

## **ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

### **Graduation Goals:**

Students will be able to:

- Analyze and interpret structure, style and use of language across a wide range of genres to discern meaning and theme; evaluate, connect and appreciate texts in relation to their own and others' experiences
- Write insightful essays across a wide range of styles including expository, descriptive, personal and research; utilize the writing process of pre-writing, drafting and editing into an error-free essay that demonstrates command of conventional English; incorporate these same skills in their speaking and listening
- Demonstrate vocabulary acquisition skills including dictionary use, context clues, and word elements; incorporate new vocabulary into writing and speaking

### **Honors English I**

110 Year 1.0 Freshman

In this course, students will interpret the structure and style of a variety of sophisticated texts, utilize the writing process to compose insightful essays that reflect conventional English grammar and strategic sentence structure, and incorporate sophisticated new vocabulary into writing and speaking.

**Approval:** Students will be placed in Honors English I based on previous grades and standardized testing scores.

### **English I**

111 Year 1.0 Freshman

In this course, students will develop a variety of strategies to infer literal meaning from a variety of sophisticated texts, connect those texts to their own lives, utilize the writing process to compose focused essays that reflect conventional English grammar, and develop strategies for making meaning from new vocabulary.

### **Textual Analysis 1**

117 Year 1.0 Freshman

Taught in conjunction with English I for those who need it, Textual Analysis 1 will equip students with strategies to comprehend and enjoy a wide variety of high school-level texts.

**Approval:** Students will be placed in Textual Analysis 1 based on previous grades and standardized testing scores.

### **Honors English 2: Introduction to Literature**

120 Year 1.0 Sophomore

This concentrated introduction to the various genres of literature emphasizes the interpretation of essays, short stories, poetry, novels and drama. Grammar is reviewed

primarily to prepare students for successful performance on standardized tests and for proficiency in written and oral assignments. Composition is literature based. Vocabulary study is structured and integrated into personal usage and literary projects. Honors students are expected to read extensively outside of class, develop strong writing in a variety of styles, and participate actively in class discussions emanating from their reading and writing. *This course is required of all students being considered for the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program.*

**Approval:** Placement is determined by departmental recommendation, based on performance, initiative and work habits in the student's ninth grade English course.

### **Introduction to Literature**

121 Year 1.0 Sophomore

Sophomores learn to read with appreciation the various genres of literature, including essays, short stories, poetry, biography, novels, and drama. Grammar is reviewed, primarily to prepare students for successful performances on standardized tests and for proficiency in written and oral assignments. Students practice skills necessary to write five-paragraph themes, usually related to literary study. Vocabulary study is structured and incorporated into all areas of the course throughout the year.

### **Textual Analysis 2**

118 Year 1.0 Sophomore

Students in this course continue developing vocabulary, fluency and comprehension in increasingly sophisticated texts. Students develop reading strategies for literary texts as well as content area reading.

**Approval:** This course will be required of sophomores based on their performance in ninth grade courses and on standardized testing.

### **I.B. English 11**

180 Year 1.0 Junior

This course will be a rigorous, detailed study of literature from a variety of time periods, cultures, and genres. Instruction will focus on analyzing the author's craft, use of technique, literary styles, and structure. The complexity of the texts chosen will challenge students to develop their skills as thinkers by requiring them to synthesize multiple elements of a text to make connections between the text, themselves, and society. Expressing these conclusions in a variety of formats, including written work and both individual and group presentations, will foster each student's growth as a communicator. Works studied in semester one will examine the theme of racism; semester two works will examine narrative technique and themes in world literature.

**Approval:** This course is open only to students in the International Baccalaureate Programme.

### **American Literature**

130 or 131 Year 1.0 Junior

Students will examine themes of social justice as they are represented in American Literature. The concept of American ideals, as represented by historical works, will be compared to contemporary texts which illuminate problems within society today. Students will be empowered to construct developed essays and presentations, crafting their own theses and supporting evidence, in order to analyze the connections between an author's craft and the larger social implications of a work. Vocabulary development will be grounded in the texts being read but will also focus on preparation for the SAT and ACT. Students will also be introduced to MLA research methods.

**Note:** Should the English department determine it is appropriate, a section of Honors American Literature will be offered for non-I.B. students. Placement in the course will be determined by departmental recommendation, based on performance, initiative and work habits in the student's tenth grade English course.

### **I.B. English 12**

182 Year 1.0 Senior

Semester 1 of this course includes a detailed study of works by Shakespeare and other authors, using a variety of critical lenses such as New Critical, Feminist, and Psychological analysis. Semester 2 will focus on narrative structures in prose fiction. As in I.B. English 11, instruction will focus on analyzing the author's craft, the use of technique, literary styles, and structure. The complexity of the texts chosen will challenge students to develop their skills as thinkers by requiring them to synthesize multiple elements of a text in order and make connections between the text, themselves, and society. Expressing these conclusions in a variety of formats, including written work and both individual and group presentations, will foster each student's growth as a communicator.

**Approval:** This course is open only to students in the International Baccalaureate Programme who have successfully completed I.B. English 11.

**Note:** In 2011-12, Seniors who are not taking I.B. English 12 will be able to choose from three different approaches to British Literature. All three are described below.

### **British Literature**

141 Year 1.0 Senior

Students will study British literature from Anglo-Saxon epics to modern poetry, fiction and drama and will hone sophisticated reading skills, with an emphasis on inference and interpretation. Writing in the course will feature an extensive review of grammar, the writing process, and essay support, with an emphasis on SAT-style compositions as well as literature-based essays. By year's end, each student will submit a research paper that analyzes aspects of a major literary work. Vocabulary review is incorporated into the curriculum in preparation for the SAT and for college-level reading and writing.

### **British Literature: What's Love Got to Do with It?**

142 Year 1.0 Senior

Students will study works spanning seven centuries of British literature. From Chaucer to Woolf, students will examine fiction, poetry, short stories, and drama that highlight the unique relationship between men, women, and societal norms of gender interaction. Throughout the course we will develop and hone sophisticated reading skills, with an emphasis on inference and interpretation. Writing in the course will feature an extensive review of grammar, the writing process, and essay support, with an emphasis on literature-based essays. By year's end, each student will submit a research paper that analytically compares two major literary works from the course. Vocabulary review is incorporated into the curriculum in preparation for the SAT and for college-level reading and writing.

### **British Literature: Good and Evil**

143    Year    1.0    Senior

In this course, students will study works spanning seven centuries of British Literature. From Beowulf to the twentieth Century, students will examine the way evil is portrayed and embodied in selected pieces of British fiction, drama, poetry, and non-fiction in order to explore the complexity of human nature and society. By looking at the “bad guys” the students will gain a better understanding of the “good guys.” Beyond the challenge of inference and interpretation, the course will feature a heavy focus on critical writing, both creatively and analytically, allowing students to develop their skills in composition, grammar, and vocabulary, culminating in a final research paper which compares two major works from the course.

### **College Writing 1**

168    Semester    0.5    Junior, Senior

The objective of this course is to prepare the college-bound student for the writing demands of colleges today. Organization, mechanics and methodology of expository composition will be covered in depth. Each student will be given the opportunity to strengthen his/her individual skills and to evaluate the work of others in the learning process.

### **College Writing 2**

174    Semester    0.5    Junior, Senior

This course allows students who have completed College Writing to continue honing their essay writing skills in preparation for college.

**Prerequisite:** College Writing 1

### **African-American Literature 1**

169    Semester    0.5    Junior, Senior

This class is a comprehensive study of the history, culture, writing, art, and music of African-Americans. This class will focus on the above mentioned contributions of

African Americans from pre-slavery to the Harlem Renaissance to the American experience.

**African-American Literature 2**

170 Semester 0.5 Junior, Senior

Students who wish to explore African-American literature and culture in greater depth, with sustained research into areas of particular interest to students, may do so in this course.

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of African-American Literature 1.

**Latin-American Literature**

187 Semester 0.5 Junior, Senior

This survey course will explore a variety of literatures from Latin America and multicultural writers.

**Creative Writing 1**

171 Semester 0.5 Junior, Senior

This course seeks to tap into the creative energies of students by engaging them in the writing of poetry, short stories, personal reflective writing, and autobiography. Students will be expected to write, to share their writing with the class, and to critique constructively the writing of others. The class will also seek to connect students with the world of publishing. Students will submit various pieces of their own writing for publication.

**Creative Writing 2**

175 Semester 0.5 Junior, Senior

This course allows students who have completed Creative Writing to continue deepening the craft of poetry or short story writing. These students will create a portfolio of their work, with an eye to publication and reading their work in public in the community.

**Prerequisite:** Creative Writing 1