

English A Literature - Higher Level

11th Grade IB [5 periods per week]

Dr. Sharon Kunde

Course Description

A broad study of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, film, drama, and visual texts will allow students to explore the ways in which authors and readers make and negotiate meaning through language, images, and systems of representation. Students will hone their skills and explore new possibilities as critical and creative readers and writers, with a particular focus on the ways in which humans use the particularities of language to represent, communicate about, and change the world. In addition, students will learn to attend to the contexts in which texts are produced, more narrowly in terms of audience and purpose and more broadly in terms of historical and cultural circumstances.

As per the IB Guide, "students will focus exclusively on literary texts, adopting a variety of approaches to textual criticism. Students will explore the nature of literature, the aesthetic function of literary language and textuality, and the relationship between literature and the world" (7).

Timeline

Through the texts in question, we will interrogate three major areas of exploration.

Readers, Writers, and Texts: How do authors respond to their contexts and lives in order to craft literary works that address and transform audiences? How do form and style affect meaning?

Time and Space: How does cultural and historical context inform the content and form of texts? How does knowledge of context help us interpret works? How can texts be vehicles for learning about historical and cultural contexts?

Intertextuality: How do texts build upon and borrow from each other? To what extent – and to whom – is the idea of “great literature” useful and/or true?

Unit 1: August-September

Focus: Culture and Perspective

Text: *Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri (ISBN: 9780358213260)

Unit 2: September-November

Focus: Representing and Challenging the World

Text: *Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood (ISBN: 9780385490818)

Unit 3: November-December

Focus: Navigating Divided Alliances

Text: *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi (ISBN: 978037514573)

Unit 4: December-January

Focus: Personal, Societal, and Environmental Transformations

Text: *Parable of the Sower* by Octavia Butler (ISBN: 9780446601979)

Unit 5: January-February

Focus: Culture, Class, and Language

Text: *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante, trans. Anne Goldstein (ISBN: 9781609450786)



Unit 6: March-April

Focus: The Power and Limits of Individual Resistance

Texts: *Medea* by Euripedes (ISBN:9780199537969)

Radio Golf by August Wilson (ISBN: 9781559363082)

Unit 7: April-May

Focus: Language, Identity, and Perspective

Text: *My Brother was an Aztec* by Natalie Diaz (ISBN: 9781556593833)