

IB English A1 (11th Grade)
Fall 2011

Course Overview

Over this semester, students will develop an awareness of literary genres, style, and techniques. They will also develop the skills to apply their awareness to higher level analysis, both written and presented.

The focus of the course is on 19th-20th Century literature and rhetoric, with pre-modern ideas and texts addressed as foundation. This focus will compel students to strive for depth and build a sense of relevance and context.

The first quarter will focus on the Modernist Period (approximately 1859-1939). The shorter readings (both fiction and non-fiction) include works by Frederick Douglas, Mark Twain, Karl Marx, Sigmund Freud, and Virginia Woolf and. The IB anchor texts for this quarter are: *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald and *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neal Hurston.

The second quarter will focus on the Postmodern Period (1940-today), and embrace the eclectic intellectual landscape through study of shorter works by J.D. Salinger, Kurt Vonnegut, Joan Didion, Vladimir Nabokov, Simone de Beauvoir, Neil Postman, and Marshall McLuhan. The IB anchor texts for this second quarter is *The House of Spirits* by Isabel Allende.

Objectives

- develop an appreciation of 19th -20th Century literature
- develop insights into how historical events, concepts, environments, and personal experiences influence how individuals imagine and communicate identity.
- advance analytical writing and presentation skills to an IB level
- learn first-hand research skills
- appreciate devices, styles and techniques used by authors
- learn to incorporate these devices, styles, and techniques in own writing and presentations.

Anchor Texts

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neal Hurston
The House of Spirits, Isabel Allende

Every student will be provided a copy of the above texts. Many students will feel it helpful to own their own copy for annotations and notes.

Class Structure

The IB program places a premium on student discussion and presentation. To succeed in this class expect to discuss and present (as well as write) at a high level.

The Individual Oral Presentation (IOP)

The Objectives:

- To engage in independent literary criticism in a manner which reveals a personal response to literature
- To express ideas with clarity, coherence, conciseness, precision and fluency
- To demonstrate a command of the language appropriate for the study of literature
- To demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the works studied and/or the relationships between those works
- To employ a wide-ranging appreciation of structure, technique, and style as employed by authors and of their effects on the reader
- To effectively structure ideas and arguments in a logical and persuasive way and to persuade them with precise and relevant examples
- To master the use of strategies to engage an audience

The Product:

- 10-15 minute presentation about one of the novels. Presented in class

The Grade:

- 15% of your IB English 1A Score (counts toward IB diploma)
- Proposal & other written portions: contribute to class grade
- Presentation portion: contribute to class grade

The Timeline:

- A. Topic Proposal (students will call dibs on topics) and approval
- B. Develop ideas, select materials and organize ideas and materials in coherent structure (this preparation will happen outside of class.)
- C. Detailed Outline/Script:
- D. Presentation

***As IB says, it is expected that students plan, write, and rehearse their presentations outside of class.*

Procedures/Policies

Essays

Out-of-class essays will be submitted to [turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com) before class on the date due. To get full credit, papers must be handed in by the Due Date. Papers that are handed in after the Due Date and before the Deadline will be deducted one letter grade. No essay will be accepted after the Deadline.

Attendance

Keep unnecessary absences to a minimum. If absent, a student is responsible to find out about and make up what has been missed. If a student is legitimately absent on the day of an in-class essay, quiz or test, the students must make up the work on his/her time (not during a subsequent class). All IB presentations must be delivered to the class. If a student is legitimately absent on a day of a scheduled presentation, the student must present to class on a day equally convenient for the teacher and class.

Tardiness

Be in class and ready on time. Three unexcused late arrivals equal one unexcused absence.

Academic Integrity

All out-of-class compositions must be submitted to [turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com) to receive credit. Plagiarism is the act of using someone else's words and/or ideas without giving proper credit. In a word, it is cheating. This includes copying from another student's paper or paraphrasing a source without giving proper credit to its author. Any essay containing plagiarism or any assignment or test showing evidence of cheating will earn an "E".