

# ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

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English Graduation Requirement: 4 Years / 20 Credits

Course Title	Level	Course Number	Grade Level	Semester	# of Periods	Credits
English I	Introductory	0102/ 7802*	9	All	4	5
English I	College Prep	0103	9	All	4	5
English I	Honors	0104	9	All	4	5
English I	High Honors	0105	9	All	4	5
English II	Introductory	0202	10	All	4	5
English II	College Prep	0203	10	All	4	5
English II	Honors	0204	10	All	4	5
English II	High Honors	0205	10	All	4	5
English III: American Perspectives	Introductory	0302	11	All	4	5
English III: American Perspectives	College Prep	0303	11	All	4	5
English III: American Perspectives	Honors	0304	11	All	4	5
AP Literature and Composition	Advanced Placement	0305	11	All	4	5
English IV: Literature and Composition	College Prep	0403	12	All	4	5
English IV: British Literature	Heterogeneous	0404	12	All	4	5
English IV: Creativity and Culture	Heterogeneous	0414	12	All	4	5
English IV: Global Voices	Heterogeneous	0424	12	All	4	5
English IV: African American Literature	Heterogeneous	0430	12	All	4	5
English IV: Asian American Literature	Heterogeneous	0440	12	All	4	5
Creative Writing	Heterogeneous	0543	9-12	All	2	2.5





grammar and vocabulary units, and applying the basic techniques of writing a research paper. Students also practice test-taking skills needed for the 10<sup>th</sup> grade MCAS examination and other such assessments.

The American Perspectives course junior year considers the ways in which the diversity and multiplicity of American perspectives are reflected in its various literatures, including traditional core texts, works of ethnic groups such as Native American, Asian-American, and African American as well as regional pieces from the South, Northeast, West, and Midwest. Considerable attention is given to how these various perspectives enrich student understanding of the term “American culture.” A student in this course should be prepared to approach literary analysis using different critical lenses, building on skills and understandings presented in English I and English II. Students will move toward greater independence as they develop their abilities to engage with works of literature and express their ideas clearly both orally and in writing. In their culminating assessment, students will examine the work of an American writer and explore various interpretations that illuminate the writer’s style. With the insights they have developed, students will create a work in the style of the writer they have studied.

**AP LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION**

**Course # 0305**

A student in this course should be prepared to approach literary analysis as argument and to research independently the historical and cultural backgrounds necessary to understanding these various perspectives. A student enrolling in this course should show mastery over the three-part literary, expository and narrative essay. Additionally, students will be given the opportunity to practice AP Literature and Composition multiple choice and essays in preparation for the exam in the spring.

**ENGLISH III: AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES**

**Honors**

**Course # 0304**

Students selecting this course should have reading skills at or above grade level and be able to compose an effective three-part expository essay. Skills developed include reading inferentially, developing literary analysis through composition and discussion, producing a formal research paper, practicing test-taking skills for the PSAT and SAT exams, and relating course content to U.S. History II.

**ENGLISH III: AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES**

**College Prep**

**Course # 0303**

This course is structured and paced to allow for additional student support in comprehension, analysis and synthesis. Students selecting this course should have reading skills at grade level and be able to write a three-part expository essay. Skills developed include reading inferentially, writing essays of literary interpretation, practicing test-taking skills needed for the PSAT and SAT, and relating course content to U.S. History II.

**ENGLISH III: AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES**

**Introductory**

**Course # 0302**

Since this course is designed to remediate English skills, the student must demonstrate, either through standardized test scores or teacher recommendation, a need for placement at this level. Skills developed include reading for comprehension, recognizing patterns of development in reading, distinguishing fact from opinion, and building vocabulary skills.

All six senior English courses incorporate literature from various perspectives and genres; students will explore what it means to be a human and how perspectives shape and alter truth. These courses help students develop independent, informed and creative thinking through student-led class discussions, expository, and creative writing opportunities, and rich independent reading. Grounded in close reading, each of the courses will help students examine multiple perspectives, leading to thoughtful judgments, conclusions, and evaluations. In the heterogeneous courses, all students will have access to academically challenging learning opportunities. Teachers will organize their classrooms in a way that supports and

encourages all students to participate in intellectually rigorous activities. Various group work models, literature circles, and other thoughtfully designed classroom structures and scaffolds will ensure that all students have equal access to the material studied.

**ENGLISH IV: COMPOSITION AND LITERATURE**                      **College Prep**                      **Course #0403**

This course is designed around an intensive review of reading comprehension of both nonfiction and fiction, analytical writing, and personal writing. The texts selected will focus on the connection between literature and the human condition, and students will work together to create a community of collaborative learning. The needs of the students help determine the focus of the class, and students will receive significant individualized attention around specific skill areas.

**ENGLISH IV: BRITISH LITERATURE**                      **Heterogeneous**                      **Course #0404**

British Literature is a literature based survey course that begins with Beowulf, the story of an Anglo-Saxon warrior-hero, and travels through time exploring historical contexts, philosophical perspectives, and archetypal or universal themes, such as the Hero, the Quest or Task, and the Fall. King Arthur, Hamlet, and Dr. Frankenstein all make an appearance. The curriculum will highlight the following topics: the power of storytelling; perseverance in the face of adversity; the impact of culture and history on narrative; the evolution of the hero; honor, revenge, and redemption; and the blending of myth and religion.

**ENGLISH IV: GLOBAL VOICES**                      **Heterogeneous**                      **Course #0424**

Global Voices focuses on increasing literacy in topics of worldwide import through reading and writing about award-winning literature from Asia, Africa, South America, and Europe. Readings are chosen from all genres: novel, poetry, drama, memoir, short story, essay, news media, and non-fiction. In addition to required texts, independent reading and remaining apprised of unfolding world events are required. The curriculum will highlight the following topics: empathy, cultural lenses, revolution and rebellion, immigration, social justice, and the power of storytelling.

**ENGLISH IV: CREATIVITY AND CULTURE**                      **Heterogeneous**                      **Course #0414**

This interdisciplinary team-taught course focuses on the creative endeavors of writers, artists, and composers in various time periods. We will explore how the human imagination has responded to the most enduring questions we encounter, such as “What does it mean to belong?” and “How does perspective shape and alter truth?” Study is hands on and inquiry-based and focuses on the ways in which the arts shape and reflect the cultures in which they are made. The course takes a broadly chronological approach, beginning with a brief look at the foundations of Western culture and the European Middle Ages and continuing up to the present; in later units, students consider the art of non-western cultures and the impact of new media, globalization, and commercialization upon the arts today. In addition to analyzing works of art, music, and literature, students will have multiple opportunities to do creative and expressive work, culminating in an end-of-year creative project.

**ENGLISH IV: AFRICAN-AMERICAN LITERATURE**                      **Heterogeneous**                      **Course #0430**

The focus of this course is on the development of black writing in America, from the colonial to the contemporary. The readings, both fiction and nonfiction, cover a panoply of experiences—from slavery to the riches of the Harlem Renaissance, and from the struggles against institutional racism, to the fight for civil rights. The course will close with African-American contributions to contemporary life and literature. Sample texts and excerpts include *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, and *Friday Night Lights*.

**ENGLISH IV: ASIAN-AMERICAN LITERATURE**                      **Heterogeneous**                      **Course #0440**

Drawing from works such as Bill Moyer’s *Becoming American: The Chinese Experience*, Helen Zia’s *Asian American Dreams*, the fiction and nonfiction collection *Growing Up Asian American*, and Gene Luen Yang’s graphic novel *American Born Chinese* as well as an assortment of documentaries, feature films, and

online resources, students will examine the Asian-American experience and investigate their impact on America and, conversely, the impact life in America has had on them. Students are encouraged to bring in their own families' immigration stories to compare with those explored in the class curriculum. Guest speakers and field trips will also be important aspects of the course. One of the goals of the class is to supplement the existing curriculum taught in American Perspectives and American History.

**English elective courses do not satisfy the English graduation requirement**

**CREATIVE WRITING**

**Heterogeneous**

**Course # 0543**

**Prerequisite: None**

Students who enroll in this course should have a strong interest in honing their fiction writing skills. The goal will be the completion of at least one publishable short story per quarter and the building of a portfolio of fiction over the course of the year. In preparation, students will complete various writing exercises with the aim of taking a more deliberate approach to the crafting of fiction. They will explore every aspect of composition--point of view, description, narrative techniques, dialogue, and characterization. Considerable class time will be spent critiquing each other's drafts in a writing workshop; therefore, students must be open to giving and receiving constructive feedback.

**FILM ANALYSIS**

**Heterogeneous**

**Course # 0533**

**Prerequisite: Students should complete English II, during which they will have completed the film unit and the related research paper.**

The course is designed to introduce students to the various elements of cinema and filmmaking. By learning about the conventions the major genres (drama, science fiction/fantasy, war/anti-war, etc.), the processes of analysis, and cinematic techniques, students will gain a fuller understanding of filmmaking and criticism. Students will view both classic films and new releases. Projects may also include students shooting and editing their own film trailers.

**DIGITAL STORYTELLING AND JOURNALISM**

**Heterogeneous**

**Course #0623**

**Prerequisite: None**

How do we tell stories in the digital age? In the era of the 24-hour news cycle, how can we effectively use digital media to entertain, persuade, and inspire our audiences? This course will introduce students to a wide variety of multimedia tools and applications used to tell stories (both fiction and nonfiction), and will engage them in examination and critique of examples pulled from contemporary media. Students will learn how to write and organize digital content; how to shoot and edit digital photos; how to gather and edit audio; how to use technology to create engaging documentaries, short films, PSAs, news stories, etc.; and how to share their work to a wide audience.

**WORLD MYTHOLOGY, FOLKLORE, AND LEGEND**

**Heterogeneous**

**Course #0593**

**Prerequisite: None**

Students in this course will study mythology, folklore, and legends from a variety of world cultures and eras. Students will read, analyze, discuss, and write about mythology and its continued relevance to contemporary issues and texts, as well as investigate connections and similarities between cultures. Students should anticipate considerable reading in this course. Relevant films, vocabulary, and exhibits will be explored. Curiosity about and interest in comparative ancient belief systems are essential.

**WRITING LAB I**

**Heterogeneous**

**Course # 0633**

**Prerequisite: Recommendation from English teacher or Guidance Department (Grades 9-10)**

This course provides freshmen and sophomores with expository writing support in terms of organization and the writing process. Students may bring writing assignments from other classes and/or receive instructional help from an English teacher. Since each class member will be working at his or her own

writing level, this class is appropriate for students needing remedial work. It is strongly recommended for students who seek additional help with the MCAS-Language Arts test required for high school graduation.

**WRITING LAB II**

**Heterogeneous**

**Course # 0663**

**Prerequisite: Recommendation from English teacher or Guidance Department (Grades 11-12)**

This course provides juniors and seniors with expository writing support in terms of organization and the writing process. Students may bring writing assignments from other classes and/or receive instructional help from an English teacher. Since each class member will be working at his or her own writing level, this class is appropriate for students needing remedial work. It is strongly recommended for students who seek additional help with the MCAS-Language Arts test required for high school graduation.

