



Grade 7 ELA 2017-2018 – Course Outline

2017-08-01

Instructor	Ms Jennifer Parkinson
Time and Location	Room US 301
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Edmodo Code	

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to Ms Jennifer Parkinson's ELA class. I hope to inspire my students to become life-long learners and independent thinkers. I am very excited to be teaching the students and I am looking forward to seeing them grow throughout our themed units of inquiry.

Course Overview:

The students will advance their literacy skills, become familiar with the structure and critical analysis of non-fictional texts, and research, and gain the necessary skills to apply their understanding in proficient written form. Further, the students will read, analyse, and create fiction, and poetry, all aligned with Grade 7 ELA Common Core Standards. In addition, there will be an emphasis on English grammar and conventions in writing. The design of this course takes the individual reading levels of the students into account, and aims to accelerate the students' literacy skills and expose them to a large variety of engaging literature, and guide them to more effective, and evidence-based writing.

Thematic Units:

In Grade 7 ELA students will develop and attain Common Core Standard benchmarks through four thematic units.

1. Sensitivity in Memoirs
2. Compassion in Classics
3. From Utopia to Dystopia
4. Research Report and Publishing



Behavior and Homework Expectations:

Classroom behavior expectations will follow closely along with our school's mission statement.

Our mission is to provide a challenging academic program that develops the core character traits of vitality, courage, sensitivity, intelligence, and compassion in our students and the theme of our program is "Developing a Mindful Heart". We address this through our Expected School wide Learning Results (ESLRs).

QISS students demonstrate the ESLRs by being:

Passionate/Active human beings who:

- Demonstrate a positive attitude, enthusiasm and active participation.
- Set and pursue personal goals with vitality and persistence.
- Seek intellectual, physical and emotional balance to achieve personal well-being for themselves and others.

Courageous individuals who:

- Act on their principles with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness, justice and respect for others.
- Take risks to explore new possibilities and are willing to defend their beliefs.

Sensitive communicators who:

- Understand and express ideas and information in multiple languages.
- Understand and appreciate their own cultures and personal histories and are open minded about the perspectives, values and traditions of others.
- Work effectively and willingly in collaboration with others.
- Develop basic competency in Mandarin and an appreciation of Chinese culture.
- Express and appreciate beauty.

Intelligent life-long learners who:

- Apply thinking skills critically and creatively.
- Inquire and research effectively.
- Acquire deep knowledge and understanding across a range of disciplines.
- Reflect on their own learning and experience to assess and understand their strengths and limitations

Compassionate global citizens who:

- Show empathy toward the needs and feelings of others.
- Have a personal commitment to service.
- Take action to make a positive difference in the lives of others and to the environment.



All homework assignments will be shared in Edmodo. If a student loses a homework assignment, they can reprint the assignment by logging on to Edmodo. I expect that homework will be completed on time and will be original, clear, and comprehensible. Students are responsible for coming to class prepared each day. That means having a pen or pencil, a notebook for only this class, and a folder or binder for only this class. There will be days where students are asked to bring their laptops or use their mobile device if they have one.

Assessments and Grading:

The course will be taught over the entire year with students receiving grades each academic quarter. The grades will be reported using the A-F system with a percentage given out of 100%. Both formative (homework, papers, quizzes, daily participation) and summative (authentic projects, key assignments, exams) assessment tasks will be given that assess both content and skill mastery.

Formative Assessments: 70% (homework, participation, quiz)

Summative Assessments: 30% (exam, project, assignment)

I am excited about this year and very much look forward to teaching this course. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns throughout the year.

Thank you,

Jennifer Parkinson