Sturgis Charter School
The IB English Program

The school’s student body is diverse, but all students in grades 11 and 12 take the rigorous IB course of studies, a curriculum developed and monitored by IBO, the International Baccalaureate Organization. Begun in 1968 in Geneva, Switzerland, the organization’s original goals were to establish an internationally recognized high school diploma to facilitate mobility for students around the world who were preparing for college acceptance. These days schools like this one, and hundreds more like it, demonstrate the organization’s expanded vision of making high quality IB education available to all.

11-12 Grade English
Course Syllabus

(Language A1 Curriculum) Syllabus

Junior Year:
Free Choice
Beloved* by Toni Morrison
Slaughterhouse 5 by Kurt Vonnegut
Chronicle of a Death Foretold by Gabriel Garcia Márquez,
Narrative of the Life of Fredrick Douglass
Assessment: Individual Oral Presentation

World Literature
A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen
The House of Bernarda by Federico Garcia Lorca
Antigone by Sophocles
Assessment: World Lit Paper 1 and 2*

Senior Year:
Detailed Study
Hamlet* by William Shakespeare
Twelfth Night/Tempest by William Shakespeare
Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe
Three Poets: Emily Dickinson, Langston Hughes, Robert Frost*
Assessment: Oral Commentary

Group of Works
Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway
Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain
Lazarillo de Tormes
Flannery O’Connor Stories*
Assessment: Exam Paper 1 and 2
*Not included in the Standard Level Program

General Curriculum Guidelines:
• DEPTH rather than BREADTH
• Independent Literary Analysis
• Close, Personal Reading
• Passage Commentary
• Strong Written and Oral Communication Skills
• Works Chosen From Prescribed Book Lists
• Must Cover a Range of Genres, Time Periods, Authors, and “Places”
• Must Include a Certain Number of World Literature Texts (Texts Read in Translation)
• In Some Categories, Works Linked by Genre or “Aspect” Such as Culture, Theme, Technique, etc.

Assessment Details:

Individual Oral Presentation
• 10-15 Minute Presentation to Class
• Student Must Show Understanding and Interpretation of Text
• May be a Creative Work, a Discussion, a Commentary
• Counts 15% of IB Score
• Graded Internally by Teacher (Typically Fall, Junior Year)

World Literature Paper 1
• 1000-1500 Word Comparative Essay on Two World Lit Texts
• Written and Revised by Student Himself/Herself; Teacher may not Edit or Put Pen to Student’s Paper
• Assessed Based on Interpretation and Personal Response (Not Research-Based)
• Graded Externally
• Counts 20% of IB Score for Standard Level/ 10% for Higher Level
• Written Second Semester Junior Year; Submitted to IB in Spring of Senior Year. May be Revised
Innumerable Times

World Literature Paper 2 (HL Only)
• 1000-1500 Word Comparative Essay, Creative Work, or Detailed Study Based on a Remaining World Lit Text or a World Lit Text and Another Text from the Curriculum
• Typically Written Summer Between Junior and Senior Year or Fall Semester Senior Year
• Counts 10% of IB Score for Higher Level
• Graded Externally

Oral Commentary
• 10-15 Minute Commentary on a Randomly-Chosen Passage from One of Two Works Read
• Student has 20-Minute Preparation Period Followed by 15-Minute Commentary
• Commentary is Conducted One-on-One with Teacher and Tape Recorded for Moderation by IB
• Guiding Questions are Provided and Teacher asks Follow-up Questions to Allow Student to Clarify and Elaborate
• Counts 15% of IB score
• Will be Conducted in January of Senior Year
• Graded by Teacher with Random Tapes Sent to IB for moderation

Exam Paper 1 (Passage Commentary)
• Student Given Choice of Prose Passage and Poetry Passage (each 40 lines or less)Student Writes Commentary Analyzing Style, Technique, Tone, Voice, Characterization, and Other Literary Devices
• Much Emphasis Placed on Awareness and Understanding of Literary Features, Personal Response, and Textual Support
• Counts 25% of IB Score
• Graded Externally

Exam Paper 2 (Essay)
• Student Given Choice of Two Genre-Based Questions and Four General Questions to Answer About the Literature Read in Second Semester of Senior Year. (Student Chooses One Question to answer)
• Student Must Refer to at Least Two Works in the Essay
• Counts as 25% of IB score
• Graded Externally

For related information, see:

Section IIB. High School Classroom Work -
II.B8) Oral Commentary
II.B9) Mock IB Exam

& Section IIC. High School Writing -
II.C2) Academic Writing- Assignment and Student Work