

Course Syllabus – English A1 International Baccalaureate - 11th Grade

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Welcome and congratulations on completion of your preliminary coursework for the IB's Diploma Programme! Ribault's theme this year is Thirsty. You have already begun to demonstrate your thirst for knowledge and this year's coursework promises to be interesting, rigorous and thought-provoking with the goal of promoting an enjoyment of, and lifelong interest in, literature.

Course Description:

The English A1 course is a two-year intensive college-level study of language and literature in English. Over these two years students develop their analytical and creative powers of expression, both in oral and written communication. Students will practice the skills involved in writing and speaking in a variety of styles and situations using English as a means of effective communication and as a key to the study of other disciplines.

Students develop the ability to engage in close, detailed analysis of a wide variety of world literature in translation, not only major classical works of literature, but also a range of contemporary writing. These works offer opportunities for a comparative study of works from various cultures, which broaden the students' perspective and lead to the development of an understanding and appreciation of the relationships between different works. Students will analyze different periods, genre styles, and contents, as well as literary elements such as characterization, point of view and style of writing.

Language study includes spelling, vocabulary and learning about language history and structure. Through varied and frequent writing assignments, students refine their understanding of purpose, audience, and voice and develop criteria for evaluating writing. They participate in speaking and listening activities to build critical thinking—using inference, hypothesis, analysis, synthesis and evaluation skills. Finally, the course aims to promote in students an enjoyment of, and lifelong interest in, literature.

In addition to the preparation provided for the IB's course-end assessments, students will be assessed throughout the course via informal assessments including but not limited to teacher observation, self and peer assessment, as well as teacher-created examinations, essays, individual and cooperative projects, and research papers.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the year, students will be able to:

Develop a comparative study of literary works (1500 words in length)
Create a written commentary based on an article or theme
Deliver an oral presentation of a topic (Oral Commentary)
Demonstrate an ability to take and use the Cornell Note taking system
Demonstrate effective organizational skills and strategies
Work effectively within small and large teams

Required Materials:

English notebook (3-ring binder)
Dividers (Set of 6)
Loose-leaf paper
Pen with dark blue or black ink
Other materials as announced

Course Outline:

Semester: First Nine Weeks
Title: Part One: World Literature
Works: Homer's *Odyssey*
Ovid's *Metamorphoses*

Official Assessment: Assignment One is a comparative study, based on the World Literature works studied. The study must be between 1000-1500 words in length.

Timelines: 1 Week Summer Reading
3 Weeks Study of Homer
3 Weeks Study of Ovid
2 Weeks to complete Assignment One

Semester: Second Nine Weeks
Title: Part Two: Detailed Study
Works: Shakespeare's "*Twelfth Night*"
Conrad's "*Heart of Darkness*"

Official Assessment: Individual Oral Presentation defined as a commentary on an extract, chosen by the teacher. The extract will be accompanied by guiding questions.

Timelines: 3 Weeks study of Shakespeare
3 Weeks study of Conrad
3 Weeks to complete a Mock Oral Commentary

Semester: Third Nine Weeks
Title: Groups of Works
Works: Bronte's "Jane Eyre"
Walker's "The Color Purple"

Official Assessment: Two essay questions on each genre.

Timelines: 3 Weeks Study of Bronte
3 Weeks Study of Walker
3 Weeks to complete a **Mock** Comparative Paper

Semester: Fourth Nine Weeks
Title: School Choice
Works: Larsen's "Passing"
Huston's "Their Eyes Were Watching God"

Official Assessment: An oral "presentation of a topic chosen by the candidate.

Timelines: 3 Weeks Study of Larsen
3 Weeks Study of Huston
3 Weeks to complete a **Mock** Presentation

Grading Plan:

There are five main areas which contribute to your English grade:

Commentaries and essays - (20%)
Comparative Studies - (20%)
Oral Presentations - (20%)
Formal assessments - (25%)
Quizzes/Daily assignments – (15%)

****Please note that the IB Grading Scale will be used for Essays and Oral Commentaries (see attached Rubrics).**

Grading Scale:

A - 90-100
B - 80-89
C - 70-79
D - 60-69
F - 59 and below

Makeup Work Policy:

Makeup work is accepted when the absence is excused, according to the policy set forth in the Student Handbook. Students, who are present on the day that a test is assigned, but absent on the day of the test, are expected to take the test on the day they return to class. Assignments will not be accepted beyond five days late. Exceptions to this may be made only with a valid medical excuse or extenuating circumstances discussed with me (preferably in advance). Field trips or other school events are not excuses or extenuating circumstances. Plan ahead.

Grade Recovery:

Grade Recovery is meant to assist students who have made an effort to be successful in a course but have failed to make adequate progress to meet standards during a grading period.

To be eligible for Grade Recovery, a student:

- must have earned a “D” or “F” as a quarter or final grade;
- must have made a good faith effort to timely perform classroom work or have accepted additional assistance offered to them during the applicable grading period;
- must have completed all work that was missed due to a violation (or a sanction for a violation) of the Student Code of Conduct and must comply with the attendance policy as determined in the School Board Policy Manual: File: JH (2) *“Missed work shall be made up for all absences; a day of make-up work shall be allowed for each day of absence, when appropriate, pursuant to the Student Progression Plan Appendix D. Each student shall receive full credit for such work.”*
- must complete Grade Recovery prior to the end of the following grading period. The time may be extended at the discretion of the principal. Students making less than satisfactory progress at any point during the 4th quarter must begin immediate recovery and must complete that recovery prior to the end of the school year, unless the principal determines that an extension of time is appropriate; and
- must not have engaged in plagiarism or cheating specifically identified by the teacher which resulted in the unsatisfactory grade.

The recovery grade will improve to a “C” when the standards are mastered. A grade of “D” may be assigned if the teacher determines that progress was made toward the standard(s).

Compass Odyssey is the primary means of Grade Recovery in Duval County. Essays and oral commentaries which need to be made up will be addressed on a case by case basis.

Classroom Rituals and Routines:

Entering the room:

Always arrive on time to class! This minimizes distractions and ensures that instructional time is not compromised. All students must have an ID badge visible upon entering the room. Adjust your voice to conversation level. Place all materials on your desk including your textbook, class notebook and a pen or pencil. You may sharpen pencils only upon entering the classroom.

There will be an agenda on the board daily. Write down the learning outcome and assignment for the day. Complete the warm up activity. Spend the remainder of the first fifteen minutes of class reading your assigned text. No other reading or class work should be completed during this time.

During class:

After the opening activity, we will have a mini-lesson followed by group discussion of the text. Oftentimes, you will be working in small groups for a portion of the period. Remain on task and use a conversational voice level. You will be called upon to present your thoughts and findings to the class.

There are no restroom breaks and visitors are not allowed in the classroom. Take advantage of time before school and between classes to attend to personal needs. If you have a medical condition which warrants a break or an extenuating circumstance, please see me or provide medical documentation to the School Nurse and I will work with the Nurse to ensure that your needs are met.

Before leaving the classroom:

Collect all trash and place it in the wastebasket. Return desks to their original positions if moved for group work. Ensure that you have collected all of your materials and wait quietly in your own desks for me to dismiss the class.

Electronic Devices:

Do not enter the classroom with electronic devices. The classroom is designed for instructional activity and these devices are a distraction and time-stealer for the teacher and student. These devices include, but are not limited to, cell phones, iPods, Blackberries, or other electronic devices. Violators will be required to immediately relinquish electronic devices to me.

Extra Assistance Policy:

Students can request additional help by meeting with me before or during class. I will remain after school as needed and accommodate any student who requires assistance.

Attendance and Tardy Policies:

Attendance is critical to your success in this class. Most of the class involves class discussions, writing and working in small groups. Because it is not possible to make up this kind of work, regular attendance and participation are crucial. Ribault’s attendance policy specifies that, after three unexcused absences in one grading period, the student will be awarded an “I” (Incomplete), and will have to utilize Grade Recovery.

Classroom Behavior:

Students are expected to follow all rules outlined in the Student Handbook. Ribault’s policy is no eating or drinking in the classroom. That policy will be observed. Activities which tend to disrupt class such as individual conversations, inappropriate or irrelevant comments and disruptions of any kind will not be tolerated.

Communication with Parents:

I consider parents an important part of the educational process and will make every effort to stay in contact on a regular basis. Please ensure that you have completed a school information card which includes your current contact information. Parents who wish to contact me may send a note with their student, call my classroom phone (924-3092, Extension 1208) or email me at sibleyd@duvalschools.org. I will make every effort to return parent phone calls within 24 hours.

I have read these requirements for 11th Grade IB English, and will abide by these classroom conditions.

Student Signature

Date

I have read these requirements for 11th Grade IB English, and will abide by these classroom conditions.

Parent Signature

Date