

# Course Overview

Content Area: English  
Course(s): English III  
Time Period:  
Length:  
Status: Published

English III: European Literature
Aligned to Standards: NJSLS 2023
Revision Date: 7/9/2024
In compliance with the NJ Student Learning Standards, climate change, career readiness, DEI (Diversity, Equity, & Inclusivity), as well as other standards have been integrated within the NBCRSD curricula (NJ Administrative Code Title 6A: chapter 8; Title 18A: chapter 35).
Course Overview
Sequence- Unit Titles, Summaries, and Number of weeks per unit (total = 18 semester/36 year)
<p>Unit 1: Understanding the Hero’s Journey (4 weeks):</p> <p><i>The Alchemist</i> is the perfect introduction to the study of European influences in literature. The protagonist, Santiago, journeys through Spain in search of fortune, but, instead journeys to self-actualization. Santiago embodies the characteristics of a hero, and the various elements of the hero’s journey will be at the forefront of lessons as it is an essential story structure that is recurring throughout the course.</p> <p><b><u>SPECIFIC RESOURCES FOR UNIT:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>The Alchemist</i> by Paulo Coelho</li><li>• <i>Shrek</i> film</li><li>▪ <i>Shrek</i> for the stages of the hero’s journey.</li><li>• Oprah’s Paulo Coelho interview</li><li>• <i>An alchemist's guide to Europe</i></li><li>• <i>Out of Bounds: British Black &amp; Asian Poets</i></li></ul> <p><b>Honors:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>The Hero with a Thousand Faces</i> by Joseph Campbell</li><li>• Read <i>Perseus</i> and <i>Narcissus</i></li></ul>

## Unit 2: **Overcoming Adversity** (6 weeks):

Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* presents the themes of rejection, science, technology, society, acceptance, rejection, and what it means to be human. Students will explore these themes through reading and writing. In addition, students will read and analyze selections of Romantic poetry that relate to the above themes.

### SPECIFIC RESOURCES FOR UNIT:

- *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley
- Romantic Poetry (Poetry Foundation)
- Declaration of Human Rights

## Unit 3: **The Tragic Hero/Anti-Hero** (6 weeks):

Students will read Shakespeare's *Macbeth* which charts the extremes of ambition and guilt. Through the characters of Macbeth and his wife, Lady Macbeth, students will continue to study the hero's journey by analyzing the tragic hero. Students will also continue their study of literary movements by analyzing the Elizabethan Era and its impact on Shakespeare's plays.

### SPECIFIC RESOURCES FOR UNIT:

- *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare

## Unit 4: **Questioning Society's Influence on Humanity** (8 weeks):

*Lord of the Flies* by William Golding investigates mankind's inherent savagery and the culture of the mob mentality. Rich with literary elements, students explore the use of allusions and extended metaphors to examine the author's perspective and writing technique.

**SPECIFIC RESOURCES FOR UNIT:**

- The Lord of the Flies Text
- *Lord of the Flies* (1963) DVD
- “Picture Of Childhood Poem” by Yevgeny Yevtushenko
- The Stanford Prison Experiment
- Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs
- “Andes Flight Disaster” by Tierney McAfee
- Freud’s Theory of the ID, Ego, & Super Ego
- What fear can teach us by Karen Thompson Walker (TED talk)
- The Real Lord of the Flies - Tongan boys marooned on an island for 15 months (informational text)

**Unit 5: Criticizing Society (6 - 8 weeks):**

Students will study the satire in George Orwell’s dystopian novel, *1984*, which warns against a world governed by propaganda, surveillance, and censorship. Students will participate in discussions about power and corruption within society as they make relevant, real-life connections to the novel.

**SPECIFIC RESOURCES FOR UNIT:**

- *1984* by George Orwell
  - Total Control in North Korea (example of authoritarian government)
- Video clips from British British-produced *1984* film
- NYT: “Steve Jobs was a Low-Tech Parent”
- George Orwell biography

**[Reporting Student Progress](#) (link to NB’s Assessment System)**

All courses follow a balanced assessment system with Practice and Assessments. Each category includes formative, summative and alternative assessments.

**[Accommodations and Modifications](#) (link to menu)**

Integrated accommodations and modifications for special education students, English language learners,

students at risk of school failure, gifted and talented students, and students with 504 plans.