

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

English 6: Year 6
Literature and Composition

This course is designed to transition students from reading comprehension at an elementary level to literary analysis at a junior high level. Throughout the year, students will be introduced to literary concepts such as characterization, theme, and foreshadowing. Guided by the theme “The Choice is Yours,” students will read four novels, short stories, poems, biographies, et cetera. Additionally, this course is designed to give students a solid foundation in grammar, compositional skills, and understanding vocabulary. Throughout the year, students will study sentence-based grammar along with vocabulary, and, in particular, will learn Greek and Latin etymological roots. Composition is taught within the framework of literature, giving students not only a solid foundation in the fundamentals of written discourse, but also challenging them to integrate the concepts of grammar and vocabulary into their writing.

English 7: Year 7
World Literature and Composition

This course is designed to continue to develop the written language skills of the first-year junior high student and to help students transition into writing at a secondary level. All year, students practice writing, proofreading, and editing skills, and they continue to acquire vocabulary in lessons grouped according to Greek and Latin roots. The first-semester emphasis is on sentence, paragraph, and essay structuring as well as punctuation and grammar, and the second semester focuses on advanced grammar, sentence combining, and multi-paragraph essays. Throughout the year, students will read and analyze texts through the lenses of perseverance, character, and hope as seen in Romans 5:3-5.

English 8: Year 8
American Literature and Composition

This course focuses on grammar, multi-paragraph essay writing, active reading comprehension, and the further development of study skills for the junior high student. Building on the advanced grammar and paragraph structuring from English 7, students further develop the technical and expository essay writing skills necessary for success in high school. Guided by the theme “Paving the Way Forward,” students examine each text and discuss what it means to grow up and mature. Class discussions, creative writing, and projects challenge young readers to develop both critical thinking skills and an appreciation for quality literature, short stories, poetry and non-fiction. Students also continue through the Greek and Latin-based vocabulary series begun in English 6 and 7.

English 9: * Year 9
Literature and Composition

In this course, students will be introduced to a variety of classic literature under the thematic framework of social revolution and spiritual redemption, with a particular emphasis on the recognition of literary devices and author's diction. Vocabulary will be developed in the context of reading, and writing will be taught and practiced through the use of formal and informal written analysis of literature, structured essays, and a research assignment.

English 9 Honors: * Year 9
Literature and Composition

This honors course provides an in-depth study of many of the same hallmark classic works of literature as its English 9 counterpart; however, the class also includes a few key modern titles. Both courses emphasize the thematic topics of social revolution and spiritual redemption through their selected texts. Students will spend extensive time on developing key critical analysis skills in discussion, reading, and writing in preparation for future honors and AP courses. **Prerequisite:** Completion of English 8 with an A- or higher.

* Course meets UC eligibility

All course offerings are subject to minimum enrollment levels.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT (CONT'D)

English 10: * **Year** **10**
World Literature and Composition

Myth, Madness, and Mayhem: A Primer on the Individual and Society. This course focuses on world literature and literary analysis. Students will be introduced to various literary perspectives from around the world through different historical eras including the Classical period, the Renaissance, Romanticism, World War I, and World War II. Writing skills are further developed through formal writing, timed essay writing, and journal writing. In addition, students review grammar as it applies to writing and proofreading, they develop skills for analyzing poetry, and they study vocabulary in preparation for the SAT.

English 10 Honors: * **Year** **10**
World Literature and Composition

This course is a study in world literature, and the curriculum is designed to give students a sampling of the styles of various countries and cultures throughout history in order to broaden students' perspectives on literature and worldviews. Guided by the theme, "Heroes and Beasts: Examining the Duality of Humanity," students will explore the connections between literary archetypes and the problems and privileges of the human condition. Students will learn about ancient Greece, the Renaissance, Romanticism, and World War I and II through novels, plays, short stories, poems, and non-fiction books and essays. Alongside these written works, students will also examine art, film, and music to make thematic connections to the literature. This course will focus on developing analytical writing skills through a number of timed essays, take-home essays, research projects, and revision tasks. The writing of reflective journals and personal narratives will also help students grow in their writing skills and prepare for future courses.

Prerequisites: Completion of English 9 with an A- or higher, or English 9 Honors with a B+ or higher.

English 11: * **Year** **11**
American Literature and Composition

This course is an introduction to the major American authors and to the principal literary movements in American history from the Puritan era to the present. Guided by the theme "Liminal Characters as Symbols of Transition in America," students will trace the changing values and mindset of American society throughout time and examine the effects of these developments. Through texts and media of fiction and non-fiction, students will examine a writer's rhetorical and linguistic choices as they evaluate the impact of these strategies in communicating the writer's central message. Class discussions, literary analysis essays, presentations, projects, and speeches are designed to engage students in understanding a writer's purpose, audience, and subject in conjunction with the literary and structural elements of the text.

AP English Language and Composition * ^ **Year** **11**

The AP English Language and Composition course aligns to an introductory college-level rhetoric and writing curriculum, which requires students to develop evidence-based analytic and argumentative essays that proceed through several stages or drafts. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Throughout the course, students develop a personal style by making appropriate grammatical choices. Additionally, students read and analyze the rhetorical elements and their effects in non-fiction texts, including graphic images as forms of text, from many disciplines and historical periods.

Prerequisites: Completion of English 10 with an A- or higher, or English 10 Honors with a B+ or higher, and AP Committee Approval.

* Course meets UC eligibility

^ Earns an extra grade point

All course offerings are subject to minimum enrollment levels.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT (CONT'D)

English 12: * **Year** **12**
British Literature and Composition

English 12 explores the possibility of “facing your giants” through thematically chosen nonfiction and fictional texts. The course integrates the personal experiences with the literary experience, making a nice dichotomy between investigating students’ individual perspective against the perspective of great literature. Students will investigate the personal voice with the personal narrative essay, op-eds, and a final research paper alongside studies of modern nonfiction. Additionally, students will use canonical British texts to explore essential questions of humanity. Students will engage in reading literary criticism, secondary-source essays, and historical documents to augment their understanding of the relationship between history and literature. The course will incorporate a variety of writing to express critical reading and thinking skills; it will also emphasize rhetorical style, structure, and techniques of writing to develop both a personal and critical voice.

AP English Literature and Composition * ^ **Year** **12**

Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition is a college-level course focusing on literary analysis, critical thinking, and expository writing. Style, structure, and techniques of writing are taught with the goal of developing a literary sensibility and academic voice. The power of literature to deepen and broaden the range of human experience and awareness is also explored as students work through various pieces of literature, including novels, short stories, and poetry, all with an eye toward critical analysis. Through close reading, students must analyze and write in a variety of modes, including visual media, for a variety of audiences, developing a sense of personal style and an ability to analyze and articulate how the resources of language operate in any given text. In concert with the College Board’s AP English course description, this course teaches “students to read primary and secondary sources carefully, to synthesize material from these texts in their own compositions, and to cite sources using conventions recommended by professional organizations such as the Modern Language Association.” Featured authors include (but are not limited to) William Faulkner, George Orwell, Fyodor Dostoevsky, Cormac McCarthy, Shakespeare, Albert Camus, Mary Shelley, Zora Neale Hurston, Joseph Conrad and others. The course follows the College Board recommended curriculum.

Prerequisites: Completion of English 11 with an A- or higher, or AP English Language and Composition with a B- or higher, and AP Committee approval.

* Course meets UC eligibility

^ Earns an extra grade point

All course offerings are subject to minimum enrollment levels.

ENGLISH ELECTIVES

Writing Exploration - JH

Semester

6-8

Students in this course will explore their writing potential by engaging in frequent writing. They will consider speaker, occasion, audience and tone as they write for different purposes including expressing themselves, informing readers, and persuading their audience. Students will review essential grammar and English conventions throughout the course.

Speaking with Confidence - JH

Semester

6-8

This course provides students with the opportunity to significantly improve their public speaking skills by practicing and delivering speeches and presentations. Students will learn to speak publicly in a convincing, confident, and concise style, and to identify and apply key skills for making effective presentations. The course will introduce interviews, storytelling, persuasive speaking, impromptu, and other types of speeches. The main components of this class will be critical thinking and speaking techniques.

Debate - JH

Semester

7-8

This course provides students with a foundation in debate by teaching the skills of research, critical thinking, and debate techniques. Students will learn to analyze topics, form logical arguments, and think critically. The course will introduce competition style events including policy debate and the Lincoln-Douglas debate. Students will build skills in arguing both sides of an issue as well as defending their argument with logic and quality research. This course is designed to be hands-on, with an emphasis on quick, analytical thinking, and convincing logical arguments.

Creative Writing

Semester

9-12

With an emphasis on short fiction and poetry, this course is an introduction to and a celebration of the elements of quality creative writing. This hands-on, workshop-style class is for students who appreciate the creative use of figurative language and also seek to enhance, expand, and improve both their expository and creative writing skills.

Public Speaking and Debate

Semester/Year

9-12

This course provides students with the opportunity to significantly improve their critical thinking, speaking, analytical and rhetorical skills by practicing and delivering various speeches, and presentations, and engaging in both informal and academic debate. Students will learn to speak publicly in a convincing, confident, and concise style, and identify and apply key skills of effective public speaking. They will master the skills required to track complex arguments, ask key questions, and refute claims. Students in the course may try out to compete on the TKA Debate team.

All course offerings are subject to minimum enrollment levels.