



Tohoku International School

Secondary School Course Syllabus

Course Title: English Language and Literature	Teacher: Mr. Robert Zehmke Email: rzehmke@tisweb.net
Grade Level: Grade 12	Time Frame: 37 weeks
Brief Course Description: <p>This course's focus is three-fold: to further develop 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, compassion and the ability to situate themselves within different contexts.</p> <p>The novels selected for study for this year are:</p> <p><i>Lord of The Flies</i> by William Golding <i>1984</i> by George Orwell <i>Selected Short Stories</i> <i>Macbeth</i> by William Shakespeare Selected Poetry</p>	
Course Philosophy: <p>The study of English through the lens of World Literature allows students to be exposed to many different genres, perspectives, and specific areas for academic English improvement and honing of critical thinking skills. 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 for life in every academic classroom at TIS. It also paves the way for success on the road which lies ahead in college and university and much of what is done this year emphasises the transition from school to academia. English is a subject that should be engaged with and, most importantly, enjoyed and in TIS the subject aims to ensure that.</p> <p>As a teacher, I believe that a student who truly exemplifies the 5 TIS stars should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Knowledgeable about the world through what they read and hear● Open-minded to using and applying language and considering different perspectives● A clear communicator in all forms written and spoken● Responsible in their use of appropriate English and nurturing their enjoyment of English● A risk-taker in sharing their ideas and knowledge in public settings	

World Literature (cont'd)

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course students will:

- Be familiar with the methods of literature and how to use them to evaluate literature,
- Be able to compose effective evaluation/compare-contrast essays as well as create well organized handouts and presentations,
- Think critically about literature,
- Develop empathic perspectives and be able to communicate them through writing and speaking
- Develop a portfolio of work that can be used for university and college applications; and,
- Be prepared for writing in college/university courses.

Units of Study

Short Stories	Students will read a variety of short stories related to internationally minded themes and write their own story/stories
Novel Study	Students will read the novel Lord of the Flies and learn analytical writing skills
Poetry & Lyrics	Students will read, analyse and write a variety of poems and song lyrics
Novel Study	Students will read the novel 1984 and practice their drama skills
Play Study	Students will read the play Macbeth by Shakespeare and reinterpret the story into a comic format.
Portfolio	Students will finalise their portfolio and focus on exam skills and preparation.

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.

Course Weightings

Course Work –50%

This involves primarily homework or assignment questions given during the week, as well as long-term projects such as essays, book reports, etc.

Unit Project – 20%

At the end of each unit, students will be expected to complete a project that demonstrates their understanding of the concepts taught in class. This may take the form of an essay, portfolio, production or creative work. Each piece of assessment for a unit builds on what was assigned before. Other course assignments leading up to the end of a unit will serve to develop the necessary skills for successful completion of this final assignment.

World Literature (cont'd)

Quizzes, Tests, Semester Exam – 20%

Students should expect to have one major test at the end of each unit of study in this course. Quizzes dealing with vocabulary will also be a regular part of course work and can be expected on a bi- or tri-weekly schedule. Students will be given **at least** one week's notice prior to a test and all details of a test will be discussed in class and shared on Google Classroom.

The final evaluation tool for this course will be an end of semester exam during which students apply what they have learned throughout the semester. Class time will be spent in the final part of the second semester to practice exam skills and prepare.

Learning Skills – 10%

Attendance, organization, homework completion and the ability to take initiative and work independently as individuals as well as cooperatively in groups all play a role in student success.

Additional Notes:

Journaling and Reading

During certain stages of the year, students will be expected to read silently, keep a reading journal, take notes while they read and visit the school library to select suitable books to read.

Independent Reading

This year students are encouraged to read silently at home and keep a record or Reading Journal of the books they have read; while also presenting book reviews both oral and written at various intervals of the school year.