



Dominican International School
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COURSE SYLLABUS

School Year 2026–27

Gr. 12 Senior Project

Ms Janice Doyle

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Senior Project is intended to be the culmination of each student's academic experience at Dominican International School. It is an exciting opportunity for seniors to combine their various interests and enthusiasm with their academic lives at school. Similarly, the project is a medium for seniors to demonstrate autonomy, complexity, and awareness. This project is designed to give students some practice in writing research papers and doing presentations, which are skills needed at university.

The Five Tenets of the Senior Project

- **The Essential Question:** Because a successful and meaningful Senior Project necessarily involves genuine inquiry around a topic of the student's choosing, each senior will focus their work around a complex, interesting, and sustainable essential question.
- **Multi-Faceted Approach:** Seniors must incorporate a variety of modes of thinking in the planning, implementation, and presentation of their projects.
- **A Research Component:** No Senior Project will be successful without a substantial element of new learning. This learning can take place in many ways, one of which must be research. Research must be both text-based (secondary research - library, internet, etc.) and experiential (primary research - interviews, surveys, and experiment/practical/analytical aspect).
- **Collaboration:** One of the most important life skills is the ability to work with and learn from other people. Each Senior Project must incorporate some element of collaboration with individuals inside or outside the immediate DIS community. These "outsiders" may serve as secondary mentors for the Senior Project.
- **Academic Severity:** Each Senior Project must be conceived in a way that challenges the student to think deeply and critically beyond what he/she already knows and can do. The topic must be big enough for the student to consider multiple perspectives, but not so big that it will lead only to superficial understanding.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the Senior Project is to provide students with the opportunity to explore and experience an interdisciplinary topic of their choice, and to demonstrate knowledge and public presentation skills. Students are expected to exhibit the knowledge and skills that they have acquired through their tenure at Dominican International School. They should be able to work with mentors and /or teammates to choose a topic and then develop and implement a plan that promotes drawing upon past knowledge from varied courses of study, researching, hypothesizing, and developing solutions.

GRADING SYSTEM / ASSESSMENT

Grades will be computed following the school-wide policy of **30%** Classwork, Homework and Projects, **30%** Tests (which will consist of various assignments students do), **30%** Quarter Exam (Critique/Reflection - 1st - 3rd quarters; Final Product + Presentation – 4th quarter) and **10%** Deportment. **All** work done by the students will be graded. A variety of assessment tools will be used to evaluate performance.

Rules for Assignments / Homework

- All work must be done (from start to finish) in the allotted folders in the SHARED DRIVE.
- All assignments must be submitted on/before the due date.
- If work is handed in early, students get extra credit (max 7 points) per assignment.
- If work is a day late, **10%** is deducted; if more than a day late, students have to go to Project I to complete the assignment, and they will receive a **maximum of 60%** for said assignment.
- If a student has been absent, it is his/her duty to find out what assignment is due and submit it.
- Students who miss a scheduled test or quarterly exam are responsible for requesting a make-up test/exam ASAP on return to school. The student must show us a medical certificate or proof of an emergency on the day he/she returns to school. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN A **ZERO** BEING GIVEN FOR THE TEST/EXAM. If the student does not make up the test/exam at the earliest on return, a score of **ZERO** will be given.
- If a student/group is absent for a major assessment, they will receive a **60% (max)** score, unless they have a **very good** reason for being absent.

If a student/group does not fulfill the requirements enabling them to do their final presentation on time, they will forfeit the opportunity to present (losing 50% of their final exam grade).

PRIMARY TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER RESOURCES

- ✓ Internet, books, journals, etc. for research purposes
- ✓ Laptop, notepaper, and writing utensils
- ✓ Binder and plastic sleeves for storing **ALL** assignments = **Portfolio** (Test grade)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please see Google Classroom for more information and reminders. Class code: **rtiyx7h3**

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, having a parent write a paper or complete an assignment, or paying someone else to write an essay and present it 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

<https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines/citations/plagiarism>

1st QUARTER TENTATIVE COURSE CONTENT

Week / Date	Topic / Projects / Assessments
Week 1 (Aug 10 - 14) 11 - General Assembly ~ Gym 13 - Opening Mass & Assumption of Our Lady	<u>Introduction</u> to course: Class Rules/Expectations <u>Google Classroom:</u> sign in <u>Group Members' Selection:</u> by Thursday, Aug. 20th <u>Weekly Journals:</u> previous week's accomplishments. Due every Thursday
Week 2 (Aug 17 - 21) 21 - Club Orientation & Sign-up	<u>Group Members' Selection:</u> by Thursday, Aug. 20th <u>Declaration of Academic Honesty:</u> Due on Aug. 27th <u>Topic Development:</u> Brainstorm ideas for project. Due ASAP
Week 3 (Aug 24 - 28) 28 - First Club Meeting	<u>Declaration of Academic Honesty:</u> Due on Aug. 27th <u>Personal Timeline:</u> Due on Sept. 10th <u>Topic Development:</u> Due ASAP <u>Mentor Selection:</u> must have 2 mentors by the end of Sept.
Week 4 (Aug 31 - Sept 4) 31 - World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation ~ Assembly 4 - House Ceremony	<u>Personal Timeline:</u> Due on Sept. 10th <u>General Outline:</u> introduction to topic, why of interest, possible primary research, possible experiment/practical aspect, goals & objectives Due Sept 24th <u>Mentor Selection:</u> by the end of Sept.
Week 5 (Sept 7 - 11) 7 - Holy Mass: Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary & VIP Induction 9 - House Mini Games Start	<u>Personal Timeline:</u> Due on Sept. 10th <u>General Outline:</u> Due on Sept. 24th <u>Mentor Selection:</u> by the end of Sept.
Week 6 (Sept 14 - 18) 15 - Catholic Bridge Program: New Students 19 - Athletics / Sports Orientation	<u>General Outline:</u> Due on Sept. 24th <u>Mentor Selection:</u> by the end of Sept.
Week 7 (Sept 21 - 25) 21 - Teacher's Day Celebration 22 to 24 - Pre-Exam Days	<u>General Outline:</u> Due on Sept. 24th <u>Mentor Selection</u> must have mentors by the end of Sept. <u>Proposal Paper:</u> Thesis, related issues, Resources available, Scope and Limitations, Strengths and Weaknesses and other sections. Due Oct. 22nd <u>Primary Research Plan:</u> the WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY, HOW, etc. of Primary Research Due Oct. 29th
Sept 25 & 28	<i>Moon Festival & Confucius Day Holidays</i>
Week 8 (Sept. 28 - Oct 2) Oct. 1 & 2 - Q1 Exams	<u>Mentor Selection</u> must have mentors by the end of Sept. <u>Portfolio Check:</u> Due on Oct. 1st <u>Quarterly Reflection:</u> (self-evaluation) Oct. 1st = Q1 EXAM <u>Proposal Paper:</u> Due on Oct. 22nd <u>Primary Research Plan:</u> Due Oct. 29th
Week 9 (Oct 5 - 8)	Oct 5 - Record Day Oct 6 to 8 - Teachers' Conference
Oct. 9	<i>Double Ten Holiday</i>

2nd QUARTER TENTATIVE COURSE CONTENT

Week / Date	Topic / Projects / Assessments
Week 1 (10) (Oct 12 - 16) 12 - Second Quarter Begins 13 - Visit of Mother Mary to Classrooms	Overview of 2 nd quarter work schedule <u>Weekly Journals:</u> previous week's accomplishments. Due every Thursday <u>Proposal Paper</u> – Thesis, related issues, Resources available, Scope and Limitations, Strengths and Weaknesses, and other sections. Due on Oct. 22nd <u>Primary Research Plan</u> – the WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY, HOW, etc. of Primary Research Due on Oct. 29th
Week 2 (11) (Oct 19 - 23)	<u>Proposal Paper:</u> Due on Oct. 22nd <u>Primary Research Plan:</u> Due Oct. 29th
Oct. 26	Retrocession Day
Week 3 (12) (Oct 26 - 30) 30 – Autumn & Book Fair	<u>Primary Research Plan:</u> Due on Oct. 29th <u>1st Survey:</u> initial survey to get general idea/opinions Due on Nov. 5th
Week 4 (13) (Nov 2 - 6) 2 – All Souls' Day Mass ~ Monday Assembly	<u>1st Survey:</u> initial survey to get general idea/opinions Due on Nov. 5th START WORKING ON PRACTICAL ASPECT (Completed in 2nd Draft)
Week 5 (14) (Nov 9 - 13) Launch of Mental Health and Anti-Bullying Month, Health Week	<u>Literature Review:</u> Analyze the content of 2 chosen book sources: relevance, usefulness, and any controversies. Due on Jan. 21st, 2027 <u>First Draft:</u> secondary research & some primary research. Due Feb. 15th, 2027 WORK ON PRACTICAL ASPECT (Completed in 2nd Draft)
Week 6 (15) (Nov 16 - 20) 20 - Young Shakespeare Plays	<u>Literature Review:</u> (2 book sources) Due on Jan. 21st, 2027 <u>First Draft:</u> Due Feb. 15th, 2027 WORK ON PRACTICAL ASPECT (Completed in 2nd Draft)
Week 7 (16) (Nov 23 - 27) 23 - Peace Pole Day ~ Assembly, Lighting of Christmas Tree (pm) 24--26 - Pre-Exam Days 26 - Thanksgiving Family Day Thanksgiving Potluck (Faculty) 27 – Q2 Exams	<u>Quarterly Reflection:</u> (Q2 Exam grade) On Nov. 30th <u>Portfolio Check:</u> Due on Nov. 30th <u>Literature Review:</u> (2 book sources) Due on Jan. 21st, 2027 <u>First Draft:</u> Due Feb. 15th, 2027 WORK ON PRACTICAL ASPECT (Completed in 2nd Draft)
Week 8 (17) Q3 W1 (Nov 30 - Dec 4) 1 - 1st Week of Advent: Lighting of 1st Advent Candle ~ Assembly House Unity dress up Wk 30 – Q2 Exams	<u>Quarterly Reflection:</u> (Q2 Exam grade) On Nov. 30th <u>Portfolio Check:</u> Due on Nov. 30th <u>Literature Review:</u> (2 book sources) Due on Jan. 21st, 2027 <u>First Draft:</u> Due Feb. 15th, 2027 WORK ON PRACTICAL ASPECT (Completed in 2nd Draft)
Week 9 (18) Q3 W2 (Dec 7 - 11) 2 nd Week of Advent 8 - Foundation Day Mass, cake ceremony & Christmas Fair 10 & 11 – Q2 Exams	<u>Literature Review:</u> (2 book sources) Due on Jan. 21st, 2027 <u>First Draft:</u> Feb. 15th, 2027 WORK ON PRACTICAL ASPECT (Completed in 2nd Draft)
Dec 12 to Jan 3	Christmas Break