

English

The English department places a strong value on both literature and writing. Courses in the English curriculum develop students' oral and written communication skills, preparing them to function effectively in the world. In addition, the study of great literature provides students with the opportunity to examine key life questions and to appreciate the value of story. A strong emphasis is placed on developing critical and analytical writing skills in all English classes.

Students must take a total of 8 semesters of English in order to graduate. Seniors are required to take two elective classes: one literature and one writing class.

<u>Grade 9</u>	<u>Grade 10</u>	<u>Grade 11</u>	<u>Grade 12</u>
Fr. English	So. English (World Lit/Speech & Writing)	Jr. English	AP Eng Lit / Comp (H)
Fr. English (H)	So. English (H)	Jr. English (H)	AP Eng Lang / Comp(H) Contemporary Literature Creative Writing Shakespeare Writing Workshop

FRESHMAN ENGLISH FRESHMAN ENGLISH (H)

Freshman English lays a foundation for literature study through units that include the short story, the novel, poetry and Shakespearean drama. Vocabulary study includes key words found in the literature, literary terms and root, prefix and suffix study. Writing instruction to develop communication skills is emphasized throughout the curriculum.

Prerequisite: (H) By placement. See **General Honors/AP Course Requirements on page 16.**

Grade Level: 9 required Semesters: 2

SOPHOMORE ENGLISH World Literature (1 semester) Speech and Writing (1 semester)

The course is divided into three components: literature, speech and writing. For one semester, students will study world literature. The alternate semester will focus on intensive training in written and oral communication.

Prerequisite: Freshman English
Grade Level: 10 required Semesters: 2

SOPHOMORE ENGLISH (H)

This course surveys world literature including an in-depth study of two novels and Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. The course develops students' critical thinking skills as well as their Christian worldview and strengthens vocabulary, research skills and oral communication abilities.

Prerequisite: B+ in Honors Freshman English or A in regular Freshman English and teacher recommendation. See **General Honors/AP Course Requirements on page 16.**

Grade Level: 10 Semesters: 2

JUNIOR ENGLISH JUNIOR ENGLISH (H)

Junior English focuses on American Literature with emphasis on communication skills. Students hone abilities in research, critical reading and thinking, and written and oral communication.

Prerequisite: Sophomore English (H) B+ in Honors Sophomore English or A in regular Sophomore English and teacher recommendation. See **General Honors/AP Course Requirements on page 16.**
Grade Level: 11 required Semesters: 2

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH:
LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION (H)**

In this advanced writing class, students write a range of essays, which will prepare them for the writing they will experience at the college level and prepare them to take the AP English: Language and Composition test. Students do extensive reading and written analysis to deepen their critical thinking skills. Essay assignments focus on description, narration, definition, analysis and persuasion. Further, students sharpen writing skills in such areas as organization and development and usage and mechanics. This class functions as a writing workshop where students interactively work as a community of writers. Student work culminates in a final portfolio.

Meets the writing requirement

Prerequisite: A- in Honors Jr. English or A+ in regular Jr. English and teacher recommendation. **See General Honors/AP Course Requirements on page 16.**

Grade Level: 12 Semesters: 1

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE

In this course students have an opportunity to investigate, think, read, enjoy and discuss using a conversational format in the classroom. Selected books will explore timely issues such as genetic engineering and the Muslim faith as well as timeless themes including human depravity, love and freedom. The course goal is for students to become prepared to select and evaluate books from well-acclaimed contemporary writers.

Meets literature requirement

Grade Level: 12 Semesters: 1

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH:
LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION (H)**

In this advanced literary analysis and writing course, students engage in careful reading and critical analysis of literature. Students deepen their understanding of the way writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers through considering a work's structure, style and themes as well as the author's use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism and tone. The course includes intensive study of representative works from various genres and periods, concentrating on works of recognized literary merit. Writing assignments, based upon the literature read, include a variety of responses ranging from reaction papers to focused analyses on aspects of language and structure to interpretation and argument. The course will prepare students for the writing assignments they will experience at the college level and prepare them to take the AP English: Literature and Composition test.

Meets the literature requirement

Prerequisite: A- in Honors Jr. English or A+ in regular Jr. English and teacher recommendation. **See General Honors/AP Course Requirements on page 16.**

Grade Level: 12 Semesters: 1

CREATIVE WRITING

Creative Writing explores elements of creativity through writing, discussion and hands-on activities. This interactive writing workshop encourages students to improve writing skills through creating poetry, short stories and creative nonfiction. Student work culminates in a final portfolio. Readings from several contemporary writers and discussions on the significance of art and creativity in the Bible are integrated into the course.

Meets writing requirement

Prerequisite: Jr. English (or by consent)

Grade Level: 12 Semesters: 1

English (continued)

SHAKESPEARE

Shakespeare is the foremost figure in Western Literature. Students learn and explore reasons why so many love his works while developing skills to enjoy his drama and poetry independent from the classroom setting. Students examine a comedy (*Twelfth Night*), a history (*Henry V*), a tragedy (*Hamlet*) and a comedy (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*) as well as the historical framework of each of these plays.

Meets literature requirement

Prerequisite: Jr. English

Grade Level: 12 **Semesters: 1**

WRITING WORKSHOP

This course prepares students for the variety of writing they will experience in college, such as personal narratives, persuasive essays, literary explication, analytical essays and critical reviews. Students sharpen both higher order writing skills (organization, development, emphasis, etc.) and lower order writing skill (usage and mechanics). The class functions in a writing workshop format in which students interactively work as a community of writers. In order to continue to sharpen speaking skills, students use one paper as a basis for an oral presentation. Student work culminates in a final portfolio.

Meets writing requirement

Prerequisite: Jr. English

Grade Level: 12 **Semesters: 1**