

Course of Studies Guide English Department

English 9 Honors (Integrated): English 9 Honors is an Language Arts/Social Studies course designed to foster the knowledge and literacy skills needed to (1) make sense of current political and social issues by studying global events of the past through historical and literary texts and (2) respond critically and analytically to world issues. The course curriculum is designed to integrate critical thinking and social reasoning by offering opportunities to speak, read, write, analyze, and evaluate events, stories, and time periods. Students will utilize these tools in both social studies and language arts to develop a greater understanding of both history and literature. Honors students are expected to have advanced reading and writing skills and to demonstrate a high level of interest in and commitment to their work in both disciplines.

Prerequisite: Prerequisites apply. See your Guidance Counselor.

English 9 CP: English 9 CP is linked thematically to the ninth grade social studies curriculum. Emphasis is placed on developing each student's ability to read critically, write effectively, and think independently. Literary selections representing a wide variety of genres are presented thematically, with evident links to the ninth grade social studies curriculum. Writing instruction focuses on both process and product in a variety of modes, including narrative writing, expository writing, creative writing, persuasive writing and research. Grammar and vocabulary are taught within a reading/writing context.

English 9: English 9 parallels English 9 CP in context, while emphasizing the acquisition of effective literacy skills and strategies. In this course, students will actively engage with literature through various modes of expression. Instruction focuses on reading with comprehension, writing well and often for a wide range of purposes, and vocabulary development. Other skills include note taking, the analysis of various literary genres and development of managerial skills in a multi-task classroom.

English 10 Honors: English 10 Honors emphasizes American literature, with emphasis on the multi-faceted American Dream. A variety of fiction and non-fiction works are studied within the context of the era in and about which they were written. A rigorous curriculum requires students to read intensively, write extensively, and think critically. Varied and complex writing assignments include persuasive essays, expository compositions, research papers, and literary essays. Honors students are expected to have advanced reading and writing skills and to demonstrate a high level of interest in and commitment to their work in English.

Prerequisite: Prerequisites apply. See your Guidance Counselor.

English 10 Honors (Interdisciplinary): English 10 Honors (Interdisciplinary) is linked to United States History I. The interdisciplinary curriculum provides a unique way to teach important concepts across disciplines, thematically and synergistically. Writing assignments include essays, literary analysis, research papers, and creative pieces that are designed to intertwine the literature and history of various eras. Honors students are expected to have advanced reading and writing skills and to demonstrate a high level of interest in and commitment to their work in both disciplines.

Prerequisite: Prerequisites apply. See your Guidance Counselor.

English 10 CP: English 10 CP focuses on American Literature, with evident connections to various historical eras. Emphasis will be placed on critical reading, effective writing, and vocabulary development. Writing experiences will be rich and varied, with continuing emphasis placed on both process and product. Writing assignments include literary analysis, expository compositions, persuasive essays, and a research paper. Students will be expected to demonstrate mastery of the literacy skills and strategies required by standardized and state mandated assessments

English 10: English 10 parallels English 10 CP in context, while continuing to emphasize the acquisition of effective literacy skills and strategies. In this course, students will actively engage with fiction and non-fiction pieces through various modes of expression. Writing experiences will be rich and varied, with continuing emphasis placed on both process and product. Writing assignments include journals, persuasive essays, speculative compositions, literary analysis, and creative pieces. A strong emphasis will be placed on performance assessment, vocabulary development, and practice leading to mastery of the skills required by standardized and state mandated assessments (NJ HSPA and SAT).

English Language and Composition Advanced Placement: English Language and Composition, Advanced Placement has two objectives: (1) to analyze what makes writing powerful and persuasive, and (2) to apply this knowledge to further develop the students' writing skills. In this course, students will read significant works from British literature as well as important pieces of non-fiction writing for the purpose of literary and rhetorical analysis and as models of powerful writing. Students will then use what they have learned about successful writing and apply it to their own writing. Important non-fiction works include documents and essays written by E.B. White, Maya Angelou, Mark Twain, Sandra Cisneros, Martin Luther King Jr., and Fredrick Douglass. Writing assignments include persuasive essays, reaction papers, proposals, debates, speeches, and personal narratives. Students are expected to take the English Language & Literature Advanced Placement Examination.

Prerequisite: Prerequisites apply. See your Guidance Counselor.

English 11 Honors: English 11 Honors focuses on major works of British literature studied within a historical context. There are more stringent requirements in writing, and emphasis is placed on sophisticated critical analysis and literary interpretation. Critical thinking skills and performance assessment are stressed. Expository essays, research, and creative writing assignments are literature-based. Honors students are expected to have advanced reading and writing skills and to demonstrate a high level of interest in and commitment to their work in English.
Prerequisite: Prerequisites apply. See your Guidance Counselor.

English 11 CP: English 11 CP takes a thematic approach to the study of literature, with an emphasis on British literature. Writing process and product continue to be stressed, with particular attention given to developing the students' understanding of appropriate form and structure. Students are provided with plentiful opportunities to compose critical essays, research projects, and personal responses to a variety of writing tasks and prompts. Vocabulary development and reading comprehension are stressed, as students practice and demonstrate mastery of the skills required to excel on standardized and state-mandated assessments (NJ HSPA and SAT).

English 11: English 11 parallels English 11 CP in context, while continuing to emphasize the development of reading and writing skills. Emphasis is placed on reading comprehension, vocabulary development and written expression, in preparation for the NJ HSPA. Students engage in a wide variety of activities that focus on developing all aspects of the Core Curriculum Content Standards for Language Arts Literacy. Through opportunities for literary analysis, creative writing, and performance, emphasis is placed on developing each student's capabilities as a critical reader, an effective speaker and writer, and a discerning listener and viewer.

English Language Lab: English Language Lab is a supplemental literacy class that focuses on developing the literacy skills and strategies required to succeed in the classroom and on state mandated and standardized assessments (NJ HSPA and SAT). Emphasis is placed on specific reading and writing objectives identified by the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards for Language Arts Literacy.

English Literature and Composition, Advanced Placement: English Literature and Composition, A.P. is a seminar-style course that emphasizes reading, analyzing, articulating, and writing about philosophies of man as revealed through the literature. It also explores the schools of literary criticism that enrich literature study. The course brings together writers and genres from diverse cultures, time periods, and literary traditions. Complex writing assignments include critical essays and literary response. Students are expected to take the English Literature and Composition Advanced Placement Examination.

Prerequisite: Prerequisites apply. See your Guidance Counselor.

Advanced Humanities (English 12H): Advanced Humanities serves as a celebration of the humanities, by bringing together many different disciplines in a final high school year of exploration and wonder. The curriculum asks (and provides experiences through which students explore the answers to) these essential questions: What are the most important works of literature, art, and music throughout the ages? Which of these great works has the most potential to positively affect an individual's lifelong love of learning? The objective of the class is for students to recognize, understand, and develop an appreciation for the world's greatest achievers; Michelangelo, Picasso, Vivaldi, Dickens, Degas, Morrison, Dostoevsky, and Weisel are among those whose works are studied. Throughout the year, students are provided with a wide variety of writing experiences and performance assessments. Honors students are expected to have advanced reading and writing skills and to demonstrate a high level of interest in and commitment to their work in English.

Prerequisite: Prerequisites apply. See your Guidance Counselor.

English 12 CP: English 12 CP emphasizes the language arts skills required to excel in a college setting. Students engage in critical reading, focused discussions, and a variety of writing experiences designed to further enhance their capabilities as compelling writers. Course readings include a variety of fiction and non-fiction selections that emphasize the human condition, both yesterday and today. Activities and assessment of student learning focus on critical thinking, analysis, problem solving, writing projects and performance assessment.

English 12 CP: Senior Topics I ("Comedy in Literature and Culture"): This course will explore the role of comedy and humor in English literature, as well as in the contemporary American "pop" culture. Students will consider the social and political impact of humor, as well as its various forms, including satire, farce, parody, and irony. The course will explore literature of the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries, with full consideration given to the social and historical contexts in which various pieces were written. Various literary genres will be analyzed, including essays, plays, novels, television shows, movies, and comic strips. Students will be expected to compose original humor pieces.

This semester course is part of a yearlong sequence (Senior Topics I).

Prerequisite: Prerequisites apply. See your guidance counselor.

English 12 CP: Senior Topics I: ("Madness in Literature"): This course will explore the human psyche through the written word. Students will explore a range of literature, including fiction, memoir, poetry, film and current events, with a focus on the central of mental illness and madness in form. In the beginning of the course, students will research an assigned mental disorder and use this research as a "diagnostic tool" and a basis for character study. The course will also examine "madness" in the context of writing style through close readings of non-linear texts and poetry.

This semester course is part of a yearlong sequence (Senior Topics I).

Prerequisite: Prerequisites apply. See your guidance counselor.

English 12 CP: Senior Topics II: (“Graphic Novel in a Visual Culture”): This course will explore the graphic novel in terms of its value in the literary canon and as an alternative form of literature through which we can gain a greater understanding of the world and society in which we live. The course will begin with the more commonly represented superhero genre and move on to explore the use of graphic novels as allegory and direct representations of society and culture. Students will gain an understanding of (1) how to analyze visual media and (2) the process of writing a graphic novel. Class participants will be expected to produce original pieces of graphic storytelling that address contemporary social issues.

This semester course is part of a yearlong sequence (Senior Topics II).

Prerequisite: Prerequisites apply. See your guidance counselor.

English 12 CP: Senior Topics II: (“Literature that Shaped a Nation”): This course will explore literary texts that have influenced or have been directly responsible for social and/or political change in America during the 19th and 20th centuries. Through exploring the works of notable American writers, class participants will gain a strong understanding of the power of writing to affect both personal and social change. Throughout the semester, students will be encouraged to find their own voice as writers through engaging in a variety of persuasive and expository writing activities.

This semester course is part of a yearlong sequence (Senior Topics II).

Prerequisite: Prerequisites apply. See your guidance counselor.

English 12: English 12 parallels English 12 CP in context, while continuing to emphasize the development of effective reading, writing, and presentation skills. The course focuses on expository writing (content, organization, sentence structure, grammar, and usage), as well as reading comprehension and vocabulary development. In addition, there are plentiful opportunities for students to engage in literary analysis, creative writing, and performance activities.

Film Study and Production: This class offers students an opportunity to study film as an art form which, when viewed in terms of its history, techniques, form, and content, will help them become more active, discerning, and critical viewers. By studying classics such as *Citizen Kane*, *On the Waterfront*, *The Graduate*, *North by Northwest*, *Duck Soup*, *Casablanca*, and *Sunset Boulevard*, students will identify significant contributions of major directors, stars, writers, and producers. Film production means that students make their own short films using state-of-the-art digital technology. This class is also responsible for making the annual Senior Awards film.

Journalism 1: This course examines the role of journalism in the 21st century. Students in this class develop skills in all aspects of journalistic writing, e.g. feature, news, editorial and sports. Interviewing, layout and photography also comprise the course’s content as students assist in the production of the school’s newspaper, *The Crimson Crier*.

Journalism 2: This course of study provides students a broader array of journalistic opportunities. A more in-depth and intense version of the introductory course, it requires students to analyze and write the news as a reporter, a critic, an editorialist, etc. There is more hands-on work in newspaper production, as students assume leadership roles in the class and on the school paper.

Exploring Children's Literature: Exploring Children's Literature is a unique and engaging course that revisits, through literature and film, some of the most beloved children's stories. Students explore childhood and children's books from psychological and historical perspectives. *Charlotte's Web*, *Peter Pan*, *Harry Potter*, and *Cinderella* are just some of the texts analyzed and discussed. The culminating project is the publication of an original children's book by each student.

Drama 1: This course is designed as an enjoyable way to introduce and acclimate students to the stage and familiarize students with the vocabulary and language of actors. Students learn stage position, actor's positions, basic techniques pertaining to the use of the stage, and especially how the actor can best communicate ideas to the audience. Fundamentals related to defined movement, motivated movement, miming, as well as improvisational techniques are incorporated. Many vocal techniques including diction and clarity, rate, projection, expression, pitch and variety are also practiced. All students take the stage either alone, with partners, or in groups in order to practice these techniques. Major projects include the staging and performance of solo pantomime to music, a monologue, basic two-person scene work, and in a small group – the writing and staging of a selected scene.

Drama 2: In this course students will build on elements learned in Drama 1. Students will do more extensive scene work, rehearsing and performing the works of more challenging playwrights such as Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller, and Edward Albee. Students will also study various acting methods including Stanislavsky's, Meisner's, Uta Hagen's, and David Mamet's. Students will study William Shakespeare as an approach to acting that will involve breathing techniques, line and scene study, breaking scenes into French units, the marking up of scripts, and character and play analysis.

Prerequisite: Drama 1.

Drama 3: In addition to taking part in the Artist-in-Residence program sponsored by the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, third year students in this course will focus their studies on theatrical figures, periods, and major movements in theater history. Students will research and demonstrate knowledge of each major figure by showing costumes and sets from the period, analyzing the advances in theater made by the figure and looking at the place and times in which the figure worked. Students will also learn of many different kinds of theater from the Greeks through Theater of the Absurd, not only by researching these periods, but also by putting elements of each period on the stage.

Prerequisite: Drama 2

Drama 4: In fourth year Drama, students will produce and direct a play using other students in the class as cast and crew. In preparation for their play, students will be responsible for the creation of a Production Book, an exhaustive notebook in which directors will plan in advance all aspects of their production. These items will include a rehearsal schedule, philosophy of the play, casting requirements, audition packet, poster, playbill, division of the script into French units, an analysis of the "Spine" and motivation of each major character, and plots for costume, lighting, sound, and props. Upon completion of the Production Book, the producer/director will then cast the play and begin rehearsals. The production will ultimately be staged in school for classmates and invited guests.

Prerequisite: Drama 3.

Power Writing: Power Writing is designed to help students improve the writing skills they will need to succeed in real-world tasks. The curriculum includes concentrated periods of study and practice writing personal narratives for college essays and scholarship/internship/job applications; standardized test essays for SAT, HSPA, and college freshman placement exams; and essays and reaction papers for college classes. Power Writing also includes units on copywriting for advertising, poetry, short stories, and improving grammar skills.

Media in Our Culture: Media in Our Culture offers students an elucidating look at the relationship between media and culture by examining through literature and film how American culture has been influenced over the years by the very works it has produced. Students become critical viewers and analysts of American life and media literacy as they explore television, news, and advertising and the impact each has had and continues to have in shaping and reflecting our culture. Gender bias, racism, and body image are several of the topics that students investigate as well as political, moral, and social dimensions of the media. In the still new millennium there is no elective as relevant and fascinating as this English course.

This course is open to students in grades 10-12.