

ENGLISH

The English Department offers a four-year program of comprehensive literature and composition courses. Students read widely in fiction and non-fiction, as well as in poetry and drama. Library and research skills are developed throughout the four years and students write literary research papers in grades 11 and 12. Extensive instruction and practice in composition are offered, and students meet regularly with their teachers to develop writing skills in all modes. Students may elect additional semester courses in creative writing and Shakespeare in their junior or senior years.

Students have the opportunity to seek Honors or Advanced Placement study in any year of the high school program. In grades 10-12, placement is determined by essay examination and teacher recommendation.

A summer reading requirement for all students is distributed in mid-May.

ENGLISH I

This year-long course is specifically created for English language learners who score at the intermediate or advanced level on the NYSESLAT test. Over the course of the year, students will build English language skills through guided writing and reading exercises, as well as oral presentations, projects and group-work activities. Much of the course requirements will be driven by the ultimate goal of preparation for entry into English 9. Some students may take this course for a second year if appropriate.

1 unit of credit

REGENTS WRITING WORKSHOP/ENL

This course is specifically designed to enable students to spend a year mastering the literature and essay requirements for the English Regents exam. The class will meet on alternate days and will teach the fundamentals of English, assist in the comprehension of literature texts, and work on the basics of essay writing.

½ unit of credit

REGENTS WRITING WORKSHOP/SPECIAL EDUCATION

This course is specifically designed to enable special education students to master the skills required for the English Regents exam. The class will meet on alternate days and will be staffed with an English teacher and special education teacher both, of whom will work on the tasks of the Regents exam as well as on the literature that the students will be expected to cover in their English classes. These skills include essay writing, reading comprehension, basic grammatical structure, and note taking, all required on the exam.

½ unit of credit

CREATIVE WRITING – (Evening)

This is an advanced writing course for 11th and 12th graders with excellent skills in expository writing, who wish to gain or to expand their experience in writing fiction, poetry, and literary non-fiction. Weekly and long-term reading assignments will also be designed to offer students an introduction to contemporary literature.

The course is conducted in a workshop format: all students are expected to submit their writing for critiques by their peers and to offer meaningful responses to the work of other members of the class. Writers will also be encouraged to submit work to contests and publications. This is an elective that does not replace any required English course, but may be used toward a five-year sequence.

½ unit of credit

Prerequisite: English 10

SHAKESPEARE – (Evening) First Semester

The Shakespeare class offers a comprehensive and creative approach to the study of the Bard. The class will cover between five and seven of Shakespeare's works. Each session will include a brief lecture presentation, an analysis of key scenes, group performances, and intensive study of professional performances. Students will be responsible for reading plays at home, and for being prepared for each session. Grades will be based on one midterm exam, one final exam, one comprehensive essay or project and class participation.

½ unit of credit

Prerequisite: English 10

SHAKESPEARE – (Evening) Second Semester

See above.

½ unit of credit

Prerequisite: English 10

JOURNALISM 1

The course will allow students to explore the role of the news media (print, internet, radio, television, film and advertising) from its beginnings to its potential in our future. Students become familiar with the organization of news production, law and ethics, the history of the American newspaper and the role of journalism in American society, interviewing, reporting and editing. Students in the course will gain practical experience by producing articles for Guide Post, the school newspaper, and an individually designed newspaper.

1 unit of credit

No Prerequisite

JOURNALISM 2

The course builds on the information learned in Journalism 1 by introducing and developing skills in layout and design. Students will learn different types of design style (front page, inside page, and double page spread) using modular presentation. Students in the course will gain practical experience by creating the overall design of Guide Post. In addition, students will learn about using photos and illustrations and caption writing as an additional visually informative tool. Students will also be expected to execute an in-depth writing assignment.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: Journalism 1

JOURNALISM HONORS

Students in this course complete project assignments that include developing a staff manual, developing and executing team building activities for Guide Post, developing and leading training schedules, creating leadership plans, creating financial and advertising plans, and developing an online publication.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: Journalism 2

GRADE 9

NOTE: All grade 9 English and social studies classes are paired and scheduled to meet during consecutive periods. This permits flexible use of class time and grouping of students as well as creates opportunities for coordinated instruction.

ENGLISH 9 REGENTS

This is a comprehensive course in literature and composition with particular emphasis on expository writing and on analytical reading in all literary genres. English 9 Regents includes an intensive review of English grammar and usage as well as regular assignments in vocabulary development. Students will be expected to read extensively and independently, preparing works for class discussion as well as meeting supplementary outside reading requirements. Readings in drama will include at least one Shakespearean play. Students may expect opportunities to develop their skills in narrative, persuasive, and descriptive writing as well as to extend their ability to assert and argue effectively and to write topic sentences and thesis statements.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: English 8

ENGLISH 9 HONORS

English 9 Honors is not offered as a separate course. Students in 9 Regents have the opportunity to pursue honors level study and credit by achievement.

GRADE 10

A sophomore is required to register for one of the following full-year courses:

ENGLISH 10 - REGENTS

This Regents level course builds on the composition skills taught in ninth grade. Students may expect extensive practice in a variety of rhetorical modes and in developing the length and complexity of their essays. Students will also have opportunities to develop imaginative and personal writing. Clarity, variety in sentence structure, appropriate diction, and coherence are emphasized. The study of literature seeks to enhance students' appreciation of the complexity of human experience and includes significant works of drama, including at least one Shakespearean play, fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. Additional areas of study will include grammatical lessons and impromptu writing. As in all English courses, students in English 10 will have regular assignments in vocabulary development, lessons in standard English usage, and outside reading assignments.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: English 9

ENGLISH 10 HONORS

This course is designed for those students who have demonstrated exceptional proficiency and interest in literature and composition. The honors level course is for students who take genuine pleasure in reading extensively literary works of variety and challenge and whose writing shows exceptional clarity and maturity of expression. Honors students must be able to work and grow in a highly competitive atmosphere. Honors placement is determined by essay examination and teacher recommendation.

1 unit of credit
permission

Prerequisite: English 9 Regents and department

GRADE 11

A junior is required to register for one of the following year-long courses:

ENGLISH 11 - REGENTS

The junior year offers students the opportunity to bring their literary and composition skills to a mature, college preparatory level. The literature studied is primarily American and is selected to develop awareness and an appreciation of structures, styles, and themes characteristic of American literature. This reading may be enriched by inclusion of appropriate works of British or European writers. Our goal is to help students develop sound and mature critical standards. Student writing is expected to show evidence of logical reasoning, sound analysis, and competent interpretation. English 11 Regents offers regular, intensive instruction in standard English usage and in vocabulary development. At the end of the year, students take the Regents Comprehensive Examination in English.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: English 10

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH/LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION (ENGLISH 11 HONORS)

This course both parallels and intensifies the 11 Regents program and prepares for the AP Language and Composition Exam, which is required. Students in this course demonstrate exceptional maturity of literary insight and compositional skill, as well as a commitment to explore great literature and writing.

This course offers honors level study of literature as well as the AP language program, which engages students in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines and rhetorical contexts. Students will have opportunities to write in a variety of forms – narrative, exploratory, expository – as well as to develop skills in formal and informal argument.

1 unit of credit
department permission.

Prerequisite: English 10 Regents and

Those not receiving recommendation will be required to meet with the counselor, department head, and parents to ensure full awareness of the high level of commitment and skill required to succeed in AP English.

GRADE 12

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION (ENGLISH 12 HONORS)

AP Literature and Composition is a college level course designed for students who have demonstrated mature understanding and superior ability to express insights, concepts, and themes in literature, who take pleasure in reading, discussing, and writing about literature; who have demonstrated their critical thinking skills in class discussion and in writing.

This course focuses on thorough and thoughtful analysis of important plays, short stories, and novels; such as, Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness, Robert Penn Warren's All the King's Men, and Ralph Ellison's Invisible Man. Other works may include Greek tragedy, selected books of the Bible, and the poetry of Chaucer, Dante, Shakespeare, and T.S. Eliot, among others.

You must plan to devote a minimum of eight hours per week outside of class to prepare reading and writing assignments within required deadlines. Class discussion will stress comprehension and interpretation and require accurate recall with ability to make cogent references to a particular text. The AP English student must be a thoughtful and mature contributor to these discussions.

The AP Exam in Literature and Composition is required of all students. In addition, a college level research paper on a major literary figure or work(s) is required. You will also submit a number of critical papers throughout the year.

1 unit of credit
recommendation.

Prerequisite: English 11 Regents Department

Those not receiving the department recommendation will be required to meet with counselor, department head, and parents to ensure full awareness of the high level of commitment and skill required to succeed in AP English.

CITIZENS OF THE WORLD

Today, high school students live in a globalized society and are citizens in a global world. To be successful citizens, students need to be knowledgeable about the world outside of Great Neck, New York, and even the United States. Using a multidisciplinary perspective, students will understand the global forces that affect our lives and understand the diversity of the human experience. Their concern for worldly issues will develop their global identity. This course is designed to explore current trends in political, economic and social mores in specific areas around the world whose influence permeates the world in which we live. This program will develop students' understanding of world events in a digital learning environment.

Citizens of the World is a two-period, two-credit program that fulfills the 12th grade English and Social Studies requirements.

2 units of credit

Prerequisite: English 11

GRAPHIC LITERATURE:

This is an interdisciplinary class developed by the English, Social Studies, and Fine Arts departments. It is for students who have a strong interest in creative storytelling. The emphasis of the course is on the processes inherent in the composition of graphic literature, and the examination, analysis, and creation of the textual and visual elements of comics. Students will study literature, style, politics, history, visual art and the relationship among these disciplines.

This course will culminate with the development, organization and implementation of a school-wide convention, during which students will present the original works they have created.

Graphic Literature is a three-period, three-credit course which fulfills the 12th grade English and Social Studies requirements and also grants an elective credit in Fine Arts.

3 units of credit

Prerequisite: English 11

REFLECTIONS: A LOOK AT OURSELVES AND THE CREATION OF MODERN SOCIETY

Reflections is an interdisciplinary, humanities-based seminar that models the academic rigors of a college level course. The course encompasses a variety of disciplines including: literature, history, philosophy, art analysis, creative writing, psychology, and sociology. The curriculum uses the humanities as a lens through which students examine current issues in contemporary society. Over the course of

the year, students will analyze classic and contemporary poetry, short stories and novels. In addition, students will also experience, consider, and question modern & contemporary art. The historical component of the course focuses on current events that students re-contextualize in a frame of sociopolitical and cultural perspectives

Students will participate in an ongoing community service activity twice a week throughout the year. Each student will select a non-profit organization of particular interest to him/her and will commit to the organization for the entire year.

REFLECTIONS is a two-period, two-credit course that fulfills the 12th grade English and social studies requirements and grants a community service credit.

2 units of credit

Prerequisite: English 11

SENIOR SEMINAR (S.A.T.I.S.)

This is a team-taught interdisciplinary class combining social studies, English and an elective component. Students are offered a unique opportunity to explore the social, historical, political and economic trends of a specific American decade while they read literature and examine other media from that time period. Students will also research an area of interest from a particular decade such as music, technology, politics, art, fashion or business.

In the spring semester, students will participate in a business internship.

Senior Seminar is a three-period, three credit program that fulfills the 12th grade English and social studies requirements and grants an elective credit.

3 units of credits

Prerequisite: English 11