

# International Baccalaureate Program Core Course Descriptions

## Grade 11 (IB diploma sequence begins)

### IB English HL - Andrea Christensen

This is a year long, college preparatory course that will attempt to provide parallels to the content presented in the IB History classes as much as possible. First semester will focus on novels that touch on the issues of colonialism and slavery, and may include titles such as *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, by Zora Neale Hurston and *Things Fall Apart*, by Chinua Achebe. Second semester will focus on how the history of the Americas connects with Shakespeare's *Othello*, selections from American poets such as Langston Hughes and Emily Dickenson, and may include Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*.

### History of the Americas - Nelson Inz

In *History of the Americas* we will investigate the history of North and South America, from European conquest to the civil rights movements of the mid-Twentieth Century. We will learn how to 'create' history as a dynamic story of complex individuals and will regularly consider multiple perspectives and points of view. Students will analyze historical events and their political, social and cultural effects on society and will hone their critical thinking and analytical skills through daily readings and assignments, class discussions, essay writing, and group collaboration. Throughout the year we will experiment with how to formulate significant questions about the past; how to resolve conflicting interpretations; how to recognize values and the part they play in shaping historical understanding; and how to draw conclusions from imperfect evidence. Some of the topics we will study include colonization, slavery in the Americas, wars of independence and revolution, evolution of new governments, the Mexican Revolution, Canadian history, the Great Depression around the world, United States foreign policy in Latin America, and an array of civil rights movements. We will learn in many ways both independently and in groups including using role plays, debates, art, student-led lessons, discussions, essay writing, tests, note taking, films, guest speakers, and field trips, when possible.

### Environmental Systems and Society SL - Sheila Sullivan

This is a two-year SL course that is interdisciplinary between science and social studies. The first year of the course focuses primarily on the biological and cultural dynamics of environmental systems. The second year is focused primarily on the physical science and political aspects of environmental systems. This division is not strict, but reflects some general trends in the material.

### Mathematics – Michael Flood

**IB MATH STUDIES:** This Two year IB course utilizes the basic concepts and connections present in Algebra and Geometry and takes them a step further. In addition to reviewing some of the more interesting points of these two courses, Math Studies delves into Probability and Statistics, Trigonometry, and eventually the beginnings of Calculus. This course is not as intense as the SL course, but still allows for clarity of some difficult concepts.

**IB MASTH SL:** course DescDuring the first year of Mathematics SL, we will start with patterns, studying sequences and series. We then work on modeling real world situations with functions, looking at linear, quadratic, power, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions and the types of situations they model. We revisit matrix algebra and close out the year studying probability.

# International Baccalaureate Program Core Course Descriptions

## Grade 12 (second year of IB Diploma)

### IB English HL – Andrea Christensen

This is a writing-intensive course that focuses on literature analysis. The course will start with world literature and end with a drama genre study. World literature studied includes "The House of the Spirits," "A Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich," and "Houseboy." Drama studied includes, "Death of a Salesman," "The Iceman Cometh," "A Streetcar Named Desire," and "A Doll's House." Major assessments will include two prepared world literature papers and two timed essay exams on the genre study.

### IB Twentieth Century World History HL– Melanie Peterson-Nafziger

Twentieth Century World History is an engaging, challenging history course that involves the investigation of historical events as well as the development of historical inquiry skills such as the gathering, sorting and evaluation of historical evidence, recognizing and understanding historical processes and their relationships to human experience, and organizing and expressing historical ideas and information. Our major areas of focus in this world history course are the Arab-Israeli conflict from 1945-1979; the evolution of democratic states, and their challenges and responses; and the origins and development of authoritarian and single party states in the Twentieth Century. Our investigation of the Arab-Israeli conflict will include consideration of the role of outside powers in the conflict either as promoters of tension or mediators in attempts to lessen tensions in the region, the study of the political, economic and social issues behind the dispute and the specific causes and consequences of the military clashes, and the nature and extent of social and economic developments within the disputed territory of Palestine/Israel and their impact on the populations.

### Environmental Systems and Society SL – Sheila Sullivan

This is a two-year SL course that is interdisciplinary between science and social studies. The first year of the course focuses primarily on the biological and cultural dynamics of environmental systems. The second year is focused primarily on the physical science and political aspects of environmental systems. This division is not strict, but reflects some general trends in the material.

### Mathematics – Michael Flood

IB MATH STUDIES: This Two year IB course utilizes the basic concepts and connections present in Algebra and Geometry and takes them a step further. In addition to reviewing some of the more interesting points of these two courses, Math Studies delves into Probability and Statistics, Trigonometry, and eventually the beginnings of Calculus. This course is not as intense as the SL course, but still allows for clarity of some difficult concepts.

IB MATH SL – During the second year of Mathematics SL, we look deeper into statistics, study 2-D and 3-d vectors, and begin a study of calculus, learning about integration and derivation.