

**Course Description:** International Baccalaureate (IB) Literature is a two-year required course at City Honors School. The coursework emphasizes critical literary analysis, as well as development of oral and written skills. Additionally, because the nature of the IB program is akin to a true Humanities pre-college-level course, students are provided the opportunity to explore open-ended literary and philosophical questions, particularly those related to the context of the works. Examples of essential questions directly related to the curriculum are “To what extent does man have control over his destiny?” and “How do we define the nature of man?”

**The four specific areas of instruction include:**

- School’s Free Choice – Juniors (Assessment: Oral Presentation)
- Detailed Study – Juniors (Assessment: Oral Commentary)
- World Literature – Seniors (Assessment: Two Papers)
- Genre Study – Seniors (Assessments: Written Exams)

**Course Objectives (as delineated by the International Baccalaureate Committee):**

*City Honors follows the Language A1 program at Higher Level (HL). Upon completion of the two-year program, candidates will be expected to demonstrate:*

- an ability to engage in independent literary criticism in a manner which reveals personal response to literature
- an ability to express ideas with clarity, coherence, conciseness, precision and fluency in both written and oral communication
- a command of the language appropriate for the study of literature and a discriminating appreciation of the need for an effective choice of register and style in both written and oral communication
- a sound approach to literature through consideration of the works studied
- a thorough knowledge both of the individual works studied and of the relationships between groups of works studied
- an appreciation of the similarities and differences between literary works from different ages and/or cultures
- an ability to engage in independent textual commentary on both familiar and unfamiliar pieces of writing
- a wide-ranging appreciation of structure, technique, and style as employed by authors, and of their effects on the reader
- an ability to structure ideas and arguments, both orally and in writing, in a logical, sustained and persuasive way, and to support them with precise and relevant examples.

## IB Literature Syllabus

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### Major Units 2009 – 2010

#### Part One – World Literature (Senior year, first semester)

1. *The Stranger* by Albert Camus
2. *Chronicle of a Death Foretold* by Gabriel García Márquez
3. *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky\*

(These works are used as source for two papers, 1000-1500 words each, and constitute 20 percent of a student's IB Literature grade.)

\* Denotes possible substitution.

#### Part Three – Genre Study (Senior year, second semester)

1. A drama by Henrik Ibsen (*Ghosts* or *Hedda Gabler*)
2. *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams
3. *All My Sons* by Arthur Miller
4. *Equus* by Peter Schaffer

(These works form the basis of final written examination in drama in May. Additionally, the examination involves writing a critical commentary on a literary extract or poem not studied during the program. May exams constitute 50 percent of a student's IB Literature grade.)

#### Part Four – School's Free Choice (Junior year, first semester)

1. *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck
2. *Native Son* by Richard Wright
3. *First They Killed My Father, A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers* by Ung Loung
4. *Antigone* by Sophocles

(Assessment: Individual Oral Presentation worth 15 percent of a student's IB Literature grade.)

#### Part Two – Detailed Study (Junior year, second semester)

1. *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare
2. Short stories of Nathaniel Hawthorne or *Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton
3. Poetry unit (selections provided by the teacher)
4. Nonfiction unit or additional play by William Shakespeare

(Assessment: Individual Oral Commentary worth 15 percent of a student's IB Literature grade.)

*N.B.: The final oral commentary and oral presentation scores are used as junior year's final exam.*

#### Assessments:

IB Assessments consist of both internal and external exams, as designated by the IB International Committee. They include an oral presentation, an oral comprehensive commentary, two critical papers and two final written exams (see above).

Additional assessments will include in-class assignments, extended "take-home" papers, collaborative presentations (usually small groups or partners), individual oral presentations and commentaries, quizzes, homework and constructive class participation.

Extended papers will have a higher weight than shorter, in-class assignments. Revisions are encouraged, sometimes mandatory. MLA citations are required in all take-home papers.

**Participation:** *Class participation is an integral aspect of any literature course. Respectful and thoughtful interlocution creates an environment that brings many concepts to the fore and enriches the entire learning experience.*

**Students, please note:**

- **Be prompt and prepared for class.**
- **Any assigned “take-home” paper is to be typed.**
- **Plagiarism is NEVER an answer. The submitted work will be assessed a “0” grade.**
- **Papers are to be submitted by the due date. A letter grade penalty will be given if a paper is more than two days late. If a paper is later than a week, it is graded a “65.”**
- **Missing assignments (whether homework, essays, etc.) will be graded “0.”**
- **Because IB World Literature is designed essentially as a college prep course, writing assignments will emphasize critical commentaries and comparative papers.**
- **Reading assignments may be tested the day due (writing or objective assessment, and not always announced).**
- **Homework will be checked at my discretion and counted toward each quarter average.**
- **Important dates and deadlines will be posted in the classroom and on my web site.**

**Absence Policy:** Please see me the day you return (before homeroom) for missed work. Absence from school does NOT excuse you from responsibility of taking tests, submitting homework, etc.

**Tardiness:** Students who are late to class without a **valid** pass will not be allowed entry.

**Cutting Class:** ***Don't do it! Ever!***

**Materials needed:**

- One-inch, three-ring binder used exclusively for IB Literature with dividers for each work
- Composition notebook
- Assigned novels/plays (your own copy)
- Highlighters
- Pen/pencil

**Extra help:** I am available for extra help or for conferencing before/after school and during any of my unassigned periods. Simply check with me for a mutually convenient meeting time.

**May Exams (seniors):**

May 4 - Paper One (Commentary)

May 10 - Paper Two (Drama)

Time: 7:30 – 10:30

**E-mail address:** [svircillo-franke@buffaloschools.org](mailto:svircillo-franke@buffaloschools.org)

**School phone number:** 816-3130

**Website:** [www.svircillofranke.info](http://www.svircillofranke.info)

*“ ‘Tis the good reader that makes the book good! ”*

*-Ralph Waldo Emerson*

September 8, 2009

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year. Please review the attached syllabus; it is an overview of the objectives, requirements, and assessments of the IB Literature course for both junior and senior years. Also note that students are required to provide their own literature books, unless otherwise directed.

Should you have any questions regarding the school year, syllabus, and/or IB course requirements, feel free to contact me to arrange a meeting at a mutually convenient time.

Sincerely,

Sabrina Vircillo-Franke

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*Please return this signed portion by Monday, September 14, 2009.*

*I have read the IB World Literature Syllabus for the 2009-2010 school year.*

*Student's signature* \_\_\_\_\_

*Parent's signature* \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred means of contact (email, phone number, etc.):

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