



# Tohoku International School

## Secondary School Course Syllabus

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| <b>Course Title:</b> Modern World Literature   | <b>Teacher:</b> C. Vassbotn<br><b>Email:</b> cvassbotn@tisweb.net |
| <b>Grade Level(s):</b> Grade11-12  | <b>Time Frame:</b> 37 weeks                                       |
| <b>Course Description:</b> <p>This course's focus is three-fold: to develop further each student's appreciation of literature as a form of art; to cultivate life-long learners by developing each student's critical thinking and communication skills in both oral and written forms; and, to instill in each student an understanding and appreciation of internationalism, fueled by open-mindedness and compassion.</p> <p>In order to organize our studies this year we will consider the theme of <b>change versus tradition</b> in depth.</p> <p>The novels selected for study for this year are:<br/><i>The Great Gatsby</i>, F. Scott Fitzgerald<br/><i>Fahrenheit 451</i>, Ray Bradbury</p> |   |
| <b>Course Philosophy:</b> <p>The study of World Literature allows students to be exposed to many different genres, points of view, and specific areas for language arts improvement. Engagement in the reading and analysis of both the structural and rhetorical aspects of literary works ranging from short stories, novels, Shakespeare and poetry allows students to gain and improve their writing, speaking, and critical thinking skills.</p>  |   |
| <b>Course Objectives:</b> <p>By the end of this course students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be familiar with the methods of literature and how to use them to evaluate literature,</li><li>• Be able to compose effective evaluation/compare-contrast essays as well as create well organized handouts and presentations,</li><li>• Think critically about literature</li><li>• Develop a portfolio of written work</li></ul>  |   |
| <b>Units of Study:</b> <p>Short Stories &amp; Fictional Narrative Writing<br/>Novel Study: <i>The Great Gatsby</i><br/>Poetry &amp; Song Lyrics<br/>Independent Novel Study &amp; Book Review<br/>Novel Study: <i>Fahrenheit 451</i><br/>Shakespeare's <i>Hamlet</i><br/>Creative Writing Portfolio</p>  |   |

**Assessments:**

Students will be assessed on their class work---collaborative group projects and individual reading and writing efforts----as well as studies pursued at home. Assessments will be formative and ongoing, and they will be meant to help students improve their learning as well as giving them a measured result of their growth.

Students work will be given a numerical grade as well as comments and suggestions for future growth in the form of conferences and peer feedback as well.

Assessment will not only be OF learning, but also FOR learning. In other words, how can work be *improved* as well as 'graded'.

**Course Weightings**

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|--------------------------|-----|
| Learning Skills          | 10% |
| Course Work              | 30% |
| Projects & Presentations | 25% |
| Tests & Semester Exams   | 35% |

**Resources:**

- Class sets of books
- Novels
- Film and video productions
- Ms. Sekine Library Support
- Google Classroom