



# PROVISO MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE ACADEMY

Pre-IB English II  
American Literature  
Ms. Mason  
Room 321  
[emason@pths209.org](mailto:emason@pths209.org)

## **IB Mission Statement:**

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programs of international education and rigorous assessment. These programs encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

## **IB Learners**

Inquirers, Knowledgeable, Thinkers, Communicators, Principled,  
Open-minded, Caring, Risk-takers, Balanced, Reflective

## **IB AIMS**

1. Introduce students to a range of texts from different periods, styles and genres
2. Develop in students the ability to engage in close, detailed analysis of individual texts and make relevant connections
3. Develop the students' powers of expression, both in oral and written communication
4. Encourage students to recognize the importance of the contexts in which texts are written and received
5. Encourage, through the study of texts, an appreciation of the different perspectives of people from other cultures, and how these perspectives construct meaning
6. Encourage students to appreciate the formal, stylistic and aesthetic qualities of texts
7. **Promote in students an enjoyment of, and lifelong interest in, language and literature.**
8. Develop in students an understanding of the techniques involved in literary criticism
9. **Develop the students' ability to form independent literary judgments and to support those ideas.**

The course is built on the assumption that literature is concerned with our conceptions, interpretations and experiences of American Literature. The study of literature can therefore be seen as an exploration of the way it represents the complex pursuits, anxieties, joys and fears to which human beings are exposed in the daily business of living. It enables an exploration of one of the more enduring fields of human creativity, and **provides opportunities for encouraging independent, original, critical and clear thinking**. It also promotes respect for the imagination and a perceptive approach to the understanding and interpretation of literary works. This course is designed to support future academic study by developing a high social, aesthetic and cultural literacy, as well as effective communication skills.

In Language A: Literature, the formal analysis of texts and wide coverage of a variety of literature, both in the language of the subject and in translated texts from other cultural domains, is combined with a **study of the way literary conventions shape responses to texts**.

Students completing this course will have developed a thorough knowledge of a range of texts. **They will also have developed skills of analysis and the ability to support an argument in clearly expressed writing, sometimes at significant length**. This course encourages students to appreciate the artistry of literature and to develop an ability to **reflect critically** on their reading. This course will enable them to succeed in a wide range of university classes, particularly in literature but also in subjects such as philosophy, law and language.

Formal critical analysis is seen as central in that it allows students to **assemble evidence to support an argument**. Students are also required to reflect on and assess the role of context in shaping meaning; the meaning of texts may alter according to the time and circumstances in which they are produced and received. **All texts may be understood according to their form, content, purpose and audience, and through the social, historical, cultural and workplace contexts that produce and value them**.

#### **Texts/Themes:**

- 1.) Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass- Frederick Douglass (Knowledge as the pass to freedom)
- 2.) Julius Caesar- William Shakespeare (Misuse of power)
- 3.) The Great Gatsby- F. Scott Fitzgerald (Myth of the American dream)
- 4.) Passing- Nella Larsen (Social Justice: Race in America)
- 5.) The Joy Luck Club- Amy Tan (Challenges of cultural translation)

#### **Classroom Guidelines:**

##### **Respect**

Respect yourself  
Respect others  
Respect this place

##### **Rules**

All classroom rules coincide with those of Proviso Math and Science Academy. Refusal to obey these rules will draw the appropriate consequences.

##### **Attendance**

A major part of your grade depends on attendance. Without being present in class, you will be unable to obtain and learn the material needed to receive a passing grade. Being present in class, along with completing the work successfully, will ensure an excellent grade in class.

## **Tardiness to Class**

Being on time to class is considered to be of the utmost importance and your punctuality is a sign of respect. Students should be in their seats, the table in front of them cleared, with necessary class materials ready, at the time class is scheduled to begin. **With one tardy a warning will be given and for every tardy after, students will receive a detention.**

## **Preparation**

You are considered prepared for class if you are in the classroom at the start of class with your assigned homework completed and completely in uniform. Additionally, you must bring your classroom materials daily, including your writing journal, texts, homework, and any other material needed for class. You may not leave the classroom to retrieve any of your materials from a locker.

## **Supply List**

Pens/pencils (Red, blue or black)  
Writing journal (composition notebook)  
Folder  
Yellow highlighter  
Dictionary  
Notebook

## **Cheating**

Cheating means “a deception for the profit of yourself.” Therefore, taking answers from others, whether the answers are offered or not, is cheating and will not be tolerated.

Plagiarism is defined as unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one’s own original work. At any time, plagiarized work will result in an automatic failure of the assignment and possible disciplinary actions taken by the school.

## **Instructional Philosophy:**

Students need to be engaged and actively involved in their own growth and learning. Building relationships and increasing motivation is a critical aspect of that process. Building on a student’s strengths is one way to do this. Helping students understand and celebrate their own ability creates an environment where the student feels valued and begins to feel a sense of ownership in their education. Celebrating each child’s diversity in terms of culture and ability allows students to value and feel good about their special gifts while developing an appreciation for and acceptance of differences in others.

## **Major Projects:**

Each unit will culminate in a final project or paper that demonstrates student understanding of concepts and content as well as progression towards mastery of included literacy skills.

## **Re-Engagement Guidelines:**

Struggling students are encouraged to make before after school appointments with me for additional instruction. They are also encouraged to take advantage of tutoring. Every effort will be made to get struggling students back on track.

## **Instructional Delivery:**

Students will be engaged in instruction through a combination of direct instruction and small cooperative learning groups. Students will have the opportunity to have guided practice and independent practice while working towards mastery of literacy skills.

**Methods of Assessments:**

Students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding and mastery of literacy skills through a variety of assessments including whole class and small group discussions (both formal and informal), journaling, writing assignments, and quizzes. **All final drafts of major written assignments are to be typed or word-processed and must adhere to the essay format (MLA) unless otherwise specified.** Each assignment, project, quiz, and paper will be counted by points. Your grade for each individual assignment, project or exam will be based on the percentage of points achieved out of the total possible. The grading scale is as follows:

Percentage	Grade	Percentage	Grade	PERCENTAGE	GRADE	PERCENTAGE	GRADE
100	A+	89	B+	78	C	0-69	F
99	A+	88	B	77	C-		
98	A+	87	B	76	C-		
97	A	86	B	75	D+		
96	A	85	B-	74	D+		
95	A-	84	B-	73	D		
94	A-	83	C+	72	D		
93	A-	82	C+	71	D-		
92	A-	81	C+	70	D-		
91	B+	80	C				
90	B+	79	C				

In addition, we will use a weighted grading scale for all assignments:

Skills Practice	20%
Formative Assessments	30%
Summative Assessments	40%
Participation	10%

Using PowerSchool, students and parents can view and monitor student attendance, grades, and academic performance. Each parent or guardian can register for PowerSchool online at <http://www.pths209.org/District/NF/Parents/ParentRegform.asp>. Parents will then be issued a username and password that will allow them to view their students' information.

**Make-up Policy:**

When students have an excused absence, it is their responsibility to find out what assignments they have missed from classmates or myself. Students are encouraged (when possible) to contact me via e-mail at [emason@pths209.org](mailto:emason@pths209.org) while they are out to begin work on what they are missing in class so they may turn it as soon as they return to class. The number of days with an excused absence will determine how many days they have to make-up the missed assignments. Late assignments while a student is in class or has an unexcused absence **WILL NOT** be accepted; long term assignments such as major projects will receive a 10% deduction everyday the assignment or project is late.

**Remind:**

All students AND parents are required to sign up for “REMIND.” You will be given one handout. Follow the instructions on the sheet to sign up for texts or emails from me. This system will be used for alerts and reminders:

- Assignment changes
- Questions/Ideas
- Instructions
- Notifications
- Book or material needs

Please note that using REMIND to communicate with me does NOT replace Emailing. Email will most likely receive a faster response.

**Contact Information:**

PMSA 708-338-4141

E-mail address: [emason@pths209.org](mailto:emason@pths209.org)