



Tohoku International School

Secondary School Course Syllabus

Course Title: World Literature	Teacher: Mr. C. Vassbotn Email: cvassbotn@tisweb.net
Grade Level(s): Grade 9-10	Time Frame: 37 weeks
<p>Course Description:</p> <p>This course is intended to help students refine and advance the oral communication, reading, and writing skills necessary for success in secondary academic programs as well as daily life. Focus will be placed upon developing the ability to communicate clearly and effectively. Additionally, students will demonstrate an understanding that every text comes from a specific point of view that must be recognized, questioned, assessed, and evaluated. And finally, students in this course will practice open-mindedness within an international context.</p> <p>The theme of this year's course is control/power.</p> <p>The novels selected for study this year are: <i>The Princess Bride</i>, William Goldman <i>Things Fall Apart</i>, Chinua Achebe</p>	
<p>Course Philosophy:</p> <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 and novels to Shakespeare and poetry, allows students to improve their speaking, reading, writing and--most important---their critical thinking skills. Students will display these thinking skills through a variety of projects, both individual and collaborative. Communication in English is essential in every academic subject area at T.I.S., and the aim is for measurable growth for all students</p>	
<p>Course Objectives:</p> <p>By the end of this course students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin to understand, reflect upon and evaluate different genres of literature • Understand that all texts advance a certain point of view that must be recognized, questioned, assessed, and evaluated, • Be able to compose effective descriptive essays as well as creative fiction writing • Improve their spoken English and their abilities to communicate effectively • Compile a year-long writing portfolio 	
<p>Units of Study:</p> <p>Short Stories & Fictional Narrative Writing Novel Study: <i>The Princess Bride</i> Poetry & Song Lyrics Independent Novel Study & Book Review Novel Study: <i>Things Fall Apart</i> Shakespeare: <i>Romeo & Juliet</i> 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 not only a numerical grade but also 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.

Course Weightings

Learning Skills	10%
Course Work	30%
Projects & Presentations	25%
Tests & Semester Exam	35%

Resources:

Classroom novel sets
Short stories
Google Classroom