Literature presents many perspectives on life, powerfully imagined and memorably expressed. One of the main benefits of literary study is exposure to a variety of ways of thinking about the world. This Literature course encourages students to relate their experience of literature to their experience of life generally and to learn that ways of reading texts and their readings of texts can enrich their understanding of identity, culture and society.

**Literature 2AB**

**Recommended background**

To be successful in this course, students should have obtained an A/B grade in Year 10 English, and have a demonstrated interest in Literature.

**Commitment**

Students in this course will be expected to complete 3-4 hours of study per week. This would include considerable reading, preparing for in-class work and assessments, and exam preparation. Students will have an exam in each semester.

**Course Content**

Students will explore how our response to literary texts results from relationships among writer, reader, text and context, engage in close textual analysis of literary texts and develop their understandings of the historical and cultural contexts of the writer, the text and the reader. They will also explore how language works in literary texts and how readers are positioned. This involves a study of the relationship between language and meaning which includes the development of point of view, tone, diction, imagery and figurative language.

Students identify and consider the understandings that they bring to their readings and which are present in the texts they examine. They consider how the pleasure and value of texts are not stable and universal attributes, but are generated by the process of reading within a particular context. They examine the changing notions of what is considered to be literature over time.

Students are required, at times, to respond creatively, to use their experience of literature and their own experience and values to create their own literature, their own stories, poems or plays; to learn to use language and conventions of genre; and to learn to consider the effects of context on how their own literary pieces might be read. These creative writing experiences will develop students’ understanding of the processes and strategies involved in producing literary texts and their understanding of what we mean by ‘literary’ or ‘literature’.

**Literature 3AB**

**Recommended background**

To be successful in this course, students should have obtained an overall C grade, or better, in Literature 2AB or Stage 2 English (although students who have only completed the English course may be at a disadvantage) and have a demonstrated interest in Literature.

**Commitment**

Students in this course will be expected to complete 3-4 hours of study per week. This would include considerable reading, preparing for in-class work and assessments, and exam preparation. Students will have an exam in each semester.

**Course Content**

Students will explore the different ways in which literary texts relate to the historical conditions, value systems and cultural life of particular societies. They explore the various contexts of particular texts and consider how literary texts sometimes challenge and at other times naturalise the ideas of the society in which they are produced, as well as influencing the judgements we make about these ideas. They consider the ways that a nation or culture comes to recognise itself through the literary texts that it produces.

Students consider how literary texts might challenge the ideology of some groups within society while supporting the views of others, and consider how literary texts might conform to, or challenge generic expectations.

Students are asked to produce competent analytical, discursive and reflective responses and to discuss other readings of texts as presented in critical reviews. They continue their analysis of the ways that writers use language and adopt or adapt generic conventions. They are also required to create their own literary pieces, that is, stories, poems or plays of their own as part of their continuing development of their understanding of what is literary and how works of literature are produced. Students are encouraged to experiment with language, to draft and edit and to adopt or adapt the conventions of genre to their purpose in the texts that they produce.