

*Bard High School
Early College
Best Practices - Core
Curriculum*

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Overview of BHSEC

- Founded in 2001 as a partnership between NYC Department of Education and Bard College
- 3 Campuses – Manhattan, Queens, Newark
- Additional programs in New Orleans and with Harlem Childrens Zone
- Grants both HS Diploma and AA degree
- Today - 1400 students, 100 full-time faculty
- One stop model – self contained branch campuses

Core Curriculum – Two Year College Seminar

- Introduction to college-level work and seminar culture
- Unifying experience for all BHSEC students
- Replaces upper-level high school English curriculum
- Writing intensive with response journals and papers
- Emphasis on interpretation, evaluation, application of ideas
- Introduction to college level readings
- Support of small environment – 15 to 18 students
- Culminating individual projects akin to undergraduate thesis

Seminar Reading List

First Year Seminar

Homer, *Iliad*
Aeschylus, *Prometheus Bound*
Sophocles, *Oedipus Rex*, *Antigone*
Euripides, *Bacchae*
Plato, *Euthyphro*, *Apology*, *Crito*,
Phaedo
Dante, *Divine Comedy*, *Inferno*
Machiavelli, *The Prince*
Shakespeare, *Hamlet*
Mozart and Da Ponte, *Don Giovanni*
Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*

Sophomore Seminar

Marx, *Communist Manifesto*
Darwin, *The Descent of Man*
Du Bois, *Souls of Black Folk*
Forster, *A Passage to India*
Freud, *Civilization and its
Discontents*
Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*
Kafka, *The Trial*
Frayn, *Copenhagen*

Results: Habits of Mind

- How to write complex papers and frame individual projects
- Note-taking and time management skills
- Readiness for rigorous reading assignments
- Using textual references to support claims
- Mastery of college discussion - building on ideas of others
- Knowledge of how to interact with faculty
- Metacognitive reflection on own work
- Equipped with skills and behavior for smooth transition to four-year colleges