & conventions
4. Diagnostic essay

Legends of Horror – Unit 1

Essential Questions: What is horror? – How does it differ from other genres?

What historical facts lead to the creation of literary monsters?

What are the requirements of the expository essay?

1. Scope – Oct 91 Terrors
 - a. “blueprint for terror” outline of characteristics of genre
2. Vampire notes
 - a. VC Dracula
 - b. Quiz
3. Wolf man/werewolf notes
 - a. Scope – “Gabriel ernst
 - b. VC Wolf Man
 - c. QUIZ
4. Notes – King Tut/Egypt and Mummy
 - a. VC Pyramids
 - b. VC Mummy
 - c. Scope – “mummy”
 - d. Quiz
5. Unit composition

Cowboy legends

Essential questions: Why is the American cowboy such an integral part of American history?

What is a stereotype?

What are folktales/tall tales? – How did they develop?

1. Term – stereotype
2. Book – American folktales – Assign each student a folktale to present orally
3. VC City Slickers – focus on stereotypes -- Paragraph
4. VC Tall Tales -- Test

Mythology/Fable

Essential questions:

What is a myth?

How to myths differ from previously studied genres of this course?

What factual events are myths based upon?

1. Mythology stories
 - a. Xerox stories of the mythological creation
 - b. Xerox stories of the 12 major gods
 - c. Kit with FS Mythology Today
 - d. VC Hercules
 - e. VC Odyssey
2. VC Legends of the Unicorn -- Quiz
3. Creative writing – create a god
4. Book Fables -- Assign a fable for interpretation and presentation
5. Princess and the Tin Cup – write the ending

Arthurian Legend

Essential Questions:

Was there a real King Arthur?

How is this legend the basis of many modern stories?

1. Book – Arthurian Legend:
 - a. Part 1 to but not including Death of Arthur
 - b. VC Legend of King Arthur Parts 1 & 2
 - c. VC Excalibur
 - d. VC Search for Camelot
 - e. Composition
2. Scope: Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court -- Test

Writing

1. What is domain scoring? What are the keys to a successful essay?
2. PASSA practice
3. Friday sentence – use 9th grade oral language book mixed review section

V. Assignments & Grading

Diagnostic essay, terminology and conventions tests

Rubrics for all writing assignments and projects

Graded packets for each unit