

## Rationales: General Framework

### Dune Part I, Directed by Denis Villeneuve (2021) (PG-13)

The Social Studies Department has carefully evaluated Dune Part I as a whole and deemed it worthy for the 10th grade AP World History curriculum.

(This statement reflects the policy that at least one other department member has read or viewed the text in question.)

#### **I. PLOT SUMMARY**

The story is set 20,000 years in the future in a neo-Feudal Galactic Empire whose worlds are governed by the Aristocratic elite. The central conflict is between two powerful houses: The Atreides and the Harkonnens. In a political gambit, Baron Vladimir Harkonnen strikes a deal with the Padishah Emperor Shaddam IV to cooperate in the elimination of House Atreides. As part of this plot, House Atreides is given control of the desert planet Arrakis, also known as Dune.

Arrakis is the home of the Fremen, an indigenous group of peoples who have been oppressed, enslaved, and harassed by the Imperium for centuries. They are a deeply religious warrior culture who are awaiting the coming of the Lisan al-Gaib, "The Voice from the Outer World." Arrakis is also the sole location in the galaxy where the Spice Melange can be found. The Spice extends life but also acts as a psychoactive chemical that allows certain people to have prescient visions of the future. Because of this, the Navigators of the Spacing Guild use the Spice to guide ships through the dangers of space. Without the Spice, interstellar travel would be impossible within the strictures of the Butlerian Jihad, making it the most valuable resource in the universe, which makes Arrakis the most important world in the known galaxy. Nearly all the powerbrokers in the galaxy have the same interest: the Spice must flow.

#### **II. RATIONALE AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

Watching the film will help reemphasize and recontextualize topics we have already covered in class. The film has themes of Imperialism, Colonialism, Neo-Colonialism, Environment, Religion, Power, and Orientalism. Students will analyze the film for elements of Orientalism in the construction of its narrative and imagery and connect them back to historical themes and events, particularly from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Hopefully, seeing these themes contextualized in a Science Fiction setting will help them better understand them in the realm of reality.

#### **III. STANDARDS**

##### Arizona State

HS.SP1.1	HS.SP2.2	HS.C4.2
HS.SP1.2	HS.SP4.2	HS.C4.4
HS.SP1.4	HS.C2.1	HS.C4.5
HS.SP2.1	HS.C3.4	HS.E1.1

HS.E2.1	HS.H2.1	HS.4.4
HS.E2.2	HS.H2.2	HS.G2.1
HS.E3.3	HS.H2.3	HS.G2.2
HS.H1.1	HS.H3.1	HS.G2.3
HS.H1.2	HS.H3.2	HS.G2.4
HS.H1.3	HS.H3.4	HS.G3.1
HS.H1.4	HS.H3.5	HS.G3.2
HS.H1.5	HS.H4.1	HS.G4.2
HS.H1.6	HS.H4.2	HS.G4.3
HS.H1.7	HS.H4.3	

**College Board**

1.E	4.L	7.G
2.C	4.M	8.E
2.E	4.N	8.F
2.F	5.E	8.H
2.I	5.F	8.I
3.B	5.G	9.B
3.C	7.A	9.E
3.D	7.C	9.F
		9.H

**IV. ADDRESSING SENSITIVE SUBJECTS**

*Dune Part I* is rated PG-13 for violence and some intense sequences, however, there is no sex nor gore. There are a few moments wherein blood is seen, but despite its violence, it is remarkably bloodless; most of the violence is shown in the red shimmer of shields. The most that could be said is that its sound design and soundtrack are often designed to induce a sense of dread; otherwise, there is no explicit material. Some of the themes could be construed to be critical of organized religion depending on one's interpretation.