

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

The goals of the English department are two-fold: to ensure the development of students' critical reading, thinking, and writing skills and to foster a love of reading and writing. Whatever a student's career goals may be, competence in language serves a variety of purposes: accomplishing the business of everyday life, communicating ideas and perspectives, expanding thought, and challenging the imagination. The combination of the core thematic courses, the literature electives, and the skills electives allows for all students to immerse themselves in the four domains of the English language as well as to create a solid foundation for future learning.

All students must take full-year English courses in grades 9, 10, and 11. Seniors may elect either a full-year course or two semester courses. If seniors elect two semester courses, one literature course and one skills course must be taken that year. Seniors are expected to remain in their selected course for the duration of the semester. Changes will not be considered based on dissatisfaction with course materials, teacher, or amount of work assigned. In the case that a student takes English electives in their junior year, one elective may be applied towards the 4.0 credit English graduation requirement. Students will still have to take and pass at least one English Literature course during their senior year.

Reading Program

Students who need continued support in reading skills are required to take reading. This decision will be based on class performance, assessment results, and English grades.

10100 ENGLISH I

Honors

(1 credit)

This intensive course takes a thematic approach to the study of literature to prepare students for college success. Through the integration of literature and writing instruction students will explore their personal and cultural identity in the world. Students will develop independent skills while exploring relevant and dynamic universal themes through expository and analytical writing, research, and classical and contemporary literature. Students will also receive skill-based instruction preparing them for the PSAT, MCAS and other standardized testing. Students in this level should be reading and writing above grade level and must be prepared to accept more independent reading, more critical thinking and communication skill building, more in-depth writing assignments and any additional challenges assigned by the teacher.

Prerequisite: A 90% or better in Grade 8 English (Full year course)

10101/26112 ENGLISH I

College Prep

(1 credit)

This course takes a thematic approach to the study of literature to prepare students for college success. Through the integration of literature and writing instruction students will explore their personal and cultural identity in the world. Students will develop independent skills while exploring relevant and dynamic universal themes through expository and analytical writing, research, and classical and contemporary literature. Students will also receive skill-based instruction preparing them for the PSAT, MCAS and other standardized testing. (Full year course)

10162 TECHNIQUES OF READING I

Un-leveled

(.5 credit)

The objective of this course is to aid students whose reading ability is below grade level in making the transition to the level of reading tasks and study skills required in high school. Emphasis is on structural word analysis, vocabulary and comprehension development, and listening skills. Organization and reference skills are stressed. This course is required for incoming ninth graders who are reading below grade level. *This course does not fulfill English graduation requirements.* (Semester course)

10200 ENGLISH II

Honors

(1 credit)

This intensive course provides an integrated model of literacy using a variety of readings that explore what it means to be an active and productive citizen in the United States. Writing instruction includes personal, analytical, and expository essays with emphasis on persuasion. Students will receive direct instruction in the research process through completion of projects and papers. Students will also receive instruction to prepare them for the MCAS exam and the PSAT. Although the format of English II honors is the same as English II college prep, students at this level should be reading and writing above grade level and must be prepared to engage in more independent learning, more outside reading, the reading of more complex texts and more in-depth writing assignments.

Prerequisite: Maintain a 75% average or better in prior Honors level English course / or upon recommendation of teacher. (Full year course)

10201/26122 ENGLISH II

College Prep

(1 credit)

This course provides an integrated model of literacy using a variety of readings that explore what it means to be an active and productive citizen in the United States. Writing instruction includes personal, analytical, and expository essays with emphasis on persuasion. Students will receive direct instruction in the research process through completion of projects and papers. Students will also receive instruction to prepare them for the MCAS exam and the PSAT.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English I (Full year course)

10170 ENGLISH II ACCELERATED AMERICAN LITERATURE**Honors**

(1 credit)

This course focuses on preparing students for the coursework and the accompanying exam in both Advanced Placement Language and Advanced Placement Literature and Composition. English AP Exam in Literature and Composition.

Principal activities in reading and writing in the course are based on the recommendations of the College Board for Pre-AP English courses. Students will be exposed to the five integral skills of close reading, the writing process, analytical writing, sentence and paragraph structures, and collaborative communication. Emphasis will be placed on close reading of a variety of texts, evaluating and incorporating evidence, and attention to the use of language.

Prerequisite: A grade of at least 90% in English I or by recommendation of the teacher. (Full year course, open to grade 10)

10262 TECHNIQUES OF READING II

Un-leveled

(.5 credit)

This course presents a continued development of skills for students who need attention and direction in reading. There is further concentration on content area reading and the development of appropriate reading rates to help students cope with the material presented in subject areas. Students are exposed to a variety of reading materials, tasks, and evaluation approaches. Reading management skills are monitored and evaluated frequently. Students who need continued support in reading and are not enrolled in Strategies for Success (ELA) are required to take this course. *This course does not fulfill English graduation requirements.* (Semester course, open to grade 10)

10272 STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS: ELA

Un-leveled

(1 credit)

This course focuses on improving students' reading and writing skills while being exposed to a variety of reading materials, tasks, and evaluation approaches. Students practice analyzing and responding to open response questions and writing prompts similar to those on the MCAS Tests. Extensive work on topic development and the correct use of standard English conventions is required. All writing is assessed according to the MCAS rubric model. The focus is on both MCAS preparation and MCAS remediation with emphasis on test taking strategies and content specific weaknesses. This course is required for those students who are at risk for failing the MCAS English Test. This course does not meet the English requirement for graduation. (Full year course, meeting three times in a seven day cycle)

ENGLISH III**10359 AP Language and Composition**

Advanced Placement

(1 credit)

Students study advanced composition and analysis of language at a level equivalent to that of a full-year introductory college course. Focusing primarily on non-fiction texts such as memoirs, essays and speeches, students will develop critical reading, writing and thinking skills as they explore how language is used to inspire, to persuade, to argue and to tell stories. Students enrolled in the course are expected to take the Advanced Placement Language and Composition exam. Enrollment is limited. Summer work will be required. Prerequisite: Maintain a 90% or better in English 10 Honors or upon recommendation of teacher. It is also recommended that prospective students earn a qualifying score on the PSAT exam. In order to earn AP credit in this course, a student must take the AP exam.

10300 ENGLISH III

Honors

(1 credit)

This intensive course develops critical thinking skills through the thematic study of informational and literary texts of the English speaking world from classic to contemporary pieces. Increased outside reading is required. Language arts study continues through an emphasis on informational and imaginative writing. Students will write a personal statement for college applications and receive instruction on the research process through completion of projects, papers and presentations. Additionally, standardized test preparation will include vocabulary development, and a review of grammar and usage. Although the format of English III Honors is the same as English III College Prep, students at this level should be reading and writing above grade level and must be prepared to engage in more independent learning, extensive outside reading, accelerated vocabulary study, and more in-depth writing assignments.

Prerequisite: Maintain a 75% average or better in prior Honors level English course / or upon recommendation of teacher. (Full year course)

10301/26132 ENGLISH III

College Prep

(1 credit)

This course develops critical thinking skills through the thematic study of informational and literary texts of the English speaking world from classic to contemporary pieces. Increased outside reading is required. Language arts study continues through an emphasis on informational and imaginative writing. Students will write a personal statement for college applications and receive instruction on the research process through completion of projects, papers and presentations. Additionally, standardized test preparation will include vocabulary development, and a review of grammar and usage.

10372 ADVANCED LITERARY STRATEGIES I

Un-leveled

(.5 credit)

This course is for juniors who need continued support in their reading skills in order to complete their high school experience successfully. The course reviews analytical and critical comprehension, higher level study skills, and appropriate reference sources - the skills needed to complete the more complex reading tasks assigned at this level. Students who need continued support in reading are required to take this course. *This course does not fulfill English graduation requirements.* (Semester course, open to grade 11)

ENGLISH IV

10459 AP Literature and Composition

Advanced Placement

(1 credit)

This course focuses on preparing students for the English AP Exam in Literature and Composition. Principal activities in reading and writing in the course are based on the recommendations of the College Board for English AP courses. Students read, discuss, and study intensively a wide range of novels, short stories, poetry, and drama and write extensively on them in both timed in-class exercises and take-home papers. Students also complete two major independent studies. Study of painting, music, and other arts is incorporated for enrichment wherever appropriate. Students enrolled in the course are strongly encouraged to take the English AP Exam in May. Students must take English AP 11 junior year. Enrollment is limited. Summer work will be required for AP classes.

Prerequisite: Maintain an 80% average or better in AP Language and Composition or upon recommendation of teacher of AP Language and Composition. Students are expected to take the Advanced Placement Test. In order to earn AP credit in this course, a student must take the AP exam. (Full year course)

10400 ENGLISH IV: CONTEMPORARY HUMANITIES

Honors

(1 credit)

This year long, interdisciplinary honors course explores literature, art, music, and film. Students will analyze influential and diverse pieces of world literature such as Flaubert's classic novel Madame Bovary, and Hosseini's contemporary work, The Kite Runner. Students will journey into the world of art, music and film when students watch and analyze diverse forms of music including the rock operas, Evita and Phantom of the Opera or study the French Impressionist painters. This course focuses on several types of writing, including creative fiction, drama, poetry, movie reviews, and literary analyses. Vocabulary work is also done in conjunction with the literature studied.

Prerequisite: Maintain a 75% average or better in prior Honors level English course / or upon recommendation of teacher. (Full year course, open to grade 12)

10421/26142 ENGLISH IV: PREPARING FOR 21st CENTURY SKILLS AS A WORLD CITIZEN

College Prep

(1 credit)

This course will provide exposure to classic American and world literature, covering such classics as *Death of a Salesman*, a Shakespeare play not read in previous classes such as *Hamlet*, or *Othello*, current readings from newspapers and magazines such as the *The New Yorker*, and contemporary literature from world authors. Assignments in literature consist of reading novels, short stories, plays, and non-fiction selections. Writing tasks will focus on analytical essays, as well as development of the college entrance essay, and composing resumes for future employment. A review of grammar and vocabulary development will be a focus. A research paper and PowerPoint presentation are also required. (Full year course, open to grade 12)

10171 ENGLISH IV: DIVERGING VIEWPOINTS

College Prep

(1 credit)

This full year course exposes students to a range of fiction and nonfiction works that possesses a different viewpoint from the societal norm. From Sophocles's *Antigone* to Lahiri's *The Namesake*, students will examine how a contrasting voice can emerge from within a society. Instruction in writing concentrates on proficiency in researching, developing, organizing, and revising ideas. Formal essays, independent projects and a research paper are part of the required writing in

the course.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English III. (Full year course, open to grade 12)

10472 ADVANCED LITERARY STRATEGIES II Un-leveled (.5 credit)

This course is designed for students who need support with their reading skills to raise reading levels in preparation for employment and continued education. Emphasis is on skills that prepare students for the reading materials they will encounter after graduation. Critical thinking skills are emphasized as students analyze text and evaluate ideas. Students who need continued support in reading are required to take this course. This course does not fulfill English graduation requirements. (Semester course, open to grade 12)

LITERATURE ELECTIVES

10500(H) / 10501(CP) COMEDY AND HUMOR IN LITERATURE Honors/College Prep (.5 credit)

This course presents an extensive study of humor in life, literature, and other media from the middle ages to the current time. Students study various forms of humor including the humorous essay, comic drama, satire, parody, and comic relief. Special emphasis is given to the psychological aspects of humor and laughter. This course requires research, critical essays, and literature reviews. Accelerated assignments and differentiated grading are given to those students requesting honors credit.

Prerequisite: For Honors credit, maintain a 75% average or better at this level / or upon recommendation of teacher. (Semester course, open to grades 11 and 12)

10511 MYTHOLOGY College Prep (.5 credit)

This course is designed to be a transition to first-year college work. Using Greek and Roman mythology as a base, students examine comparative world mythology including Norse and Indian mythology. Students also study the pattern of the heroic myth through a comparative study of epic heroes in novels which incorporate myth and folklore such as Dracula and The Natural. Students are required to read difficult material independently and submit a research paper. (Semester course, open to grades 9 & 10)

10380/10381 TRUE LIFE: READING AND WRITING MEMOIR Honors/College Prep (.5credit)

This course is designed for students to explore and understand the genre of creative non-fiction as an outlet for self-study and self-reflection. By reading, analyzing, discussing and examining the non-fiction work of other writers for their style, structure, technique, and story-telling abilities, students will be able to apply and implement these skills to their own pieces of nonfiction writing. Not only will students write, share and discuss their own memoirs, they will read the memoirs of individuals to whom they can relate personally, culturally and professionally, as well as those from authors whose experience may differ in a significant and meaningful way.

Prerequisite: For Honors credit, maintain a 75% average or better at this level / or upon recommendation of teacher. (Semester course, open to grades 11 and 12)

10530 LITERATURE OF THE UTOPIAS Honors (.5 credit)

Utopian literature is the study of ideal and futuristic societies. Principal works studied in the course include Plato's *Republic*, More's *Utopia*, Bellamy's *Looking Backward*, Gilman's *Herland*, Huxley's *Brave New World*, and Orwell's *1984*. The primary focus of the course is on the distinct qualities of these utopian societies, the differences among these various societies, and the literary aspects of each work. Contemporary social and political issues are also addressed in class discussion and in weekly essays. Research skills are reviewed and reinforced in preparation for a required research paper.

Prerequisite: Maintain a 75% average or better at this level / or upon recommendation of teacher. (Semester course, open to grades 11, 12)

10561 CHILDREN'S LITERATURE College Prep (.5 credit)

Major emphasis is placed upon Mother Goose, picture books, and folk tales, although the course covers the worldwide scope of children's literature from preschool through adolescence. Students write, illustrate, and bind a children's book or do an analytical/critical project. Writing assignments, vocabulary study, research study, and book reviews are required. (Semester course, open to grades 11, 12)

10280/10281 STUDIES IN SHORT FICTION Honors / College Prep (.5 Credit)

This course explores the short story and novella as unique literary forms, with emphasis on structure and technique. Through discussion and writing, students will develop and demonstrate their ability to comprehend, interpret, analyze,

synthesize and evaluate literature. Students will explore the relationship between the literature and the historical and cultural contexts through the use of thematic units. Students will be exposed to the various schools of literary criticism by paired nonfiction articles and short stories.

Prerequisite: For Honors credit, maintain a 75% average or better at this level / or upon recommendation of teacher.
(Semester course, open to grades 11 and 12)

SKILLS ELECTIVES

10601 INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE WRITING College Prep (.5 credit)

This course challenges those who wish to express themselves imaginatively in description, narration, exposition, and persuasion. Individual interests and talents determine the writer's goals. Continued reading, as well as the keeping of a journal, is encouraged as the source of ideas for expression. This course does not fulfill English graduation requirements.
(Semester course, open to grades 9, 10)

10610 THE ART OF WRITING Honors (.5 credit)

This course focuses on various forms of description, narration, exposition, drama and poetry. Students write about several topics including personal experience, music, art, and both cultural and topical issues. Study of traditional and contemporary works of prose, poetry and drama, as well as the keeping of a personal journal provide additional inspiration and guidance for student writing. While stylistic independence is a main focus of the course, students will also collaborate with peers and explore publishing opportunities in both online and print publications.

Prerequisite: Maintain a 75% average or better at this level or upon recommendation of teacher. (Semester course, open to grades 11, 12)

10620(H) / 10621(CP) SEMANTICS Honors/College Prep (.5 credit)

The language we use and think we understand is a powerful force. Human beings talk. This gives us the unique ability to talk ourselves into trouble. Semantics is concerned with how to avoid doing so. The course examines the force of language in the shaping of human behavior and thought. Students explore the abuse of language in areas such as propaganda and sexism. This course is open to all students. Accelerated assignments and differentiated grading are given to those students requesting honors or college prep credit.

Prerequisite: For Honors credit, maintain a 75% average or better at this level / or upon recommendation of teacher.
(Semester course, open to grades 11, 12)

10630(H) / 10631(CP) THEORIES OF VIOLENCE IN AMERICAN CULTURE Honors/ College Prep (.5 credit)

What lies behind America's simultaneous disgust and obsession with violence? What social and psychological effects are generated by living in a culture of fear? Is our culture truly built and maintained by violence or the threat of violence? Who has the "right" to use violence? Is violence an integral part of the American character? These questions gain more importance every day and need to be understood on a personal, communal and global level. By analyzing the words and images of our culture, we will attempt to address these issues in an interdisciplinary format using a variety of lenses: ethical, historical, psychological, sociological, semiotic, linguistic, musical and economic. Topics will include: violence in movies, on TV and in music; racial violence, mob mentality and group violence; domestic abuse; gangs; police brutality and social control; the portrayal of violence in the news; American foreign policy; violence in literature; problem solving and violence; gender and violence; violence, children and schools; anti-violence and de-escalation. This is a writing intensive course. Accelerated assignments and differentiated grading are given to those students requesting honors or college prep credit.

Prerequisite: For Honors credit, maintain a 75% average or better at this level / or upon recommendation of teacher.
(Semester course, open to grade grades 11, 12)

10640(H) / 10641(CP) PUBLIC SPEAKING Honors/College Prep (.5 credit)

Students enrolling in Public Speaking should be willing to participate daily since practice is more important than lectures. This course makes students aware of themselves as speakers in relation to their audiences and helps them recognize how to communicate with such awareness. Public speaking experiences include speeches, nonverbal communication, group discussion, oral interpretations, impromptu speaking, and debate. This course is open to all students. Accelerated assignments and differentiated grading are given to those students requesting honors or college prep credit.

Prerequisite: For Honors credit, maintain a 75% average or better at this level / or upon recommendation of teacher.
(Semester course, open to grades 11, 12)

10650(H) / 10651(CP) FILM CRITICISM

Honors/ College Prep

(.5 credit)

This course is designed to cultivate writing and analytical skills, provide an understanding of production, directorial and narrative technique, and present a chronological survey of film. Students will analyze, discuss and write about a variety of film genres and styles from a number of time periods and cultures. While class periods are discussion based, this is a writing intensive course. Daily journals are mandatory. In addition to a research project, a number of thematic analysis papers are required. Accelerated assignments and differentiated grading are given to those students requesting honors credit.

Prerequisite: For Honors credit, maintain a 75% average or better at this level / or upon recommendation of teacher.
(Semester course, open to grades 11, 12)

10661 JOURNALISM

College Prep

(.5 credit)

This course has three main goals: to improve students' writing, to enhance their ability to analyze and interpret the products of the news media, and to introduce them to some of the central issues facing society and today's rapidly evolving news media. Students learn to write "straight news" stories, features, and editorials. Individual errors in grammar, usage, and style are corrected; class time is devoted to developing editing techniques in order to eliminate errors. Vocabulary study is required. (Semester course, open to grades 10, 11, 12)