

ELA 30S Literary Focus

2019-2020 Semester 2 Course Outline

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Course Description:

This course focuses on the purposes and forms of literature. Students will produce and engage with oral, written and visual texts that foster understanding and empathy, reflect culture, express feelings and experiences, and bring enjoyment. Students may also produce and engage with texts that, for example, inform, persuade, or analyze (e.g. oral and print reviews, discussions of backgrounds, or interpretations).

English Language Arts Strands:

There are six strands in the English Language Arts curriculum: *reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing and representing*.

Using these strands, students will accomplish the following learning objectives:

1. To explore thoughts, feelings, ideas and experiences.
2. To comprehend and respond personally and critically to oral, literary, and media texts.
3. To manage ideas and information.
4. To enhance the clarity and artistry of communication.
5. To celebrate and build community.

Proposed Units:

Short Prose – fiction and non-fiction texts

Novel Unit – Speak

Documentary Film Study

Poetry

Play Study – Macbeth or Othello

Exploring Modern Literature (novel or play) and possible film tie-in, if time allows.

Possibilities include The Crucible, The Stone Angel, The Great Gatsby, or The Importance of Being Earnest

Proposed assignments may include: creative writing in various forms, research projects, public speaking, essay writing, visual representations, dramatic skits, etc.

****This year, we will be making a determined effort to incorporate into the course: silent reading for pleasure (goal = 5 books), fun quick writes, everyday editing/grammar, and a variety of opportunities for public speaking.****

Assessment:

Term work will account for 80% of the total mark and will be assessed in the following categories:

- Knowledge & Comprehension – 30% (includes interpreting texts and responding to text ideas, quizzes, and tests)
- Compose & Create – 40% (includes assignments based on the writing process as well as oral presentations)
- Assess & Reflect – 30% (reflects students' abilities to think critically and creatively, to form a perspective, inquire, self-assess, peer-assess, and collaborate)

The final exam will be modeled after the Grade 12 Provincial ELA Standards Exam. It is a process exam that will be completed over the span of 2-3 classes at the end of the semester. The final exam will be worth 20% of the course.

Creating the Grade:

- Grades will be based only on the demonstration of an individual student's knowledge and skills of the outcomes for each course:
 - Only items marked by the teacher will determine a student's grade
 - Grades are based on individual student achievement, not group achievement
- When determining a grade, the teacher will decide whether there is sufficient evidence of achievement. If not, the mark can be reported as an "IN" (incomplete). Teachers will determine with students and parents/guardians a plan for completion of work.

Establish, communicate, and apply consequences for late and missing work:

Students must understand that there will be consequences for not completing assignments that provide evidence of learning or for submitting those assignments late. If, after establishing and clearly communicating expectations regarding assignments, setting and communicating timelines for assignments, and supporting student learning using the strategies provided above, student work is still late or missing; teachers will apply the following strategies:

- confer with the student and, where appropriate, with the student's parent/guardians about the reasons for not completing the assignment, and consider the legitimacy of reasons;
- develop an agreement with the student to complete the work;
- require the student to complete missing work during lunch by attending the Assessment Completion Centre (ACC).

If, after completing the steps above, the student does not hand in the assignment by the agreed upon deadline, a zero may be used as a mark as the student has not demonstrated any knowledge or skill of the outcome.

The consequence for not completing work is to complete the work. Late marks will not be subtracted from an assignment as it is purely punitive and doesn't measure learning. The assignment will either be completed or given a zero.

The full policy is available on the SCI website under "Student Handbook".

Attendance:

Attendance is crucial for success. It enables the student to understand concepts and assignments and to take advantage of guidance provided by teachers and peers. In addition, students will receive immediate feedback regarding their progress. For absences that are unexcused or concerning, appropriate steps will be taken at 4, 8, 10, and 12 absences. If a student reaches 12 absences in a given course, their continued attendance in the course is reviewed. See the S.C.I. Student/Parent Handbook for detailed information on the attendance policy.

Tardiness:

Students are considered late when they are not in class when the final buzzer rings. When late, knock politely on the door and wait for me to answer. Then quietly take your seat and get ready to work. Many activities, such as homework checks, quizzes, writing assignments and journal responses occur at the beginning of class. New assignments are often introduced at the beginning of class and being late means important instructions have been missed. Students need to ensure that they come to class on time and are prepared to work.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is defined as passing off the words or ideas of another as one's own. This applies to downloading work from the Internet, copying another students' work, copying from other authors or using others' ideas without crediting the source. The following procedure will be implemented when student work is found to be plagiarized:

Students who plagiarize or copy other students' assignments will be contacted. The student will be offered the opportunity to redo the assignment under the teacher's supervision. If the student chooses not to redo the assignment under supervision by an agreed-upon date, a mark of zero will be designated for the assignment.