

# The Loom: Year 1 Course Descriptions for Rhetoric<sup>1</sup>

## **History of the Ancient World**

This world history course covers the time frame from creation to the fall of Rome. Attention is given to the ancient cultures of Babylon, Egypt, Israel, India, China, and the Americas. The organizing principle of this course is following the thread of biblical history. Students survey the Bible and then read about the history of ancient cultures that surrounded Israel. Students will earn one full credit upon completion of reading assignments and discussion participation.

## **Ancient Literature**

This literature course includes excerpts from works of the ancient cultures of Egypt, Mesopotamia, India, the Americas, Greece, and Rome. Assignments from translations of Egyptian poetry, *Iliad*, the *Odyssey*, *Agamemnon*, *Eumenides*, *Medea*, *Oedipus the King*, *Antigone*, and the *Aenid* are also included. Another major component of this course is learning about the Bible as literature. Students will earn one full credit upon completion of reading assignments and discussion participation.

## **Ancient Government Studies**

This government course involves learning about biblical government, the views of Confucius, Lycurgus, Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, and Augustine. Students will learn and discuss how these affect the world in which we live. Students will earn one-half credit upon completion of reading assignments and discussion participation.

## **Philosophy of the Ancient World**

This philosophy course includes reading and discussing the words and viewpoints of Job, Abraham, Moses, Buddha, Confucius, David, Solomon, Ezra, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Diogenes, Epicurus, Lucretius, Epicurus, Paul, Marcus Aurelius, and Augustine of Hippo. Other lesser-known philosophers and some works not listed are also read and discussed. Students will earn one-half credit upon completion of reading assignments and discussion participation.

## **Bible Survey**

This Bible course is a survey beginning with the books of Moses, and continuing through the birth of the early church and Acts of the Apostles. The purpose of the study is to show students that the Bible constitutes one message from start to finish: that Jesus Christ is the meaning of and purpose for God's plan of redemption. Students will earn one credit upon completion of reading assignments and discussion participation.

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# The Loom: Year 2 Course Descriptions for Rhetoric<sup>1</sup>

## 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.

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# The Loom: Year 3 Course Descriptions for Rhetoric<sup>1</sup>

## Western Civilization 3

This world history course begins with U.S. President John Adams and continues through William McKinley, covering major events of the 1800's. Students will follow developments in the United States, South America, Europe, Australia, China, and Japan. Of particular focus are the Congress of Vienna, Victorian England, Manifest Destiny, Marx and Communism, the American Civil War, and European Imperialism. Students will earn one full credit upon completion of this course. (Another credit option: U.S. History: one-half credit and World History: one-half credit)

## Classic Literature of the World

In Year 3, we study *Pride and Prejudice*, *Les Miserables*, *Great Expectations*, *The Scarlet Letter*, and *Crime and Punishment*. Shorter works from authors such as Goethe, Twain, Dickens, Stowe, Crane, Melville, Ibsen, Conrad, Tolstoy, and Wilde, as well as other short works of poetry are read and analyzed. Besides offering a great introduction to these works and learning to use tools of literary analysis, this course ties into the student's historical and worldview studies so that both are enhanced. Students will earn one full credit upon completion of this course. (Another credit option: one-half credit in British Literature and one-half credit in World Literature)

## Government Studies III

This elective government course includes the study of key U.S. government documents and Supreme Court decisions throughout the 1800's. Students read large excerpts of *Democracy in America*, by De Tocqueville, and study the upheaval of the Civil War in detail. Students will earn one-half credit upon completion of this course.

## 19th Century Philosophy

This elective philosophy course includes reading and discussing the words and viewpoints of Kant, Schleiermacher, Hegel, Emerson, Thoreau, Darwin, Marx, Nietzch, and others. Students will earn ½ credit upon completion of this course.

## Church History: the 1800's

This church history elective follows the developments within orthodox Christianity in the 1800's in American and in Europe. Of special interest are the many biographies of great missionaries and Christian workers who shaped the church during this century. Also introduced are weakening influences on the church that challenged biblical orthodoxy. Students will earn one-half credit upon completion of this course.

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# The Loom: Year 4 Course Description for Rhetoric

## **Western Civilization 4**

This world history course begins with U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt and continues through the most recent president, covering major events of the 1900's and early 2000's. Students will focus on and follow developments relating to World War I, the Roaring Twenties, the Depression, the rise of Totalitarianism, World War II, the Cold War, the Korean War, the Vietnam conflict, and the Gulf War. Countries surveyed include Germany, Italy, Japan, Israel, India, China, and Africa. Changes in the family structure, medical advancements, the Space Race, and other revolutionary topics will be explored. Students will earn one full credit upon completion of this course. (Another credit option: ½ credit in U.S. History and ½ credit in World History)

## **Classic Literature of the World**

In Year 4, classic works including *All Quiet on the Western Front*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Animal Farm*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Great Gatsby*, and others are read and studied. Students will enjoy shorter works from authors such as Sarah Orne Jewett, Willa Cather, Stephen Crane, Jack London, and Henry James, as well as the work of poets such as W.B. Yeats and Robert Frost. Besides learning to use tools of literary analysis, this course ties into the student's historical and worldview studies so that both are enhanced. Students will earn one full credit upon completion of this course. (Another credit option: ¾ credit in American Literature and ¼ credit in World Literature)

## **Government Studies IV**

This elective government course includes the study of key U.S. government documents and Supreme Court decisions throughout the 1900's. Students will earn ½ credit upon completion of this course.

## **Twentieth-Century Philosophy**

This elective philosophy course includes reading and discussing the words and viewpoints of Einstein, Dewey, Orr, Freud, and others. Students will earn ½ credit upon completion of this course.

## **Church History: the 1900's**

This church history elective follows the developments within orthodox Christianity in the 1900's in American and in Europe. Of special interest are the many biographies of great missionaries and Christian workers who shaped the church during this century. Also introduced are weakening influences on the church that challenged biblical orthodoxy. Students will earn ½ credit upon completion of this course.

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