

**Montclair High School**  
**Course Syllabus**

**Department: English**

**Course: Literature of Satire and Protest**

**Level: 11 and 12**

**Credits: 2.5**

**Course Description:**

The Literature of Satire and Protest is a semester-length course that investigates the literature of social criticism and political protest, as it is created in all forms (drama, poetry, fiction, non-fiction, film) and all literary time periods (classical to contemporary). Sarcasm, wit, and irony are focal points through which students examine the experiences of those who seek to expose and perhaps improve the human condition. Students read and analyze a wide variety of authors and works, from ancient Greek comedy to 18<sup>th</sup>-century novels to satirical websites, films, and television programs. The course will also explore the literature of various protest movements, primarily American, including Civil Rights, women's rights, gay rights, and various anti-war groups.

**Standards:**

RL. 11-12. 1-6, 10

RI. 11-12. 1, 1-6, 9, 10

W. 11-12. 1, 1, 2, 4-10

SL. 11-12. 1-6

L. 11-12. 1-6

**Anchor Text(s):**

<b>Text Title</b>	<b>Publisher/Author</b>	<b>Year/Edition</b>	<b>ISBN</b>	<b>Text Distribution</b>
Lysistrata	Aristophanes			Hard copy, PDF copy, & online text available
Gulliver's Travels	Swift			Hard copy, PDF copy, & online text available
Candide	Voltaire			Hard copy, PDF copy, & online text available
Animal Farm	Orwell			Hard copy, PDF copy, & online text available
The Vietnam Reader				Hard copy, PDF copy, & online text available

**Supplementary Materials:**

Films: Dr. Strangelove, Do the Right Thing  
Selected poetry and short fiction  
Selected articles, political cartoons, websites, films, songs  
Selections from American Protest Writing  
PBS Documentary on “The Beats”

**Units of Study:**

Marking Period 1 – Satire  
Marking Period 2 -- Protest

**Proficiencies:**

By the end of this course, students will:

- Recognize the act and importance of listening
- Organize, prepare, and present a spoken presentation clearly and expressively
- Collaborate by sharing ideas, examples, and insights productively and respectfully in informal and formal conversations/discussions
- Recognize that reading has many purposes and demonstrate an ability to choose an approach appropriate to the text and purpose
- Experience and respond to print and non-print media through active engagement with appropriate methods of analysis, interpretation, and evaluation.
- Use research skills to access, interpret, and apply information from a variety of print and non-print sources
- Compose a variety of written and spoken responses for different purposes and audiences
- Use a variety of technologies as a tool for learning
- Develop a better understanding of themselves, or others, and of the world through language and literature
- Read and respond to a broad range of literature

**Evaluation & Assessment:**

- Tests, essays, major projects      60%
- Classwork, quizzes                      40%