

COMMUNICATION ARTS DEPARTMENT

Literature & Composition 9 (English 9) - 2 semesters

Prerequisite: Freshman standing

Content: Students will use fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama as vehicles for developing reading skills.

Students will improve their usage skills, analytical abilities, and creative abilities while writing paragraphs, expository essays and presenting oral projects based on the study of literature.

Goals: To increase students' ability to appreciate and to understand the major genres of literature; to continue to refine grammar and writing skills; to introduce necessary research skills; to study various literary techniques, vocabulary, and characteristics of the major genre.

American Literature & Composition (English 10) - 2 semesters

Prerequisite: Sophomore standing

Content: The course begins by introducing students to the major themes (American Dream, Role of the Minority, etc.) they will encounter throughout the ideologies, history and art of major literary periods (Puritan, Revolutionary, Romantics, etc.). Students will also be taught, and expected to use, critical thinking skills in class discussions and on assignments, essays and tests. The paragraph and expository essay will be reviewed and elaborated on, and grammatical skills will be practiced.

Goals: To continue building on literary analysis, vocabulary, and writing skills introduced in previous classes; to introduce the student to the themes and experiences which have become part of the American identity; to show the dependence of American art and literature on American history; to expose students to intellectual and emotional experiences which will develop their critical thinking skills.

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World Literature & Composition (English 11) - 2 semesters

Prerequisite: Junior standing

Content: World Literature & Composition is a required course for junior students. It is designed as a survey course in which grammar, composition, and oral communication skills are strongly reinforced.

Our individual relationship to culture and human civilization will be explored through ancient, classic and modern world writers. Students will be expected to apply their critical thinking skills to understand literary works and their relationships to each other, the cultures, and the historical backgrounds. Students will explore major themes and literary techniques through reading, lectures, discussions, and individual and/or small group projects and oral presentations.

Goals: To develop students' appreciation and understanding of world literature and history; to continue to reinforce previously learned grammar, composition, and oral communication skills and to reinforce necessary research skills.

Communications - 1 semester

Prerequisite: Junior or senior standing and teacher recommendation

Content: Within a highly interactive environment, students engage in speaking and listening activities: intrapersonal, interpersonal, group, and public communication. Throughout the course, students immediately apply concepts through activities designed to improve their functional communication skills.

Goals: To develop and/or improve oral communication skills. To integrate all facets of language arts, listening, speaking, reading, writing, and research; to focus primarily on listening, speaking, and problem solving. The course is designed to reflect the functional approach to communication utilized in society today and is recommended for the college bound as well as for the work oriented student.

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Creative Writing - 1 semester

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Literature & Composition 9, American Literature & Composition and teacher recommendation.

Content: Within a performance-based and workshop setting, students will generate various types of artistic writing including poetry, the short story, film/play review, art review, nature writing, and screenwriting. Students will openly critique others' writing. From the critiques students will refine their individual pieces of writing for a performance-based semester exam.

Goals: To develop and/or improve artistic writing skills. To integrate all facets of language arts, listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course is designed to foster students' creative writing skills as well as students' communication skills through oral critique or individual pieces.

Literature as Social Reflection - 1 semester

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Literature & Composition 9, American Literature & Composition and teacher recommendation.

Content: Modern literature (mid 20th century to present) encompasses art, history, and the social climate of the time. Modern authors often looked at society and questioned how individuals make meaningful contributions to society and comprehend human suffering. This course will explore issues in our modern world such as alienation, industrialization/technology, race/ethnicity, and equity by discussing and engaging with literature in depth. Class discussion, group projects, and individual assignments and presentations are graded heavily in this class and make up the bulk of the work. By completing this course, students will have a deeper understanding of not only modern literature, but themselves, and their society, and the various perspectives revolving around these issues. The semester will conclude with the making of a documentary based on the issues read and discussed.

Goals: To continue to build on literary analysis, writing, and discussion skills introduced in previous classes; to explore issues in modern literature by studying poetry, short stories, novels, and essays.

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Technical Communication and Composition - 1 semester

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Literature & Composition 9 and American Literature & Composition and/or teacher recommendation

Content: Since the course is designed for students who plan to attend technical school or to seek immediate employment, life skills are emphasized. Projects/assignments include: group discussion, research, both oral and written reports on research, task analysis and demonstration, analysis of technical articles and work related materials, business letters, resumes, job applications, and work-related fiction.

Goals: To reinforce reading, writing, research, and critical thinking skills taught during the first two years of high school. Individual remediation will be stressed.

Contemporary Literature: The Individual and Society - 1 semester

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Literature & Composition 9 and American Literature & Composition and teacher recommendation. This course is primarily for the non-college bound student.

Content: Contemporary Literature focuses on individuals to see how they deal with their world and its problems and attributes. The focus is on internal conflict and searching for an identity, in a complex, changing society.

Goals: To review trends in modern literature and acquaint students with the different forms of media used to translate those forms into everyday experiences.

Foundations of College Writing - 1 semester

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Literature & Composition 9 and American Literature & Composition and/or teacher recommendation

Content: Emphasis will be on expository writing, using critical thinking skills in paragraph and essay writing. In-class, timed, and out of class, prepared, writing experiences will be honed.

Goals: To continue to practice and understand the writing skills taught during the first two years of high school. Individual improvement will be stressed. At the conclusion of the course, students will demonstrate the ability to write an expository essay.

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Essentials of College Writing - 1 semester

Prerequisite: Successful completion of American Literature & Composition and teacher recommendation

Content: Emphasis will be on expository writing, using critical thinking skills in paragraph and essay writing. The student will be challenged to demonstrate his/her writing skills using more complex content material and sophisticated writing styles than in the Foundations of College Writing course. Successful completion of the course requires the student to write an I-search paper.

Goals: To refine the forms of expository expression for the college-bound student.

English Literature - 1 semester

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Literature & Composition 9, American Literature & Composition and teacher recommendation.

Content: English Literature is designed as a survey course in which grammar and composition skills are strongly reinforced. Students will explore major themes and literary techniques of English Literature through reading, discussion, independent research, expository writing, vocabulary study, and individual and/or small group projects. Students will be asked to apply their critical thinking skills to understand literary works and their relationships to each other, the culture, and the historical background.

Goals: To foster students' appreciation and understanding of English literature and history; to continue to reinforce previously learned grammar and composition skills and to introduce necessary research skills.

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AP English Literature and Composition - 2 semesters

Prerequisite: Senior standing, teacher recommendation, and a writing sample.

Content: This class would combine English Literature and Advanced Composition curriculums for accelerated senior English students. This will allow the teacher to compact three semesters of material into two, and to integrate the literature, composition, and research elements of both courses.

Goals: To compact and integrate the present college bound electives and offer a challenge to those students who are working beyond the scope of regular senior classes; to provide a logical continuation of our advanced English program; to more directly prepare those students who choose to take an Advanced Placement Test of Literature and Composition at the end of the year.

Writing for Publication - 2 semesters

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Literature & Composition 9 and teacher recommendation. Class is open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors. It should be noted that this is an elective class, which does not replace any required English class.

Content: The majority of this course is spent designing, writing and producing the yearbook. Emphasis is on developing journalistic writing skills, including interviewing, writing stories, and editing skills as well as learning the publication and printing process. Students will also study the basics of design and layout while learning Adobe InDesign and Adobe Photoshop. Photography basics will also be covered and taking some of your own photos for yearbook pages is a requirement. Other opportunities include district publications and articles for the News Graphic.

Goals: To provide a working knowledge of writing and producing various school publications: yearbook, local newspapers, magazines as well as other district-generated publications.