

ENGLISH 9

Grade: 9

Prereq: None

Credit: 1

English 9 is a full year course involving the study of major literary genres, including short story, poetry, the novel, drama and nonfiction. The course also includes an extensive treatment of all areas of grammar, spelling and vocabulary and the writing process. From sentence structure to the composition and research paper, intensive practice in writing is stressed. Student speeches are also required.

ENGLISH 10

Grade: 10

Prereq: English 9

Credit: 1

English 10 is a full year course involving the study of Western Civilization through literature. Readings from the Ancient world, the Classical world, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the Neoclassical period, the Romantic period, the Realistic period, and the Modern world will be covered. English skill development will include a research paper, vocabulary expansion, essays, grammar and composition diagnosis.

ENGLISH 10 HONORS

Grade: 10

Prereq: English 9, Teacher Recommendation Credit: 1

The students in this section will read and study some of the same material in Western Civilization that is included in the general English course. In addition, they will read the entire works of several excerpts in their anthology and other supplemental novels, books of nonfiction, plays and epic poems. The students will be taught new concepts and analytical skills to encourage critical reading and effective writing.

ENGLISH 11

Grade: 11

Prereq: English 10

Credit: 1

English 11 consists of the study of American literature and its chronological changes and development through various genres such as the novel, drama, short story, essay, biography and poetry. The course will enable students to understand and appreciate our literary heritage and its influence on people and times by focusing on major literary periods and writers. Students will be exposed to vocabulary development and testing integrated with all literature units, a continuous review of proper grammatical usage, and the practice of effective essay techniques through extensive expository writing. These activities will promote competence on the New York State Regents Examination.

ENGLISH 11 HONORS/with ADVANCED PLACEMENT AMERICAN HISTORY

Grade: 11

Prereq: Global Studies 10, English 10 & Teacher Recommendation

Credit: 2

This course will combine the study of American history with American literature and will be team taught by a social studies and an English teacher. These teachers will integrate American literature with American historical periods using a chronological approach. This course will provide students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in American history. It will prepare students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to college course work. Students will learn to assess historical materials, their relevance to a given interpretive problem, their reliability and their importance, and to weigh the evidence and interpretations in historical scholarship. This honors level course helps students to develop the skills necessary to arrive at conclusions on the basis of an informed judgment and to present ideas clearly and persuasively in essay format.

A non-refundable fee is required for the AP American History Examination given in May. Successful scores can be submitted to college for possible credit and/or advanced placement.

The English portion of the course will emphasize the study of American literature and its chronological changes and development through various genres such as the novel, drama, short story, essay, biography and poetry. This course will enable students to understand and appreciate our literary/historical heritage and its influence on people and times by focusing on major literary/historical periods and writers. Students will be exposed to vocabulary development and testing integrated with all literature units, a continuous review of proper grammatical usage, and the practice of effective essay techniques through extensive expository writing. These activities will promote competence on the Comprehensive English Regents Examination.

ENGLISH 12

Grade: 12

Prereq: English 11

Credit: 1

The traditional English 12 course is designed as a survey course for post-Regents students. Our multi-media approach will offer theme-based literature units and a variety of creative and practical writing assignments to be collected in a class portfolio. Features of the class include an extensive college essay writing unit in the fall and a multi-media script writing unit during the spring semester.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LITERATURE

Grade: 12

Prereq: English 11 Teacher Recommendation Credit: 1

AP Literature is a yearlong look at world literature, starting with the writings of Greek philosophers and playwrights and moving through Shakespeare to the modern period. Course activities and writing assignments, both brief and extended, are designed to prepare students for the challenging world of college writing, reading, and thinking. Students will read from a variety of genres and time periods in preparation for the AP English exam in May. Admission into AP is contingent upon maintaining a 90% average. Students currently not in English 11 Honors will need to take and display proficiency on an entrance exam for admission.

English 12: Students would select four topics below, including Senior Writing to earn 1 credit.

English 12 Electives

Seniors not taking Advanced Placement English must take 1 full credit of Senior English. Most of the electives listed below are ten-week, “quarter” courses, and are worth .25 (1/4) of a credit. Journalism is a .5 (1/2) credit bearing course, and runs 20 weeks. All students not taking Advanced Placement English must take Senior Writing. The following is a selection of courses that may be given during a particular school year. Consult the Guidance Office for an updated list of current offerings and offerings for the upcoming school year.

Senior Writing

In this writing course, students will hone their writing skills and expand themselves intellectually by selecting a project or topic of interest to them and developing it over the course of the term into a long essay for a general audience. Projects will involve research and multiple revisions. Completion of the Senior Thesis is course requirement. **ALL SENIORS NOT TAKING ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH MUST COMPLETE SENIOR WRITING IN ORDER TO GRADUATE.** (.25 credit)

Journalism

Journalism is a full semester course that teaches the student the basics of journalism and journalistic writing. Students will, in a workshop setting, research and write the content, design the layout, and oversee the publication and distribution of Voorheesville’s bi-weekly student newspaper, The Helderbarker. Some students will also be in charge of maintaining the Helderbarker’s website, programming, editing, and writing the HTML and CSS necessary to keep the newspaper’s web presence. The class will also learn to create podcasts for each edition. (.5 credit)

Digital Storytelling

Acquaints students with the various aspects of the digital storytelling process through the use of storyboarding and digital editing software. This course gives students an understanding of the kinds of decisions filmmakers encounter and the kinds of techniques they employ. Activities include preparing detailed shooting scripts, experiments with photography, light, color, motion, sound, and editing, and manipulating both live action and animated materials. Individually or in small groups, students will produce a 10-15 minute film. (.25 credit)

Creative Writing

An introduction to the writing of fiction and poetry for students with an interest in these genres. Class time is divided between discussions of literary technique, workshop consideration of student writing, and examination of work of several contemporary poets, dramatists, and fiction writers. Students are asked to complete several writing assignments, to keep a journal, and to draft and revise a final project. (.25 credit)

Public Speaking

Develops basic speaking principles and provides extensive practice in speaking skills necessary for successful college-level performance. Covers adapting topics to purpose and audience; using substantial support for each point; logically developing concepts; speaking with a clear, consistent tone; developing good listening skills; and preparing oral presentations in a variety of settings. (.25 credit)

The Short Story

Examines the short story form by reading and analyzing short fiction from the twentieth century. Students will be asked to read a variety of short works, keep a journal, write short response pieces, and prepare and edit a full-length analysis of a short story. (.25 credit)

African-American Literature

Surveys representative literary texts from the margins and boundaries of the American experience. Concentrates on familiarizing students with issues, questions, and motifs that recur in works which diagnose ongoing conflicts in the American temper. Readings are drawn from early slave narratives, as well as 19th and 20th century texts. (.25 credit)

Film and Literature

Intro to film as an art form focuses on film interpretation by emphasizing elements such as light, sound, composition, camera movement, acting, and direction. Initiates students into developments in film history, film genre, and film theory. This interdisciplinary seminar examines the ways that two different art forms-literature and film-represent America. Are their stories the same, or can the distinctive characteristics of each create a unique vision of the nation? Both long and short written film analyses are required. (.25 credit)

Media Studies

Surveys various media, stressing their historical evolution and the technological and socio-cultural forces that shape them. Includes newspapers, magazines, film, radio, and television. Using interdisciplinary approaches, it focuses upon themes which explore myths about identity through analyzing meanings in media and social/cultural texts; how these originate in and across history, to become part of everyday 'common sense' discourse. An advertising simulation project serves as the final project for the course. (.25 credit)

LiteratureByWomen

This introduction to works by women aims to examine the ways in which women relate to one another. By closely examining a variety of works by women in different media (novels, essays, film, television shows, etc.), we will think carefully about how the complex realities of daily life (school, work, ethnicity, economics, sexuality, motherhood, etc.) interfere with the way women interact with other women. In addition, we'll attempt to construct methods that reduce the difference between what we say and what we do. (.25 credit)