

ENGLISH

Students must successfully complete four units of English and pass the Comprehensive English Regents to meet graduation requirements.

Course name: **English 9**
 English 9 Honors
Credit: **1**

English 9 centers on students developing in-depth approaches to reading and responding to literature. Readings explore such themes as self-discovery, challenges, and mystery. In a focus on four literary genres—short stories, novels, plays, and poems—students express their own personal reactions to literature and topics relating to values and morals developed by various authors. They are required to write extensively in journals and to participate actively in class discussions. Outside of class, students are assigned novels and other literary works in a variety of creative, descriptive, narrative, persuasive, and expository modes. Grammar and punctuation skills are reinforced in the students' writing and speaking. The emphasis is on the writing process through journal writing as well as prewriting (drafting), revising, and final editing of compositions on computers.

Speaking is also a key part of the English program for the ninth grade. Students are asked to participate in discussions in small groups as well as in the class as a whole. Besides understanding the meaning and structure of the four literary genres, mastering vocabulary is stressed. In short, students work on developing a sound academic basis for high school and college. It is a course that strives to address academic and personal needs in a challenging and thoughtful manner.

The Honors class follows the same syllabus as the Regents-level course. Students will be asked to read additional literature. There is a greater emphasis on student demonstration of the depth of their understanding and knowledge.

Course name: **English 10**
 English 10 Honors
Credit: **1**
Prerequisite: **English 9**

Students will continue to refine their knowledge of literature by reading novels, short stories, plays and poetry. The literature read in and out of class will be used as a basis for writing assignments. This course continues to emphasize work in vocabulary, grammar skills and research. Students will continue to write extensively in journals. Students will be expected to participate in class discussions.

The Honors class follows the same syllabus as the Regents-level course. Students will be asked to read additional literature. There is a greater emphasis on student demonstration of the depth of their understanding and knowledge.

Course name: English 11
Credit: 1

Students will be required to read a variety of literature in this course. Critical thinking skills are expanded as students interpret the literature. Writing assignments will address reflective, narrative, expository and creative modes. Students will take the New York State Regents examination during this course.

Course name: Advanced Placement English Language and Composition
Credit: 1
Grade: 11
Prerequisite: English 10 Honors or admission through the Honors Matrix

Intensive reading, writing, and critical discussions are fundamental to this course. Students should be prepared to write analytic and persuasive essays. Students enrolled in AP Language and Composition will take the New York State Regents exam as well as the Advanced Placement examination.

Course name: Creative Writing
Credit: 1/2
Grade: 10-12

“Writing is like any other practice, the better you’ll become and the easier it will seem.”
– *Joselow*

This course will be comprised of reading and writing the genres of creative fiction, creative non-fiction and poetry. The focus will be to develop and expand students’ skills on description, dialogue, and voice in writing. The course will prepare students for demanding college level writing. This elective course does not meet the 4 credits of English requirement.

Course name: **Drama and the Role of the Family**
Credit: **1/2**
Grade: **12**

In this course students will examine the representation of the family in drama. We will look at family dynamics broken into units of Husbands and Wives, Parents and Children, Siblings, and the Family in Cultural and Mythic Context. Students will take a critical approach to the context of the following dramatic plays: Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, Ibsen's *A Doll's House*, Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, and O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey Into Night*. In addition, the class will attend at least one dramatic performance.

Course name: **Psychology and Literature**
Credit: **1/2**
Grade: **12**

This reading intensive course provides an exploration of the human psyche by analyzing psychological theories of human behavior and applying them to literary characters. Why does George kill Lennie? Why does Abigail falsely accuse an entire village of witchcraft? These are the questions we will try to answer. Certain novels will be read as a class; others will be read independently. We will study a variety of famous psychologists, such as Freud, Jung, Adler, and Erikson.

Course name: **Presentation and Public Speaking**
Credit: **1/2**
Grade: **12**

This writing intensive course focuses on the elements of effective presentations and speeches. It requires students to create and deliver speeches using learned concepts and techniques. Consideration of audience, purpose, and persuasiveness will be the major concerns directing the creation of all projects. The course will cover technological approaches, such as power point and video presentations. Students will be provided with models in the form of guest speakers, sample presentations, and historical examples.

Course name: **Humanities—Conflict, Culture, and**

Change in the US in the 1960's

Credit: 1 (1/2 credit in English, 1/2 credit in Social Studies)
Meets Participation in Government requirements
Grade: 12

This reading and writing intensive course is an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the dramatic and lasting events of the 1960's in the United States. Literature will be used to arrive at a deeper understanding of themes, historical events, and cultural changes that occurred during this time period. The Vietnam War, Cold War, Space Race, and the Civil Rights movement will be the key events studied about a time that revolutionized the way our society thought. *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, *The Things They Carried*, *Slaughterhouse-Five* and song lyrics and poems will be the major pieces of literature used to illuminate the complex political and social culture of the 1960's.

This course meets for a double period for one semester.

Course name: AP English Literature and Composition
Credit: 1
Grade: 12
Prerequisite: AP English Language or admission through the Honors Matrix

This college level course focuses on both literature and on writing. Students must take the Advanced Placement exam in May. Students may be granted college credits by the college they attend, depending on their score on the exam and college policies.

Course name: The Hero's Journey in Literature and Film
Credit: 1/2
Grade: 12

This course seeks to create an awareness of the role of the hero in our lives. An exploration of the common experiences every hero must endure in order to become a central character is key to understanding the connections between a blockbuster movie such as *Star Wars* and the stories of King Arthur. The goal of this course is for students to learn about the connections between the movies they enjoy watching and their origins. To understand these connections, a study will be made of Aristotle's *Poetics*, Jung's *Hero Archetype*, Joseph Campbell's *The Power of Myth*, *The Odyssey* by Homer, Shakespeare's *Henry V*, *Beowulf*, *Grendel* by John Gardner, and the following films: *Beowulf*, *The Odyssey*, *Excalibur*, *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, *Superman*, *The Lord of the Rings*, *The Lion King*, *Henry V*, *Star Wars*, *Harry Potter*, and *Indiana Jones and the Quest for the Grail*.

Course name: Short Stories/ Author Study

Credit: 1/2
Grade: 12

This course will focus on the genre of the short story and its evolution in world culture. We will focus on the elements that make a story successful and the authors that have perfected this craft. Our study will span from the early 1800's to modern day interpretations of the writing technique. This course will introduce students to works and authors they do not know as well as present authors they have already read with new material. The students will leave with an encompassing view of the genre and how the world landscape helped to shape it.

Course name: Journalism
Credit: 1/2
Grade: 12

This is a writing intensive course for students who are interested in reporting and writing news articles, opinionated editorials, and other genres of writing appropriate for newspapers. Students will also examine the role and impact of the media on society. The course may work to contribute to or produce a newspaper. Graphic design and layout may also be a component of the class. Students will learn to write comprehensive, concise, and interesting texts.

Course name: Science Fiction and Fantasy
Credit: 1/2
Grade: 12

This is a course designed to explore concepts of all genres and dimensions of science fiction. Students will study fantasy and futuristic fiction with classic science-fiction texts like *Frankenstein* or *Slaughterhouse-Five* that illustrate worlds very different from our everyday existence. The course may also study the texts like *Harry Potter* and *The Lord of the Rings* and why they are so popular in our modern culture. The class will work to understand the elements of science fiction, and the students may work on writing their own science-fiction stories.