

English AP/Honors Course Descriptions

Sophomore Honors English

This full-year (1-credit) course is designed for above-average, highly-motivated students to develop their thinking, reading, and writing for successful work at the Advanced Placement level in their junior and senior years as well as at most competitive colleges. Through the readings in World Literature, the course prepares the students for a lifetime of ideas, skills, and observations. It encourages students to develop their skills as readers, thinkers, and writers. It helps students evolve in their knowledge and love of World Literature. Throughout the course, students will learn and apply the stages of the writing process to make their writing more effective; this course will have students create semester length portfolios of formal and informal writing, produce a multi-genre project using world literature texts, and maintain an analytical and critical reading log. The other writing assignments focus on forms of exposition: definition, cause-effect, and problem analysis. Literary terms as well as reading vocabulary are also emphasized. An independent summer reading/writing project is required.

AP English Literature and Composition: Junior Advanced Placement English

This full-year (1 credit) AP course is designed for highly motivated students to develop the independence in thinking, reading, and writing necessary for successful work at most competitive colleges. Through the readings in American literature, the course prepares the students for a lifetime of ideas, skills, and observations. It encourages students to develop a deep and abiding connection with literature and allows them to shape their own values and preferences with respect to style and literary periods. It helps students grow in their knowledge and love of American literature. The culmination of the course is the Junior Essay, an extended analysis of the works of an American author or topic in American literature. This is a work of analysis relying on careful reading and research, accurately documented. The other writing assignments focus on forms of exposition: comparison and contrast, process, and analysis. Literary terms as well as a reading vocabulary are also emphasized. An independent summer reading/writing project is required. The course, in conjunction with Senior Advanced Placement English, will prepare students for either the AP English Language or Composition test or the AP English Literature and Composition test.

AP English Language and Composition: Senior Advanced Placement English

This full-year (1 credit) AP course is designed for highly motivated students to develop the independence in thinking, writing, and scholarly research/analysis which are required at the most competitive colleges. The course's rigorous, comprehensive curriculum focuses on the refinement of the reading and writing skills necessary for the critical analysis of all types of literature along with the research, composition, and documentation skills required to develop scholarly analytical essays. Students concentrate on the process necessary for completing the Senior Essay, a longer persuasive paper including both primary and secondary research and relying heavily upon the skills developed during the AP Junior English essay process. The other focus of the course is analyzing British and world literature in terms of both the rhetorical and literary styles of the writers and the historical context of the works. Frequent independent readings, appropriate for an AP English course, are designed to broaden the scope and depth of the student's literary experience. Students will be required to complete an independent summer reading/writing project. The two-year sequence of Junior Advanced Placement English and Senior Advanced Placement English will prepare students for both the AP English Language and Composition test and the AP English Literature and Composition test.

Honors Creative Writing

This intensive course helps students master skills and techniques learned in Creative Writing 160. Through daily journal entries and weekly writing assignments, students will be expected to work independently as well as collaboratively in a variety of genres. Students must show initiative as well as self-discipline as they explore the genres of their choice. Using portfolio evaluation of individual projects, the course also emphasizes manuscript form, available markets, and methods of publishing. An independent summer writing project is a required component of this honors course. This is primarily a senior elective but is open to juniors depending on enrollment.