Modern Literature

-Course Overview-

Final Exam: Apply knowledge of modernism and literary theory to a series of questions that interrogate modern issues and literature.

Course Enduring Understandings:

1. Students will understand the tenets of Modernism in literature.
2. Students will understand and apply literary theory to literature and modern problems.
3. Students will understand how to effectively analyze modern problems using a variety of literary techniques.
4. Students will understand the various ways in which modern society influences the individual.
5. Students will understand various philosophical and moral underpinnings, employing research techniques to effectively explore sources.

Course Essential Outcomes:

1. Students will effectively analyze and apply aspects of modernism and literary theory to various pieces of literature, as well as modern issues.
2. Students will research and persuasively write about a philosophical realm significant to them.
3. Students will effectively present portions of a play, analyzing literary elements in the process.
4. Students will speak persuasively, using evidence to support their conclusions.
5. Students will understand how to write and speak in a variety of genres and for a variety of audiences.
6. Students will effectively present information and analysis of various pieces of literature.

Units:

1. Introduction to Literary Theory and Modernism—short stories and Franz Kafka’s *The Metamorphosis*—short analysis essay; persuasion of theoretical beliefs.
2. Existentialism—short stories and Viktor Frankl’s *Man’s Search for Meaning*—informative and persuasive research essay of an appealing philosophy with a wiki.
3. Changes and Reactions—Tennessee William’s *A Streetcar Named Desire*—analyze and compare a social problem from the book using literary theory.
4. Dystopian Literature Circle: The Future—*Handmade’s Tale, Brave New World 1984, Clockwork Orange—*summary presentation in which you sell the book’s prognostications as true.

Possible Unit: Power and Social Structure—Ken Kesey’s *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest.*

Fall Unit: College Essay support