

English II - World Literature  
Course Syllabus  
2009-2010

**Instructor:** Patricia Seraphin  
**Contact:** pjsbronx@hotmail.com

**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

Grades will be based on writing assignments (25%), homework (15%), binder (10%), in-class activities (5%), journals (10%), tests (20%), quizzes (10%), and participation (5%).

## **Late Work:**

- The **only** late assignments I will accept are essays, papers, and projects. These major assignments will drop one letter grade (10%) per day for five days. No credit will be given after the fifth day. **No late homework or class work will be accepted for credit.**
- All class work must be turned in by the day after it is assigned in order to receive credit.
- Journals will only be accepted on the due date. It is very important to keep up in and finish anything not completed in class before the next class period in order to stay current and avoid falling behind.
- Missing assignments will result in a “zero” in the grade book and will cause your grade in this class to drop significantly. Turn your assignments in on time to receive a good grade.
- If you have extenuating circumstances preventing you from turning in an assignment or assignments on time, see Ms. Seraphin.

## **Making up work after absences:**

- If you have an excused absence you have a grace period equal to the number of days of your absence in order to complete the work assigned in class on those days.
- Students are responsible for getting their own make-up work from the teacher on the first day back from the absence.
- Assignments that are due on the date of an excused absence are due the first day upon returning from the absence. You will not be given extended time on previously assigned papers, essays, and projects unless you contact Ms. Seraphin and receive permission.
- All make up work must be handed directly to Ms. Seraphin.

## **Essays and Papers:**

- Papers are due at the beginning of class on the due date assigned.
- All final drafts of essays and papers are to be typed, double-spaced. If you do not have access to a computer, please hand write neatly in blue or black ink (no pencil), double spaced, and use only one side of the paper.
- Keep all drafts, including any notes, editing and revision materials. These may be required to be turned in with your final draft.

## **Student Binders:**

Each student must keep a binder in which to keep all writing materials and any other necessary materials. Credit will be given for a thorough and organized writing binder.

## **Participation Points:**

- Class discussions and group activities will benefit you greatly on tests and quizzes. You must participate in discussion and activities in order to receive full participation points.
- Although make-up assignments for excused absences will be given, missing class due to absences may result in missing valuable material generated in class discussions and group activities that will not be able to be made up.
- Participation points will be used in calculating your grade for the class. Follow the class policies outlined below in order to receive full participation points.

## **Cheating:**

Cheating defeats the purpose of education. In my classroom I want to prepare students for a future in which their achievements are honestly earned and their leadership reputations are not dimmed by past shortcuts. Any and all forms of cheating will result in disciplinary action.

**Cheating is taking another's work and calling it your own so that you derive the benefit.**

Cheating includes but is not limited to:

- Exchanging answers or assignments with others. This includes exchanging answers by electronic or recorded means and then submitting them as “original” work.
- Using hidden reference sheets during a test.
- Using programmed material in electronic devices when prohibited (as in on tests.)
- Submitting someone else's assignment as your own, in whole or part.
- **Submitting material (written or designed by someone else) without giving credit to the source (plagiarizing information from the Internet or other source or submitting work done by family, friends or tutors.)**
- Taking credit for group work when little contribution was made.
- Stealing tests, answers, or materials, or having unauthorized possession of such materials.
- Sabotaging or destroying the work of others.
- Submitting the same work in more than one course without the knowledge and approval of the teachers involved.
- Not following the guidelines specified by the teacher during a test (i.e. talking), or for a “take-home” test or exam.

## **Class Policies:**

- **Duke Ellington School of the Arts** school attendance, discipline, dress code, and plagiarism policies will be followed in our classrooms.
  - Be on time with necessary materials every day.
  - Maintain a positive attitude; refrain from negative reactions to class activities. Treat and speak to fellow students with respect at all times. No inappropriate language. Use professional language in the classroom (**only**).
  - Do not groom yourselves during class. This includes applying makeup, combing your hair, clothing changes and/or adjustments, or any other type of personal hygiene. No hats, caps, skull caps, or do-rags in class.
  - Raise your hand to speak and do not interrupt others. Do not speak when I am giving instruction.
  - Electronic devices must be turned off at all times and kept in your locker or backpack. If your cell phone rings (sounds-off), I will take it and your parents can retrieve it from Father Payne. If I see any electronic devices (i-pods & the like), I will take them and your parents can retrieve them from Father Payne.
  - Stay on task. No outside homework or activities allowed.
  - **Only** beverages are allowed in the classroom. Dispose of all empty containers and cans as you exit class. **No** gum or food allowed.
  - If you are finished with all assignments and homework, read a book of your choice. Do not pack up bags early - work until the end of the period every day.
  - See Ms. Seraphin with any questions or concerns
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Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

To ensure the success of our students, please read the information on this syllabus carefully. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at any time. Please include a way that I may contact you so that we may have open communication, further assuring the success of all students.

Student Name (please print) Student Signature

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Parent Name Parent Signature

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Parent Phone Number Parent E-mail Address

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I look forward to a fun and exciting year.

Sincerely,

Ms. Patricia Seraphin