

# Welcome to 11<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA

## 2021-2022 School Year

### **ISI VISION**

*To be the Islamic school of choice in North Texas weaving academic excellence with highest morals and ethics.*

### **MISSION**

*To provide our children an environment which will enable them to achieve their highest potential, founded on Islamic morals, scholastic excellence, and good citizenship.*

Al-salaamu alaykum,

My name is Dr. Lauren Sartor. I have been teaching for over a decade. I have my MFA from Sarah Lawrence and my PhD from Binghamton University. This is my second year at ISI, and I am excited to meet (face-to-face) all my students!

My ultimate goal as an ELA teacher is to instill a love of reading in my students. Reading has countless of benefits, including increased cognitive abilities (like critical thinking and problem solving) and a developed capacity for empathy.

More specifically, my objectives included preparing my students for important exams, encouraging them to think critically and in a nuanced manner, helping them understand and analyze structure and techniques in different literary genres, showing them how to make connections between text-and-text, text-and-self, and text-and-word, and, finally, getting them to a place where they are able to write and speak about these things in a persuasive and intellectual manner.

Below is some important information. Please take the time to read this and to ask me any questions.

Thank you,  
Dr. Sartor

Students will be getting a booklist on the first day of class. They will be required to get whatever book is being read by the beginning of the third term.

[I recommend finding as many books at Half-Price Books as possible. If you go on their website, you can find at what location the book is available. Amazon is also another great way to get cheap books. Please be aware, however, that these orders often take 2 weeks or longer.]

Students will also be given a textbook “The Language of Composition” to be returned at the end of the school year.

Students will also have access to AP Central.

In addition, students are asked to bring the following supplies to school before the start of school:

Dry erase markers; 1 package red pens (for peer editing and teacher grading); One 2” inch binder; 1 plastic pocket folder (basic color); 2 packs of loose leaf paper; 3 bottles hand sanitizer; 3 yellow spiral notebook; 3 bottles of disinfecting wipes Dictionary and Thesaurus 2 packages of black or blue pens Laptop-recommended\*

My homework policy is that students are expected to hand in work on time. The first day late (day, referring to when we have class as one day) will result in a 10% reduction of the grade. Each additional day adds an additional 5% reduction. Assignments will be given a zero and not accepted if submitted after two weeks from the assigned due date.

If students are absent on the day work is assigned, s/he is still required to adhere to the due date. If a student is absent when an assignment is due, no penalty will be given for one late day (assuming this absence is excused).

My grading policy is:

Homework: 15%

Classwork and Participation: 25%

Projects: 20%

Tests: 30%

Quizzes: 10%

**This class is divided by semester: in the first semester, we will focus almost entirely on academic writing. A student will have to write an argumentative research paper (12+ pages) by the end of the semester. All assignments will revolve writing this paper. I STRONGLY recommend a student picks a thesis s/he feels strongly about.**

**The second semester will be focused on creative literature. It is here we will read poetry, novels, short stories, memoirs. This is why books that you will see on the syllabus are not needed until then.**

**The basic of the structure of my class is as follows:**

**Most Days: Working from the core reading and additional materials to learn and revive concepts**

**Every Week: 10 Vocabulary words assigned to study / Vocabulary quiz**

**Every Other Week (more frequently later on): Studying for the AP Exam**

**Every Term: Approximately 2 papers and 2 quizzes.**

**Pop Quizzes: Pop quizzes on readings will be given when I suspect students are not keeping up with the reading**

**Extra Credit: Students have from the day I hand back an assignment until the next day we have class to make corrections for a higher grade. This does not refer to essays.**

**Bonus questions will be given in each quiz and exam.**

**Outside of this, there is no extra credit.**

**If you have any questions or concerns or if you would like to visit our classroom, schedule a conference, or volunteer to help out, you can contact me at [[Lauren.Sartor@islamicschoolofirving.org](mailto:Lauren.Sartor@islamicschoolofirving.org)]. Feel free to email me at your convenience; I most often respond within 1 working day.**

**Once again, welcome to ELA! Let's work together to make this the best year ever!**

**May Allah bless our time together,**

**Dr. Lauren Sartor**