

English SL2

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Course Goals

The **purpose** of the course is to prepare students for success on their IB English assessments by facilitating high order thinking about literary texts, and to foster an appreciation of literary texts so that students may find personal value in reading. In order for a student to appreciate the purpose of the course, he or she must be willing to think, listen, and reflect to achieve greater understanding of literary texts and him or herself as a critical reader. I **believe** that personal achievement is a function of diligent effort and practice, and that reading is about finding yourself, not an arbitrary concept, within a text. The **essential questions** we will address in this course are: What is a text? What makes a text “literature”? What is the proper function of literature? To what extent is a work of literature effective? What role does literature play in people’s lives? Does literature tell the truth?

Course Objectives

Content covered:

Part II of the IB English SL2 Curriculum:

Hamlet by William Shakespeare and

12 poems by two poets, TBA

Part III of the IB English SL2 Curriculum:

3 short novels, TBA

Skills honed: literary analysis; use of graphic organizers; written and spoken commentary; organization and time management; note-taking and study skills; appropriate use of technology; IB exam strategies and stress management.

I **expect** every student to come prepared to participate in class activities in a courteous and mature manner. As a matter of respect for the class and teacher, each student must bring a three-ring binder, notebook, or folder to organize handouts and homework; the text we are studying; a black or blue pen for assessments; and an agenda or notebook to record homework assignments and major deadlines. Students who choose to bring a laptop to school should be prepared for restrictions during class time.

Literature is inherently a product of history and a craft like art. As students become IB thinkers, I encourage them to make other **cross-disciplinary** and cultural connections, and to share their insights with the class.

Teaching Strategies and Resources

Due to a diverse learning atmosphere, **teaching strategies** will vary. Students will read aloud to the class, will listen to audio tapes, or the teacher read. Students will approach literary analysis

by practicing with graphic organizers such as the literary aid *SCASI*, and color-marking and close reading of short passages. Class periods will regularly involve discussion, including think-pair-share, teacher-facilitated whole group, and teacher and student-facilitated inner-outer circle. Drama, art, music, and creative writing are supplementary strategies of equal effect. Public speaking drills, free writing, and essay organizers are important practice for assessments.

Technology will be one of your greatest **resources** this year. The course blog (address at the top of syllabus) offers access to the grade book (each student will receive a random ID number once or twice a quarter), helpful links, handouts and a tentative schedule. If a student has a question about missed work during an absence, upcoming assignments, or a grade, he or she can access the blog from school or home in lieu of a face-to-face meeting or email conversation with the teacher. Graphic organizers (e.g. *SCASI*), IB rubrics, and other important resources (e.g. Significant Statement Exercise, Making Meaning Protocol) are accessible through the blog.

Assessment

Grades are based on a **total points system**, where each assignment receives a total possible point value and students can earn points up to the total. The total point value of a quarter varies since assignments and assessments vary. Weight of the total points depends on several factors including how much time and effort is expected. Grades of lower weight assignments (e.g. homework, reading “pop” quizzes) are typically based on effort and/or quality completion. Grades of higher weight assessments (e.g. essays, oral presentations) are calculated using modified IB rubrics so that students learn the language of the IB. Grading criteria for other assignments and assessments is provided when possible. Every student receives a participation, effort and attendance/preparedness grade at the end of every quarter which counts for approximately 25% of the quarter grade.

I cannot give a quarter grade until you complete the work. Failure to complete outstanding assignments and assessments after progress reports each quarter may result in a MULT (make-up learning time) opportunity during lunch periods until the work is complete. Keep in mind: the later the work, the less credit earned.

Sturgis grade: End of year grades are determined by percentages. Each quarter counts as 20% of your end of year grade and the mid-term and final exams each count as 10%.

IB grade: Diploma and certificate candidate scores are awarded after students sit for IB exams and are based on students’ performance on internal and external assessments from both junior and senior year. The Individual Oral Presentation is worth 15%, the World Literature Paper is worth 20%, the Individual Oral Commentary is worth 15%, the Paper 1 Exam is worth 25%, and the Paper 2 Exam is worth 25%.

Important Note

English SL2 will have a significant in-class and at home technological component. Students without access to a computer and/or the internet, and/or computer skills should speak with Ms Fenney privately.