

The Loom: Year 2 Course Descriptions for Rhetoric¹

History of the World II

This world history course covers the time frame from the fall of Rome to the signing of the U.S. Constitution. Focused attention is given to the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, and the founding, settlement, and establishment of the American colonies. Also studied are the English Civil War, absolutism in Europe, and the French Revolution. Students will earn one full credit upon completion of reading assignments and discussion participation.

Classic Literature of the Western World

This literature course includes reading from medieval parables and poems, *Arabian Nights*, *Piers Plowman*, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, early Arthurian legends, Renaissance poetry, *Faerie Queen*, English medieval plays, and 17th century English Poets. Additionally, authors and their works studied include Dante, Chaucer, Marlowe, Shakespeare, Cervantes, Bunyan, Milton, Moliere, Racine, Swift, and Pope. Students will learn basic skills of literary analysis which include mode, topic, theme, genre, device, meter, artistry, plot, settings, and style. A major thread throughout this course is worldview analysis and understanding literature in its historical setting. Students will earn one full credit upon completion of reading assignments and discussion participation.

Government Studies

This government course includes learning about the government of the Middle Ages and Renaissance, with a focus on Machiavelli, Martin Luther, and John Calvin. A thorough study of several American government documents from the colonial era, as well as the parallel developments in English laws and absolutism is included. Students will earn one-half credit upon completion of reading assignments and discussion participation.

Philosophical Studies

This philosophy course includes reading and discussing the words and viewpoints of medieval philosophers, including Augustine. Renaissance philosophy includes the study of Machiavelli, Erasmus, Luther, and others. There is also the opportunity to learn about Descartes, Pascal, Spinoza, Adam Smith, Voltaire, Rousseau, Hume, Kant, and other notable philosophers. Students will earn one-half credit upon completion of reading assignments and discussion participation.

Church History: Middle Ages to 1800

The church history elective follows the development of the church from its early, largely unorganized state in the early Middle Ages to the heights of its secular power during the Crusades. Students will study the upheavals of the Reformation years in detail, and then learn about the course of the church in both America and Europe during the 17th and 18th centuries. Students will earn one-half credit upon completion of reading assignments and discussion participation.

¹ See the associated “credits” document for more details about tailoring course contents to credits earned, including information about credits that can be accumulated over the course of more than one year-plan.