

Course Overview: 7th Grade Philosophy, 2011-2012

	Sept.	Oct.- Nov.	Nov- Dec	Dec.- January	February- March	March	April	May
Units	1- Introduction to Ancient Greece	2- Golden Age of Athens	3-History Day Project (Research)	3- Introduction to Western Philosophy	4- The Life & Death of Socrates	6- Greek Legacy	7- The Roman Republic	8- Julius Caesar Project
Primary Texts	<i>Early Times: The Story of Ancient Greece</i>	<i>Early Times: The Story of Ancient Greece</i>	<i>Various</i>	<i>Sophie's World</i>	<i>The Last Days of Socrates</i> "Apology" and "Crito" MLK's "Letter from Birmingham Jail"	<i>Early Times: The Story of Ancient Greece</i>	<i>Early Times: The Story of Ancient Rome</i>	Variety of primary and secondary sources
Major Skills	Students will describe human and natural characteristics of places and how they shape or place identity. Identify and analyze various causes and effects of movements of groups of people.	Give examples of the visual arts, music, theater and architecture of the major periods of history and explain what they indicate about the values and beliefs of a society.	Students will develop written narratives and short interpretative essays, as well as other appropriate presentations from investigations of source materials	Describe, explain and analyze the impact of the exchange of ideas on societies, philosophy, religion, etc.(edited)	Explain the significance of the achievements of selected individual philosophers from around the world and from different perspectives (edited). Use primary source documents to analyze multiple perspectives.	Demonstrate an understanding of the ways that cultural encounters and the interaction of people of different cultures have shaped new identities and ways of life. Students will explain the essential features and functions of maps, globes, and geographic models.	Give examples of the visual arts, music, theater and architecture of the major periods of history and explain what they indicate about the values and beliefs of a society.	Make connections between historical subject matter, current issues, and personal experiences. (edited) Initiate questions and hypotheses about historic events being studied.
Themes & Essential Questions	How does geography influence how people live? Why do groups of people move away from their home?	What makes a city glorious? How did the ancient Athenians achieve arête?	How has the Reactions to Revolutions and Reforms impacted History?	Who are you? Where does the world come from? How do we know about the world around us?	What is truth? What does it mean to be wise?	What is reality? What does it mean to be a great leader? How does the ancient world still influence us today?	How does government reflect the values of a society? What is the most effective way to reform a	Students will pose essential questions to guide their research

Classical Magnet School

							society?	
Topics	Introductory activities Geography of Greece Minoans Early city-states Trojan War Colonization	Persian Wars Golden Age of Athens (drama, art, architecture, sports, pottery) Women, slaves, and foreigners Pelop. War	Revolution, Reaction, and Reforms in History?	Pre-Socratic cosmology Sophistry	“The Apology”- trial and death of Socrates Civil disobedience (compare Socrates & MLK)	Plato’s “Myth of the Cave” Aristotle Alexander (empire & spread of Greek ideas) Legacy of Greece	Government in the Roman Republic Gracchi brothers Julius Caesar Daily Life	Students will choose topics from the Roman Republic related to Julius Caesar
Seminars	1- Introduction related to current events 2- “Theseus & The Minotaur”	3- Herodotus, <i>The Histories, Book 8</i> 4- “Pericles” by Plutarch 5- Pericles’ “Funeral Oration” 6- Arete Seminar	“What a Research Paper”	7- Democritus, “Knowledge and the Physical World” 8- excerpt from <i>Sophie’s World</i>	9- Excerpt on Socratic method 10- Excerpt from “Apology” 11- Excerpt from “Crito” 12- Excerpt from “Letter from Birmingham Jail”	13- Plato, “Myth of the Cave” 14- Map of Alexander’s conquest	15- Roman Code of Law 16- Seneca, <i>Moral Epistle 47</i> 17- Pliny, <i>Letter to Tacitus</i>	18- Julius Caesar in Gaul 19- Julius Caesar as a leader 20- Culminating seminar- legacy of ancient Greece & Rome on modern western world
Paideia Projects		Arete Project	History Day Project			Mock Trial of Alexander the Great		Julius Caesar Project & research paper Make connections to Shakespeare’s play <i>Julius Caesar</i> read in English class, and themes in Latin class

The History Day Project will be an on-going project between October and February.