

Boston Collegiate Charter School

World Literature Grade 12: 2010-2011

Teacher: Joelle Renstrom

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Office Hours: Wednesdays at lunch and Thursdays during advisory (and/or by appointment)

Office Hours Location: TBA

Classroom: 280

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Course Overview

In this course, students will perform close readings of literature from England, Ireland, Algeria, Eastern Europe, Russia, Nigeria, Iran, India, Asia, South America, and various other cultures and parts of the world. Students will read and analyze poetry, drama, fiction and non-fiction in six units. Students will increase their ability to read for meaning and to express their understanding in formal essays that require them to incorporate higher-level vocabulary, as well as the continued proper use of mechanics. Students will continue to build their vocabulary and analytical writing skills in preparation for college.

Critical thinking, reading and writing skills will be developed in assignments including group discussions, peer editing, projects, presentations, essays, creative writing, tests/quizzes and cultural and literary comparisons. Daily reading assignments should be expected, as well as homework that reflects your responses (personal, analytical, critical) to the assigned reading and/or answers to specific questions.

Student-led seminars and presentations will represent a significant portion of class participation for the course. In addition, a range of exams and quizzes will be administered, including essay tests, multiple choice quizzes, short answer paragraphs, and the identification and analysis of passages and outside readings. Longer essays will focus on close readings of the texts. Reflective pieces, creative projects and other coursework will be assigned throughout the year.

Students will be responsible for maintaining and organizing a class binder/notebook that will include notes, classwork, reading journals, Do Nows, etc. Work in the notebook will count toward students' classwork grades.

Policies and Procedures

Please refer to BCCS Student and Family Handbook for any additional policies not mentioned below.

Homework: Homework must be turned in to the HW folder **in advisory by 8:00 am**. Any homework that doesn't make it into the folder by the time it leaves for delivery is considered late. If you have an excused tardy and a pass, you can give me the homework at the beginning of class.

***Always turn in hard copies** of assignments. Only email them to me if you're absent.

** Typed assignments are always better than hand-written ones. Essays and other major writing assignments must be typed.

Late Submissions: The following late submission policy applies to **ALL CATEGORIES** of assignments:

Students present at school who have not turned in an assignment will have:

25% deducted from their score if the work is submitted the next school day

50% deducted from their score if the work is submitted within two school days

No Credit if work is submitted after 2 days

The teacher has the option to require that students complete any incomplete or late homework, but not for credit. This will usually be done if the homework is part of a larger assignment (e.g. an outline for the unit writing assignment) so that future grades do not suffer.

Major Assessments: Major writing assignments for each unit **must be typed**. Turn in **hard copies**. Computer and printing problems should be resolved by you ahead of time. If it's not in the HW folder by 8:00, it's late.

Late Submissions: Students present at school who have not turned in a major assessment will have:
25% deducted from their score if the work is submitted the next school day
50% deducted from their score if the work is submitted within two school days
No Credit if work is submitted after 2 days

Yahoo Site: Each student is required to become a member of the World Lit Yahoo website. All homework assignments will be available download on the site. The site provides an additional way of accessing assignments you may have misplaced or missed, as well as a forum for discussion with your classmates. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bccsworldlit/>
group email (goes to everyone): bccsworldlit@yahoogroups.com

Absences: If you are not in class please access check the Yahoo site for homework and/or have a fellow student collect handouts and relay to you the homework for that day. **Absent students are responsible for any homework not handed in the day they were absent.** Students should feel free to contact Ms. Renstrom with any questions regarding homework they may have missed. It is the student's responsibility to catch up with any missed assignments.

If students are absent on the day that an assessment (paper, seminar, test, project, etc) is due or administered, they must **inform me via e-mail before 5 pm on that day**. If the student fails to contact me, s/he will **lose 25% of the possible grade for each day the assignment is late**.

If the major assessment is administered during class, students are required to schedule a make-up time and date for the assessment by the end of the next day that they return to school **or they will receive a 0 for that assessment**. All assessments must be completed **within 3 school days** of the student's return unless extenuating circumstances/alternate arrangements are coordinated with the teacher and/or principal.

Extensions: If extenuating circumstances arise, you may ask for an extension on an assignment. Whether or not you actually get an extension depends on the situation. I will only give a one-day extension for smaller homework assignments; extensions for major assignments will depend on how much work you already have done and how proactive you are in your request. For an extension on major assignments, you must ask Ms. Renstrom **at least 3 days** before the assignment is due.

Ends of Quarters: No late work or make-up class assessments will be accepted after the end of a quarter. In the event that a student is absent on the last day of the quarter and there is an assignment due or an in-class assessment, **all assessments must be submitted and completed by 3 PM of the next school day**. There will be no work accepted past this deadline.

Rewrites: Major assessment/essay grades will stand (especially because you will have ample opportunities for rough drafts, workshops, extra help, etc). However, you can rewrite an essay or other major writing assignment for homework points and can earn up to half the points you lost on the paper. For example, if you got 30/50 on your essay, you could earn up to 10 HW points depending on the quality of your rewrite. Rewrites must be turned in **within 3 days** of receiving the initial grade for that assignment (a paper returned to you on Monday would have to be rewritten and handed in by Thursday).

Cheating: Passing off another person's work as your own is strictly prohibited and, as stated in the school handbook, "illegal." Any plagiarism and/or cheating on homework, papers, exams, etc. will result in an automatic grade of 0 for that assignment. **You are required to cite all work that is not your own in your papers.** If you are confused or don't know how or when to cite references, please ask me.

Office Hours/Extra Help: Just like in college, it is your responsibility to seek extra help if you need it. Please find me during my office hours or make an appointment to talk to me at another time. Also, please feel free to contact me via email, telephone, etc whenever the need arises.

Communication: This is the single most important aspect of any student-teacher relationship. If there's something going on that is affecting, or may affect, your schoolwork and/or attendance, let Ms. Renstrom know ASAP. Things happen unexpectedly, things go wrong, and life gets stressful and busy—teachers understand this, and are happy to work with you if something comes up. **But you must communicate with your teachers BEFORE assignments are due.** We can't help you if we don't know what's going on. This class (and all classes) functions best with clear and timely communication. Likewise, if you have any problems, questions, concerns, or suggestions, please let Ms. Renstrom know!

GRADES*

Class Work: 10%
In-class writings, exercises, and assignments

Participation: 15%
I will keep track of who speaks in class and will assign points every week. A maximum of 15 participation points can be earned each week (up 3 points per day depending on the quality of the contribution).

Homework: 15%
Reader responses, journals, Q&As, paper drafts and outlines, daily reading preparation

Major Assessments: 35%
Tests, essays, other major writing assignments

Presentations: 25%
Seminars, projects, presentations

*Please note that the distribution above will count for 80% of your final grade. There will also be a **mid-term exam** counting for 7% and **final exam** counting for 13% of your final grade.

Extra Credit: I will be handing out extra credit reading lists related to the units we're working on. Students can read one of these texts and write a reaction that articulates analytical, critical, and personal responses.

Units

Due to a variety of factors, specific dates are subject to change. Other readings, including short stories, poems, biographies, historical documents, and articles will also be assigned.

8/23 – 8/27 Introduction to class / summer reading

Unit 1: Europe (Britain, Algeria/France, Ireland) / absurdism

8/30 – 9/22 *Brave New World* – Aldous Huxley

9/23 – 10/15 *The Stranger* – Albert Camus

10/18 – 10/29 *Waiting for Godot* – Samuel Beckett

Unit 2: Asia

11/8 – 12/3 TBA

Unit 3: Middle East

12/13 – 1/14 *Persepolis* – Marjane Satrapi

* Winter break (12/23 - 1/3)

Midterm

1/17 – 1/24 Midterm review

MIDTERM Wed Jan 26

Unit 3: Africa

1/31 – 3/9 *Things Fall Apart* – Chinua Achebe

* February break (2/21 – 2/25) Senior trip - date TBA

Unit 4: South America

3/14 – 4/1 *Chronicle of a Death Foretold* – Gabriel Garcia Marquez

Unit 5: Putting everything together (time, place, structure, style, themes, real-world relevance)

4/4 – 5/6 *Maus* – Art Spiegelman

FINAL EXAM Monday May 16

Materials Needed

1. A well-organized binder/notebook for class notes, reading journals, handouts, vocab, Do Nows, etc
2. Homework, paper drafts, revisions, etc
3. Good questions about the readings, assignments, or anything else class-related
4. Text--always bring the book we're reading to class

Performance Standards

By the end of 12th grade, students will have further developed their ability to:

- Understand and use correctly standard grammatical conventions, including sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, parts of speech, and spelling
- Acquire and use an advanced vocabulary of English words in writing and speech
- Identify and discuss the main idea, characters, facts, and themes of works of literature, poetry, and plays, both read and heard
- Identify and analyze tone, imagery, mood, audience, and literary devices such as simile, alliteration, and metaphor in works of literature, poetry, and plays
- Write well-organized, well-developed, and appropriately chosen evidence and details in writing in various genres, including informational, persuasive, expressive, and analytical writing
- Use effectively standard English conventions in editing, revising, and proofreading their writing
- Speak effectively in a variety of settings, making oral presentations, arguments, and leading discussions
- Analyze how a work of literature reflects the period, ideas, culture, history, experience, and outlooks of a people living in a particular time and place
- Conduct close readings of texts using the terminology of literary criticism; and present interpretations based on specific evidence from the text
- Locate and analyze such elements in fiction as point of view, foreshadowing, and irony
- Apply knowledge of the concept that the theme or meaning of a selection a view or comment on life, and locate evidence in the text to support their understanding of an identified theme
- Identify how an author's use of words creates tone and mood, and analyze and evaluate how the choice of words advances the theme or purpose of the work
- Relate World Literature to its contemporary context or historical background
- Formulate original, open-ended research questions, gather information, analyze and evaluate the quality of the information obtained, and use it to answer their own questions