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# SEAT OF WISDOM

Curriculum Overview

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## Freshman Year

*Theme:*

*The Yearning for a Better Life; the Yearning for Christ*

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### **History Timeline (United States of America)**

1. Age of Exploration
2. The Colonies in North America
3. The Revolution
4. The Constitution
5. Era of Good Feelings - Virginia Dynasty
6. Democracy
7. Between Jackson and Lincoln: Westward Expansion, Coming Conflict, Etc.
8. The Civil War
9. Reconstruction and the Gilded Age
10. Turn of the Century America
11. World War I
12. Roaring Twenties and Depressing Thirties
13. World War II
14. Cold War, Fifties, Civil Rights

### **Major Works**

- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain
- *The Scarlett Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne (honors only)
- *Little Women* by Jane by Louisa May Alcott
- *White Fang* by Jack London (regular only)
- *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare
- *Narrative of the Life of a Slave* by Frederick Douglass
- *American Short Story Masterpieces*
- *Great American Short Stories*
- *My Antonia* by Willa Cather
- *Lands of Hope and Promise: A History of North America*
- 50 Core American Documents
- *The Horse and His Boy* by C.S. Lewis (summer reading)

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## Sophomore Year

*Theme:*

*The Difficult Journey to a Better Life; Sin and Redemption*

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### **History Timeline (Modern Europe)**

1. 100 Years War
2. The Renaissance
3. The Reformation
4. Counter Reformation
5. Wars of Religion
6. Louis XIV
7. The Enlightenment
8. The French Revolution
9. The Napoleonic Wars
10. The Concert of Europe, Romanticism, Liberalism
11. World War I
12. Totalitarianism

### **Major Works**

- *The Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare
  - *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare
  - *The Death of Ivan Ilyich* by Leo Tolstoy
  - *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley
  - *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky
  - *The Lord of the Flies* by William Golding (regular Only)
  - *The Complete Mowgli of the Jungle Book Stories* (regular only)
  - *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens (honors only)
  - *Immortal Poems of the English Language*
  - *The World's Greatest Speeches*
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13. World War II, Holocaust, European Reconstruction

- *Light to the Nations, Part II: the Making of the Modern World*
- *Readings in European History v2 (honors only)*
- *King Arthur: Tales from the Round Table* (summer reading)

## Junior Year

Theme:

*Ordering the Good Life; Philosophy and Faith*

### **Works of Both Historical and Literary Merit (Antiquity and the Middle Ages)**

The Ancient World

- *The Iliad* by Homer (honors only)
- *The Odyssey* by Homer (regular only)
- *The Lives* by Plutarch
- *The History of the Catholic Church*

Medieval Europe

- *Beowulf*
- *The Inferno* by Dante
- *Gawain and the Green Knight*
- *Canterbury Tales* by Chaucer (selections)
- *The History of the Catholic Church*

### **Works of Literary and Philosophic Merit**

- *Five Dialogues* by Plato
- *The Nicomachean Ethics* by Aristotle
- *The Oresteia* by Aeschylus
- *The Theban plays* by Sophocles
- *On Kingship* by Thomas Aquinas
- *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare
- *Much Ado about Nothing* by William Shakespeare (regular only)
- *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare (honors only)
- *Gunnar's Daughter* by Kristin Lavransdatter (summer reading)

## Senior Year

Theme:

*Persevering in the Good Life; The Church and Her Ideological Assailants*

### **Major Works on Economics/Government**

- *Treatise on Law* by Thomas Aquinas
- *Second Treatise of Government* by John Locke
- *Rerum Novarum (On Capital and Labor)* Encyclical of Pope Leo XIII
- *Principles of Economics* by Carl Menger
- The Constitution of the United States
- The Declaration of Independence

### **Other Major Works**

- *The Power and the Glory* by Graham Greene
- *The Brothers Karamazov* by Fyodor Dostoevsky
- *Confessions* by Saint Augustine
- *Purgatory* by Dante (honors only)
- *King Lear* by William Shakespeare (honors only)
- *Henry V* by William Shakespeare (regular only)
- *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame (summer reading)