



Dominican International School

SUBJECT: English Language Arts

GRADE LEVEL: 12

SCHOOL YEAR: 2025-26

TEACHER: Leon Henrico

EMAIL: lhenco@dishs.tp.edu.tw

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This 12th grade Language Arts course is designed to cultivate advanced literacy skills, critical thinking, and effective communication. Students will engage with a diverse range of complex texts, including classic and contemporary literature, informational texts, and multimedia sources. The curriculum aligns with common core standards, focusing on:

- Reading comprehension and analysis of literature and informational texts
- Writing for various purposes and audiences
- Speaking and listening skills for effective communication
- Language usage, grammar, and vocabulary development
- Research and media literacy skills

Throughout the year, students will explore themes such as human achievement, tradition and reason, emotion and experimentation, and new ideas and voices. They will develop their ability to analyze, interpret, and evaluate texts while honing their writing skills across multiple genres.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze and interpret complex literary and informational texts, including their themes, structures, and rhetorical features
2. Write clear, well-structured essays and narratives for various purposes, demonstrating sophisticated use of language and style
3. Conduct in-depth research using multiple sources, evaluate their credibility, and present findings effectively
4. Participate in collaborative discussions, responding thoughtfully to diverse perspectives and expressing ideas clearly and persuasively
5. Deliver formal presentations, integrating multiple sources of information and using digital media strategically
6. Apply advanced grammar and vocabulary skills in reading and writing, including understanding nuances in word meanings and analyzing the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone
7. Evaluate and synthesize information from multiple sources, assessing the strengths and limitations of each source
8. Develop critical thinking skills through literary analysis and argumentation, including the ability to identify logical fallacies and evaluate competing arguments

ASSESSMENT:

- Writing Rubrics
- Presentation/oral rubrics
- Quizzes and Quarter Tests/Exams
- Peer evaluation

PRIMARY TEXTBOOK & OTHER RESOURCES

- Textbook: into Literature (Houghton/Mifflin/Harcourt)
- HMH Grammar Practice (Houghton/Mifflin/Harcourt)
- Dictionary/Thesaurus

Novels for Extra Reading:

Q1: *To Be or Not to Be* by Ryan North

Q2: *The House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer

Q3: *The Circle* by Dave Eggers

Expectations for Student Behavior and Participation

- Attend all classes regularly and punctually
- Actively participate in class discussions and group activities, contributing thoughtful questions and insights
- Complete all assignments and projects by the due dates, managing time effectively
- Students who do not meet their homework deadlines will be placed in Project I.
- If a student has been absent when a homework assignment is set, it is his/her duty to find out what homework is due, and complete it by the required deadline.
- If a student is absent for a test, they will receive a **0** score, unless they have a **very good** reason for being absent.
- Respect diverse opinions and perspectives during discussions, practicing active listening
- Maintain academic integrity in all work, avoiding plagiarism and properly citing sources
- Bring required materials to class daily (textbook, notebook, writing utensils, charged laptop/tablet)
- Engage in respectful and constructive peer feedback during workshops and presentations
- Utilize school hours for additional support when needed, taking initiative in learning
- Demonstrate growth mindset and willingness to revise work based on feedback
- Contribute to a positive classroom environment that fosters intellectual curiosity and mutual respect
- Respect your teachers, fellow students and their property.
- Keep your seating space and classroom clean and neat.
- Only a water bottle is allowed during class; no eating or drinking of other liquids.
- Ask permission to leave the class.

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:

1. Purposely incorporating the ideas, words of sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof without appropriate acknowledgment and representing the product as one's own work; and
2. Representing another's intellectual work such as photographs, paintings, drawings, sculpture, or research or the like as one's own, including failure to attribute content to an AI.
3. Employing a tutor, making use of Artificial Intelligence without acknowledgement, getting a parent to write a paper or do an assignment, paying for an essay to be written by someone else and presented as the student's own work.

4. 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

This syllabus is subject to change based on the needs and progress of the class. Any modifications will be communicated to students in advance.

1st QUARTER – TENTATIVE COURSE CONTENT

(NB: Depending on time and interest, the teacher may delete and/or add other selections.)

Week / Date	Topic / Projects / Assessments
Essential Questions	What can drive someone to seek revenge? How does time affect our feelings? What's the difference between love and passion? How do you defy expectations?
Week 1 Aug 12th to 15th 4 Days of Class 12~ First Day/ Digital PSAT/NMSQT Registration 15~ Opening Mass & Assumption of Our Lady 8:00	Into Literature: Unit 2: A Celebration of Human Achievement Texts: <i>The Tragedy of Hamlet</i> , Act I Skills & Activities: Introduce the unit, analyze dramatic plot, soliloquy Standards: RL.11-12.1, RL.11-12.3, RL.11-12.4, SL.11-12.1 HMH Grammar: Module 2: Sentence Fragments and Run-On Sentences Writable: Unit 2-1: Quick Write Persuasive Paragraph
Week 2 Aug 18th to 22nd 18~Induction of Class & Student Council Officers, NJHS, DYM, and House Captains 18~St. Dominic de Guzman Feast Day Celebration	Into Literature: Unit 2: A Celebration of Human Achievement Texts: <i>Hamlet</i> , Acts II–III Skills & Activities: Analyze conflict and character development; paired and group discussion Standards: RL.11-12.3, SL.11-12.1.a, W.11-12.10 HMH Grammar: Module 2: Subjects and Predicates Writable: Unit 2: <i>Hamlet</i> , Act I compare the relationship between character
Week 3 Aug 25th to 29th	Into Literature: Unit 2: A Celebration of Human Achievement Texts: <i>Hamlet</i> , Acts IV–V Skills & Activities: Perform a scene; evaluate dramatic structure Standards: RL.11-12.5, SL.11-12.5, SL.11-12.6 HMH Grammar: Module 2: Compound subjects and verbs Writable: Unit 2: <i>Hamlet</i> , Act II Choices (Writing): Diary Entry
Week 4 Sep 1st to 5th 5~House Ceremony	Into Literature: Unit 2: A Celebration of Human Achievement Texts: <i>Hamlet's Dull Revenge</i> (René Girard) Skills & Activities: Analyze central ideas and mimetic desire; write a short story Standards: RI.11-12.1, RI.11-12.2, RI.11-12.5, W.11-12.3, L.11-12.1 HMH Grammar: Module 2: Finding the subject of a sentence Writable: Unit 2: <i>Hamlet</i> , Act IV: Text Exchange

Week 5 Sep 8th to 12th 8~ Mass & Birthday Mother Mary& VIP Induction	Into Literature: Unit 2: A Celebration of Human Achievement Texts: <i>Sonnet 30, Sonnet 75, To His Coy Mistress, Twenty-One Love Poems</i> (Rich) Skills & Activities: Analyze speaker, compare poetic themes Standards: RL.11-12.1, RL.11-12.2, RL.11-12.4, L.11-12.5.a HMH Grammar: Module 2: Direct and Indirect Objects Writable: Sonnet 30 & Sonnet 75: Comparison-and-Contrast Essay
Week 6 Sep 15th to 19th 19~Athletics/Sports Orientation	Into Literature: Unit 2: A Celebration of Human Achievement <i>Texts: A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning</i> by John Donne (4 days) Comparison-and-Contrast Essay (continued) Reflective Essay: <i>What Makes Love Last?</i> (1 day) Skills & Activities: Analyze metaphysical conceits and interpret abstract ideas in poetry. Discuss emotional depth and conceptual imagery in Donne’s work. Write a reflective essay exploring themes of enduring love and emotional resilience. Standards: RL.11-12.1, RL.11-12.4, RL.11-12.6, L.11-12.5.a, W.11-12.2 HMH Grammar: Module 2: Object and Subject Complements Writable: Unit 2: A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning : A Reflective Essay
Week 7 Sep 22nd to 26th 23-25~Pre-Exam Days 26~Teacher's Day Celebration & Teachers' Appreciation Initiative/Peace Pole 26~Grade 12 Career Educational Trip	Into Literature: Unit 2: A Celebration of Human Achievement Skills & Activities: Literary analysis essay (multi-day structured writing process) Standards: W.11-12.1.a–e, W.11-12.4–6, W.11-12.10, L.11-12.2 HMH Grammar: Module 2: Review Writable: Write a Literary Analysis
Week 8 Sep 29th to Oct 3rd <u>2 Days of Class</u> 1-2 ~Q1 Exams 3~Record Day	Exam Review Exams
Week 9 Oct 6th to 10th <u>No Classes</u> 6~Moon Festival 7-9~Teacher's Conference 10~Double Ten	No Classes

2nd QUARTER – TENTATIVE COURSE CONTENT

(NB: Depending on time and interest, the teacher may delete and/or add other selections.)

Week / Date	Topic / Projects / Assessments
Essential Questions	What can nature offer us? How do you define beauty? How can science go wrong? What stirs your imagination?
Week 1 (10) Oct 13th to 17th 13~ Second Quarter Begin 13~Visit of Mother Mary to Classrooms	Into Literature: Unit 4: Emotion and Experimentation Texts: Wordsworth poetry Skills & Activities: Analyze imagery and Romantic ideals Standards: RL.11-12.1, RL.11-12.4, RL.11-12.10b, SL.11-12.5 HMH Grammar : Module 3: The Phrase: Prepositional Phrases Writable : Unit 4-1: Quick Write
Week 2 (11) Oct 20th to 24th 20~ Jubilee: Marian Exhibit 24 – Book Fair	Into Literature: Unit 4: Emotion and Experimentation Texts: from Frankenstein Skills & Activities: Analyze science fiction and sensory detail Standards: RL.11-12.1, RL.11-12.3, RL.11-12.4, W.11-12.3, L.11-12.4.b HMH Grammar : Module 3: Adjective Phrases and Adverb Phrases Writable : Unit 4-5: from Frankenstein: Literary Critique
Week 3 (12) Oct 27th to Oct 31st	Into Literature: Unit 4: Emotion and Experimentation Texts: Frankenstein: Giving Voice to the Monster (Langdon Winner) Skills & Activities: Evaluate argument, write a policy proposal Standards: RI.11-12.1, RI.11-12.3, RI.11-12.6, W.11-12.1, L.11-12.3.a HMH Grammar : Module 3: Participles and Participial Phrases Writable : Unit 4: Frankenstein: Giving Voice to the Monster: Argument
Week 4 (13) Nov 3rd to Nov 7th 3~ Feast of St. Martin de Porres Mass	Into Literature: Unit 4: Emotion and Experimentation Texts: Songs of Innocence and Songs of Experience (Blake) Skills & Activities: Compare historical perspectives and symbolism

	Standards: RL.11-12.2, RL.11-12.4, W.11-12.2, SL.11-12.5 HMH Grammar : Module 3: Gerunds and Gerund Phrases Writable : Unit 4 : from Songs of Innocence : Reflective Essay
Week 5 (14) Nov 10th to 14th	Into Literature : Unit 4: Emotion and Experimentation Skills & Activities: Write explanatory essay (structured writing) Standards: W.11-12.2. a–c, W.11-12.4–6, W.11-12.10 HMH Grammar : Module 3: Infinitives and infinitive phrases Writable : Write an Explanatory Essay
Week 6 (15) Nov 17th to 21st 21 - YSC Contest	Into Literature : Unit 4: Emotion and Experimentation Skills & Activities: Argument writing , Create a Photo Essay Standards: W.11-12.1, SL.11-12.2 HMH Grammar : Module 3: Appositives and Appositive phrases Writable : Write an Explanatory Essay
Week 7 (16) Nov 24th to 28th 25-27~Pre-Exam Day 28-Gr.12 Q2 Exam	Review and Exams
Week 8 (17) Dec 1st to Dec 5th <u>4 Days of Class</u> 1-Gr.12 Q2 Exam 5~Christmas Fair	Exams Preview quarter 3 readings
Week 9 (18) Dec 8th to 12th <u>2 Days of Class</u> 8~Foundation Day Mass, cake ceremony, and Class Party (half day) 11-12 ~Q2 Exams	Preview quarter 3 readings
Dec 15th to Jan 2nd	Christmas Break

3rd QUARTER – TENTATIVE COURSE CONTENT

(NB: Depending on time and interest, the teacher may delete and/or add other selections.)

Week / Date	Topic / Projects / Assessments
Essential Questions	How can satire change people's behavior? What's your most surprising friendship? What keeps people from reaching their potential? Why are plagues so horrifying?
Week 1 (19) Jan 5th to 9^h <u>4 Days of Class</u> 5~Record Day 6~Third Quarter Begins 9 ~ New Year Mass	Into Literature: Unit 3: Tradition and Reason Texts: A Modest Proposal Skills & Activities: Analyze satire, author's purpose Standards: RI.11-12.1, RI.11-12.5, RI.11-12.6, L.11-12.5.a HMH Grammar: Module 4: Kinds of Clauses Writable: Unit 3-3: A Modest Proposal: Satirical Proposal
Week 2 (20) Jan 12th to 16th	Into Literature: Unit 3: Tradition and Reason Texts: Satire Is Dying... by Arwa Mahdawi Skills & Activities: Analyze tone, ideas, create satirical piece Standards: RI.11-12.2-4, L.11-12.3 HMH Grammar: Module 4: The adjective clause Writable: Unit 3-4: Satire is Dying Because the Internet Is Killing It: Brief Story
Week 3 (21) Jan 19th to 23rd	Into Literature: Unit 3: Tradition and Reason Texts: Journal of Fanny Burney Skills & Activities: Analyze diary; write personal reflection Standards: RI.11-12.1, RL.11-12.4, W.11-12.3 HMH Grammar: Module 4: The adverb clause Writable: Unit 3-6: from The Journal and Letters of Fanny Burney: An Encounter with King George
Week 4 (22) Jan 26th to 30th 26 ~ Feast Day of St. Thomas Aquinas 26-30~ Catholic Week Activities	Into Literature: Unit 3: Tradition and Reason Texts: A Vindication of the Rights of Woman, Education Protects Women

	Skills & Activities: Compare arguments; write response Standards: RI.11-12.2, RI.11-12.6, W.11-12.2, L.11-12.5.a HMH Grammar: Module 4: The noun clause Writable: from A Vindication of the Rights of Woman Choices : Letter
Week 5 (23) Feb 2nd to 6th 1-4~WASC Mid-Cycle Visit	Into Literature: Unit 3: Tradition and Reason Texts: from A Journal of the Plague Year Skills & Activities Analyze Historical Setting, Analyze Narrator, Analyze Author's Point of View Standards: RL.11-12.1, RL.11-12.3, RI.11-12.1, RI.11-12.3, RI.11-12.6 HMH Grammar: Module 4: Sentence structure Writable: Unit 3: from A Journal of the Plague Year : Epilogue
Week 6 (24) Feb 9th to 13th 13~House Valentine's Mini Fair 13~ Chinese New Year Celebration	Into Literature: Unit 3: Tradition and Reason Texts: A Journal of the Plague Year, Inferno Skills & Activities: Analyze historical and narrative point of view Standards: RL.11-12.3, RI.11-12.3, W.11-12.7 HMH Grammar: Module 4: Sentence Purpose Writable: Unit 3: from Inferno: A Doctor's Ebola Story Choices (Writing): Letter
Feb 16th to Feb 20th	Chinese New Year
Week 7 (25) Feb 23rd to 27th 4 Day of Class 23-26~IOWA Assessments 24-26~ Pre-Exam Days 27 ~ Memorial Day Holiday	Into Literature: Unit 3: Tradition and Reason Text: Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard Skills & Activities: Analyze Elegy, Analyze Themes Standards: RL.11-12.1, RL.11-12.2, RL.11-12.4, RL.11-12.10.b HMH Grammar: Module 7: Ambiguous Reference Writable: Unit 3: Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard Choices (Writing): Epitaph
Week 8 (26) March 2nd to 6th	Into Literature: Unit 3: Tradition and Reason Skills & Activities: Write personal narrative

	Standards: W.11-12.3.a–e, L.11-12.2, SL.11-12.6 HMH Grammar : Module 7: Weak And Indefinite Reference Writable : Write a Personal Narrative
Week 9 (27) March 9th to 13th <u>4 Days of Class</u> 13&16 – Q3 Exams	Into Literature : Unit 4: Emotion and Experimentation Skills & Activities : Unit review and exam Standards: RL/RI.11-12.1–6 HMH Grammar : Review and unit tests

4th QUARTER – TENTATIVE COURSE CONTENT

<i>(NB: Depending on time and interest, the teacher may delete and/or add other selections.)</i>	
Week / Date	Topic / Projects / Assessments
Essential Questions	What makes people feel insecure? Why is it hard to resist social pressure? What is the power of symbols? How do you measure a person's worth?
Week 1 (28) Mar 16th to 20th <u>4 Days of Class</u> 16 – Q3 Exams 17~ Fourth Quarter Begins 20~ House Movie Night and Club Fair 21~ Spring Fair	Into Literature : Unit 6: New Ideas, New Voices Texts: A Village After Dark Skills & Activities: Analyze unreliable narrator, tone Standards: RL.11-12.3, RL.11-12.6, SL.11-12.5 HMH Grammar : Module 10: Misplaced Modifiers Writable : Unit 6-3: A Village After Dark: Brief Argument
Week 2 (29) March 23rd to 27th	Into Literature : Unit 6: New Ideas, New Voices Texts: A Cup of Tea Skills & Activities: Character evaluation, narrative craft Standards: RL.11-12.1, RL.11-12.3, W.11-12.3 HMH Grammar : Module 10: Dangling Modifiers Writable : Unit 6-4: A Cup of Tea: Character Critique
Mar 30th to April 6th	Easter Break
Week 3 (30) Apr 7th to Apr10th <u>4 Days of Class</u> 8 or 9~Easter Mass	Into Literature : Unit 6: New Ideas, New Voices Texts: Shooting an Elephant

	Skills & Activities: Reflective essay analysis, cause and effect Standards: RI.11-12.1, RI.11-12.3, W.11-12.2 HMH Grammar: Module 11: Glossary of Usage: Adapt, Adopt / Being As, Being That Writable: Shooting an Elephant : Essay
Week 4 (31) Apr 13th to 17th	Into Literature: Unit 6: New Ideas, New Voices Texts: My Daughter the Racist Skills & Activities: Analyze setting and structure; write letter Standards: RL.11-12.3, W.11-12.2, L.11-12.4.c HMH Grammar: Module 11: A Glossary Of Usage Credible / Like, As, As If Writable: My Daughter the Racist: Literary Argument
Week 5 (32) Apr 20th to 24th 20-24 ~ AP Mock Exams	Into Literature: Unit 6: New Ideas, New Voices Texts: The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock Skills & Activities: Stream of consciousness, inferences Standards: RL.11-12.4–6, W.11-12.10 HMH Grammar: Unit Review Writable: The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock: Persuasive Analysis
Week 6 (33) Apr 27th to May 1st 4 Days of Class 1~ Labor Day	Into Literature: Unit 6: New Ideas, New Voices Texts: The Second Coming and Symbols? I'm Sick of Symbols Skills & Activities: Symbolism, comparison Standards: RL.11-12.2, RL.11-12.4, SL.11-12.4 HMH Grammar: Unit tests Writable: The Second Coming / Symbols? I'm Sick of Symbols: Position Statement
Week 7 (34) May 4th to 8th 4-14~ Final Exams (K, 5, 8, 12 only) 4-15 ~ AP Exams	Into Literature: Unit 6: New Ideas, New Voices Skills & Activities: Write an Argument (5-day plan) Standards: W.11-12.1.a–e, W.11-12.2, SL.11-12.2, SL.11-12.4 Exam Review
Week 8 (35) May 11th to 15th 4 Days of Class	Exams

13-14~ Q4 Exam 15~ Record Day 11-15 ~ AP Exams	
Week 9 (36) May 18th to 22nd 19-22 ~ Student Clearance 18~ Baccalaureate Mass 21~High School Field Trip	School Wide Activities
Week 10 (37) May 25th to 29th <u>4 Days of Class</u> 26~House Culminating Activity 26~ Gr. 12 Graduation 27~ Class Party 28- ~ Students Last Day 29~ Teachers/Staff Meeting	School Wide Activities.