

English 10: Course organization

There are eight units in the English 10 correspondence course. You are required to do Units 1 through 5, and then choose one more unit from the remaining three. You must complete Unit 1 through 5 first, and then complete the final unit of your choice. Below, is a description of each unit.

Unit 1: The Culture of Youth

This unit explores the concept of teen culture as distinct from adult society, how it evolved, and what sustains it. The issues of peer influence, teen romance, homelessness, dignity and victimization are dealt with.

Unit 2: The Stuff of Heroism

In this unit you will examine how myth and legend contribute to our ideas of heroes, war and the hero concept, heroes the media give us, as well as everyday acts of heroism. The ideas of bravery and foolhardiness are also dealt with. An excerpt from Shakespeare's *Henry IV*, a tale of King Arthur's Court and a superhero movie of your choice are part of the resources.

Unit 3: Justice: A Just Society

This unit deals with the issues of guilt, conscience, who is best served by the law, and justice for minorities, women and adolescents. Resources include a variety of short stories, essays and poems.

Unit 4: All in the Family

This unit looks at the positive elements of the family such as parent/child relationships, the role of the extended family, and special family occasions. The effects of divorce and other critical times in families are also explored. Resources include short stories, essays and poems, as well as two television shows featuring identifiable family units.

Unit 5: The Novel

This unit explores the characteristics of novels, including plot and character development, the presence of conflict or problems and setting. The novels featured in this unit are *The Outsiders*, a story of teenaged gang rivalry, and *The Last Unicorn*, a classic fantasy novel of a unicorn's quest to find others like her.

Unit 6: Gender Issues

This unit deals with gender issues on the larger scale. It explores men's issues as well as women's issues including who does what work, media images of men and women, attitudes toward women in other cultures, and sexual orientation. Resources include an excerpt from Shakespeare, poetry, essays, articles, myths and two television sitcoms of your choice.

Unit 7: The African-Canadian Experience

This unit looks at issues of slavery, poverty, the civil rights movement, and the struggle for equality experienced by North American Blacks. The concept of pride in heritage is also explored. Several selections by Nova Scotia authors deal with Black heritage in Nova Scotia. Resources for this unit include poetry, essays, short stories, and a speech by Martin Luther King Jr.

Unit 8: A First Nations Perspective

In this unit, you will read works by Canadian First Nations authors and examine, from their points of view, issues that are important to First Nations communities. These include issues of identity, tradition and spirituality, and perspectives on the past, including residential schools. Several Mi'kmaq authors are featured in this unit, and the resources range from poetry, short stories and essays to artwork by well-known Nova Scotian artist, Alan Syliboy.