

# *An Introduction to Windham High School Humanities*

## **Freshmen Humanities: Cultural Foundations**

- Meets daily and students earn 2.0 credits fulfilling their freshmen ELA and SS requirement
- A co-taught, integrated program in which the two academic disciplines work together to thematically tackle **essential questions** each quarter that can be applied in both fictional and non-fictional areas of study
  - What do we do when our ideas conflict with society?
    - Renaissance, Reformation, Scientific Revolution, *Romeo and Juliet*
  - How do we create order in society?
    - Enlightenment, Absolutism, French Revolution, *Lord of the Flies*
  - How do we find our identity in a changing world?
    - Industrialization, Imperialism, Nationalism, *Things Fall Apart*
  - How is perspective influenced by power and violence?
    - WWI and WWII, WWI Letters, *Night*
- Technology supported program that teaches the skills of communication, analysis, and critical thinking through the content
- Uses the following **instructional models**
  - Debate
  - Full group and small group discussion
  - Collaboration
  - Hands on activities and simulations
- **Supports for students**
  - Study guides
  - Timelines
  - In class working time to provide teacher support on particular outside of class assignments
  - Before and after school support
  - Study sessions during the day as time permits
  - E-mail communication
  - Specific graphic organizers and/or checklists
  - Evidence organizers to support students with independent reading
  - Group brainstorming and planning for essays during class.
  - Thesis statement templates are provided and/or discussed.
  - Rubrics provided in advance
  - Individual and small group student conferencing
  - Essays given and explained prior to reading materials (novels and DBQs).
  - Samples of student work to support students in improving their writing
- **Helpful tips for parents**
  - Maintain regular contact with teachers
  - Monitor e-mail and Unified Classroom

## **Sophomore Humanities: American Studies**

- Meets daily and students earn 2.0 credits fulfilling their sophomore ELA and SS requirement
- A co-taught, integrated program in which the two academic disciplines work together to thematically tackle **essential questions** each quarter that can be applied in both fictional and non-fictional areas of study
  - What is the American Dream?
  - How have the issues of race and expansion played roles in affecting the nation and its identity?
  - How has progress led to problems?
  - What is America's role in the modern world?
- Technology supported program that teaches the skills of communication, analysis, and critical thinking through the content
- Blends history with the literature and teaches how history influences literature
- Uses the following **instructional models**
  - Debate
  - Full group and small group discussion
  - Collaborations
  - Simulations
- **Skills taught**
  - Analysis of events in history through multiple sources
  - Development and presentation of an argument through oral and written communication
  - Evaluation of the connection between history and literature
  - Development of research skills
  - Ability to demonstrate an understanding of historical events
  - Ability to trace historical events through American history
  - Ability to trace the shift in literary genres in American history
  - Self advocacy
- **Helpful tips for parents**
  - Maintain regular contact with teachers
  - Monitor e-mail and Unified Classroom