



# English 2 Syllabus 2014-2015

The Masters Program <http://www.themastersprogram.net/>

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## **Course Description: World Literature - Latin America, Asia, Africa, Russia**

In the tenth grade, students will study literature from around the world. Each unit will allow for a close study of literary works, as well as consideration of historical and cultural context. Each unit will focus on geographical regions, themes and literary forms that pertain to them. You will be learning how local concerns and universal questions come together. For example, in the Russian literature unit, you will examine how Russian literature is both timeless and affected by historical events. You will be considering religious, generational and cultural conflicts, as well as the effects of modernization, political struggle, and other themes common to many literary works. Many of the works in the unit feature magical realism. Not all literary works make explicit political or cultural statements. You will investigate the historical background for selected works, as well as author biographies.

Some Common Objectives:

- Explore the role of magical and the fantastic in Latin American literature
- Analyze the role of time in literature
- Explore changing social structures
- Consider the challenges of translation and compare
- Explore the role of universal themes
- Analyze the motives, qualities, and contradictions of a character

**Required Materials/Principal Texts:** Over the semester, the following texts will be used.

*Things Fall Apart, My Life in the Bush of Ghosts, Notes from the Underground, Diary of Anne Frank, Maus, Persepolis, Eastern European Literature (Kafka, Gogol and others).*

Bring a notebook with you every day.

You will be mastering the following:

- 1) Reading short stories, novels, plays, scholastic articles and poetry
- 2) Writing 5 paragraph essays (at least two per semester)
- 3) Learning/reviewing grammar and vocabulary words
- 4) Reading books independently - of your choosing
- 5) Journaling about concepts and ideas learned in class
- 6) Learning to be critical thinkers who question, evaluate, analyze, and synthesize information through Socratic Seminars and Paideia

## **Learning Objectives, by Unit:**

Unit Objectives

### **Unit 1: Writing/Reading/Memoirs. *Maus*.**

For the first unit we will be working on a variety of writing strategies and find ways to perfect the writing process. We will strengthen our writing skills by taking notes, writing informal outlines, researching, using informal, literary or technical language appropriate for the audience. We will organize our ideas in writing with a thesis statement, introduction, paragraph construction, conclusion, transition sentences that connect paragraphs into a coherent whole. Beginning with quick writes, extended writing responses and longer writing assignments and essays, we will create the following:

- Create narrative texts (biography, autobiography, history, personal anecdotes and short stories) that will: Engage the reader by establishing context and point of view, establish plot and setting, develop characters and use sensory details.
- Practice the creation of imaginative and expressive texts (poetry, drama, screenplays, monologues and song lyrics) that will: develop characters and plot and creatively employ figurative language.
- Create expository essays that will: clearly state the thesis or purpose, follow an organizational pattern, make use of factual descriptions, concrete images, direct and indirect quotes, etc.
- Revise documents to develop or support ideas more clearly.
- Edit work for grammar, style and tone
- Cite sources properly using the MLA Handbook
- Prepare written and visual materials using a variety of software programs (*Word, Excel, Powerpoint, iMovie, etc*)

### **Unit 2: Latin and Central America**

**Stories by Gabriel Garcia Marquez and other Latin American authors.**

**Essential Question: How does magical realism reveal new perspectives of reality?**

You will be considering religious, generational and cultural conflicts, as well as the effects of modernization, political struggle, and other themes common to many literary works. Many works in this unit feature magical realism, and may be compared to Russian literature (Unit 5). You will come to understand that not all literary works make explicit political or cultural statements and these works need to be approached on their own terms. You will be investigating the historical background for selected works, as well as author biographies.

- Focus on Culture and Character, both in the story and in our quest for human survival
- Explore the role of the magical and the fantastic.
- Analyze the role of time in Latin American narrative.
- Explore the role of local and universal themes in Latin American literature.

### **Unit 3 - Asia-**

***Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi, works by Rumi, various works of Persian Literature**

**Essential Question: How does Asian literature both honor and challenge cultural traditions?**

We will be reading a variety of works to understand how ancient philosophies, universal themes, Western influence, and the historical can change our perceptions of literature.

- Explore ancient and modern works of literature from Asian countries
- Consider how Asian literature both draws on and questions cultural traditions
- Consider how certain Asian authors integrate Western literary influences into their cultural contexts.
- Compare two or more translations of a single poem

### **Unit 4 – Africa and the Middle East**

***Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe and *My Life in the Bush of Ghosts* by Amos Tutuola**

**Essential Question: How does the literature in this unit offer insight into African and Middle Eastern cultural conflicts?**

You will examine the beauty and craftsmanship of the works chosen, as well as the effects of the African and Middle Eastern colonial experience--and the challenges of the postcolonial era. You will consider religious, generational, and cultural conflicts, effects of modernization, political struggle, and other themes common to many literary works.

- Use critical thinking and abstract reasoning to evaluate experiences
- Distinguish fact from fiction
- Through analysis of literary works, explore the changing social structures of Middle Eastern and African societies.
- Consider the challenge of translation, including the different connotations that various cultures attach to given words.
- Analyze deductive and inductive arguments to produce an informed opinion
- Recognize fallacies used in an argument
- Read technical texts, perform specific tasks, answer questions, solve problems
- Learn and identify informational texts, web resources, interactive media, etc

### **Unit 5 – Russia –**

***Notes from the Underground* by Fyodor Dostoevsky and other Russian, Eastern European authors.**

**Essential Question: How is Russian literature both timeless and affected by historical events?**

You will be reading a variety of short works by Pushkin, Kafka, Gogol and Chekov as a way to introduce shared themes and literary devices in Russian literature. :

- Read works of Russian literature for their intrinsic qualities and their relationship to historical context.
- Analyze the motives, qualities, and contradictions of a character in Russian literature
- Analyze the role of utopian ideology in selected works of Russian literature.
- Analyze characterization, plot, genre
- Analyze specific elements of traditional poetic forms
- Analyze examples of acting conventions (monologue, soliloquy, etc)
- Analyze how theme in literature is related to historical and social/cultural issues.

**Grading Policy:** Grades will be based upon:

- 1) Essays and quizzes. There will not be high-value exams.
- 2) Individual unit projects, writing assignments, group projects, etc
- 3) Class participation and effort – effort on work throughout the semester could increase your grade if you are close to the next letter grade.
- 4) Assignments will be weighted according to their category.
- 5) Grading rubrics based on individual assignments.
- 6) Engagement will be measured.

## **TMP COURSE POLICIES**

1. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in a zero for that assignment. In addition, SFCC may place a student on academic probation for SFCC classes if the student violates the academic integrity policy (see SFCC Student Handbook).

2. Assignments are due at the **beginning** of class. Be sure to complete each assignment before the start of class and be ready to turn it in when you get to class.

3. If you are **absent** from a class, it is **your responsibility** to get caught up. Come meet with me so that I can help you with what was missed. You can always stay up to date with assignments and materials on my class website:

4. **Excused Absences:** When a student misses class because of illness or any other excused absence, **assignments that were due the day the student was absent are due the day the student returns**, not the next time that the class meets. **Tests** must be made up during free time on the day of return. If there is a protracted illness, the student or parent needs to contact each teacher to set a date for assignments to be due. If an absence is unexcused the work due the day of the absence will be counted late.

## **5. REVISION OF WORK.**

For TMP courses, students who turn assignments in on time are allowed to revise them based on the teacher feedback. Students are given until the next class meeting time to revise an assignment for that class and turn it in for a higher grade. We believe that there is more value in revision than in throwing away a paper that is not very good. Assignments that are turned in after the due date are not allowed to be revised. Students must be familiar with their SFCC instructor's expectations and requirements, because this opportunity to revise work may or may not be available in college classes.

6. **Tardiness** to class is disruptive to the learning process and **does not reflect excellence**. Any tardy to any TMP class of 10 minutes or more will be treated as an absence. Any three tardies to the same class of fewer than 10 minutes and regardless of excuse will result in a detention . Tardies will be tracked in each class.

7. **Netbooks/laptops** are not to be used in the classroom without instructor approval.

8. **Cellphone:** Cellphones need to be silenced and put away during the entire class period.

9. **Food and Drink: No meals in class;** certain snacks will be permitted. Sodas, energy drinks and other drinks with high sugar contents are discouraged.

10. I am always here to help. If you find yourself falling behind or are unsure about a topic, please come meet with me. **We only succeed if we work together.**

## **11. LATE WORK.**

In order to better prepare our graduates for the strict deadlines and realities of college, TMP has adopted a policy that TMP teachers will not accept any assignment after the due date and time for full credit. **If an assignment is turned in late but before 4 PM the following day (Fridays and weekend days each count as a day), the grade will be dropped by 10%. After that time, the grade is a zero and the assignment will not be accepted. Reminder – it is up to SFCC instructors to establish a late work policy for their respective classes**

**GRADING**

Grades will be posted on Schoolmaster. Please stay up to date with your Schoolmaster account as teachers do make mistakes!

**TMP GRADING SCALE.**

TMP grades on a 4.0 scale. This is the scale most colleges use.

A+ (97 –100) = 4.0    A (93-96) = 4.0    A- (90 – 92) = 3.7  
 B+ (87-89) = 3.3    B (83 –86) = 3.0    B- (80- 82) = 2.7  
 C+ (77 – 79) = 2.3    C (73-76) = 2.0    C- (70-72) = 1.7  
 D+ (67-69) = 1.3    D (65-66) = 1.0    F (below 65) = 0.0

Teachers will measure “engagement” in classes by observing student behaviors including, but not limited to:

- 1) Showing up on Time (in seat with needed materials ready to go)
- 2) Being prepared (has pen/pencil, needed materials, homework completed)
- 3) Being actively on Task (cell phone put away, staying in class, contacting teacher if absent)
- 4) Having an Appropriate Attitude (willingness to engage, supportive of others)

Engagement will be 15% of your grade

Assignments and relevant due dates will be posted on the TMP website:

<http://www.themastersprogram.net/>

Pacing Guide (subject to change)

Week 1	Introduction, Paideia, Identity, Reflection paper on Identity.
Week 2	Autobiography/Memoir/Writing from memory and photos
Week 3	<i>Maus</i> Narrative Essay introduction
Week 4	<i>Maus</i> Narrative Essay

Week 5	<i>Maus</i> Narrative Essay due
Week 6	Latin American Literature- Exploring the narrative forms/techniques
Week 7	Latin American Literature - Analyze the role of time in Latin American narrative
Week 8	Latin American Literature: Author studies and biographies
Week 9	Latin American Literature: Listen to and analyze Latin American poetry
Week 10	Latin American Literature: Exploring the role of local and universal themes
Week 11	Latin American Literature: The short story - A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings
Week 12	Latin American Literature: Creating a clear, original thesis statement
Week 13	Latin American Literature: Finding evidence to support your thesis statement
Week 14	Latin American Literature: Topic essay due
Week 15	Asian Literature: <i>Persepolis</i> - What is Asian Literature?
Week 16	Asian Literature: Explore ancient and modern works of Persian literature
Week 17	Asian Literature: Analyze how literature questions cultural traditions
Week 18	Asian Literature: How Asian authors integrate Western literary influences
Week 19	Asian Literature: Comparing translations of poems (LiBai, IChing, etc)
Week 20	Asian Literature: Close literary analysis of fiction, drama, etc considering language
Week 21	Asian Literature: How philosophy influences literature
Week 22	Asian Literature: Prepare for essay on themes of Asian Literature
Week 23	African Literature: <i>Things Fall Apart</i> - Intro to African literature and colonialism
Week 24	African Literature: Exploring changing social structures of African society
Week 25	African Literature: Short story analysis
Week 26	African Literature: Selected works and authors background and bibliographies
Week 27	African Literature: Selected works by Rumi and others
Week 28	African Literature: The Gods Must be Angry (film)
Week 28	Russian Literature: Notes from the Underground - Introduction to Russian lit.
Week 30	Russian Literature: Analyzing Russian literary characters (Gogol's The Nose)
Week 31	Russian Literature: Analyzing utopian ideology
Week 32	Russian Literature: Analyzing narrative structure, pacing and tone
Week 33	Russian Literature: Impact of Russian Revolution and Bolsheviks
Week 34	Russian Literature: Relation of literature to history
Week 35	Finals and wrap-up
Week 36	Finals and wrap-up