**Curriculum**

**Man and His Measure**

**Course Overview**

Man and Measure is one of three courses that students may elect in order to satisfy the mandatory Humanities requirement. The class meets four times a week, throughout the year, and students successfully completing the course receive one credit which is necessary to graduate. Man and Measure centers on the meaning of human existence and is designed to give students a perspective on human morals and values by means of reading, discussion, and written work. Students investigate four principal themes of truth, beauty, goodness, and commitment from ancient Greece to the modern world.

**Department Standards**

Develop an awareness of past and present cultures.

Develop an inter-curricular view of the world around them and of themselves.

Develop an appreciation of the arts.

Gain critical thinking skills.

Express ideas clearly in writing and orally.

Develop a deepening appreciation of their own values.

**Benchmarks**:

1.1 To explore key elements of various cultures, particularly Western. (Technology Standards 1.1; 2.1 2.2 and 2.4)

1.2 To develop a greater appreciation of their own views toward these cultures. (Technology Standards 1.1; 2.1 2.2 and 2.4)

2.1 To cultivate an inter-curricular view of the world and of themselves, particularly in the four values of Truth, Beauty, Goodness and Commitment.

3.1 To develop a sense of several philosophical views of aesthetics and, consequently, of their own concept of Beauty.

3.2 To 4.2)

4.1 To develop critical thinking skills. (Technology Standards 2.2; 2.4; 3.2; 3.3; 3.4; 4.1; 4.2 and 4.3)

4.2 To nurture the language and ability to consider various ideas of epistemology (Truth). (Technology Standards 1.1. and 2.2)

5.1 To develop an ability to express critical ideas clearly in writing and orally. (Technology Standards 2.2 and 2.4)

5.2 To cultivate an appreciation for self-reflection.

6.1 To foster a deepening understanding of their own ethical principles.

**Performance Indicators**

Students will be able to:

1.1a interpret philosophical extracts as they reflect Western culture

1.1b analyze Eastern philosophy and thought through the novel Siddhartha

1.2 develop terminology allowing focused reflection of the student's own views toward various cultures.

2.1 help students learn to link concepts among the four key values: Truth, Beauty, Goodness, and Commitment

3.1 develop language and ideas to consider philosophical concepts related to Beauty

3.2 develop their own views toward Beauty

4.1a interpret literature in terms of various philosophical systems.

4.1b gain familiarity with concepts basic to philosophical thinking.

4.2 develop basic skills in logic, argumentation, and rhetoric.

5.1 express key concepts of the course in writing and orally.

5.2 foster an awareness and understanding of the fundamental ethical principles

and their origins in classical and contemporary cultures.

6.1 articulate, in written and oral form, one's own values and responses to the experience of life.

**Assessments**

In-class discussion.

Comparison/contrast essays each quarter based on the reading excerpts for Truth, Beauty, Goodness, and Commitment.

Regular critical essays based on reading materials.

Regular reflective essays based on reading materials and discussion.

Worksheet for field trip to Victoria and Albert Museum and Brompton Oratory in London.

Research Project on a topic related to Ancient Greece. Options include a 1500+ word research paper, fully documented, cited, list of sources, et al. OR a photo montage OR a drawing/sketch montage OR a video, each also requiring appropriate research, accompanying citations, and evaluation of their research findings.

Oral presentations on topics from Ancient Greece (following from research

paper and Senior Humanities trip to Greece).

Worksheet and oral presentations based on the visit to Tate Modern.

Oral presentations on a “beautiful piece” (music or visual arts).

Moral/ethical debates on a topic of current relevance.

Research/Term Paper on any topic of the student’s choosing relating to Humanities, 2500 -3000 words in length, fully documented, end-notes, bibliography, et al.

Oral presentation based on each student's semester research project.

Worksheet for field trip to The Imperial War Museum, London.

**Core Topics**

TRUTH: the first of the three highest values of Western culture.

BEAUTY: the second of the three highest values of Western culture.

GOODNESS: the third of the three highest values of Western culture.

COMMITMENT: the fourth value that integrates and challenges the thinking

from the previous three values

**Specific Content**

Quarter 1

a. Various texts related to ancient Greece that may include extracts of works by

Pre-Socratic Philosophers or *Oedipus Rex* by Sophocles

b. Philosophical extracts from Plato, Descartes and William James

c. *Noam Chomsky and The Manufacture of Cons*ent, video and debate

d. *The Last Days of Socrates* by Plato

e. Various handouts related to the quarter Core Topic, Truth.

f. Series of .b Mindfulness sessions

Quarter 2

a. *Siddhartha* by Hermann Hesse.

b. Philosophical extracts from Tolstoy, Santayana and Dewey.

c. Logic and syllogisms.

d. Perception (optional).

e. Various handouts related to the quarter Core topic, Beauty.

Quarter 3

a. Philosophical extracts from Aristotle, Kant and Buber.

b. Movie*: Judgment at Nuremburg*, with accompanying course work.

c. *A Man For All Seasons* by Robert Bolt.

d. Debates/discussions on current moral/ethical issues.

e. Various handouts related to the quarter Core topic, Goodness.

Quarter 4

a. An overview of the concept of "Commitment".

b. A detailed study of Existentialism.

c. Philosophical extracts from J.P. Sartre, W.T Stace and Reinhold Niebuhr

d. *The Outsider* by Albert Camus.

e. Time permitting, other works may include *Antigone* by Sophocles or *Waiting for Godot* by Samuel Beckett.

f. Various handouts related to the quarter Core topic, Commitment.

**Resources**

Quarter 1

Cameron Thompson, *Philosophy and Literature*, Harcourt Brace.

Plato, *The Last Days of Socrates*, Penguin.

Videos: *Noam Chomsky and The Manufacture of Consent*; others.

Various handouts.

Field trip to the Brompton Oratory and the Victoria and Albert Museum in

London.

Visiting session leader for .b Mindfulness

Quarter 2

Cameron Thompson, *Philosophy and Literature*, Harcourt Brace.

Hesse, *Siddhartha*, Picador.

Various videos on the quarter Core topic.

Various handouts on the quarter Core topic.

Field trip to Tate Modern.

Quarter 3

Cameron Thompson, *Philosophy and Literature*, Harcourt Brace.

Bolt, *A Man For All Seasons,* Hereford Plays

Videos: *Judgment at Nuremberg*, *A Man For All Seasons*, and others.

Various handouts on the quarter Core topic.

Quarter 4

Cameron Thompson, *Philosophy and Literature*, Harcourt Brace.

Leslie Stevenson and David Haberman, *Twelve Theories of Human Nature*, OUP.

Camus*, The Outsider*, Penquin.

If time permits: Samuel Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*, Faber and Sophocles, *Antigone*.

Videos: Southbank series, Albert Camus; others.

Various handouts on the quarter Core topic.

Field trip to The Imperial War Museum.

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