



English - Course Descriptions

English 9

1309 Grade 9

1 credit

In the 9th grade ELA curriculum, students will read, discuss, and analyze contemporary, as well as classic texts, focusing on how complex characters develop through interactions with one another and how authors structure text, to accomplish that development. There will be a strong emphasis on reading closely and responding to text dependent questions, annotating text, and developing academic vocabulary in context. We will also focus on the ability to make evidence-based claims, which will empower students with critical reading and writing skills emphasized in the Common Core. Finally, we will be focusing on research skills and use of proper MLA citations to provide strong, thorough textual evidence to support student claims. Writing assignments are frequent and varied, relying on original thought and analysis. Students will be expected to engage in class discussions and participate in group activities throughout the year.

English 10

1310 Grade 10

1 credit

The course is designed to prepare students for college entrance and the Common Core Exam in English. Several literary classics will be read and studied, such as *Fahrenheit 451*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Critical thinking and communication skills will be required for essay responses to literature. All foundational aspects of English Language Arts will be built upon and students will be expected to develop their writing, reading, and thinking skills to meet the needs of a 21st century learner.

English 10 - Honors

1410 Grade 10

1 credit

★ Recommended: 90% or better average in English 9, a completed writing task, and two teacher recommendations

► This course is strongly recommended for any student interested in taking AP Language and Composition or AP Literature during their Junior and/or Senior years.



Literary topics for study include mythology, non-fiction and fiction prose and poetry. In addition to the above, there are a variety of selected short stories, essays, and articles, Shakespearean comedies and tragedies, all pieces suggested and developed through use of the Common Core Standards. Vocabulary study, several short critical analysis papers, and journal writings are developed from the literature. A major research project is assigned which is focused on evidenced-based research, as well as close reading techniques study. All parts of the English Common Core Exam are major parts of the curriculum study. A completed summer reading assignment is due on the first day of school.



English 11

1311 Grade 11

1 credit - NYSSB

This course concentrates on fictional and non-fictional American Literature. Close reading and analysis of novels, plays, short stories, and poems will lead to instruction on writing literary analyses, as well as expository, creative, and argument papers. Argument writing will emphasize claim formulation, and the development, defense, and support of argument using textual evidence across genres and rhetoric strategies. The American Dream and other major themes will be looked at through the writing of Fitzgerald, Hemingway, Miller, Whitman, Dickinson, Steinbeck, and Wilson. The range of conventional critical reading and writing skills necessary to show proficiency and mastery on the New York State Common Core Assessment will be honed throughout the year.

AP English Language and Composition

1426 Grades 11, 12

1 credit - NYSSB

★ Recommended: Successful completion of English 10 Honors with an average of 90% or better

This is an intensive writing course designed to prepare students for the rigors of college writing and for the Advanced Placement Exam in composition. It is modeled after a typical “Freshman Composition” course and focuses primarily on rhetorical analysis of non-fiction books, essays, and articles. Rhetoric can be defined as “the study and the art of using language effectively.” Using Aristotle’s model of the rhetorical triangle (Word/Logos; Author/Ethos; Audience/Pathos), students will learn to analyze the language choices authors use to create meaningful and persuasive texts. Students will write weekly essays focusing on analysis, persuasion, and synthesis while developing their own voice and style. A summer reading/writing assignment will be given in May and will be due the first day of school. Students will be asked to sign a contract upon registering for this course.





English 12

1312 Grade 12

1 credit - NYSSB

For twenty weeks of the course, Seniors enrolled in this course will intensely focus on the technical attributes of the writing process required at both the college and post high school career levels. Individuals will be given the invaluable opportunity to earn three college credits for a College Composition course through Bryant and Stratton college, through their English IV Regents class and no cost to the student. This course will assist in reversing the disturbing trend of incoming freshman and entry level employees who are either being assigned to remedial writing classes, at the college level, or denied employment. Students will master the ability to construct thesis driven papers, develop a college admissions' writing sample and thoroughly evaluate their own strengths and weakness, within the writing and research process, to ensure their individual success after graduation.

Throughout the second semester, the course will focus on literature and literary criticism of works, which will also help prepare students for what they will experience after high school. Close reading, analysis and evaluation skills will be refined and honed, as these are an integral component of the Common Core Learning Standards. Students will demonstrate their ability to conduct in-depth, critical analysis of literature, appropriate for their post high school studies. Discussion, reflection and evaluation, which will be text dependent, and the aforementioned, will be a major component of the second semester.

All English IV students will be required to complete a senior project which they will choose from a number of different options, in addition to a final project/exam. Students will leave English IV with both the understanding and confidence necessary, to succeed academically and socially, in the rigorous climate of today's society.

AP English Literature and Composition

1412 Grade 12

1 credit - NYSSB

★ Recommended: Classroom average of 90% or higher at the time of scheduling for senior year

Students have been reading, writing, and studying various forms of prose and poetry throughout high school. The process in English Literature and Composition involves a more in-depth approach to understanding and analyzing what students read, as well as considering structure, style, and specific elements, such as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism and tone. This course is geared to prepare the 12th grade student for the National Advanced Placement Exam in Literature and Composition and/or to challenge the above average student of English. Using a comparative analysis approach to literature, students read, analyze and compare works according to subject, form and point of view. Literature is taken from over 600 years of poetry and prose. College application work is focused in September and October in the classroom and in conjunction with counseling using Naviance. Literature analysis, comparative study of writing styles, and techniques used through various centuries is studied. A summer reading, writing, and research project is given in June and is due on the first day of class.





Journalism I

1316 Grades 10,11,12

½ credit

The student will learn the fundamentals of print journalism: writing, editing, and producing a paper. Evidence of this knowledge will be shown in the staffing and production of the school's newspaper. This is a "hands-on" course.

Journalism II

1336 Grades 10,11,12

½ credit

Broadcast media is the focus of this course. The course will address current media issues including television advertising, radio and television news, talk shows, and entertainment news. Students will have an opportunity to create their own commercials and talk shows. The goal is for students to be more aware of the way broadcasters and media outlets try to influence and shape their decisions, from current news events to which products they buy. Students DO NOT need to take Journalism I in order to sign up for this course.

Public Speaking

1414 Grades 10, 11, 12

½ credit

This course provides students with a variety of public speaking experiences. It focuses on all aspects of Public Speaking including Active Listening, Speech Writing, Audience Awareness, coping with Stage Fright, Physical & Vocal Delivery Concerns, & Evaluating Feedback. Fun class activities are meant to increase self-confidence in the student. Speeches will include a variety of Impromptu, Extemporaneous, Prepared Manuscripts, and Memorized speeches. The final exam will consist of one prepared 10-minute presentation.

Sports in Literature

1275 Grades 10, 11, 12

1 credit

This course will focus on various topics of athletics as they are portrayed in literature. Students will study themes such as: Definition of Sport, Hazing, Steroids/PED, Females in Athletics, Positive/Negative Role Models, Out of Control Fans, and Current Events. These themes will be viewed through various magazines, newspapers, online sources, and novels. Students will complete various writing assignments on these topics. Students enrolling in this class should have an interest in athletics and literature.