



# ENGLISH

## **English 9/9H: Literature and Composition**

The objective of this course is for students to further develop their skills of reading, writing, and critical thinking. Through the teaching of literature, we help the students develop their ability to acquire knowledge, understand what they know, and communicate thoughts about their understanding. Students will study the fundamental principles of sound writing – from using proper grammar in a clear, compelling sentence style to developing multiple-paragraph compositions. Our writing program for ninth graders emphasizes developing ideas by using and discussing relevant details to give vividness and specificity to what an author says. As well, ninth graders will read time-honored fiction, poetry, and drama, such as *Lord of the Flies* and *Much Ado About Nothing*.

(1 Credit)

The English Department offers an honors course for grade 9. The prerequisites are completion of 8th grade English with an average of at least 90 (including a 90 in the formal writing and testing categories) and their 8th grade English teacher's recommendation. Students in honors English 9 will be expected to read fluidly and analytically, and to write clearly, with a strong foundation in mechanics and analytical argumentation.

## **English 10/10H: World Literature**

Sophomores will read a greater variety of literature, works by European, African, and Asian writers. The course explores how we read and interpret literary worlds, or mirrors, in an attempt to help us interpret the world in which we exist. Based on the strong foundation in Lit/Comp, this course now compares a wide variety of texts spanning different countries and time periods to compare and contrast timeless themes. Sophomores will continue to write essays that argue for an opinion and learn to engage meaningful transitions to guide the reader through an essay. Students will learn to consider the entirety of an essay – content, structure, and style – and how all work symbiotically to produce a pleasing whole assignment. In addition, sophomores produce

in-class essays and take passage-based reading comprehension assessments as they continue to advance their skills of close reading and analytical writing.

(1 Credit)

Prerequisite: Completion of prior English courses

The English Department offers honors courses for grades 9 and 10. The prerequisites are completion of the previous honors English class with an average of at least 90 before honors quality points are added (including a 90 in the formal writing and testing categories). A student in on-level English with an average of at least 90 (including a 90 in the formal writing and testing categories) and a teacher's recommendation may also be considered for honors the next year based on his or her interest, ability, and work ethic. Particular emphasis is placed on the student's performance on formal papers and tests.

## **English II: American Literature**

Students taking this course will read works of American literature from the Colonial times into the 20th century. The course is divided into categories of study: early America, romanticism, realism, modernism, and postmodernism. We read such defining American authors as Hawthorne, Chopin, Cummings, Dickinson, Eliot, Emerson, Faulkner, Fitzgerald, Frost, Hemingway, Hughes, Miller, Twain, and Hurston. Students will endeavor not only to understand particular works, but also consider how the works developed American literature and influence and reflect American culture. While much of the time in class is devoted to the discussion of literature, students will also have opportunities to respond to the literature as well as other topics in writing. In addition to formal, analytical papers, juniors produce in-class essays and take passage-based reading comprehension assessments as they continue to advance their skills of close reading and analytical writing.

(1 Credit)

Prerequisite: Completion of prior English courses.

## **English II: AP English Language and Composition**

AP English Language and Composition with an American Literature focus engages juniors in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of rhetorical contexts, and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Both their writing and their reading should make students aware of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, and subjects, as well as the way genre conventions and the resources of language contribute to

effectiveness in writing. The course is designed around major issues in the world today and reads a wide variety of perspectives on those issues, examining the rhetorical effectiveness of many written and oral arguments. Both secular and Christian perspectives are presented and discussed through a Christian lens.

(1 credit)

Prerequisite: The prerequisites are completion of Honors World Literature with an average of at least 88 before quality points are added or on-level World Literature with at least a 90 average, including an A average on analytical formal essays and reading comprehension assessments. In addition, students must have their previous teacher's recommendation, which is based on a student's interest, ability, and work ethic. The best determining factor of success for AP English Language and Composition students is a 90 or above in the categories of formal writing and testing from previous years. In AP English Language and Composition, teachers will expect students to interact with the literature and fellow students at the college level, perform well on objective tests, and write critical papers with great ease.

## **English 12: British Literature**

In the 12th grade students expand their reading, writing, and analytical thinking skills through the rigorous study of the canon of British literature. Reading poetry, prose, and drama, students begin this study of the Anglo-Saxons and end in 20th century Britain. Notable authors studied include the poets Beowulf, Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton, Bronte, Wordsworth, Blake, and Wilde. Seniors continue to write rigorous, argumentative papers and in-class essays and take passage-based reading comprehension assessments as they continue to advance their skills of close reading and analytical writing.

(1 Credit)

Prerequisite: Completion of prior English courses.

## **English 12: AP English Literature & Composition**

AP English Literature with a British Literature focus for advanced senior English students uses the canon of British literature as the foundation for students maturing as thinkers, readers, and writers. Students will grow as independent readers as they advance their skills of analysis and synthesis. Their writings will grow in fluency and sophistication as students develop voice and style while deepening their ability to make meaning of the texts.

(1 Credit)

Prerequisite: The prerequisites are completion of AP English Language and Composition with an average of at least 88 before quality points are added or on-level American Literature with at least a 90 average, including an A average on analytical formal essays and reading comprehension assessments. In addition, students must have their previous teacher's recommendation, which is based on a student's interest, ability, and work ethic. The best determining factor of success for AP English Literature students is a 90 or above in the categories of formal writing and testing from previous years. In AP English literature, teachers will expect students to interact with the literature and fellow students at the college level, perform well on objective tests, and write critical papers with great ease.

## **Communications**

Using Christ as a model, students will explore the foundations of effective communication in this elective course. Students will understand that effective communication includes being about to identify emotions and their role in relating to one another as image bearers. Students will study interpersonal, public, and professional communication and understand that each context is one in which they can live out the Great Commission. Students will engage in assignments that help them enhance their communication skills in a variety of contexts.

(.5 credit)

Prerequisite: Lit/Comp

## **Creative Writing**

Creative writing is an elective course designed to refine key reading and writing skills through the creative process. The course will encourage students to see creative writing as a unique way of thinking, and as a way to express and convey meaning. Creative Writing is split into two half-semester courses. The fall semester focuses on poetry and creative nonfiction. The spring semester focuses on short stories and script writing.

Students can choose to take one semester (and receive .5 credit) or to take both semesters (and receive 1 credit).

Prerequisite: Lit/Comp