

English II - World Literature  
Course Syllabus  
2009-2010

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**Course Description:**

This year long course will examine literature from many cultures of the world within the framework of various literary genres. We will work to understand different pieces of literature in their cultural and historical framework and how themes, ideas, and the connectedness of humanity are universal. Skill studies include grammar, usage, mechanics, spelling and vocabulary development, taught individually and in relation to the selected readings and composition. This course will also include readings, discussion and varied activities and practice in preparation for the DC CAS Test.

**Course Objectives:**

- Use reading strategies to effectively construct meaning from a range of literary texts;
- Use process-writing strategies to effectively meet the needs of a variety of audiences and types of information being communicated;
- Demonstrate understanding and use of appropriate language for visual, oral and written communication;
- Respond critically and aesthetically to literature;
- Recognize and understand how literary devices work in literature;
- Explore and identify timeless and universal themes in literature;
- Understand, appreciate and discuss cultural archetypes prevalent in the literature of other countries.

**Readings: (Theme—Journeying)**

**First Advisory**

Life of Pi by Yan Martel (2001)

**Second Advisory**

Night by Elie Wiesel (1960)

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe (1959)

**Third Advisory**

Siddhartha by Herman Hesse (1922)

A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen (1879)

**Fourth Advisory**

*Othello* by Shakespeare (1604); or  
*Julius Ceasar* by Shakespeare (1599)

Additional short stories, essays, non-fiction pieces and poetry will supplement and broaden the scope of the major readings listed above.

### **Writing:**

Writing assignments include journaling, essay writing, timed writing, and constructed response. The guidelines and rubrics for each will be discussed and distributed in class. There will be a major writing assignment to follow each novel, and at least one lengthier research paper.

### **Materials:**

- Three-ring binder
- Spiral or composition notebook
- Loose-leaf paper
- Pens (all work must be submitted in **INK** or typed)

### **Policies and Procedures:**

Attendance is mandatory. Per school policy, three tardies results in an unexcused absence, and five unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for the advisory. Assignments are due on the deadline. When you miss class due to an excused absence, it is your responsibility to get the missing work/notes/assignments.

### **Grading:**

Below is the DCPS Grading Scale. Note that attitude, punctuality/attendance and effort are factored into grades.

#### DCPS Grading Scale:

A = 93-100

A- = 90-92

B+ = 87-89

B = 83-86

B- = 80-82

C+ = 77-79

C = 73-76

C- = 70-72

D+ = 67-69

D = 64-66

F = 63 and below