

English



Philosophy Statement

The English Department is committed to a program of excellence. The department expects a student to read both classical and contemporary literature; to analyze written, oral, and visual material; to express ideas with confidence and logic both orally and in writing; to think critically and creatively; and to attain an appreciation for literature. The department values the free exchange of ideas and the goal of being a life-long reader and learner. All courses contribute to these expectations. Summer reading is a requirement.

English

Course Descriptions

- Courses that award Writing Credit are labeled **Writing Intensive**.

Advanced Placement English Language and Composition

Course No.: 2000

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 1.0 / Full Year

Fees:

Grades: 11

Other: Writing Intensive

Advanced Placement English Language and Composition meets the needs of students whose interests and abilities warrant an especially rigorous course of study. It encourages students to explore prominent themes of American Culture through the intensive analysis of texts of all genres and historic periods. Students compose formal written analyses of texts and compose persuasive essays in a variety of rhetorical modes. This course embodies an integrated, inquiry-based approach to reading, writing, speaking, and research, with critical thinking underpinning all of

these strands. Advanced Placement English Language and Composition incorporates intensive preparation for the AP English Language and Composition exam. Advanced Placement English Language and Composition fulfills the third year English requirement.

Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition

Course No.: 2006

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 1.0 / Full Year

Fees:

Grades: 12

Other: Writing Intensive

Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition students read literature gleaned from a wide variety of cultures throughout the ages; these works reflect such problematic issues as what it means to be human and how to understand the human condition. The writing component of the course challenges students to compose thought-provoking analyses of literature. In-class and out-of-class essays, extemporaneous in-class discussions, oral presentations, and field trips comprise class activities. This course incorporates intensive preparation for the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition exam.

American Literature

Course No.: 2010

Prerequisite: World Literature or World Literature Honors

Credit: 1.0 / Full Year

Fees:

Grades: 11

Other: Writing Intensive

American Literature encourages students to explore prominent themes of American culture through the analysis of texts of all genres and historic periods. This course embodies an integrated, inquiry-based approach to reading, writing, speaking, and research, with critical thinking underpinning all of these strands. American Literature fulfills the third year English requirement.

Argumentation and Debate

Course No.: 2017F, 2018S

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 0.5 / Semesters 1 and 2

Fees:

Grades: 10, 11, 12

Other:

Argumentation and Debate students learn to compose an effective argument by applying critical thinking skills to the processes of analyzing audience, establishing purpose, and developing clear logic. They also learn to support their argument with acceptable research and to deliver their argument orally in various debate formats.

The Bible as Literature

Course No.: 2021F, 2022S
Prerequisite: None
Credit: 0.5 / Semesters 1 and 2
Fees:
Grades: 11, 12
Other: Writing Intensive

The Bible as Literature explores the various genres of literature in the Bible (drama, narrative, epic, poetry, history, short story, novel, proverb, prophecy, epistle, biography) and studies the influence of this ancient literature on our society's art, literature, music, politics and entertainment. Students will read the literature, employ critical thinking skills to analyze and discuss it, work on projects, and write.

College Preparatory Writing

Course No.: 2023F, 2024S
Prerequisite: None
Credit: 0.5 / Semesters 1 and 2
Fees:
Grades: 11, 12
Other: Writing Intensive

College Preparatory Writing is a college preparatory course that provides students with writing practice in a variety of expository, persuasive and analytical modes. Pre-writing activities, the analysis of models, timed in-class writing, peer evaluation, and self evaluation are among the strategies students will explore as they develop increasing mastery of organization, development, style and mechanics.

Creative Writing

Course No.: 2025F, 2026S
Prerequisite: None
Credit: 0.5 / Semesters 1 and 2
Fees:
Grades: 11, 12
Other: Writing Intensive

Creative Writing is designed to help students become more effective writers. Students write papers in various genres such as creative nonfiction, short story, poetry, and drama. Most assignments require completing various steps in the writing process such as preparation of rough drafts, peer editing, and revision. These tasks develop the editorial skills of students, which in turn improve their ability to revise their own work. Writing takes place both in and out of class on a daily basis, including extemporaneous writing, such as journals, to instill in students the habit of writing frequently and thinking both creatively and critically. Students will read examples of good writing in various genres and will share their work with classmates. Workshop formats will be used in the class.

Critical Reading I

Course No.: 2028
Prerequisite: Placement
Credit: 1.0 / Full Year
Fees:
Grades: 9
Other:

Critical Reading I aids students who are functioning below their grade level in reading as measured on standardized tests. Instruction is provided in specific reading skills. The program provides group and individualized instruction in comprehension, vocabulary, and the areas of content reading. This course receives graduation credit, but does not count toward the English requirement.

Critical Reading II

Course No.: 2030
Prerequisite: Placement
Credit: 1.0 / Full Year
Fees:
Grades: 10
Other:

Critical Reading II continues to build the skills introduced in Critical Reading I. Students will be placed in this course if they fail to pass the exit test for Critical Reading I. This course receives graduation credit, but does not count toward the English requirement.

Critical Reading III

Course No.: 2032
Prerequisite: Placement
Credit: 1.0 / Full Year
Fees:
Grades: 11
Other:

Critical Reading III continues to build the skills introduced in Critical Reading II and prepares students for the PSAT/ACT tests taken each spring. Students will be placed in this course if they fail to pass the exit test for Critical Reading II. This course will receive graduation credit, but will not count toward the English requirement.

Discovering Modern Fiction

Course No.: 2041F, 2042S
Prerequisite: None
Credit: 0.5 / Semesters 1 and 2
Fees:
Grades: 11, 12
Other: Writing Intensive

Discovering Modern Fiction invites students to read modern novels and short stories. Students will read and analyze stories focusing on theme, image, symbol, structure, and personal and social perspective. Students should be readers willing to examine a wide range of ideas through class discussion, group projects, and analytical composition.

English Language Learner Class

Course No.: 2050

Prerequisite: Placement

Credit: 1.0 / Full Year

Fees:

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Other: ELL II, III, and IV are Writing Intensive.

Students may enroll in **ELL** upon being identified as a non-native speaker who cannot function in a regular English classroom because of limited English skills. Students are evaluated by the ELL staff and are placed in the appropriate level of ELL and/or support based upon the test scores, school performance, and the recommendation of parents, teachers, and counselors.

A student may take each level of ELL for two semesters for a grade, and may move to the next level or exit the program at the semester upon completion of the proficiency skills at each level and the recommendation of the teacher.

ELL I – This level of ELL is for identified non-native speakers who lack functional skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening to the English language.

ELL II – This level of ELL is for identified non-native speakers who have mastered basic, functional skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening to the English language.

ELL III – This level of ELL is for identified non-native speakers who have mastered concrete skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening to the English language.

ELL IV - This level of ELL is for non-native speakers who have the skills necessary to master abstract skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening to the English language.

English Language Learner Support

Course No.: 2052

Prerequisite: Placement

Credit: 1.0 / Full Year

Fees:

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Other: This course does NOT count toward the English requirement but may be repeated for grade and credit.

English Language Learner Support students develop basic reading, writing, and speaking skills. Students learn about American culture and society and share their experiences and backgrounds. Instructional methods are informal and adapted to individual needs. ELL Support assists students who can succeed in regular English classes as well as those in ELL Class.

English Language Learner United States History

See Social Studies listing for course description.

English Literature

Course No.: 2060

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 1.0 / Full Year

Fees:

Grades: 11, 12

Other: Writing Intensive

English Literature explores representative readings in the literature of the British Isles from the time of Beowulf to the present. Students examine works in their social, economic, and political contexts, tracing the development of genres over time, including myths, legends and the romance. This course embodies an integrated, inquiry-based approach to reading, writing, speaking, and research, with critical thinking underpinning all of these strands. Students may opt for enrolling in this year-long elective for a single semester; however, students are strongly encouraged to take this course for both semesters to gain the best appreciation of the content of the course.

Freshman Literature and Composition

Course No.: 2066

Prerequisite: Placement

Credit: 1.0 / Full Year

Fees:

Grades: 9

Other: Writing Intensive

Freshman Literature and Composition offers an integrated, inquiry-based approach to reading, writing, speaking, and research, with critical thinking underpinning all of these strands. Students enjoy analytical and persuasive writing experiences in a variety of modes. They also practice literary interpretation through a variety of critical lenses. Freshman Literature and Composition fulfills the first year English requirement. Some students are required to take Critical Reading I in addition to Freshman Literature and Composition.

Freshman Literature and Composition Honors

Course No.: 2068

Prerequisite: Placement

Credit: 1.0 / Full Year

Fees:

Grades: 9

Other: Writing Intensive

Freshman Literature and Composition Honors meets the needs of students whose interests and abilities warrant an especially rigorous course of study. It offers an integrated, inquiry-based approach to reading, writing, speaking, and research, with critical thinking underpinning all of these strands. Students enjoy analytical and persuasive writing experiences in a variety of modes. They also practice literary interpretation through a variety of critical lenses. Freshman Literature and Composition Honors fulfills the first year English requirement.

Journalistic Writing

Course No.: 2071F, 2072S
Prerequisite: None
Credit: 0.5 / Semesters 1 and 2
Fees:
Grades: 10, 11, 12
Other: Writing Intensive

Journalistic Writing teaches students the various forms of newspaper writing. Students learn to separate fact from opinion and human interest from hard news while keeping aware of current events. The course encourages a wide range of research techniques geared to specific audiences. Students will also be introduced to career opportunities in journalism.

Science Fiction

Course No.: 2075F, 2076S
Prerequisite: None
Credit: 0.5 / Semesters 1 and 2
Fees:
Grades: 11, 12
Other: Writing Intensive

Science Fiction studies humans and their world through science fiction literature in its broadest definition. Students will read and discuss elected novels and short stories. Emphasis is placed on science fiction as speculative literature. Critical and evaluative papers will be required as well as occasional oral reports. The materials used are viewed in light of today's ethical and moral dilemmas. Average reading and writing skills are presumed.

School Paper *Drops of Ink*

See School Publications listing for course description. This course counts as an elective credit, not an English credit, toward the graduation requirement.

Speech

Course No.: 2087F, 2088S
Prerequisite: None
Credit: 0.5 / Semesters 1 and 2
Fees:
Grades: 11, 12
Other:

Speech is designed to help students improve their speaking abilities in both formal and informal settings. Public speeches, oral interpretations, demonstrations, improvisations, and radio news broadcasts are among the activities that further students' expressiveness and command of spoken English.

World Literature

Course No.: 2094
Prerequisite: Freshman Literature or Freshman Literature Honors
Credit: 1.0 / Full Year
Fees:
Grades: 10
Other: Writing Intensive

World Literature encourages students to explore themes and questions that cross national boundaries through the analysis of texts from around the globe. This course continues an integrated, inquiry-based approach to reading, writing, speaking, and research, with critical thinking underpinning all of these strands. Students continue analytical and persuasive writing experiences in a variety of modes. They also practice literary interpretation through a variety of critical lenses. World Literature fulfills the second year English requirement.

World Literature Honors

Course No.: 2096
Prerequisite: Freshman Literature or Freshman Literature Honors
Credit: 1.0 / Full Year
Fees:
Grades: 10
Other: Writing Intensive

World Literature Honors meets the needs of students whose interests and abilities warrant an especially rigorous course of study. It encourages students to explore themes and questions that cross national boundaries through the analysis of texts from around the globe. It continues an integrated, inquiry-based approach to reading, writing, speaking, and research, with critical thinking underpinning all of these strands. Students continue analytical and persuasive writing experiences in a variety of modes. They also practice literary interpretation through a variety of critical lenses. World Literature Honors fulfills the second year English requirement.

School Yearbook *Nautilus*

See School Publications listing for course description. This course counts as an elective credit, not an English credit, toward the graduation requirement.

English Department

Course Sequences

