

English Department Course Offerings and Descriptions

Elements of Literature and Composition
Credits: 1.00

Level 1

Grade 9
Full Year

This course focuses on using literary elements as tools for structuring writing and analysis and strengthening student foundations in elements of literature. Students will develop and refine their skills in reading, writing, and literary analysis through the study of a variety of genre: short fiction, novels, drama, nonfiction and poetry. Through the use of both formal essays and informal compositions, students will use their knowledge about literary elements and critical thinking skills to develop and refine their craft as writers. Students in Level 1 are expected to demonstrate the ability to work independently, to complete more sophisticated writing assignments, and to study more challenging literature at a faster pace.

Elements of Literature and Composition
Credits: 1.00

Level 2

Grade 9
Full Year

This course focuses on using literary elements as tools for structuring writing and analysis and strengthening student foundations in elements of literature. Students will develop and refine their skills in reading, writing, and literary analysis through the study of a variety of genre: short fiction, novels, drama, nonfiction and poetry. Through the use of both formal essays and informal compositions, students will use their knowledge about literary elements and critical thinking skills to develop and refine their craft as writers.

World Literature
Credits: 1.00

Level 1

Grade 10
Full Year

This course builds on the fundamental principles of the elements of literature and requires students to employ those elements in order to determine the components of good literature. Students will be exposed to a variety of texts and voices from around the world and will read, discuss and write about the culture the texts reveal. Students will also be challenged to make connections between text and other cultures and to understand the influence of culture on artwork and literature. Students will study novels, short stories, plays and poetry and will work to master skills in literary analysis. They will also continue to refine their craft as writers through formal essays, quizzes, tests and written responses using the conventions of standard English. Students in Level 1 are expected to demonstrate the ability to work independently, to complete more sophisticated writing assignments and to study more challenging works of literature.

World Literature
Credits: 1.00

Level 2

Grade 10
Full Year

This course builds on the fundamental principles of the elements of literature and requires students to employ those elements in order to determine the components of good literature. Students will be exposed to a variety of texts and voices from around the world and will read, discuss and write about the culture the texts reveal. Students will also be challenged to make connections between text and other cultures and to understand the influence of culture on artwork and literature. Students will study novels, short stories, plays and poetry and will work to master skills in literary analysis. They will also continue to refine their craft as writers through formal essays, quizzes, tests and written responses using the conventions of standard English.

Advanced Placement Language and Composition
Credits: 1.00

Level AP

Grade 11
Full Year

Prerequisite: Successful completion of World Literature in tenth grade and successful completion of a summer reading project.

Through a study of American Literature and persuasive pieces, students will be able to distinguish subtext from text, audience, and the writer's purpose. Students will also be able to recognize the rhetorical devices open to all writers: structural modes, narrative and poetic devices, diction, and syntax. Students will be responsible for completing a writing portfolio, several critical papers, and a research project. In each they will apply and demonstrate their understanding of the art of composition. As this is a college level course, students are expected to demonstrate the ability to perform independently at the college level. This includes scheduling individual writing conferences with the instructor. Students will spend a considerable amount of time preparing for the AP exam and **must** take the Language and Composition AP Exam. **Return the completed form on page 9 to your counselor.**

American Studies

Credits: 2.00 (1 credit each for social studies and English)

Level 1

Grade 11
Full Year

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Global Studies 10 & World Literature in tenth grade and a Level 1 recommendation from both teachers.

American Studies is a double period course in which American history and American literature are taught in an interdisciplinary approach. This humanities course focuses on Reconstruction to the present and is taught cooperatively by a social studies and an English teacher. American Studies examines the American character, culture, and literature using a thematic approach. Students will develop historical thinking through active inquiry and research using multiple sources. Students will analyze multiple perspectives and interpretations and write to inform and persuade the reader. Additionally, students in this course must have highly developed skills for writing and reading sophisticated texts and for producing rigorous literary analyses. Students are also expected to demonstrate the ability to work independently. They will be evaluated on literary essays, oral presentations, tests and quizzes, and research assignments.

American Literature
Credits: 1.00

Level 1

Grade 11
Full Year

This course provides students with a chronological and thematic survey of American literature. Literary periods and movements covered include the following: Native American oral tradition, the Puritan Era, the Era of Revolution, the American Renaissance, Romanticism, Transcendentalism and Anti-Transcendentalism, Realism and Naturalism, the Modernists, and Post-Modernists. Through a variety of texts, students will continue to expand their knowledge and appreciation of American literature and will refine skills and strategies demonstrated by reading comprehension, the writing process, and collaborative work. Students in Level 1 are expected to demonstrate the ability to work independently, to complete more sophisticated writing assignments, and to study more challenging literature at a faster pace. Students must also possess strong critical thinking skills, excellent reading comprehension and vocabulary decoding skills, and sophisticated analytical skills for a variety of challenging works. Students will be evaluated on tests, quizzes, essays, oral presentations and research assignments.

American Literature
Credits: 1.00

Level 2

Grade 11
Full Year

This course provides students with a chronological and thematic survey of American literature. Literary periods and movements covered include the following: Native American oral tradition, the Puritan Era, the Era of Revolution, the American Renaissance, Romanticism, Transcendentalism and Anti-Transcendentalism, Realism and Naturalism, the Modernists, and Post-Modernists. Through a variety of texts, students will continue to expand their knowledge and appreciation of American literature and will refine skills and strategies demonstrated by reading comprehension, the writing process, and collaborative work. Students in Level 2 will read various texts and produce writing assignments aimed at exploring literature's reflection and representation of cultures and peoples, and the impact on our lives, our American culture. Students will be evaluated on tests, quizzes, essays, oral presentations and research assignments.

Advanced Placement Literature and Composition
Credits: 1.00

Level AP

Grade 12
Full Year

Prerequisite: Successful completion of American Literature and successful completion of a summer project.

Literature and Composition continues instruction in critical reading and expository writing. The course requires the study of prose, poetry, and drama with texts ranging from classics to modern works. Throughout their study, students will focus on composition of art and the meaning of the work. Classes are conducted as seminars: students are expected to develop, to recognize, and to refine their critical thinking skills through debates, papers, a study of critical material, and tests. As this is a college level course, students are expected to demonstrate the ability to perform independently at the college level. Students will spend a considerable amount of time preparing for the AP exam and **must** take the Literature and Composition AP Exam. **Return the completed form on page 9 to your counselor.**

Advanced Composition
Credits: .50

Level 1

Grades 11, 12
Half Year

This course prepares students to do the kinds of reading and writing that will be required of them in college. Materials include a handbook of grammar, a textbook explaining the various skills taught and numerous writing models for study and analysis, one to two novels, and supplementary essays serving as writing models. This course will also include a one week seminar on writing the college essay. The writing assignments, given on a sequential basis, include *one piece per week* and comprise the student's writing portfolio. At least six of these papers will be complete compositions averaging two to four pages in length. Students will be trained to develop a critical sense about their writing by completing editing exercises, revising papers, and holding regular conferences with the instructor. Evaluation will be based on these papers and may include a response journal.

African Americans in Literature and Film
Credits: .50

Level 2

Grades 11, 12
Half Year

This is a survey course designed to give students a broad historical overview of important African American authors, poets, actors, directors, and fictional characters. Key figures from Booker T. Washington to Langston Hughes, Malcolm X, and Spike Lee will be covered. There will be substantial reading, many quizzes, several papers, etc. This course is not intended for the unmotivated but is intended for those wishing to gain a greater knowledge of African Americans in literature and film.

***Composition and Response to Contemporary Literature** **Level 2**
Credits: .50

Grades 11, 12
Half Year

This composition and literature course combines effective writing techniques, application of varied compositional formats, and creative and practical revision strategies used to respond to selected poetry, novels, non-fiction, plays, essays, and visual text. The initial unit is devoted to developing narrative essays. Assessments include journal entries, critical reading responses, quizzes, group work, research assignments with both MLA and APA style citing, grammar review, and compositions (e.g., process analysis, comparison/contrast, classification and division, descriptive, definition/extended definition, etc.) *This course may be used to meet CAPT graduation requirement.*

Creative Writing
Credits: .50

Level 2

Grades 11, 12
Half Year

This course focuses on the craft of creative writing, specifically poetry, fiction, and nonfiction narratives. Students will be introduced to different forms of creative literature through reading and writing. Through daily writing, students will practice and improve their craft. There will be class discussions and workshops during which students will talk about student and professional work, the significance of word choice and arrangement, subject matter, form, and the responsibility of the writer. Time will also be devoted to revision of work, as students will be required to keep a portfolio of original work.

Drama
Credits: .50

Level 1

Grades 11, 12
Half Year

This course is primarily a literature course, but will include some optional performance activities as well. Students interested in reading and discussing plays – and possibly attending a professional performance – are encouraged to enroll. Evaluation will be based on projects, major writing assignments, tests, and quizzes.

Great Books/Great Films
Credits: .50

Level 1 & 2

Grades 11, 12
Half Year

By combining the elements of classic and contemporary literature, and the grammar of film, students will interpret and analyze selected literature and the cinema adaptations. Numerous genres include children's literature, war, the narrative, science fiction, historical fiction and more. Assessments include critical reading and film responses, research project, presentations, quizzes and tests, group work, and creative writing (e.g., script sample, short story, or film proposal).

Interpreting Film In a Modern Society
Credits: .50

Level 2

Grades 11,12
Half Year

In this course students will develop a more sophisticated appreciation and understanding of film by studying the language of film and applying it to different time periods and genres. The course will cover a wide variety of genres, beginning with silent film and moving to contemporary film. Films will be viewed chronologically and include a variety of genres such as drama, comedy, war, mystery/suspense, teen angst, classics, musicals, animation, westerns, and academy award winners. Students will complete written assessments and/or an in-depth analysis of each film and complete a film-making project. Tests and quizzes will be used as assessments for in-class work and textbook reading assignments.

The Literature of England
Credits: .50

Level 1

Grades 11, 12
Half Year

The first part of this course surveys literature from the Anglo-Saxon period through the Middle Ages to the Age of Elizabeth. Students concentrate on the evolution of English literature and language from Beowulf to Shakespeare. All literary genres are covered, but the focus will be on drama. The second part of this course focuses on British writers of plays, short stories and novels from the seventeenth century to the present. Particular attention will be given to twentieth century works. Evaluation will be based on an analytical paper for each major book or unit.

Mythology
Credits: .50

Level 2

Grades 11, 12
Half Year

The readings for this course include mythology and folklore from a wide variety of cultures, with an emphasis on traditional Greek and Roman myths. Major archetypes, or recurring patterns in mythology are studied and applied to contemporary literature and the arts. Vocabulary connections between the English language and mythology will also be examined. Assignments will include a variety of writing and creative projects. Students will be evaluated on quizzes, tests, responses to reading and films, and independent projects.

Print and Broadcast Journalism I
Credits: .50

Level 1 & 2

Grades 11, 12
Half Year

In this class, students will explore the fundamentals of newspaper publication and video news production. The ability to collaborate and work independently is critical for success in this course. The semester begins with the history of newspaper production and journalism ethics, then transitions into instruction on interviewing, handling quotes, and writing authentic articles. Students will write and analyze different types of articles including editorials, features, and sports and will create a broadcast script. Graphic design and layout basics will also be introduced. Skills will culminate in the production of the “*Spartan Scroll*”. Students will be evaluated on their edited and revised articles, work submitted to the school newspaper, and participation in the creation and production of a news broadcast.

Print and Broadcast Journalism II
Credits: .50

Level 1 & 2

Grades 11, 12
Half Year

In this class, students will learn advanced journalism writing and publication skills. The class will receive in-depth instruction concerning the layout and design aspects of newspaper, magazine and news broadcast production. Students will be required to do in-depth reporting and interviewing on topics both inside and outside of the school environment. There will also be more in-depth study of editorials and political cartoons than provided in the introductory course. Analysis of photo journalism and documentary films will also be addressed; students will create and present photo essays and short documentary films. Students may develop working relationships and internships with local newspapers and television journalists. We will build on fundamental ethical principles in addition to the advertising techniques learned *Print and Broadcast Journalism I*.

***Reading Contemporary Literature**
Credits: .50

Level 2

Grades 11, 12
Half Year

This course encompasses post-World War II to the present and will concentrate on representative works. The course is designed to focus on the historical, political, and psychological motivation that produced each work, as well as its practical influence in our society today. Students will be evaluated on writing assignments, tests and quizzes. *This course may be used to meet the CAPT graduation requirement.*

***Responding to Children's Literature**
Credits: .50

Level 2

Grades 11,12
Half Year

Students will develop a new and more sophisticated appreciation of the seemingly simple world of children's literature. The course will cover a wide range of material from picture books to texts written for young adolescents. For each text, students will determine the writer's purpose, tone, and intended audience and explore the various conscious choices the writer makes to satisfy plot, structure, theme, language, integration of illustrations, and character. Projects will include several class presentations and study of a favorite children's book, an extended study of several books by one author, and the creation of an original children's book. The course is recommended for college bound students in need of refining their critical reading and writing skills and students planning a career in education or working with children. *This course may be used to meet the CAPT graduation requirement.*

Women in Literature
Credits: .50

Levels 1 & 2 **Grades 11, 12**
Half Year

This course features novels, short stories, non-fiction pieces, poetry, and a play representing women writers primarily of the 19th century to the present and will enhance students' critical, analytical, and writing skills. The emphasis will be on identifying a possible female tradition in literature, investigating parallels with social/historical/cultural issues, and analyzing the portrayal of female characters. Assessments include essays, creative pieces, research projects/papers, presentations, and quizzes and tests.