

Tokyo International Progressive School
Grade 9, English Course Outline
2021-2022
Mr. Jessen-Petersen, Room 24



“The best moments in reading are when you come across something – a thought, a feeling, a way of looking at things – which you had thought special and particular to you. Now here it is, set down by someone else, a person you have never met, someone even who is long dead. And it is as if a hand has come out and taken yours.”

– Alan Bennett, *The History Boys*

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE

In this course, students will focus on three key aspects of English language arts: literature, grammar and composition. Students will develop an understanding of different types of literature, with a focus upon novels, short stories, poetry, folk tales, essays, drama, and nonfiction. The content is an arrangement of American literature from authors that represent a wide range of multicultural backgrounds. In regards to grammar and composition, students will aim to improve their fundamentals of grammar. In particular, students will work with parts of speech, characteristics of sentences and paragraph development. Students will also aim to improve their research and communication skills.

The course textbook is Prentice Hall’s “Literature: Language and Literacy”, and the two novels that will be read are John Steinbeck’s “Of Mice and Men” (1937), and Elie Weisel’s “Night” (1956).

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

- Students are expected to bring the following materials to class each day:
 - Accordion binder with agenda inside
 - Pencil Case (w/ pencil, pen, eraser)
 - Any related handouts from teacher
 - Water bottle
 - Charged laptop or tablet
 - Headphones
 - Any materials for accommodations (e.g. noise-canceling earbuds)
 - Work due
 - Textbook if brought home (Textbooks will remain in class unless student requests to bring it home) (Materials will always be posted online, including pictures of text from the textbook, so students will typically not need to bring the textbooks home)
 - Book being currently read

*A numbered copy of a textbook and book will be lent to you. Write your name in it. When you return it, if it is not in usable condition or missing its cover, your family will be asked to replace the book.

- Immediately upon entering the classroom, students are expected to place their water bottle in the hanging shoe organizer. Following this, students will place all materials under their desk, and take out the needed materials for the warm-up activity. Students are expected to complete the 5-minute warm-up activity posted at the front of the class (necessary materials will be posted as well). The warm-up activity will be either printed or digital. If it is digital, students will be expected to open their charged laptops or tablets and immediately begin the warm-up activity.
- Students are allowed to drink closed drink bottles in the classroom. Water and sports drinks are preferred. Cans are not allowed in the classroom. Food is also not allowed in the classroom.
- Students will be allowed to listen to music in class for certain activities, with the teacher's permission. Music must be played from a playlist, and the songs must be free of lyrics (no lyrics music)

- If a student is unable to complete work by the expected due date, the grade will remain a 0 on Quickschools until the work is completed. The student will have the entire Quarter to finish the work if still unfinished. At the end of the Quarter, the grade will remain and be registered as a 0.
- If a student will require a re-do on their test, please talk with the teacher.
- Each class is broken down into the following time groups:
 - Warm-up = 5 minutes
 - 1st-half of class = 17.5 minutes
 - Optional break = 3 minutes
 - 2nd-half of class = 17.5 minutes
 - Cool-down = 5 minutes

EARNING YOUR GRADE

Your grade will be determined by your work in these categories:

Grade Category	Percentage of your grade
Quiz	20%
Daily Work	30%
Project	30%
Test	20%

The grading scale for this course will be:

Letter grade	Mark range
A+	97-100
A	92-96
B+	88-91
B	83-87

C+	79-82
C	74-78
D+	70-73
D	65-69
F	64 or below

IMPORTANT DATES

*** Schedule is subject to change**

Assessment	Date
“Fiction and Nonfiction” - Test	Friday, September 13th
“Types of Nonfiction” - Test	Friday, October 8th
“Poetry” - Test	Friday, November 26th
“Themes in Literature” - Test	Wednesday, January 19th
“Of Mice and Men” - Mid-Unit Test	Friday, February 25th
“Of Mice and Men” End of Unit Test	Friday, March 31st
“Night” Mid-Unit Test	Friday, May 13th
“Night” End of Unit Test	Friday, June 3rd

There will be a main writing assignment in each quarter.

Plagiarism Policy

Students who hand in school work that is not their own are guilty of *plagiarism*. Students who plagiarize will be dealt these consequences:

First offence:

- phone call to parents and the work redone and the grade reported

- explain to parents consequence for second offence

Second offence:

- phone call to parents and the work redone and assessed, with the grade of "0" recorded
- explain to parents consequence for third offence

Third offence

- phone call to parents and the work redone and assessed, and a grade of "0" recorded
- Saturday School assigned by school administration
- explain to parents the consequence for fourth offence

Fourth offence

- phone call to parents and the work redone and assessed, and a grade of "0" recorded
- 2 day Out of School Suspension by school administration
- preamble with parents expulsion on fifth offence

Fifth offence

- expulsion