



Tohoku International School

Secondary School Course Syllabus

Course Title: English Language and Literature	Teacher: Mr. Robert Zehmke Email: rzehmke@tisweb.net						
Grade Level(s): Grade 7-8	Time Frame: 37 weeks						
Course Description: Grade 7-8 English is a course where students will focus on growing their skills as readers, writers, speakers, listeners and thinkers. Students will work individually, in small groups and as a whole class to accomplish goals set out at the beginning of each unit. By delving into poetry, persuasive writing, perspectives in fiction and more, students will learn vital research and writing skills in addition to fostering their own love of English. Through developing their own relationship with English, fundamental skills such as grammar and lexicon, will improve over time.							
Course Philosophy: As a language, English is the medium of Tohoku International School. All of our courses use English to teach and assess knowledge and skills. As a course, English is intended to help students learn how to better use and apply English to the daily and academic tasks of reading, writing, speaking and critical thinking. English is a subject that should be engaged with and, most importantly, enjoyed and in TIS the subject aims to ensure that. As a teacher, I believe that a student who truly exemplifies the 5 TIS stars should be: <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 As we are all students of English, it is important for students to have opportunities to revise and improve their work. In writing, as an example, students will self-edit, have a peer (classmate) edit, and can ask the teacher to edit their written pieces before submitting them for a grade. Students can use the feedback they receive to revise and edit their essays and re-submit them to demonstrate their ongoing growth.							
Units of Study: <table border="1" data-bbox="229 1783 1343 2002"> <tr> <td data-bbox="229 1783 660 1859">Poetry</td> <td data-bbox="660 1783 1343 1859">Students will read, write, and analyze a variety of types of poetry.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="229 1859 660 1935">Persuasive Writing</td> <td data-bbox="660 1859 1343 1935">Students will learn the art of persuasive writing and speaking.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="229 1935 660 2002">Personal Narratives</td> <td data-bbox="660 1935 1343 2002">Students will learn autobiographical skills in reading and writing.</td> </tr> </table>		Poetry	Students will read, write, and analyze a variety of types of poetry.	Persuasive Writing	Students will learn the art of persuasive writing and speaking.	Personal Narratives	Students will learn autobiographical skills in reading and writing.
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English (continued)

Expository Writing	Students will build the skills needed to write research essays.
Different Perspectives	Students will work within a group to tell a story from multiple perspectives and learn about how perspective changes truth.
Individual Project	Students will end the year by designing and completing a project by themselves.

Assessments:

There will be several smaller assignments, a larger unit assessment and smaller written test, an analytical essay and one presentation.

Smaller assignments might include worksheets, maps, informal presentations etc. These will generally take less than 2 days and will be based on content introduced in class and on the Google classroom. Assignments vary in how they are weighted towards the end of the year mark.

Unit assessments will be larger projects and will require inquiry, research, organization, analysis and other research tasks to be completed by the student. Each complete unit counts 15 points toward a 100 point total.

Unit assessments will include:

Tests will only occur in some units. They will be standard paper-based type tests, though we will try online versions if possible. Students will receive a study guide a week before each test. Tests will vary in points and all details will be included in the study guide.

Resources:

In the classroom we have a variety of dictionaries, thesauruses and other reference tools to help students. When students are working at home, there are many online reference tools that they will have access to. These resources will be added to Google Classroom and will be updated weekly.

As a writing textbook, Grade 7-8 uses the Write Source textbook to provide exemplar (example) writing pieces and organizational tools. Students will have the ability to take home a book if required when working on a piece of writing. Photocopies of relevant pages will be made for students to make notes on and with.