



High School English Core Curriculum

Literature & Composition I or Literature & Composition I (H)

This class is designed to help students become better writers. The focus of the course is on daily writing as well as developing the skills of grammar, creativity, and organization. At various points during the year, these skills are blended to develop longer writing pieces that showcase the students' talents.

Grade: 9

Length: 2 Semesters

Prerequisite: None

Literature & Composition II or Literature & Composition II (H)

The focus of Literature & Composition II is on World Literature and includes the close reading of a wide variety of World Literature texts where students will deepen their understanding of literature. Analysis will include such subjects as author's structure and style, arguments and themes, along with social and historical relevance of literary texts. Elements such as figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone are also analyzed. In addition, students will be immersed in the study of composition and vocabulary in order to write more effectively.

Grade: 9

Length: 2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Literature and Composition 1

Literature & Composition III or Literature & Composition III (H)

The focus of Literature and Composition III is on American Literature and is designed to develop the student's ability to read and comprehend literature and other writing by authors from a variety of backgrounds and experiences and to analyze and evaluate literature and other writing in a variety of genres, such as nonfiction prose, fiction prose, poetry, and drama. In addition to being able to functionally write in rhetorical modes such as argumentation, exposition, narration, and description using the rhetorical strategies of exemplification, definition, comparison, and contrast, the students will learn to creatively write in a variety of genres, including nonfiction prose, fiction prose, poetry, and drama.

Grade: 11

Length: 2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Literature & Composition II

English Language and Composition (AP)

The goal of the AP English Language and Composition course is to expose students to a wide array of non-fiction prose and appropriate literature selections, to equip students with the necessary tools to critically analyze the purpose and effect of language within such selections, and to develop a deeper understanding of their own personal approach to writing. Through close reading and frequent writing, students develop their ability to work with language and text with a greater awareness of purpose and strategy, while strengthening their own composing abilities. Course readings feature expository, analytical, personal, and argumentative texts from a variety of authors and historical contexts. Students examine and work with essays, letters, speeches, images, and imaginative literature. Students frequently confer about their writing with both the teacher and their peers in the classroom. Students prepare for the AP English Language and Composition Exam and may be granted advanced placement, college credit, or both as a result of satisfactory performance.

Grade: 11

Length: 2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Literature & Composition II

Literature & Composition IV

British Literature covers the history of literature from the Anglo-Saxon period through the post modernism. Chaucer, Shakespeare, Dickens, Rand, Stoppard, and Hardy are representative of the authors studied. Advanced writing skills are honed through a survey of rhetorical structure.

Grade: 12 Length: 2 Semesters Prerequisite: Literature & Composition III

English Literature & Composition (AP)

The Advanced Placement Literature and Composition course includes an intensive study of representative works from various genres and periods, concentrating on works of recognized literary merit. The course is designed to engage students in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature, so as to help them deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. As they read, students will do annotation, considering the structure, style and theme of the work as well as its smaller-scale elements such as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone. They will then do analytical writing to evaluate a literary work by making and explaining judgments about its artistry and exploring its underlying social and cultural values. In addition, students will explore their own thought processes and creativity by doing free writing and developing personal journals.

Grade: 12 Length: 2 Semesters Prerequisite: Literature & Composition III