



~ENGLISH~

Summer reading is required in all English courses.

ENGLISH 9

Two Semesters Grade 9

This course introduces students to various genres of literature, writing skills, grammar and vocabulary. The course includes an extensive writing program in which students will learn basic writing skills, sentence construction, literary terms, paragraph development, thesis development, critical essay skills and peer editing. Students will begin their 4-year writing portfolios. The course also focuses on creative writing, personal responses to literature, skills in reading for depth, as well as research projects. Students will be required to attend cultural events outside the school.

HONORS ENGLISH 9

Two Semesters Grade 9

This course covers the material taught in English 9 in greater depth and detail and demands more precision from students. Additional reading is required. Placement in H English 9 is determined by the counselor following a review of scores on the High School Placement Test.

ENGLISH 10

Two Semesters Grade 10

This course continues at an advanced level of instruction in the full range of language skills: literature, composition, grammar and vocabulary. The literature component introduces the study of the novel and autobiography, and emphasizes the short story, poetry and drama. Students will become familiar with the literary terminology appropriate to these genres and will be introduced to literary analysis. Composition emphasizes clear presentation of ideas in the expository mode as well as imitation of the literary forms. Students will also practice and refine critical research paper skills. Students are expected to attend a related cultural event outside the classroom.

HONORS ENGLISH 10

Two Semesters Grade 10

PREREQUISITE: Grade of B+ or higher in English 9 and department approval.

This course aims to prepare students for Honors American Literature and AP English by developing their ability to analyze, synthesize, and criticize complex literary themes and to communicate them in various writing assignments. Examples of the literature read may include Jane Eyre, Woman Warrior, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Stones From the River, Grapes of Wrath, and Frankenstein. Students will be expected to demonstrate a high level of critical thinking through the writing of a research paper, literary essays, oral presentations, group projects, class discussions, etc. The reading and writing requirements are more strenuous than the College Prep English 10 and demand more precision from the students.

AMERICAN LITERATURE

Two Semesters Grade 11

This intensive reading and writing course focuses on the American literary experience, beginning with the theme of migration and the Puritans' hope of a New World through works from Hawthorne and Melville. It continues through the development of American thought as evidenced through the works of Whitman, Emerson, and Thoreau; then into the early 20th Century with Steinbeck, Fitzgerald, and Hemingway. Although this is American literature, the Junior year includes a Shakespeare play, usually Macbeth. The other play studied this year is Williams' A Streetcar Named Desire. Students are expected to read independently and participate in class discussions. Various modes of expository and creative writing are explored, with an emphasis on clarity of syntax in expression. Refined technique in critical essays is a fundamental part of this course as are oral presentations and the continued study of vocabulary. Students are expected to attend a related cultural event outside the classroom.

HONS AMERICAN LITERATURE

Two Semesters Grade 11

PREREQUISITE: Grade of B+ or higher in English 10 and department approval.

This course is designed for the outstanding student of English who enjoys an extremely rigorous challenge. While the area of study is similar to and includes all criteria of the American Literature course, students in the Honor's American Literature course also read the more complete works of Emerson and Thoreau, and add a unit of early 20th century American experience through the study of Thornton Wilder's Our Town, Sherwood Anderson's Winesburg Ohio, and Edgar Lee Masters' Spoon River Anthology. Students are expected to be self-motivated and self-disciplined; to read, analyze and take notes independently. In class, students will polish their skills in written and oral expression. Emphasis in written work will be on the critical essay,

especially developing a sound and thought-provoking thesis statement, and illustrating and explaining ideas thoroughly. The course is designed to prepare students for AP English by further developing their ability to analyze, synthesize, criticize and communicate.

ENGLISH & WORLD LITERATURE

Two Semesters Grade 12

This course covers a combination of thematic international literary selections of various genres and a corresponding writing process, both directed at presenting values, ideas and ideals similar to and different from our own. Consideration is also given to the literary quality of the works discussed. The course focuses on both similarities and differences between English and other European literature. Composition consists of formal thematic writing in response to the literature as well as personal exploration through writing.

AP ENGLISH

Two Semesters Grade 12

PREREQUISITE: min. B+ in English classes and department approval.

AP English provides an opportunity for highly motivated students with exceptional ability in English to fulfill requirements for their senior year while completing college-level work. The class emphasizes critical reading and analysis of literature, including: two summer reading selections, Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales, Hardy's Tess of the D'Urbervilles, Tolstoy's The Death of Ivan Illych, The Book of Job, Dostoyevsky's Crime and Punishment, Shakespeare's Hamlet, Kafka's The Metamorphosis, a multi-cultural selection by an American author, a poetry unit that includes ancient through contemporary poems, and a pre-approved free reading book of appropriate literary merit. Composition includes in-depth literary analysis, guided reading responses, critical theory projects, timed writings taken from past AP tests, and essay tests. Students are required to attend at least one cultural event during the school year.