

**West Linn–Wilsonville School District**  
**English Language Arts – Course Statement**

**Course Title: Advanced Literature Study: Oregon Literature**

**Length of Course:** Semester  
**Number of Credits:** 1  
**Grade Level:** 10, 11, 12  
**Prerequisites:** None  
**CIM Work Samples**  
**Offered in Course:** Opportunities for writing and speaking work samples

**Date of Description/Revision:** December 2003

**Course Overview**

Oregon Literature is a semester-long course designed to familiarize students with local literature and authors. It is an English elective that involves writing, speaking, and projects, with the main focus on reading both fiction and non-fiction. The literature will range from pieces created by Native Americans of the Oregon Territory to works by contemporary Pacific Northwest authors.

**Essential Questions**

**Concepts providing focus for student learning**

- What are the different regions of Oregon? What do they have in common and how are they different?
- What are common traits of Oregon-based literature?
- Who are Oregon's authors? What and when did they write?
- Which American Indians are native to this region? What is their literature?
- What is the relationship between people and the natural landscape of Oregon?
- In what ways has Oregon changed historically and how does the literature reflect that?
- What does it mean to be an Oregonian?
- What do contemporary Oregon writers envision for the state's future?
- How do writers from outside the state view Oregon?
- What literary and artistic awards are given in this state and who have been the winners of these awards?

**Proficiency Statements**

Upon completion of course, students will:

- Write to better understand themselves, literature, Oregon and the world.
- Gain knowledge of Oregon geography.
- Gain knowledge of Oregon history.
- Develop an understanding of the Northwest Native American experience.
- Develop an understanding of the Lewis and Clark Exploration experience.

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- Identify and discuss characteristics of Oregon literature.
- Identify and discuss characteristics of Oregon’s people.
- Explore various genres of writing, including narrative, expository and persuasive pieces.
- Discover and practice reliable reading strategies.
- Demonstrate proficiency with standard English prose through proper mechanics and organization in writing.

**General Course Topics/Units & Timeframes**

- A. Pioneer Identity
- B. Linguistics Study
- C. Point of View
- D. Lessons from themes generated from the literature study
- E. Lessons in a variety of writing modes

**Resources**

- Readings:  
*The Sky Fisherman*, Craig Leslie  
*Varieties of Hope* from the Oregon Literature series  
*Talking on Paper* from the Oregon Literature series  
*From Here We Speak* from the Oregon Literature series  
*Coyote Was Going There*, Jarold Ramsey
- Other: Various handouts, articles, poems and excerpts