



COURSE SYLLABUS

Language A: Literature, International Baccalaureate, Higher Level

Mr. Nigro / Northwestern High School, Room A-111



Goals: The International Baccalaureate program aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people by promoting intercultural understanding and respect. The two-year Higher Level English course requires students to actively engage with literature in order to embrace a working methodology evidenced by independent thought and the creative analysis of traditional and modern literary texts. Areas of exploration include close reading, historical and cultural perspectives, and intertextuality.

Weblog: All relevant information, including course maps, required readings, descriptions of assignments, rubrics, resources, links, class news, etc., is available on-line at <http://ibsmarter.edublogs.org> (English 4 IB HL, *Gregor's Bedroom*) and <http://ibsmarter.edublogs.org> (English 5 IB HL, *Lear's Hovel*).

Grades: Students will be assessed in the form of tests, blog posts, papers, or projects; minor grades count 30% and major grades count 70% per RHSD policy.

Required Readings:

Junior Year

Celeste Ng, *Little Fires Everywhere*¹
Franz Kafka, *Metamorphosis*²
Gabriel Garcia-Marquez, *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*²
Marjane Satrapi, *Persepolis*²
Dante Alighieri, *Inferno*²
George Saunders, *Lincoln in the Bardo*
Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*
Henry David Thoreau, *Walden*

Senior Year

Imbolo Mbue, *Behold the Dreamers*¹
William Shakespeare, *King Lear*⁴
Shusaku Endo, *Silence*²
Carol Ann Duffy, *The World's Wife*³
James Joyce, *Dubliners*
Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*
Kazuo Ishiguro, *The Remains of the Day*
Ian McEwan, *Atonement*

¹ Summer Reading & first full unit ² Translation ³ (Selected poems) Studied in between units, Fall Semester ⁴ Pelican edition preferred

IB Assessments (year; percent of final IB score):

- *The HL Paper* (Junior year; 20%) is a 1200-1500 word literary analysis of a work studied to date, also submitted to the IB for external assessment. The HL Paper grade assigned by the teacher will also be the Final Exam grade for the 1st year.
- *The Individual Oral Assessment* (Senior year; 20%) is internally assessed, but is recorded and moderated by the IB. The IA is a prepared, extemporaneous recorded spoken statement of 10 minutes based on two extracts of 40 lines (max) chosen by the student from two works he/she has studied in the course, followed by 5 minutes of questions by the teacher, in the context of a global issue. The IO score assigned by the teacher will also be the Final Exam grade for the 2nd year.
- *Paper 1: Literary Commentary* (Senior year; 35%) is a written exam based on an analysis of an unseen prose text and an unseen poem or poetry extract, to be assessed externally by an IB Examiner.
- *Paper 2: Comparative Essay* (Senior year; 25%) is a written exam comparing two works studied in the course, to be assessed externally by an IB Examiner.

Miscellaneous Information:

- Honor Code violations have serious consequences and may result in dismissal from the IB program.
- In-class assessments missed due to absence must be made up as an out-of-class alternate assignment.
- Late work is not accepted without prior arrangement and/or with an excuse provided by a parent.
- Students should obtain personal physical or electronic editions of the required texts for annotation.
- Electronic devices are permitted for use in class at the teacher's discretion only; they cannot be used during in-class assessments.
- Contact Mr. Nigro via e-mail during school days at pnigro@rmail.org or weekends at panigro@mac.com.