



ENGLISH LITERATURE OVERVIEW

ENGLISH LANGUAGE, COMPOSITION, AND LITERATURE

TRACING THE NOBLER STREAM OF LIBERTY

*Milton! thou shouldst be living at this hour;
England hath need of thee: she is a fen
Of stagnant waters: altar, sword, and pen,
Fireside, the heroic wealth of hall and bower,
Have forfeited their ancient English dower
Of inward happiness. We are selfish; . . .*
(Wordsworth)

*Moreover the Lord said unto me, Take thee a
great roll, and write in it with a man's pen. . . .*
(Isaiah 54)

Purpose:

- Teach literature as the handmaid of history.
- Restore literature to its chronology in the history of liberty and the character of England.
- Inspire the highest standard of language through the greatest English literary masterpieces.
- Build an enriched vocabulary to better clothe ideas with words.
- Cultivate and refine language skills for use in speech and composition.

Goals:

- Master effective, lucid expression in both writing and speaking for the propagation of the Gospel and successful enterprise in life.
- Develop scholarship through required primary source readings and research through the Portfolio Project.
- Cultivate and nourish aesthetic tastes and sensibilities through the interdisciplinary study

of the fine arts as they are woven throughout the curricula.

That each student's written expression will reflect a sense of his own place in history and a grasp of God's Providential character.

Combine the rules of grammar with the inspiration of great literature to enable students to excel in personal writing skills in every genre.

Discern the internal, unifying structure of English.

Cultivate Christian self-government in writing and speaking through proper application of grammar.

Comprehend the complex ideas and arguments expressed by others which leads to the full exercise of personal, Biblical liberty.

COURSE CONTENT

First Quarter:

- I. The Restoration Period (1660–1700)
 - A. John Dryden's *Rules for Literature, Prose and Poetry*; Puritan writers on government—Algernon Sydney and John Locke; Samuel Pepys's *Diary*; Newton's *Principia*.
 - B. Leading Ideas: Dryden's influence in an age of corrupt monarchy; the influence of the Puritans; Locke's contribution to Christian civil government, education, and literature.
- II. Eighteenth Century
 - A. Alexander Pope; Jonathan Swift; Addison

