



Gifted LearningLinks Program Course Syllabus

Instructor name: Mrs. Michelle Commeret
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Course Title: “Science Fiction & Fantasy” – Grades 3-5

Session Date: Winter 2012

Course Description:

Magic! Time travel! Explorations into space! Writers of science fiction and fantasy highlight the struggles that lie within us all and our societies. Exploring universal themes, ranging from scientific controversy to the belief in the supernatural, students complete challenging literature- and writing-based activities that develop their imaginations and social consciousness.

Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course:

- Students will explore and reflect on the literary elements of the science fiction and fantasy genres.
- Students will read, think critically about, and react to *A Wrinkle in Time*, as well as a second novel of his or her choosing.
- Students will apply literary elements of science fiction and fantasy by completing correlating writing activities.
- Students will communicate their course findings through a wide variety of written work and discussions about the assigned topics.
- Students will work collaboratively and cooperatively through the use of technology.

Resources and Materials:

Novels

- L’Engle, Madeleine. *A Wrinkle in Time*. New York: Bantam Doubleday Dell Books, 1962.
- Students will be given a list of 5-10 science fiction and fantasy novels. They will be asked to choose one from the list to complete a variety of literature-based and writing-based activities.

Websites

Students will be using a variety of websites and articles for some of the weekly reading assignments that will be provided by the instructor. The websites will be listed on the course website when they pertain to an assignment.

Materials

A digital camera and/or scanner may be helpful for this course to assist in the submission of weekly projects and assignments. For students who choose to do audio or video projects, a video

camera, webcam, and/or programs that offer audio/video capabilities will be helpful (i.e.: Windows Movie Maker, iMovie, GarageBand, Audacity, etc.) *None of these items, however, are required.*

CTD Statement on Third Party Websites: *While a staff member (which includes but is not limited to instructors, teaching assistants, residential staff, office staff) may use or refer students to third-party web sites for instructional purposes, s/he is required to review thoroughly any such web sites for inappropriate content before referencing them. This includes clicking on all links contained in any such web site, reviewing the materials contained on every page within a web site, and ensuring that the web site does not provide links to other inappropriate web sites. If there is any doubt about whether something is appropriate, a staff member is instructed to err on the side of caution and not use the web site or check with a CTD supervisor. If a referenced third-party web site is later determined to contain inappropriate content, the staff member may be subject to discipline.*

Schedule:

	Topic/Focus	Activities & Reading Assignments	What do I need to post to the Discussion Board?	What do I need to turn in?
Week 1	Orientation to Online Learning	* GLL Orientation * Course Scavenger Hunt	* Week 1 Post: Student Spotlight	* Course Scavenger Hunt
Week 2	What is Science Fiction? --- What is Fantasy?	* Reading Assignments * What is Science Fiction/Fantasy Assignment(s)	* Week 2 Post	* What is Science Fiction/Fantasy Assignment(s)
Week 3	Universal Themes --- <u>A Wrinkle in Time</u>	* Chapters 1, 2, & 3 * Week 3 Assignment(s)	* Week 3 Post	* Week 3 Assignment(s)
Week 4	<u>A Wrinkle in Time</u>	* Chapters 4, 5, & 6 * Week 4 Assignment * Group Project # 1	* Live Chat # 1 and Group Discussions * Group Project # 1	* Week 4 Assignment(s) (including Group Project # 1)
Week 5	<u>A Wrinkle in Time</u>	* Chapters 7, 8, & 9 * Week 5 Assignment(s) * Group Project # 2	* Group Discussions * Group Project # 2	* Week 5 Assignment(s) (including Group Project # 2)
Week 6	<u>A Wrinkle in Time</u>	* Chapters 10, 11, & 12 * Week 6 Assignment(s)	* Week 6 Post	* Week 6 Assignment(s)

	Topic/Focus	Activities & Reading Assignments	What do I need to post to the Discussion Board?	What do I need to turn in?
Week 7	Science Fiction & Fantasy “Choose Your Own Novel”	* Novel Choice Week 1 * Week 7 Assignment(s)	* Week 7 Post	* Week 7 Assignment(s)
Week 8	Science Fiction & Fantasy “Choose Your Own Novel”	* Novel Choice Week 2 * Week 8 Assignment	* Live Chat # 2 * Week 8 Post	* Week 8 Assignment(s)
Week 9	Final Project - - - Write Your Own Science Fiction/Fantasy Short Story	* Reading Assignments * Short Story PowerPoint or Podcast * Course Survey	* Week 9 Post	* Short Story PowerPoint or Podcast * Course Survey

Homework:

Homework will be assigned and explained each week. Students will have the entire week to complete their assignments.

Student Evaluation and Grading Policies for Credit Courses Only:

Enrichment students will receive a final narrative evaluation after the course is complete. The following criteria will be taken into consideration as the narrative is written:

- *Weekly Participation:* logged-in at least three times each week
- *Timeliness of Assignments*
- *Communication:* interaction with both classmates and the instructor

Instructor Biography:

Michelle Commeret is a certified elementary school teacher who currently lives in Illinois. She previously taught 3rd grade for three years in Michigan. She has also tutored students in Reading and Math during the summers. Michelle received her Bachelor of Arts with a major in Elementary Education and minor in Spanish from Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, Illinois in 2005. She is currently teaching a secondary reading class as an adjunct professor at Trinity, her alma mater. In 2009, she received her Masters in Curriculum and Instruction in Reading from Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona. Her Masters experience was all completed through online learning. In 2009, Michelle was nominated and selected by WGVU-TV as a West Michigan “Cool Teacher of the Month.” Through Michelle’s love for and experience in teaching and her knowledge in online learning, she is passionate about teaching courses for Gifted LearningLinks through the Center for Talent Development.

Contact Information:

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