

IB Middle Year Program Year 4 Language and Literature
9th Grade English, Willows Preparatory School

Course Description:

MYP Language and Literature

All IB programs value language as central to developing critical thinking, which is essential for the cultivation of intercultural understanding, as well as for becoming internationally minded and responsible members of local, national and global communities. Language is integral to exploring and sustaining personal development and cultural identity, and provides an intellectual framework to support conceptual development. The six skill areas in the MYP language and literature subject group—listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing and presenting—develop as both independent and interdependent skills. They are centered within an inquiry-based learning environment. Inquiry is at the heart of MYP language learning, and aims to support students’ understanding by providing them with opportunities to independently and collaboratively investigate, take action and reflect.

As well as being academically rigorous, MYP language and literature equips students with linguistic, analytical and communicative skills that can also be used to develop interdisciplinary understanding across all other subject groups. Students’ interaction with chosen texts can generate insight into moral, social, economic, political, cultural and environmental factors and so contributes to the development of opinion forming, decision-making and ethical-reasoning skills, and further develops the attributes of an IB learner.

Student Learning Outcomes

The aims of MYP language and literature are to encourage and enable students to:

- use language as a vehicle for thought, creativity, reflection, learning, self-expression, analysis and social interaction
- develop the skills involved in listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing and presenting in a variety of contexts
- develop critical, creative and personal approaches to studying and analysing literary and non-literary texts
- engage with text from different historical periods and a variety of cultures
- explore and analyze aspects of personal, host and other cultures through literary and non-literary texts
- explore language through a variety of media and modes
- develop a lifelong interest in reading
- apply linguistic and literary concepts and skills in a variety of authentic contexts.

The link to WPS 9th grade ELA standards:

https://bcacademy-my.sharepoint.com/personal/dvanreeth_willowsprep_com/Documents/English-ELA%209th%20and%2010th%20Grade%20Standards.docx

Semester 1

Unit 1: *How does the interplay of culture and literature influence a society?*

Book-*The Absolutely True Story of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie
Other writings by indigenous peoples across the Americas
A study of culture vs. language

Unit 2: *What constitutes freedom and how is that reflected in individuals versus societies?*

Book-*The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne
Early American writing and poetry

The 3rd Unit in the spring will focus on the New England Renaissance and post-Civil War/early 19th century literature in conjunction with world events and philosophy.

The 4th Unit in the spring will focus on early modern American literature, including the Harlem Renaissance, reading *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston and reading *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

In addition, students will read at least 2 books of their own choosing, based on these time periods and focusing on literature of various ethnicities from across the Americas.

Homework:

In general, homework will involve short reading or writing assignments.

Assessment:

Formative assessment -20% of grade
Written assignments and reflections, reading

Summative-80% of grade
Written assessments-essays, projects, presentations, performances

Submission Guidelines:

Both Managebac and One Note will be used.
Most formative and all summative assignments will be posted on Managebac.

Late Policy-Work for a unit must be handed in 1 week before the end of a unit. Students are always welcome to revise work they have already handed in-there is no penalty for revisions.

However, if work is not handed in 1 week before the end of a unit, we will peer grade this work together as a class.

Late work must be emailed or directly handed to me.

***If you know you will be missing a quiz or test, please speak to me about taking it early.
If you are absent unexpectedly, documentation is needed for the absence.***

It is your responsibility to notify me to ask for work you have missed.

Guidelines in this syllabus are subject to change

Zero Tolerance Policies

Willows Preparatory School has zero tolerance for alcohol, drugs, tobacco, weapons, age-inappropriate material, graffiti and repeated instances of bullying behavior. If any students are found in possession of or engaging in any related activities of the above, whether on campus and/or during school hours, appropriate referrals will be made and consequences/outcomes will be documented on the student's file.

Consequences

Any student misconduct will be documented and may result in the following:

- A referral to Head of School or Assistant Head of School
- Support services through Counselor referral
- Meeting with parent, teacher, and administration
- Probation from extracurricular activities or other privileges (i.e. sport, clubs, lunch outside)
- Restricted use of facilities

Misconduct issues of a more serious nature, such as those related to zero tolerance policies include:

- Suspension – You are expected to keep up with your schoolwork during this time, as no allowances will be made in this regard.
- Expulsion – You are permanently disenrolled from Willows Preparatory School

Technology

Every student at WPS has their own Microsoft Surface. WPS's official Laptop/Technology Policy is found at the end of this document.

Teacher-Student E-mail Communication

You have the opportunity to reach out to teachers and staff using email; however, when applicable, face-to-face communication is preferred. Student email addresses should only be used for communication about academic issues or to ask questions in a respectful and professional manner. Students are expected to check email on a daily basis. If a student receives an email or message from another student that is confusing or inappropriate, please notify a teacher or staff member immediately. Willows Preparatory School reserves the right to access all WPS student emails, reset all passwords, and if necessary, suspend all email activity.

Cell Phones and smart devices

We understand that cell phones and other smart devices are an essential part of daily life. Smart watches while linked to cell phones are considered cell phones. Please make sure that the watches are on Do Not Disturb mode during the school day. Students are permitted to bring cell phones to school each day subject to the following conditions:

- Cell phones should remain OFF when students are present on the school campus. Cell phones must be stored in book bags during the 1st semester (or for however long COVID-19 Handbook guidelines are in place) or in student lockers.
- Students may use their cell phones to contact parents upon request. All authorized cell phone use must occur at the Front Desk in the main building and/or under the supervision of an administrator or teacher.

If a member of staff can see or hear a cell phone, the phone will be confiscated and turned over to the front desk. Confiscated phones will be returned at the end of that school day from the front desk after a parent is notified about the violation of this policy. All incidents are documented and recorded—repeat violations may result in additional consequences.

In case of a personal emergency on campus (illness, personal situation, etc.) the student’s first line of contact is a staff member. In family emergency situations, parents should contact the front office if they need to reach a student.

Classroom Computer Use

Laptops will be used regularly in class for lessons, notes, and activities. Students should not be checking emails, grades, chatting via Teams, or any other activities on their computer unless the teacher has given them permission. If a student is found not using a computer appropriately, the computer will be taken away until the end of class and the following will take place:

- 1st Time: A warning from administration.
- 2nd Time: An email sent home to parents.
- 3rd Time: Meet with administration and discuss possible repercussions.

WPS Students will no longer be allowed to use headphones for personal use in any place of the school building unless a) the headphones are being used for specific class content (i.e. sound editing a video for a project); or b) they are being used before or after school hours (8:30am-3:30pm). Students should not have Spotify or any other streaming music program on their school computers.

Student Name (Print) _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Please return by September 10, 2021

Books:

The Absolutely True Story of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie
The Scarlet Letter