

**Highland High School**  
**Disclosure Document**  
**IB English AI HL – 2016-2017**

Mr. Sierer  
D-204  
801-484-4343x105  
ted.sierer@slcschools.org

- I. **Course Description:** English AI HL is a course designed to prepare students for success in higher education while also allowing them to develop a global perspective of learning. Students will develop international awareness and knowledge as they work toward developing an appreciation of other cultures, gaining empathy and respect for ideas other than their own in the process. Ultimately, the goal of this course is to create life-long learners who critically consider the international scene.

Texts are carefully chosen to challenge students' intellect and perspectives, while also providing an exposure to cultures and customs unfamiliar to them. These texts will involve in-depth discussion and analysis of such subjects as religion, culture, politics, and other potentially controversial topics as they are raised in authors' works. Students will be involved in exploring their own and authors' ideas and beliefs as they are revealed and examined in these pieces.

II. **Instructional Objectives:**

Students will develop an international appreciation of and perspective about literature. This course, focusing on literature analysis and writing, will engage students in careful reading and analysis of literary works from various genres, periods, countries, cultures and perspectives. The students will develop skills in the following areas:

- comparing and contrasting works of literature
- close reading
- commentary of literary works focusing on textual support
- public speaking and oral presentation skill

Analysis of works will include thoughtful discussion and careful attention to textual details and historical context.

Students will be assessed on their abilities and preparation in providing both written and oral commentary on selected texts, the ability to compare and contrast and to orally present information. As IB learners, students will produce both externally graded and internally graded assessments which will evaluate skills and knowledge gained in their course of study.

III. **Course Materials:**

As part of the two year course (just as in year one), the pieces of literature will be tied together in themes:

Part 3: Groups of Works—Theme: Narration

- A. Heart of Darkness (Joseph Conrad) (Novel)
- B. Things Fall Apart (Chinua Achebe) (Novel)
- C. The Great Gatsby (F. Scott Fitzgerald) (Novel)
- D. Roughing It (Mark Twain) (Novel)

Part 2: Detailed Study—Theme: Meditation on Surroundings

- A. Hamlet (William Shakespeare) (Drama)
- B. Elizabeth Bishop & Seamus Heaney (Poetry)
- C. Tale of Two Cities (Charles Dickens) (Fiction)

In addition to these pieces of literature, others may be used to supplement our studies. These may include:

Short Stories by George Orwell, William Faulkner, etc.

IV. **Format and Procedures & Course Requirements**

**Teacher Behaviors:**

The teacher will facilitate a variety of learning activities, including:

- a. Class discussions of literary selections; *these will involve such subjects as religion, culture, politics, and other potentially controversial topics as they are raised by authors in works of literature; students will be involved in exploring their own and authors' ideas and beliefs as revealed and examined in works of literature.*
- b. Written assignments—in and out of class; *these may also involve ideas in "a" above; the teacher will use these solely to promote thinking and not to evaluate a student's beliefs or seek to alter a student's ideas.*
- c. Tests and quizzes
- d. Direct instruction in vocabulary and historical and critical background related to literature
- e. Vocabulary study

- f. Library and internet research and preparation of documented essays
- g. Individual conferences
- h. Exercises in style analysis and sentence and paragraph refinement
- i. Cooperative learning opportunities

**Student Behaviors:**

- a. Complete all assignments
- b. Participate in class discussions and activities
- c. Participate in peer group activities
- d. Maintain both class and personal learning logs in response to assigned reading; *this writing will include personal exploration of ideas, attitudes, and/or beliefs*
- e. Read voraciously, critically, and thoughtfully texts assigned for the whole class and personally selected reading
- f. Maintain at least a B average each term
- g. Attend class regularly and on time
- h. Participate in good faith with a positive attitude that encourages the participation of all members of the class without judgment or prejudice
- i. Conform to the Highland High School Computer Acceptable Use Policy. Students will also be required to pay a computer fee for English Writing Lab.

V. **Grading Procedures:**

- a. Students will receive points for each assignment, quiz, test, etc. Important written assignments will be weighted accordingly, and students will be graded based on the quality of their work in relation to college level writing. Some assignments will be given full credit if done, or simply “graded” with a “check.” When all points are added at the end of each term, grades will be determined based on a student’s percentage of the total possible points. The grading scale will be as follows:

<b>95%-100%</b>	<b>= A</b>
<b>90%-94%</b>	<b>= A-</b>
<b>87%-89%</b>	<b>= B+</b>
<b>83%-86%</b>	<b>= B</b>
<b>80%-82%</b>	<b>= B-</b>
<b>77%-79%</b>	<b>= C+</b>
<b>73%-76%</b>	<b>= C</b>
<b>70%-72%</b>	<b>= C-</b>

*Grades below 70% will be determined in consultation between teacher and student (and parents, if necessary). A grade of Incomplete (I) may be an option, with a two week “window of opportunity” to complete missing work or to revise and rewrite assignments not meeting IB standard.*

- b. Active, good faith participation in class may be used as a basis for up to 20% of the total term grade.
- c. Full credit for making up assignments will be granted for **excused absences only**; these must be completed **within two class periods** following the absence. Otherwise, only partial credit will be given. **There are some in-class assignments which involve group participation and therefore cannot be made up.** Per SLC School District policy, work cannot be requested for make up any later than five school days after the student has returned from the absence. Missed assignments due to unexcused absences cannot be made up.
- d. Tests and exams (including timed essays) must be made up within one week of the original due date.
- e. Students missing an assignment because of absence or unable to hand in an assignment because of absence must be prepared to makeup or hand in the assignment on the day they return to school. If absences are known about in advance, all efforts should be made to have assignments in before the absence or delivered by a trustworthy person on the due date.
- f. Late work will be penalized.
- g. Extra Credit work **must be** authorized by the teacher and **may not be** substituted for major assignments.
- h. Any plagiarism in written assignments will result in an automatic “F” with no make up possible. Cheating (i.e. copying the work of another student) will result in both parties receiving an “F” on the assignment with no make up possible. Plagiarism/Cheating will also result in a “U” citizenship grade. Plagiarism will also result in a loss of all extra credit points, current and future.
- i. **Highland High School and Salt Lake School District policies regarding attendance and punctuality will be followed.**

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The success in our IB English AI HL course depends on all of us meeting our responsibilities. This requires a partnership including student, teacher, and parent. Please read and sign this performance contract, have one of your parents sign and return it to Mr. Sierer. Signing this document lets me know that you have read the Disclosure Document and agree to the items listed below.

As a **student** enrolled in IB English AI HL, I agree to:

1. Attend class punctually and regularly.
2. Approach material in class (and out of class) intellectually engaged and seeking better understanding.
2. Complete all reading assignments by the assigned due dates.
3. Complete all writing assignments by the assigned due dates.
4. Fully participate in class discussions as both an active listener and speaker.
5. Respect a variety of points of view in interpreting literature.
6. Strive to continually improve my skills by reading demanding literature and analyzing literature in both timed and out of class essays.
7. Ask for help, in a timely manner, when I need assistance on understanding assignments or successfully completing them.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Period

As a **parent** with a student in IB English AI HL, I agree to:

1. Recognize that my son/daughter has elected to take a college level course offered at our high school requiring more commitment than many other courses.
2. Support my son/daughter in completing course work on time.
3. Encourage my son/daughter to attend class punctually and regularly.
4. Recognize that much of the out of class work required in the course is challenging reading.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Email Address