August 29, 2016

Dear Student and Parent/Guardian:

Welcome to high school English and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme 11th grade Studies in Language and Literature course! By the time you arrive at school, you should have already completed your summer reading, Henrik Ibsen’s *A Doll’s House* and the assigned materials. This should serve as a guide for how will proceed during the year. Each work of literature will be accompanied by research, large group discussions (interactive oral presentations), note-taking, text explications, reflective statements, and essay questions.

**Course Outline**

There are two units of study during in the junior year course, which include but are not limited to the following works

**Unit One:** IB Studies in Language and Literature Part I: World Literature/Works in Translation: *Ghosts* (ancillary texts may include *A Doll’s House* and *An Enemy of the People*) by Henrik Ibsen; *Paradise of the Blind* by Duong Thu Huong; and *Candide* by Voltaire

**Unit Two:** IB Studies in Language and Literature Part IV: The Human Experience: *House of the Spirits* by Isabel Allende; *Kite Runner* by Khaled Hossein; and several plays by August Wilson (ancillary works may include: *Yellow Raft in Blue Water, Persepolis, Whale Rider*)

**IBDP Assessment Criteria**

For the first year of the IBDP Studies in Language and Literature course, all written assessments are graded using the same criteria: **Knowledge and Understanding** (How well does the student know the text and author and how well do they understand the literary elements contained within?), **Appreciation of the Writer’s Choices** (Does the student actively acknowledge and appreciate the writer’s choices of language, structure, technique and style to shape the meaning of the text?), **Organization and Development** (How effectively have the ideas been organized, and how well are references to the works integrated into the development of the ideas?), **Language** (How clear, varied and accurate is the language? How appropriate is the choice of register, style and terminology?) Additionally, any oral presentations, both for small groups and for individuals, will be assessed using the following criteria: **Knowledge and Understanding** (How much knowledge and understanding does the student show of the work(s) used in the presentation?) **Presentation** (How much attention has been given to making the delivery effective and appropriate to the presentation? To what extent are strategies used to interest the audience?), **Language** (How clear and appropriate is the language? How well is the register and style suited to the choice of presentation?)

**Grading Guidelines**

The grade that you receive on your report card will be calculated in the following manner, using a weighted grading system:

**Homework – 10%**  
Homework will be assigned **EVERY DAY** mostly in the form of nightly reading, and is due the following school day unless otherwise specified. Homework is collected daily and is worth 10 points for each assignment (more details below).

**Class Participation – 20%**  
Students will receive a daily participation grade based on their level of preparedness for that day’s class along with both oral and written participation in that day’s lesson. Students will lose points or receive no points if they sleep during class, do not have their assigned books, or are disorderly or disruptive during the lesson.
Writing – 20%
This section includes all essays that are produced for each text. As we progress through the unit, we will add skills that will be necessary for successful completion of the IBDP Written Assignment. Often, students will complete drafts and receive feedback on their projects throughout the unit. Students must meet all deadlines set (NO EXCEPTIONS). All writing assignments will be graded using the IBDP Studies Language and Literature assessment criteria.

Classwork – 25%
All graded classwork will be included in this section. This includes warm-ups, exit tickets, or any other material that is done in class and checked for accuracy. Group work done in class is also included in this section.

Assessment – 25%
Included in this section are quizzes, tests, and text explications on a piece of literature, in either small or large segments, to show the student’s learning. There are NO RE-TESTS on chapter tests or quizzes, so it is imperative that students do their homework, study, and are prepared for chapter tests and classwork quizzes.

Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Semester Grades (using percentages)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Term 1 40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89.9%</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Term 1 40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79.9%</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Midterm/Final Exam 20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69.9%</td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 60%</td>
<td>E</td>
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*EXTRA CREDIT DISCLAIMER
There will be no opportunities for extra credit. Students should make every effort to complete work and achieve the highest grade possible during the report period and not rely on extra credit to boost their grade. Additionally, there will be no opportunities to “make-up” assignments that were completed poorly. It is important that students complete quality work the first time.

Necessary Materials
Notebook:
The English notebook must be a 1” 3-ring binder with lined paper. The binder is to only be used for this class and will be kept in my room. EACH DAY MUST BE CLEARLY LABELED WITH THE DATE AND LESSON TITLE.

Books:
There is no single textbook for this class. Students will be assigned an individual copy of each novel, play, short story, or poem we read. They are responsible for getting those texts back to me at the conclusion of its reading. If a book is lost or goes unreturned, students are to pay $10 for its replacement.

Pencil/Pen:
Students need to bring a pencil or pen to class with them every day.

Homework Policy
Homework is paramount to your success in this course. Homework is assigned almost every day and will usually be either a nightly reading, with or without reading guide questions or an activity sheet pertaining to that day’s lesson. Homework is due at the beginning of class on the following school day. Classwork quizzes are based on the reading assignments, so it is imperative that students complete their homework EVERY DAY. If students have been assigned to read a portion of the text for homework to be followed by a reading quiz the following day, a failed quiz will result a failed grade in BOTH the “assessment” AND the “homework” criteria to indicate that the student did not complete the previous night’s homework.
Homework will NOT be accepted late due to the fact that it means a student will become behind in their reading. Please note: If you are late for class without a signed agenda book, your homework is late, and the most that you can receive is half credit. If you are unclear of a homework assignment, please check my Facebook page IBDP English!

**Accuracy:**

It is the responsibility of the student to complete all assignments to the best of their ability, but grading IS based on how well the assignment has been completed/attempted. It is important to understand that full credit is not given for simply completing the work.

**Late Work /Attendance Policy**

**Attendance:**

Daily attendance is a must in this course. Students are responsible for any work missed whenever they are not in class for any reason. The subject matter will not be re-taught to the student at a later time. They are responsible for copying class notes from their class’s designated IPad, collecting any worksheets passed out, and completing the homework assigned for that day.

**Homework:**

In order to get full credit for your homework, it must be completed on time (the following day). If you are absent one day, you have one day to make it up. For example, If you miss class on Tuesday and return on Wednesday, you should have both assignments (from Tuesday and Wednesday) completed on Thursday.

**Assessments:**

If a student is absent for a test or quiz, they should make it up within one week. Tests cannot be made up during class, as class time is for learning, and every second is important. Tests cannot be made up when a student is scheduled to be in another class, unless they have a note from that teacher allowing them to do so. Tests must be made up before school, or during QRT and after school only. If a student is absent on a day that a major writing assignment is due, the assignment is STILL due that day. It should be sent in with a friend or e-mailed to the teacher THAT DAY. If it is received the following day, it is considered late and the late penalty (5% each day) will be enforced.

**School Activities:**

Absences due to school activities (field trips, sports, instrumental, etc.) do not fall under these guidelines. Students missing class due to school activities are expected to hand in all assignments on time and schedule to take the quiz before leaving for the activity if possible.

**Academic and Behavioral Expectations**

In addition to the policies outlined the Pittsburgh Obama High School Handbook:

- **Report to class on time.** Late students will be expected to present a signed agenda book. When the bell rings, have your homework out on the outside corner of your desk, open your notebook, and begin the warm-up.

- **Don’t speak out of turn.** Only one person is allowed to talk at a time (whether it is the teacher or the student). Do not shout out answers; wait until you are called on. Contributing to class discussion is mandatory, but we must not “ruin it” for everyone else. Be sure to use talk tips during discussion. You can raise your hand if you want, but Mr. Dean will decide who gets to talk.

- **Be prepared for class.** Bring all necessary materials described above, along with homework. If for some reason you don’t have your homework, you must fill out a “No Homework” slip, which must be filled out by the time I come around and check homework.

- **Pay attention.** Every second is important, and the second you let your mind drift you are lost. There is not time to repeat things that have already been said, so you must pay attention. Obviously, using your phone or sleeping is a huge problem.
• **Use time wisely.** Instructional time is not used to go to the bathroom, so don’t ask. You may go if you finish a warm-up or assignment early, but do not ask to go during a lesson or discussion (only one person at a time). Also, we work from bell to beyond the bell. The bell does not dismiss the class, I do. I will sign your agenda book if I send you late to class.

• **Do your own work.** Plagiarism or cheating in any form will not be tolerated. Anyone caught cheating on any assignment, will be given a 50% for that assignment and a referral for academic dishonesty will be sent to the administration. **Those assisting in cheating will also be punished.**

**Contact Information**

Please be assured that my goal is to work with you to ensure the success of your child this year. Please read and discuss the information outlined in this document with your child, sign below, and put your contact information where applicable. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to know about your child’s progress at any time, or have any questions whatsoever.

*Email:* The best way to get a hold of me is via email: epapale1@pghboe.net. I will respond to you in a timely manner. If email is unavailable, you can also contact me by phone at (412) 529-7243. **If you have an email address, please make sure you list it below.** I will be sending out an email to all parents who give me their addresses in the near future. Email is my preferred method of communication. Also, please feel free to friend my Facebook page IBDP English!

PLEASE FILL IN THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION: (PRINT)

Name of Student: _______________________________________

Student email: _______________________________________

Name of Parent/Guardian: ___________________________

*PARENT EMAIL ADDRESS: ________________________________________________________ (PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)

If you wish a copy of this letter to keep, please let me know. Thank you for your help, and I look forward to working with you and your child to do whatever it takes for them to be successful!

Sincerely,

Emily Papale, English Teacher

Approved: Ms. Aisha Robinson, Director