



Loyola

HIGH SCHOOL

Cycle One, Year One - Independent Studies

Course Outline 2018-2019

Number of Periods per Cycle: 3

Teachers: L. Forese, T. Powell, A. Redmond, S. Ryan, T. Shaughnessy,
E. Vani

Course Description:

The main goal of this course is to develop, in each student, the knowledge, abilities and skills needed to become life-long, independent learners. In year 1, the Independent Studies classes help to ease the transition from Elementary School to High School. The emphasis is on helping students develop both the work ethic and study habits that will serve them throughout their academic careers. Lessons, activities, and assignments have been designed to support learning in three key areas:

1. Helping students develop effective work and study habits including organization skills, time management, defining personal priorities and setting goals. Students will be given opportunities to practice all these skills while learning to work independently, as well as in groups.
2. Students will be introduced to the research process. Through a variety of activities and research assignments students will be taught how to use the Library and all its resource. Specifically, students will be given the opportunity to acquire the necessary expertise to effectively and efficiently use a variety of informational technologies both traditional (encyclopedias, magazines, books) as well as electronic (on-line research databases and other web-based resources, etc.).
3. Through the use of the Star Reading/Accelerated Reader automated programme students will be given the opportunity to develop and improve on reading skills, which are fundamental to their academic success.

Students will be given various opportunities to demonstrate their strengths in areas such as organization, time-management, goal setting, creativity, problem solving, appropriate communication and cooperation with others. They will also be evaluated on their ability to use modern technology and their effectiveness in finding and using information. Students are not only evaluated on the final outcome of their work but on the effectiveness of their work methods as well. Students are encouraged to work to their potential and go ***beyond what is minimally required*** of them in this course. The Independent Studies moderators act as resource teachers for the students as they undertake the specific individual or group learning tasks. Students are expected to take ownership of their work and apply all the skills they have acquired when completing their given projects, assignments and/or presentations.

Required Materials:

- ⇒ 1 Duotang, with pockets & lined paper
- ⇒ A fully stocked pencil case (pens, pencils, eraser, highlighter, ruler)
- ⇒ iPad

Course Evaluation:

Terms 1, 2, & 3: 100% term work – which will include:

- Student-centered activities, project-based learning, reflection papers, smaller assignments, activities and presentations.
- Organizational efforts will be assessed regularly (locker, binders, backpacks, general materials, maintenance of daily agenda, etc)
- Class participation.

Every 5 weeks, throughout the year:

- Students will be expected to complete independent reading activities and quizzes which are part of the Star Reading/Accelerated Reader programme.

All aforementioned activities will be evaluated on a Pass/Fail basis. A student must pass the majority of activities in a term to pass the term.

Summary Mark: Term 1: 20% / Term 2: 20% / Term3: 60%

Expectations for Students:

You must have your **SCHOOL AGENDA** with you for every class.

Always bring your **I.S. DUOTANG**, loose leaf paper, and a **fully equipped pencil case** with you.

You are expected to **USE YOUR CLASS TIME EFFECTIVELY**. Work should always reflect the time allotted for any given assignment. Works noticeably done at the last minute will receive “last-minute” grades.

Take **PRIDE** in your work (sloppy work will not be accepted). **ALWAYS** hand in your assignments **by the DUE DATE** to avoid penalty.

If you are **ABSENT** for a class, **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE** for obtaining class notes and assignments given on that day, and making **arrangements** to hand in any assignments **ON TIME**. Being absent **DOES NOT** absolve you from submitting an assignment on the due date (if you know you will be absent for whatever reason, it is **your responsibility** to get the assignment to the teacher before the due date).

Always **RESPECT** your teacher, yourself, your fellow classmates, and your environment (this means always being on time for class and respecting the learning environment of your peers).

Avoid **PLAGIARISM** (look in the student handbook for further information, p.33).

Always be **PREPARED** (failing to prepare is preparing to fail!!).

HAVE A WONDERFUL YEAR & GOOD LUCK!