

English

Honors English I; 9th Grade

This course focuses on writing essays with an emphasis on unity, organization, supporting sentences and transitional words. Basic grammar, mechanics, dictionary and library skills will be taught. Students will practice writing skills as well as literary technique: plot, setting, character development and point of view. Students will practice reading, communication and speaking skills. Meets UC and CSU requirements. Open to 9th grade.

Honors English II (HONORS DESIGNATION); 10th Grade

Honors English II builds upon students' foundation of critical reading and analytical writing skills in preparation for Advanced Placement coursework in their junior and senior years. Students analyze the elements of literature and nonfiction through investigative journalism, essays, articles, historical documents, a novel, drama, poetry and short stories. As they develop rhetorical writing skills and respond to claims, students learn to refine arguments and organize evidence to skillfully support a position. To improve listening and speaking skills, students engage with various media types through which they analyze and synthesize information, discuss, create presentations, and collaborate on projects. Students build writing and speaking skills in journals, discussions, free response, and essays, learning to communicate clearly and credibly in narrative, argumentative and explanatory styles. Students are evaluated through a diversity of assessments designed to prepare them for the content, form, and depth of the Common Core as well as college-level courses. Each semester culminates in a complex final project and comprehensive written exam that allows students to demonstrate higher order thinking skills, problem solving, critical thinking, and investigation and inquiry techniques. Meets UC and CSU requirements. Open to 10th grade

AP English III: Language and Composition (HONORS DESIGNATION); 11th Grade

This Advanced Placement English language and college composition course develops the reading, critical thinking, and writing skills of students, emphasizing expository and argumentative writing as well as research and documentation skills. Students will read and analyze a broad range of challenging nonfiction prose selections, as well as some fiction, focusing on the rhetorical strategies that writers employ to create beauty and meaning. Students also work on their own writing, to incorporate the same strategies they see in the material they are reading, developing their own writing process and increasing their awareness of the relationship between purpose, audience, and strategy. Each unit of study includes sample questions from the exam, both Free Response and Multiple Choice, to aid in preparing students for the AP exam. Meets UC and CSU requirements. Open to 11th grade.

AP English IV: Literature and Composition (HONORS DESIGNATION); 12th Grade

The AP English Literature and Composition course aligns to an introductory college-level literary analysis course. The course engages students in the close reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature to deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure. As

they read, students consider a work's structure, style, and themes, as well as its use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone. Writing assignments include expository, analytical, and argumentative essays that require students to analyze and interpret literary works. The course focuses on the reading skills, critical thinking, composition and vocabulary to meet the requirements of an introductory college-level literary analysis course and to prepare students to take the AP Literature and Composition AP test in May. Meets UC and CSU requirements. Open to 12th grade

Yearbook Elective

Students in this course publish the yearbook. Student journalists are responsible for continually tracking down story leads and reporting them to the yearbook staff. A variety of stories are covered—from academic to athletic—and require careful student planning in both the art of photo composition as well as interviewing techniques. Additionally, students will be trained in the basics of graphic layout design and copywriting. Particular emphasis is placed on tracking student coverage to ensure all students are placed in the yearbook a minimum of three times. The course occasionally requires time spent after school—whether to cover school events or to complete stories and/or assigned layouts. Students may repeat this course for elective credit. This class satisfies the computer proficiency graduation requirement. Meets UC and CSU VAPA requirements. *Prerequisites:* Consent of the instructor. Open to 9th through 12th grades.