

SCHOLAR READING & WRITING (GRAMMAR)

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Course Description

The course aims to develop skills and ideas that could potentially build toward goals such as writing contests or conference papers. Additionally, although this is not a test-prep course, the texts and approaches encourage strong SAT/ACT & COLLEGE PREP readiness by building reading precision, advanced vocabulary, and grammatical skills.

Two terms of 6-month course work across various genres--literary, journalistic, and scientific--to build the kind of versatile, flexible reasoning that supports higher achievement throughout students' education and lives. Texts will represent a wide range of topics and difficulty levels.

This is a **three-month online course for 90 minutes**, meeting **once a week** offering complete coverage of the material listed in this document.



Course Content

LITERARY TEXTS MODULE [↗](#)

Identity: Individual, Family, Collective

- This module explores how different texts have delineated the boundaries and definitions of personal/individual identity, and its relationships with other aspects of identity: familial, national, ethnic, gendered, occupational, and more. This lens will motivate the prompts that accompany the module's readings. Texts will come from multiple different time periods, and will represent several difficulty levels.

SOCIAL SCIENCES MODULE [↗](#)

Perspective: Malleability and Influence.

- This module explores the forces that shape human perspectives, including modern factors like global supply chains, government interventions, communication technology, and artificial intelligence, while also acknowledging enduring human needs for community and connection. Texts will be examined through this lens.

LIFE SCIENCES MODULE [↗](#)

Organisms, Habitats, and Unpredictability.

- This module is about the unexpected ways organisms interact with their environments and one another, both in the past and the present. We'll explore how species continue to evolve and adapt to pressures such as habitat loss, as well as how scientists continue to discover the story of how this process took place in the past.

Sample Assignments

- [↗](#) A reading assignment article from one of the science focused modules
- [↗](#) A (more challenging) reading assignment from the literature module
- [↗](#) A more typical reading assignment from the literature module

POLITICAL HISTORY MODULE [↗](#)

The Invention of "Rights": Innate, Practical, Moral?

- This module examines political and philosophical texts from the Enlightenment period, when the concept of universal human rights emerged, shifting away from rights based on divine will or social roles. The module aims to familiarize students with the complex language of the time and help them develop and compare their own views on rights with those of Enlightenment thinkers.

NATURAL SCIENCE MODULE [↗](#)

Distant Space, Nearby Relevance.

- Outer space is, by definition, far away. But Earth is part of the same universe as every other celestial body, so discoveries about space can have surprisingly immediate relevance to life here on Earth. This module will discuss recent discoveries and advancements in astronomy and related fields, through the lens of their relevance to present-day human life.

TECHNOLOGY MODULE [↗](#)

Broad-Ranging Curiosity, Focused Goals, Unexpected Outcomes: Variations in Scientific Approach.

- This module examines the varied approaches behind scientific progress, from curiosity-driven research to goal-oriented projects, and how some discoveries lead to unexpected real-world applications. It explores recent technological advancements and the diverse perspectives on research goals and outcomes.

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