

English A Literature - Higher Level

12th 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: Reality and Representation (in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction)

Text: *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez (ISBN: 0060883286)

Unit 2: October - November

Focus: The Personal and the Political

Text: *Angels in America* by Tony Kushner (ISBN: 9781559363846)

Unit 3: December - January

Focus: Human Rights and History

Text: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave* by Frederick Douglass (Penguin; Houston Baker, ed.) ([ISBN: 9780140390124](https://www.penguin.com/books/9780140390124))

Unit 4: January - March

Focus: History as Haunting

Text: *Beloved* by Toni Morrison ([ISBN: 9781400033416](#))

Unit 5: March - April

Focus: Family as Haunting

Text: *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare ([ISBN: 978-1451669411](#))