



Dominican International School
台北市私立道明外僑學校
No. 76, Dazhi Street, Taipei (104042), Taiwan, R.O.C.
10464 臺北市中山區大直街 76 號



COURSE SYLLABUS

School Year	2025-2026
Subject	English Language Arts
Grade Level	11
Teacher	Jenny Pan
Email	jpan@dishs.tp.edu.tw

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this course, students will explore a broad selection of American literature organized by historical periods, gaining insight into the cultural, social, and political forces that shaped each era. Through the study of fiction, non-fiction, drama, and poetry, students will learn to analyze literary texts, identify key themes, and evaluate how authors express meaning through language and structure.

Emphasis will be placed on developing critical reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills aligned with the Common Core State Standards. Students will engage in thoughtful discussions, creative and analytical writing assignments, and collaborative activities that connect literature to contemporary issues and personal experiences.

In addition, students will strengthen their command of English by examining the technical aspects of grammar, vocabulary, and composition. This course encourages students not only to appreciate the richness of American literary traditions but also to reflect on the relevance of literature in their own lives and communities.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By the end of this course, students will be able to read and analyze complex literary and informational texts from various genres and historical periods, evaluating how central themes develop and how authors reflect or challenge the values of their time. They will cite strong textual evidence to support their interpretations, make meaningful connections between literature and contemporary issues, and express their ideas clearly through well-structured writing. Students will conduct research, develop arguments, and revise their work for clarity and precision. They will also expand their academic vocabulary, strengthen their grammar and language skills, and engage in thoughtful discussions and presentations that demonstrate effective speaking and listening.



PRIMARY TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER RESOURCES:

- Textbook: into Literature (Houghton/Mifflin/Harcourt)
- HMH Grammar Practice (Houghton/Mifflin/Harcourt)
- Class Novels

GRADING SYSTEM/ASSESSMENT:

- Writing Rubrics
- Presentation/oral rubrics
- Quizzes and Quarter Tests/Exams
- Homework, Seatwork, and Projects (30%)
- Tests and Quizzes (30%)
- Quarter Exam (30%)
- Department (10%)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Please always check Google Classroom for homework and announcements.

Homework Rules

- All assignments must be turned in on the day they are due.
- 1 day late = Minus 10%
- 2 days late = Only 60%
- 3+ days late = Project-I & Only 60%
- **If a student has been absent**, it is his/her duty to find out what work is due and hand it in.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Academic Dishonesty means employing a method or technique or engaging in conduct in an academic endeavor that contravenes the standards of ethical integrity expected at DIS.

Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to the following:

- Purposely incorporating the ideas, words of sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof without appropriate acknowledgment and representing the product as one's work;
- Representing another's intellectual work, such as photographs, paintings, drawings, sculpture, research, or the like, as one's own, including failure to attribute content to an AI.
- Employing a tutor, using Artificial Intelligence without acknowledgment, getting a parent to write a paper or do an assignment, and paying for an essay to be written by someone else and presented as the student's work.
- Committing any act that a reasonable person would conclude, when informed of the evidence, to be a dishonest means of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work.

Any act of academic dishonesty will result in an automatic zero on the entire assignment/learning task.



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First Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week/Date	Topic/Projects/Assessments
Week 1 (August 12 to 15) <u>4 days of class</u> 12-General Assembly at the Gymnasium 15-Opening Mass & Assumption of Our Lady	Into Literature - Unit 6 The Crucible -Introduction Novel – The Namesake
Week 2 (August 18 to 22) 18-St. Dominic de Guzman Feast Day Celebration) Integrated during the Monday Assembly 20- House Shirt & Blue Jeans Day Starts 22- Club Orientation and Club Sign-up	Into Literature - Unit 6 The Crucible The Crucible: Act I Analyze Characters and plot Grammar – Punctuation: colons & semi-colons Writing – YSC Introduction Novel – The Namesake
Week 3 (August 25 to 29) 27- High School Talk - "Kickstart Your Success: Winning Mindsets for a Great School Year" 29- First Club Meeting	Into Literature - Unit 6 The Crucible The Crucible: Act I Analyze Characters and plot Analyze literary devices Analyze universal themes Grammar – Punctuation: dashes / parentheses Writing – YSC Script Writing Novel – The Namesake
Week 4 (September 1 to 5) 1- Launching of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (During the Monday Assembly) 1-AP Registration 3- AEO Fall University Fair 5- House Ceremony	Into Literature - Unit 6 The Crucible The Crucible: Act II & III Analyze Character development and plot Analyze literary devices Analyze universal themes Cite evidence to make inferences and draw conclusions Grammar – Varied sentence structure Writing – YSC Introduction Novel – The Namesake
Week 5 (September 8 to 12) 8- Holy Mass: Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary & VIP Induction 10- House Mini Games Start	Into Literature - Unit 6 The Crucible The Crucible: Act II & III Analyze characters' actions and motivations Discuss contrasts and contradictions Analyze characters' internal conflict Grammar – Imperative Mood Writing – YSC Script Writing Scripts are due September 26 th Novel – The Namesake



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Week 6 (September 15 to 19) 15- Catholic Bridge Program for all New Students (After the Monday Assembly at the Gymnasium) 19- Athletics / Sports Orientation 19- PSAT/NMSQT Registration deadline	Into Literature - Unit 6 The Crucible The Crucible: Act IV Analyze Character development and plot Analyze literary devices Determine the meaning of idioms Analyze universal themes Grammar – Transitions Writing – YSC Script Writing Novel – The Namesake
Week 7 (September 22 to 26) 22- Celebration of the International Day of Peace-Peace Pole Ceremony (During the Monday Assembly) Teacher's Day Celebration & 26- Teachers' Appreciation 26- Grade 12 Career Educational Trip 24 to 26-Pre-Exam Days	Into Literature - Unit 6 The Crucible The Crucible: Act IV Analyze Character development and plot Analyze literary devices Determine the meaning of idioms Analyze universal themes Grammar – Review Writing – YSC Script Writing Novel – The Namesake
Week 8 (September 29 to October 3) 29- Launching of the Month of the Holy Rosary (During the Monday Assembly) Oct. 1-2- First Quarter Exam (half day)	Exam Prep. & Review Exam
<i>Oct. 3-DIS Teachers and Staff Recognition Day/ Record Day Recollection for Aunties and Uncles (no classes for students)</i>	



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Second Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week/Date	Topic/Projects/Assessments
<i>6-Moon Festival (no classes)</i>	
<i>7-9 Teacher's Conference (no classes)</i>	
Week 1 (11) (October 13 to 17) 13- Second Quarter Begins 13- Start of New Applicant Enrollment for 2nd Semester 14- Visit of Mother Mary to Classrooms (During the morning prayer) 15- AP Exam Only Registration Deadline 15- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep 17- PSAT/NMSQT Digital Exam	Into Literature - Unit 4 Introduction & Declaration of Sentiments Analyze Rhetoric Evaluate Arguments Grammar – Modifiers I Writing – Argumentative Essay Novel – Fahrenheit 451
Week 2 (12) (October 20 to 24) 20- Jubilee: Marian Exhibit Opening (After the Monday Assembly) 20- Campus Safety Talk for Students 24- Book Fair (Senior Escape Room)	Into Literature - Unit 4 Declaration of Sentiments Analyze Rhetoric Evaluate Arguments Grammar – Modifiers II Writing – Argumentative Essay Novel – Fahrenheit 451
Week 3 (13) (October 27 to 31) 29- Grade 11 Career Educational Trip Oct. 31 to Nov. 1- Gr.6 SEL Camp	Into Literature - Unit 4 Declaration of Sentiments Analyze Rhetoric Evaluate Arguments Grammar – Parallel Structure Writing – Argumentative Essay Novel – Fahrenheit 451
Week 4 (14) (November 3 to 7) 3- Feast of St. Martin de Porres Mass (integrated during the Monday Assembly) 5- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep	Into Literature – Unit 4 Speech to the American Equal Rights Association Analyze Rhetoric Evaluate Arguments Compare Arguments Grammar – Agreement I Writing – Argumentative Essay Novel – Fahrenheit 451
Week 5 (15) (November 10 to 14) 14- Health Week 14- VIP-Parent Learning Community	Into Literature – Unit 4 Speech to the American Equal Rights Association Analyze Rhetoric Evaluate Arguments Compare Arguments



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	Grammar – Agreement II Writing – Argumentative Essay Novel – Fahrenheit 451
Week 6 (16) (November 17 to 21) 17- Launching of Mental Health and Anti-Bullying Month 21- Young Shakespeare Play Writing and Performing Contest	Into Literature – Unit 4 Building the Transcontinental Railroad Analyze Ideas and Events Grammar – Idioms Writing – Argumentative Essay Novel – Fahrenheit 451
Week 7 (17) (November 24 to 28) 24- Peace Pole Day (Monday Assembly) 24- Lighting of the Christmas Tree after school (Campus Min/ ECA/ D' Torch Orchestra/ Religious Studies) (Afternoon) 25-27- Pre-Exam Days 27- Thanksgiving Potluck after school for teachers and staff 27- Thanksgiving Family Day 28- Gr. 12 Second Quarter Exam	Into Literature – Unit 4 Building the Transcontinental Railroad Analyze Ideas and Events Analyze Tone Grammar – Noun Clauses Writing – Argumentative Essay Novel – Fahrenheit 451
<i>Nov. 29 Invitation for All: The Jubilee Pilgrimage to Taipei (Saturday)</i>	
Week 8 (18) (December 1 to 5) 1- First Week of Advent: Lighting of First Advent Candle (During the Monday Assembly) 3- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep 5- Nativity Play (Collaboration with Campus Ministry) 5- Christmas Fair Whole Day	Into Literature – Unit 4 Building the Transcontinental Railroad Analyze Ideas and Events Analyze Tone Grammar – Review Writing – Argumentative Essay Novel – Fahrenheit 451
Week 9 (19) (December 8 to 12) 8- Foundation Day Mass, cake ceremony, and Class Party (half day) 8- Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 8- Second Week of Advent 10- Gr. 12 Advent Immersion 11 and 12- Second Quarter Exam (half day)	Exam Prep. & Review Exam
<i>December 13 Invitation for All: Advent Recollection @DIS (Saturday)</i>	
<i>December 15 to January 2 Christmas Break</i>	



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Third Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week/Date	Topic/Projects/Assessments
<i>January 5- Record Day (No Classes for students)</i>	
Week 1 (20) (January 5 to 9) 5- PSAT 8/9 Registration Starts 6- Third Quarter Begins 7- Monthly Career Talk-College Prep 9- New Year Mass at 8:00	Into Literature – Unit 3 The Individual and Society Reflect on essential questions Into Literature – Unit 3 from Last Child in the Woods Summarize main ideas Analyze Style Grammar – The Phrase I Writing – Informative Essay Novel – An Ember in the Ashes
Week 2 (21) (January 12 to 16) 16- Club Orientation & Sign Up	Into Literature – Unit 3 from Last Child in the Woods Summarize main ideas Analyze Style Determine author's perspective Grammar – The Phrase II Writing – Informative Essay Novel – An Ember in the Ashes
Week 3 (22) (January 19 to 23) 19-23- Individual Yearbook Photoshoot for Students 19-23- Career Awareness Week 22- Grade 9 Career Educational trip 23- First Club Meeting for 2nd Semester	Into Literature – Unit 3 from Walden Summarize main ideas Analyze Style Determine author's perspective Grammar – Formal & Informal Style Writing – Informative Essay Novel – An Ember in the Ashes
Week 4 (23) (January 26 to 30) 26- Feast Day of St. Thomas Aquinas/Launching of the Catholic Week 26-28- Aquinas Conference: Science and Faith 26-30- Catholic Week Activities 30- DYM Charity Concert	Into Literature – Unit 3 from Walden Summarize main ideas Analyze Style Determine author's perspective Compare and Contrast main ideas Grammar – Adjective Clauses Writing – Informative Essay Novel – An Ember in the Ashes
Week 5 (24) (February 2 to 6) 1-4- WASC Mid-Cycle Visit 4- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep 6-7- SUAQ Recollection for MS	Into Literature – Unit 3 In the Season of Change Analyze Figurative Language Analyze Structure Analyze Theme Grammar – Active and Passive Voice Writing – Informative Essay Novel – An Ember in the Ashes



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Week 6 (25) (February 9 to 13) 9- Start of New Applicant Enrollment for 1st Semester for SY2025-26 13- PSAT 8/9 Registration Deadline 13- House Valentine's Mini Fair 13- Chinese New Year Celebration	Into Literature – Unit 3 Poems by Emily Dickinson The Soul selects her own Society Because I could not stop for Death Analyze Figurative Language Analyze Structure Analyze Theme Grammar – Adjective Clauses Writing – Informative Essay Novel – An Ember in the Ashes
<i>February 16-20 Chinese New Year Holiday</i>	
Week 7 (26) (February 23 to 26) 23-26- IOWA Assessments 23- Student Council Application 24-26- Pre-Exam Days	Into Literature – Unit 3 Poems by Emily Dickinson Much Madness is divinest Sense Tell all the Truth but tell it slant Analyze Figurative Language Analyze Structure Analyze Theme Into Literature – Unit 3 The Minister's Black Veil Analyze Symbols Analyze Setting Grammar – Effective Sentences Writing – Informative Essay Novel – An Ember in the Ashes
<i>February 27 Memorial Day Holiday (no classes)</i>	
Week 8 (27) (March 2 to 6) 3- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep 6- PSAT 8/9 System Installation and Practice Test	Into Literature – Unit 3 The Minister's Black Veil Analyze Symbols Analyze Setting Connotation and Denotation Analyze and Synthesize Themes Grammar – Review Writing – Informative Essay Novel – An Ember in the Ashes
Week 9 (28) (March 9 to 13) 13 and 16- Third Quarter Exam (half day)	Exam Review Exam Week



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Fourth Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week/Date	Topic/Projects/Assessments
Week 1 (29) (March 16 to 20) 16- Third Quarter Exam (half day) 16-20- Faculty & Staff Yearbook Photo 17- Fourth Quarter Begins 18-21- EARCOS Teachers' Conference 19- Lectio Divina and Feast of St. Joseph 20- Parents Learning Community Meeting 20- Kindilympics 20-House Movie Night and Club Fair	Into Literature – Unit 2 Building a Democracy Into Literature – Unit 2 Thomas Jefferson: The Best of Enemies Analyze Ideas and Events Analyze Structure Grammar – Hyphens Writing – Research Report Novel – Student's choice
<i>March 21 (Saturday) Spring Fair</i>	
Week 2 (30) (March 23 to 27) 23-27 Student Leaders Applicant Interviews 26- Annual Visit to World Religion Museum Gr. 11 27- Lower School Readers Theatre	Into Literature – Unit 2 Thomas Jefferson: The Best of Enemies Analyze Ideas and Events Analyze Structure Into Literature – Unit 2 On Being Brought from Africa to America Analyze Poetic Devices Analyze Themes Grammar – Formal English and Contested Usage Writing – Research Report Novel – Student's choice
<i>March 30 to April 6 Easter/Spring Break</i>	
Week 3 (31) (April 7 to 10) 7- Spring University Fair 9- Easter Mass 9- Easter Egg Hunt for Lower School Students	Into Literature – Unit 2 On Being Brought from Africa to America Analyze Poetic Devices Analyze Themes Grammar – Grammar, Mechanics, and Usage Writing – Research Report Novel – Student's choice
Week 4 (32) (April 13 to 17) 13 Laudato Si Month Launching (During the Monday Assembly) 13-30 Laudato Si Month Activities 13-17- Class Photo Taking 17- AP Chinese/Japanese Practice Test	Into Literature – Unit 2 A Soldier for the Crown Analyze Point of View Analyze Plot Grammar – Grammar, Mechanics, and Usage Writing – Research Report Novel – Student's choice
Week 5 (33)	Into Literature – Unit 2 A Soldier for the Crown



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(April 20 to 24) 20-24 Cultural Awareness Week / Art Exhibit / Earth Week 24- Music Recital 20-24 Student Council Campaign 20-24 AP Mock Exams	Analyze Point of View Analyze Plot Grammar – Grammar, Mechanics, and Usage Research Report Novel – Student's choice
Week 6 (34) (April 27 to 30) 27- Student Council Elections 27-30 Senior Project Presentations 28-30 Pre-Exam Days	Into Literature – Unit 2 from Lean In Analyze Tone Analyze Author's Purpose Grammar – Grammar, Mechanics, and Usage Writing – Research Report Novel – Student's choice
<i>May 1: Labor Day Public Holiday</i>	
Week 7 (35) (May 4 to 8) 4- May Crowning & Mother's Day Celebration (During the Monday Assembly) 4-14 Final Exams (K, Gr. 5, 8, & 12 Only) 4-15 AP Exams	Into Literature – Unit 2 from Lean In Analyze Tone Analyze Author's Purpose Grammar – Review Writing – Research Report Novel – Student's choice
Week 8 (36) (May 11 to 15) 13 and 14- Fourth Quarter Exam—Undergraduate (half day) 14-16 Student Leaders Retreat Days	Exam Review Exam Week
<i>May 15 Record Day (No Classes for students) Final Deliberation for Graduating/Promoting Classes</i>	
Week 9 (37) (May 18 to 22) 18- Gr. 5 Recollection & Mass 19- Gr. 8 Recollection & Mass 20- Gr. 12 Recollection 20- Baccalaureate Mass (Whole School) 18-21 WIDA Testing 19- Lower School Sports Day / Gr. 6 & 7 School Field Trip 19- Gr. 9 - 11 - "Senior Success Forum: Inspiring the Next Generation" 19-22 Student Clearance Days 21- Middle & High School Sports Day 21- High School Field Trip 22- House Culminating Activity 20-22 Final Deliberation for Non-Graduating Classes 22- Student Leaders One Day	Clearance, Graduations, Recognitions, and Field Trips



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Recollection / Turn Over Ceremony	
Week 10 (38) (May 25 to 29) 25- Kindergarten Graduation/Gr. 5 Promotion 26- LS Field Trip 26- Gr. 8 Graduation and Gr. 12 Graduation 27- Pre-Kindergarten & Gr. 1 - 4, 6 & 7, 9-11 Recognition Last Day of School, Report Card 28- Distribution, & Class Party (half day) 29- Last day for Teachers/Staff Meeting	Graduations, Recognitions, and Field Trips

“Kindling the Light of Faith, Hope, and Love: The Legacy of St. Dominic de Guzmán”