

English

At least one full credit of English is required of every student all four years. All major papers must be typed,

111 English 9

Grade 9

1 credit

This introductory course is designed to strengthen skills in composition, vocabulary, syntax, and literary analysis. Students study literature in a variety of genres, including short fiction, plays, poetry, and novels. The writing curriculum lays the groundwork for the types of analytical, expository writing students will do throughout high school and college, beginning with strong sentence and paragraph structure and culminating in a complete critical essay.

115 Honors English 9

Grade 9

1 credit

Honors English 9 explores different genres of literature. This intensive course will introduce students to literary criticism and research, with a special emphasis on writing skills. Grammar review is an integral part of the writing program. Placement in the Honors English 9 course depends on the student's 8th grade transcript and performance on the High School Placement Test.

121 American Literature

Grade 10

1 credit

This course will acquaint students with major trends and ideas in American literature, stressing the historical, sociological, psychological, and artistic currents reflected in a wide range of representative works. Students will explore their cultural heritage while strengthening the core reading, writing, and thinking skills necessary for high school and college success. The writing curriculum emphasizes organization, clarity, and accuracy through the increasingly independent practice of critical writing. The course includes preparation for the Scholastic Aptitude Tests.

125 Honors American Literature

Grade 10

1 credit

This course replaces American Literature for sophomores. It covers American literature in depth, with special emphasis on literary and historical criticism. Special attention is given to critical thought and writing. PREREQUISITES: "A" average in English 9 and department approval, or "B" average in Honors English 9 with Departmental approval.

131 British Literature

Grade 11

1 credit

This course provides students with a survey of major British authors from the Anglo-Saxon period to the present, exploring foundational works of English literature in their historical, philosophical, and artistic contexts. Students hone their sentences, paragraphs, and essays through practice writing in a variety of genres. The course particularly emphasizes the reading, thinking, and writing skills necessary for literary criticism, culminating in a critical essay wherein students research secondary literary critical sources to be integrated with their own analysis of a major British poem.

135 Honors British Literature

Grade 11

1 credit

This course replaces British Literature for juniors. It is an in-depth look at the literary periods in British Literature, with emphasis on philosophical, literary, historical, and political criticism. Students

should be prepared to do much of their reading, research, and writing on-line. **PREREQUISITES:** "A" average in English 10 and department approval, or "B" average in Honors English 10 with teacher recommendation. In addition, students must complete a summer paper with a grade of "B" or higher and attend a spring meeting with the instructor in order to enroll.

Senior English Courses

Seniors may choose among a range of year-long courses. Juniors may also choose to enroll in these courses in addition to (not instead of) British Literature or Honors British Literature. With the exception of A.P. English, all of these courses focus on literature from 1850 to the present. College readiness is the central goal of the senior English curriculum. All courses require students to engage with challenging texts and concepts and to complete substantial amounts of reading and writing. The Senior Thesis, a 5-7 page analytical research paper modeled on those typically assigned in undergraduate English classes, is required for all students.

145 A.P. English

Grade 12

1 credit

The syllabus for this course is determined by the texts recommended by the Advanced Placement Committee. Through a study of world literature, this course teaches the theory and function of the major genres. The course is research and reading intensive. Students must use computer technology and college libraries to complete several research papers. Superior writing and analytical skills are reinforced. Currently the course offers: a study of classical philosophy, literary criticism and drama, a unit on the development of Shakespearean tragedy, modern fiction including Henry James and Joseph Conrad, and modern poetry. Class time is devoted to preparation for the A.P. examination. Time management skills are essential. **PREREQUISITES:** Successful completion of Honors British Literature with a grade of high B+/A and departmental approval. All students must attend a spring meeting with the instructor.

146 Honors World Literature

Grade 12

1 credit

Honors World Literature is concerned with the archetypal patterns of creation/destruction and the temporal/ethereal as traced throughout different cultures. The course begins with an in-depth study of ancient philosophy and its implications for the modern world and then traces the archetypal patterns through the literature of different modern cultures. Magical Realism in Spanish, African-American, and Japanese literature. is emphasized.

Students will complete a research paper as a requirement for the course. **PREREQUISITES:** "A" average in British Literature, or a "B" average in Honors British Literature along with department approval.

165 Journalism (elective)

Grade 12

1 credit

This writing-intensive course is designed to hone students' skills in writing and editing news, features and sports stories in order to produce the school newspaper, The Sabre. The course requires learning all of the various news story types (inverted pyramid, nut graf, etc.) and implementing these to cover both school-related news and general news, features and sports stories. Students should expect to write at least one 800-1000-word story per week. Stories are brought through a number of drafts until they are finalized. The course requires after-school commitment, since students are expected to schedule interviews and follow-up with faculty or other news sources on their own time in order to obtain quotations, check facts and return stories to sources for final approval prior to publication. Additional responsibility as editors will be offered to those students who demonstrate exceptional commitment and are willing to work after school and during free periods. Knowledge of Adobe InDesign CS3 for layout is part of the required training for this. Students in the course will also script, film and edit the daily SJC

news show using iMovie in order to prepare it for production each morning. PREREQUISITES: Students will need to complete a short assignment and must have department approval. This course is available only to seniors and must be taken in addition to another senior English course.

166 Minority Voices in American Literature **Grades 11/12** **1 credit**

English curricula were once the stronghold of so-called Dead White Men, but those days are over. In the last century, the literary landscape has been transformed by writers whose voices were once stifled by their second-class status. This course will focus on those voices, exploring literature by African-Americans, Latinos, women, and members of other religious and ethnic minority groups. We will read works in a variety of genres, including novels, poetry, and literary non-fiction such as the essays of W. E. B. Dubois and Booker T. Washington. We'll be studying the works for their literary beauty as well as an understanding of their historical, social, and cultural significance. Students should expect to do substantial amounts of reading and writing throughout the course. The Senior Thesis is a course requirement.

172 Comparative Literature **Grades 11/12** **1 credit**

Odysseus consults the ghost of Tiresias; Peter Parker chats with his uncle about being bitten by a radioactive spider; Luke Skywalker is rescued by Obi-Wan Kenobi. For all their differences these moments share a common theme: the Hero meets the Sage. Comparative Literature as a discipline is concerned with comparing different forms of storytelling and finding those symbols, myths and archetypes that are universal to them all. This course will take the study of literature and connect it to other forms of cultural expression such as film, graphic novels, music, television, theater and the radio drama. We will take a broad look at literary genres, historical ideas about the forms of fiction, and literary meanings and interpretations. By the end of the class, students will be able to see the messages and characters that run through all stories, whether they are set in the Greek Underworld, a car in Manhattan or a galaxy far, far away. Students should expect to do substantial amounts of reading and writing throughout the course. The Senior Thesis is a course requirement.

191 World Literature **Grades 11/12** **1 credit**

This course concerns the universal themes that run throughout great literature. The course begins with a study of Ancient Greek culture and its legacy in the modern world. We then trace archetypal patterns through different cultures, exploring universal themes in modern poetry and novels. Students should expect to do substantial amounts of reading and writing throughout the course. The Senior Thesis is a course requirement.

192 Literature and Society **Grades 11/12** **1 credit**

What if we lived in a totalitarian state in which a tyrannical government used technology to keep us all under 24-hour surveillance? What if we were told our roles in society and taught never to question the status quo? How does our society define "sanity" and "insanity"? This course focuses on literature that questions and criticizes society. Some of the texts comment on our society through dystopian visions: what do the horrible futures imagined in George Orwell's 1984, Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*, and Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* have to say about our present? Others use satire or the perspectives of misfit narrators who feel or are alienated from conventional society (Ken Kesey's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, J. D. Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye*). Students should expect to do substantial amounts of reading and writing, as well as independent research as part of the Senior Thesis.

194 Contemporary Fiction and Poetry **Grades 11/12** **1 credit**

Emphasizing the development of micro-reading skills, this course examines a selection of contemporary American fiction and poetry in historic, aesthetic, and social contexts. In other words, we will explore the relationship between contemporary American literature and the world we live in. This course approaches the world of contemporary fiction and poetry through themes such as love, family, race, and sexuality. Students should expect to do substantial amounts of reading and writing throughout the course. The Senior Thesis is a course requirement.