**Course Syllabus**

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| **Class Title:** | **8th Reading & Writing (Language & Literature)** |
| **Instructor:** | **A. Loredo** |
| **Email Address:** | **aloredo@cps.edu** |
| **Teacher Website:** | http://loredoclassroom.weebly.com |
| **Office Hours:** | M-F (7:30 – 8:00) & (3:15 – 4:00) |

**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 programmes of international education and rigorous assessment. These programmes 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 Learner Profile**

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| *Inquirers* | *Knowledgeable* | *Thinkers* |
| *Communicators* | *Principled* | *Open-Minded* |
| *Caring* | *Risk-Takers* | *Balanced* |
|  | *Reflective* |  |

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| **Course Summary** |
| This course will focus on the four modes of language communication: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Emphasis is placed on the following subcategories: the writing process, grammatical structure, literature appreciation, the development of reading strategies and spelling, study skills, research skills, and vocabulary development. In addition, students will be able to study, retain, and use information from a variety of sources. As students progress, a structuring study of literature will allow them to recognize universal themes and to compare styles and ideas across authors and eras. |

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| **Common Core Standards Addressed** |
| * Identify & Use multiple text types & purposes * Study purposes of production & distribution of Writing * Research to build & present Knowledge * Claim & support arguments * Introduce & distinguish the claims from alternate or opposing claims * Write informative & explanatory Texts * Use precise language & domain-specific vocabulary to inform or explain about a topic * Use a variety of narrative techniques to engage and support a reader * Use technology to research, produce & publish writing |

**Course Materials**

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| **Teacher will provide….** | **Student is responsible for….** |
| * Executive Functions folder * Composition book | * Periodically novels will need to be purchased. Dates & Titles will be given as needed. * thesaurus * dictionary |

**Grade Scale**

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| **A** | 100 - 90 | **B** | 89 - 80 | **C** | 79 - 70 | **D** | 69 - 60 | **F** | 59 and below |

**Grade Categories**

**Middle School:**

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| Classwork (Inclusive of participation | 20% |
| Homework | 10% |
| Formative Assessments (Quizzes, exit slips, etc) | 30% |
| Summative Exams/Projects/Tasks | 30% |
| Semester Exams: | 10% |

**General Classroom Procedures**

Rules & regulations as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct (SCC) will be strictly enforced for each student.

In addition, students in this class are expected to read understand the following policies:

**Homework**:

The objective of homework is to reinforce the classroom lessons while developing the underlying Reading & Writing concepts.

A proper Ogden heading will be used on all assignments. All work should be written on the front of the paper only, and of course it is expected that your work will be neat, legible, and has a smooth edge on it. I will not accept torn pages from a notebook.

Homework may be typed or handwritten; preference is not given to either. However emailed homework will not be accepted.

Homework will be graded on a 10-point scale. (*See attached Homework-Rubric*)

**A** = 10 **B** = 9 **C** =8 **D** = 7

**F** = 6 (NO Homework is submitted or not made-up)

**ASSIGNMENT POLICY:**

The lowest grade a student may get is a 60% on any homework. This applies to any missing or incomplete homework, projects or graded assignments.

**MAJOR ASSESSMENTS:**

## Projects / Reports –

Assignments weighed within this category will have more time for completion. Typically these assignments will be assigned a rubric clearly defining the requirements and grading criteria. After each novel is read a culminating project will be assigned.

## Notes –

Active note taking is meant to promote a student’s ownership of their learning. In addition to classroom notes, periodically handouts will be assigned to be both complete and secured appropriately within the notes. Notes are intended for review and as proof of student learning. Therefore notes will be collected each quarter (*See Rubric attached to Student’s notes*) and factored within this category. Notes may be used on quizzes and during that latter half of the quarterly exam.

## Journals –

Journaling is necessary to build and develop written free expression. Periodically topics will be given that students will freely write about on their own and in class. Please refer to the rubric located in the back of students’ journals.

**Independent Reading –**

Independent Reading is an essential part of a literacy program to foster life-long love of reading. Students will regularly choose developmentally-appropriate books to read daily in both class and at home to apply reading strategies. Books chosen for this assignment will typically be fiction and should be completed during a defined range of time. During this time a particular project and a rubric will be distributed to gage the students’ comprehension and interest in the material.

**Tests/Quizzes:**

## Tests will not simply measure the recall of information but are meant to assess the mastery of specific Reading Skills. These assessments will vary in form but will typically consist of a balance of Essay & Multiple Choice Questions.

Quizzes are weighed the same and worth the same value as tests. Quizzes will only be short answers or multiple-choice. Generally notes will be allowed for use on quizzes.

**Semester Final:**

At the conclusion of each semester there will be a cumulative exam. Notes may be used for the latter part of the exam.

**Classroom Participation / Attendance:**

## In addition to the grading standards, promptness & class participation are expected and required from every student. All students are should demonstrate consistent effort, and display a positive attitude. “Tardy for class” is defined as the bell ringing and the classroom being closed.

Please regularly check your student’s work and frequently ask them what is being covered in class. A strong link between school and home is essential to a successful school year.

**Computer Access and Usage**

Students who do not have access to a computer at home must make special arrangements for access to complete assignments. All essays and projects required for class **must be typed** unless otherwise noted. This allows for students and teachers to easily grade, edit, save, and access student work. Students will not always be given lab time to complete assignments during class**. It is the student’s responsibly to complete work and print out assignments BEFORE arriving to class.**

**Academic Honesty Policy**

The Ogden International School of Chicago’s Academic Policy supports the school’s mission statement to “focus on a curriculum that immerses an individual in a rich and safe environment, to obtain awareness of world cultures through language, studies, and interactive field experiences, to apply skills necessary for global citizenship and competency,”and to purposely align the Ogden policy with the IB policy on Academic Honesty.

For all students, the school and IBO expect and support student integrity in conducting research, preparing work and projects, test-taking, and collaborating with others. The school recognizes that in a knowledge-based century the value of knowledge is high, and the freedom to share knowledge is essential. Academic dishonesty devalues knowledge and creates an atmosphere in which undue restrictions must be placed on the sharing of knowledge.

***Academic honesty:*** *Behaving and working honestly in researching and presenting schoolwork. This includes respecting the ownership of the ideas and material of other people and behaving appropriately when sitting for class.*

***Plagiarism****: The representation of other’s thoughts or work as the student’s own in order to gain an unfair advantage. This includes using others work without citation or sourcing.*

***Collusion****: Allowing one’s work to be copied or submitted for assessment by another. There are times when students will collaborate with other students to complete their work. However, the final work must be independently produced, despite the fact it may be based on the same or similar data and/or research as another student.*

***Duplication****: Presentation of the same work for different assessment components or course requirements.*

***Cheating****: Gaining an unfair advantage, including but not limited to:*

* *Falsifying a record, data, etc.*
* *Using notes or a test*
* *Commissioning another person to do the work*
* *Using an electronic language translator to ‘launder’ language*
* *Submitting work which has been submitted by yourself or another student*

*for a previous or different assessment task or for a task at a different school*

* *Stealing papers, or downloading free papers from the internet*
* *Having a parent or tutor do assignments/assessments*

In addition to academic strengths, it is assumed that one's participation in IB is indicative of character traits which align with the IB Learner Profile. Specifically, IB students are required to be principled learners who act with honesty and integrity. Without exception, Ogden students are expected to adhere to a policy of strict academic honesty. Such a policy requires that students carefully scrutinize their own actions and behaviors for incidences of cheating/plagiarism.

The aforementioned actions and behaviors have the potential to severely compromise the academic integrity of the individual and The Ogden International School of Chicago as an institution. Under no circumstances will any such behaviors go without penalty. Minimum penalties include academic sanctions for the individual/s involved in accordance with the CPS Uniform Discipline Code. Major infractions will be handled by both the teacher and administration.

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| **STUDENT and PARENT DECLARATION**  I have read, understand, and agree to abide by The Ogden International School of Chicago’s Academic Honesty Policy. All Ogden students and their parents are required to review and sign the Academic Honesty Policy.  **Student Name**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Date**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **Student Signature**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Grade Level**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **Parent Signature**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

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