

# English Language Arts

9<sup>th</sup> Grade [5 periods per week, year-round]

Mr. Faizal Emamuallee

## Course Description

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How does “belonging” to a place or to a group contribute to a person’s identity and power? In English 9, students will consider how societies create and withhold belonging to individuals and to groups based on factors such as race, gender, age, religion, place of birth, value system, etc. We will read texts depicting systems that administer (and exploit) social difference, such as colonialism, racism, and totalitarianism. Besides considering the effects of these frameworks, students will be asked to explore alternative ways of imagining and responding to difference.

## Course Aims

This class will ask students to read rigorously and critically, actively deploying annotation to put themselves into conversation with what they read. Besides mastering elements such as plot, characterization, and message, students will be asked to engage critically with elements such as figurative language, diction, craft, and style. Students will also be asked to listen closely to each other and to engage in analytic self-reflection. Students will undertake analytic and creative writing, digital and oral presentations, and participation in real-world projects that emerge from the course texts, such as debates, theatrical monologues, research papers, etc.

A note on the international section of the Brevet: All 9th grade students will take an oral exam at the end of the year in order to achieve the international mention for the Brevet (DNB-I). The course and the exam will serve as a validation of the bilingualism and biculturalism of LILA students. The exam is given at the end of May, lasting 20 minutes. The exam, which is a presentation of a portfolio and an interview with the examiner(s) will determine the linguistic capabilities of the candidate. The competencies are evaluated with reference to level B2 on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

## Timeline

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August - September: *Gulliver’s Travels* (1726) by Jonathan Swift

October: *Of Mice and Men* (1937) by John Steinbeck (Penguin 1993 reissue; 978-0140177398)

November - December: *1984* (1949) by George Orwell (Signet Classic; 978-0451524935)

January: *Things Fall Apart* (1958) by Chinua Achebe (Penguin Books; 978-0385474542)

February - March: *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1960) by Harper Lee (Harper Perennial; 978-0060935467)

April - May: Poetry and *Merchant of Venice* (1600) by William Shakespeare (Simon and Schuster, Folger Shakespeare Library Series; 978-0743477543)