

The Center for Global Studies
World Literature III
Ms. Martinez
Ext. 11025
Martinezd@norwalkps.org

Thematic Overview: With its strongest emphasis on works of literature set in Eastern cultures, World Literature in junior year also focuses heavily on classical American works. In understanding the American canon, we can better understand how other cultures view our culture and, in turn, why we are likely to perceive them the way we do. We will look at the role point of view plays in how a story is told or what a story comes to mean. How does culture shape our point of view? For example, we will consider how our point of view may be shaped by our culture's ideas about nature, romantic love, religion, justice, and success as we find commonalities and differences between Eastern and Western ways of understanding the world.

Similarly, we will look at how narrative structure shapes the meaning of a story. Many of the texts focus on redemption and the triumph of the human spirit. Other works show the corruption or collapse of humanity, as characters remain unchanged and unable to transcend basic human instincts. How does narrative structure suit the author's perspective on human nature and/or society?

Literary Works:

Life of Pi by Yann Martel
The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini
The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri
The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
Reading Lolita in Tehran by Azar Nafisi
The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne
Siddhartha by Herman Hesse
The Crucible by Arthur Miller
Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe
Snow Flower and the Secret Fan by Lisa See
Chronicle of a Death Foretold by Gabriel Garcia Marquez
Macbeth by William Shakespeare
A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams
Catfish and Mandala by Andrew X. Pham

Film:

To Live by Zhang Yimou

Course of Study:

- All literature classes will read a variety of genres through novels, non-fiction works, plays, short stories, and poetry. Vocabulary study will come out of assigned texts.
- Writing assignments will take on the form of in-class responses, journals, and formal essays that include a research project. Special emphasis will be placed on analysis of literature. Clarity, coherence, voice, and mechanics are emphasized and reinforced. All essays will adhere to the MLA format.
- Creative projects will include poetry, memoir, script writing, art projects, presentations, skits, and other visual presentations related to a unit of study.
- Tests and quizzes are mainly short answer and essays, with an emphasis on the CAPT-related questions and SAT essay formats. Quizzes are worth half a test grade.

Assessment:

- **Writing Assignments: 20-30%**
- **Research Project: 10-20%**
- **Tests/Quizzes: 20-40%**
- **Class Participation/Presentations: 10-20%**
- **Homework: 10-20%**

In order to receive Honors credit for the course, a student must:

- Present mini-lessons to the class for each unit of study.
- Read beyond the basic required text assigned. Additional reading will mirror or elaborate on the class assigned text.
- Present more extensive, more in-depth, and more highly refined products for essays and presentations.
- Complete additional assignments.

Please Note: Sincerity, earnestness, and respect for becoming a life-long learner are qualities that are nurtured in our magnet school. There is no percentage that can be attached to these qualities, but they will influence your assessment throughout the school year, and more importantly, the value of these qualities will serve you throughout your life.