

English Department

Each student is required to take four years of English. The English Department offers a variety of courses that provide students opportunities to succeed regardless of their aptitudes, abilities, and interest levels. Students who plan to attend four-year colleges are strongly encouraged to check college entrance requirements before deciding on a four-year English sequence. College entrance requirements differ, and what is accepted as an English credit in one college may not be accepted as an English credit by another. It is imperative, therefore, that students and parents check college catalogs to be sure that the courses they choose will meet the English requirements of the college or university of their choice.

Students who fail English 9 or 10 will be required to take and pass the appropriate make-up course. Make-up courses in English 9, 10, 11 and 12 are offered both in the summer and after school during the regular school year. Students may not take more than one required English course during the school day without approval.

Advanced Independent Reading

Grade Open To: 12

Term: 1 or 2

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite/Grade Recommendation: Completion of English 9, 10, & 11

Fees: See description below

This one-semester course is designed to give college-bound students the opportunity to grow as readers, to discipline themselves to read more quickly, and to discuss a good book while demonstrating keen insight, and identifying strong connections. Students will select their books, but only with approval of the instructor. Students will read a variety of novels as well as keep thorough response journals, conference with the instructor, write two formal critical reviews, and complete a research project and presentation on an author. The \$3.00 paperback book fee will be collected from each student on the first day of class.

Advanced Writing: Journalism

Grade Open To: 10-11-12

Term: 1 & 2

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite/Grade Recommendation: "B" or better in previous English courses or teacher recommendation

Fees: Cost of newspaper subscription

Journalism is a year-long course designed for those students who wish to expand their writing skills by studying news, feature, and editorial writing. Students will study professional models as a way to learn the techniques of journalistic research and writing. Their articles will be submitted for publication in the school newspaper and other area publications. Students will also read a daily newspaper once a week. Students enrolled in journalism will be expected to participate in creating the school newspaper. Therefore, interviewing and speaking skills are also taught. Deadlines are imperative. This course is required for students who would like to serve as editor of the school newspaper.

American Literature:

Grade Open To: 11-12

Term: 1 & 2

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite/Grade Recommendation: None

Fees: Cost of required paperback books (and workbook if needed)

This course is designed for juniors and seniors with strong oral and written communication skills that are planning on going to college. Selected readings in American Literature, from the Colonial Period through the Civil War era to modern times, will be studied in an historical as well as thematic context. Vocabulary study will be drawn from the readings, and students will respond to the literature through class and small group discussions and activities. Students will also write essays based on their responses to and/or critical analyses of the readings. Rhetorical strategies, grammar, usage, and mechanics will be studied as they relate to growth in critical thinking and in writing style and correctness. Students will complete an independent research project based on a classic American work.

American Studies

Grade Open To: 11

Term: 1 & 2

Credit:1.0 English/1.0 US

History

Prerequisite/Grade Recommendation: "C" or better in English 9 & 10

Fees: Cost of required paperback books and field trips (and workbook if needed)

This course is designed for college-bound juniors who wish to satisfy the English 11 and U.S. History requirement. A two-period block of time will be used to cover both American Literature and History in an integrated, chronological approach. Selected readings will emphasize the historical period, as well as various themes within that period, from the Colonial Period through the Civil War and Reconstruction to Contemporary America. Students will respond to the literature in class discussion, activities, and journals that highlight the historical significance of the works. Additionally, students will be required to write essays that show their understanding of our American culture. The culmination of the students' work will be a research project that synthesizes the works studied.

College Prep Writing Honors

Grade Open To: 12

Term: 1 or 2

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite/Grade Recommendation: Teacher Recommendation

This is a semester course designed for college-bound students who want to sharpen their writing skills in anticipation of the college experience. The course will provide students with advanced composition skills necessary for college-level writing in all subject areas. The focus of the writing in this course will be on topics not related to the standard subject matter found in literature classes. By studying the writing techniques used in college-level professional writing, students will gain expertise in analyzing, interpreting, and comparing a variety of texts for purpose, structure, content, detail, and effect. This will enable them to write in the various modes of personal, analytical, and persuasive essays. In addition, students will complete a research project, which will require application of the skills needed to prepare a college-level research report. Some attention will be paid, as well, to the preparation of effective college and scholarship applications. **Students taking the English Honors sequence are required to fulfill a pre-course reading assignment in preparation for the coming year's course. See the High School website (English Department Honors Pre-Reading) or your English teacher for details.*

Contemporary Literature and Composition

Grade Open To: 12

Term: 1 and 2

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite/Grade Recommendation: English 11

Fees: Cost of required paperback books

This course will offer writing experiences coupled with a literature base that will make the student more culturally literate through a diverse array of literature, including multi-cultural literature, from the later half of the canon. This course will create culturally aware students prepared for the multitude of experiences awaiting them in the college classroom, both academically and socially as well as for experiences outside of the classroom.

Creative Writing

Grade Open To: 10-11-12

Term: 1 or 2

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite/Grade Recommendation: None

Creative Writing is designed for students who have above average language skills who wish to study and write short stories, poems, plays, and other forms of creative expression. Students are required to write daily and produce a portfolio of completed work during the semester. In addition, students are required to submit writings for publication and orally present various writings to the class. **This course may be taken for elective credit only. This course does not count toward English credit for graduation*

Drama / Theater

Grade Open To: 10-11-12

Term: 1 or 2

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite/Grade Recommendation: None

Fees: Cost of theatrical supplies and field trips

Drama / Theater is a one-semester course open to students who want to concentrate on the preparation, performance, and production of dramatic literature. This course will culminate in reading a play, editing a script, and performing a scene from that play. **This course may be taken for elective credit only. This course does not count toward English credit for graduation.*

English 9

Grade Open To: 9

Term: 1 & 2

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite/Grade Recommendation: None

Fees: Cost of required paperback book

This is a year-long course designed to provide freshmen with an overview of various literary genres. Students will read selected short stories, poems, plays, a novel, and an epic. They will learn to appreciate the distinctive qualities which each possess. Grammar study will emphasize elimination of usage and mechanical errors in their writing. To develop their skills in composition, students will write a variety of compositions including a self-assessment project, paragraphs, multi-paragraph essays, and a research project. Vocabulary development will be based on the literary selections.

English 9 Honors

Grade Open To: 9

Term: 1 & 2

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite/Grade Recommendation: Students, who are able to pass the 8th grade English Honors course with a minimum of a B grade, will be sequenced into English 9 Honors. All other students will be placed in this course based upon test scores, writing sample, and teacher recommendation.

Fees: Cost of required paperback books

This course is available to freshmen with superior ability in reading and language arts. Included in this intensive year-long program will be the study of genre in the literary anthology to include the short story, drama, and poetry, as well as select units in grammar and usage. Novel study will further advance literary, analytical, and interpretive skills. Special units in reference (research paper required), mythology, and vocabulary building are the main components of this advanced course.

**Students taking the English Honors sequence are required to fulfill a pre-course reading assignment in preparation for the coming year's course. See the High School website (English Department Honors Pre-Reading) or your English teacher for details.*

English 10

Grade Open To: 10

Term: 1 & 2

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite/Grade Recommendation: None

Fees: Cost of required paperback books and workbook

This is a year-long required course that is intended to advance students' organizational, reading, writing, speaking, listening, and critical thinking skills. Students' writing includes journal (response and interpretive), essay (expository, persuasive, narrative), and historical research. The literature features nonfiction, including autobiographical and biographical readings. Emphasis will be placed on meeting state learning standards in English and on improving students' writing, speaking, and listening skills. This course enables students to interact with their fellow students and to express themselves creatively, as well as factually in both written and oral communication. Particular emphasis will be placed on preparing students to take the PSAE reading and writing tests.

English 10*

Grade Open To: 10

Term: 1 & 2

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite/Grade Recommendation: Placement Only

Fees: Cost of required paperback books and workbook

This is a year-long required course that is intended to develop and improve students' organizational, reading, writing, speaking, listening, and critical thinking skills. Students' writing includes journal (response and interpretive), essay (expository, persuasive, narrative), and historical research. The literature features nonfiction, including autobiographical and biographical readings, book excerpts, editorials, and essays. Emphasis will be placed on meeting state learning standards in English and on improving student writing, speaking, and listening skills. This course enables students to interact with their fellow students and to express themselves creatively, as well as factually, in both written and oral communication. Particular emphasis will be placed on preparing the students to take the PSAE reading and writing tests. The difference between English 10 and English 10* is the pace of the curriculum and the type of instruction.

English 10 Honors

Grade Open To: 10

Term: 1 & 2

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite/Grade Recommendation: Teacher recommendation

Fees: The cost of required paperback books and workbook

This is an advanced level English course for 10th graders who have demonstrated exceptional reading and writing skills during their 9th grade English course work. Students will study a variety of themes in literature through the study of the works of American authors. Writing assignments and vocabulary development will be based on the literature studied. Particular emphasis will be placed on preparing the students to take the PSAE reading and writing tests. **Students taking the English Honors sequence are required to fulfill a pre-course reading assignment in preparation for the coming year's course. See the High School website (English Department Honors Pre-Reading) or your English teacher for details.*

English 11: Advanced Placement (AP) Language and Composition

Grade Open To: 11

Term: 1 & 2

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite/Grade Recommendation: Teacher recommendation

Fees: The cost of required paperback books (and workbook if needed)

This course is designed to develop students' abilities in using grammatical conventions appropriately and to advance stylistic maturity in their prose writing. Further, this course will advance the reading and critical analytical skills through a variety of contexts, periods, and disciplines. Students will prepare for the Advanced Placement Language and Composition Examination (to be taken in May) through reading, discussion, analysis, and practice testing. The writing component of this college level course includes expository, analytical, and argumentative writing. A major research paper is also required. **Students taking the English Honors sequence are required to fulfill a pre-course reading assignment in preparation for the coming year's course. See the High School website (English Department Honors Pre-Reading) or your English teacher for details.*

English 12: Advanced Placement (AP) Literature

Grade Open To: 12

Term: 1 & 2

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite/Grade Recommendation: Teacher recommendation

Fees: The cost of required paperback books

This course consists of a study of great works of literature on a thematic basis: the themes of good and evil, love and hate, happiness and duty, and liberty and security will be the focus for the literature. Literary works of authors such as Bronte, Hawthorne, Wilder, Shakespeare, Thoreau, and Joyce will be studied. The composition component will continue to develop the compositional patterns begun in the earlier honors course work. This is the most rigorous course in the English curriculum and is equivalent to most college freshman courses. Students will be given the opportunity to take the AP English Literature exam for college credit. **Students taking the English Honors sequence are required to fulfill a pre-course reading assignment in preparation for the coming year's course. See the High School website (English Department Honors Pre-Reading) or your English teacher for details.*

English Literature I Honors

Grade Open To: 12 (11/teacher recommendation) **Term:** 1 **Credit:** 0.5

Prerequisite/Grade Recommendation: English 10 H, American Lit., American Studies or English 11H

Fees: Cost of selected paperback book (and workbook if needed)

English Literature I will be presented within an historical context. Beginning with the Anglo-Saxon writings, students will learn about the progression of English literature from its earliest stages through the seventeenth century. Selected authors and works from the Anglo-Saxon, Medieval, Renaissance, and Seventeenth Century periods will be noted. Important developments in the English language will be reviewed. Generally, the course is designed to give students a broader sense of the development of literature as a foundation for further study at the college level. The course is highly recommended for students planning to attend college. **Students taking the English Honors sequence are required to fulfill a pre-course reading assignment in preparation for the coming year's course. See the high school website (English Department Honors Pre-Reading) or your English teacher for details.*

English Literature II Honors

Grade Open To: 12 (11/teacher recommendation) **Term:** 2 **Credit:** 0.5

Prerequisite/Grade Recommendation: English Literature I Honors

Fees: Cost of selected paperback book (and workbook if needed)

English Literature II will deal in an historical context with the periods of English literature from the Restoration to the present. Selected authors and works from the Restoration, Eighteenth Century, Romantic, Victorian, and Modern/Contemporary periods will be discussed, and the historical significance of these eras will be noted. Important developments in the English language will be reviewed. Generally, the course is designed to give students a broader sense of the development of literature as a foundation for further study at the college level. The course is highly recommended for students planning to attend college. **Students taking the English Honors sequence are required to fulfill a pre-course reading assignment in preparation for the coming year's course. See the High School website (English Department Honors Pre-Reading) or your English teacher for details.*

Fiction and The Modern Society

Grade Open To: 12 **Term:** 1 or 2 **Credit:** 0.5

Prerequisite/Grade Recommendation: Teacher recommendation

This one-semester course will emphasize reading comprehension skills that will help students become successful life-long readers. Students will be required to read a variety of books, some of their own choosing, from a carefully compiled book list. Additionally, they will be expected to compose journals and complete creative writing projects. This is not designed as a college preparatory course.

Journalism II

Grade Open To: 11-12

Term: 1 & 2

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite/Grade Recommendation: "B" or better in Advanced Writing: Journalism & Teacher Recommendation

Journalism II is designed for those students who have completed Advanced Writing: Journalism and wish to improve their journalistic writing skills by working on school publications. Students enrolled in this course will serve as editors of the school paper as well as work on in-depth reports for class projects. Readings will include daily papers and news magazines.

Media Studies: Evaluation & Writing

Grade Open To: 11-12

Term: 1 or 2

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite/Grade Recommendation: Completion of English 9, 10 & 11

Fees: The cost of field trips

This one-semester, project-oriented course focuses on various elements of media, including newspaper, radio, television, film, and advertising. Students will sharpen their skills in group dynamics, critical thinking, and evaluation through examination of current news coverage and story structure. Hands-on experience will also be provided through the use of audio-visual equipment. **This course may be taken for elective credit only. This course does not count toward English credit for graduation.*

Practical Writing

Grade Open To: 12

Term: 1 or 2

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite/Grade Recommendation: Teacher recommendation

This one-semester course will emphasize the critical thinking and writing skills that will help students become successful in the workplace. Students will use real-life issues and situations to develop communication and writing skills. This course is not designed as a college preparatory course.

Reading and Reasoning

Grade Open To: 9

Term: 1&2

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite Course/Grade Recommendation: Placement

Fees: None

Reading and Reasoning is a year-long course designed for freshman students. This course is intended to improve reading comprehension, fluency, word recognition, critical thinking, study skills, and reading rate in all content areas. Additionally, this course will enhance the enjoyment of reading for pleasure. Students enrolled in this course will also be enrolled in English 9. **This course may be taken for elective credit only. This course does not count toward English credit for graduation.*

Reading Seminar

Grade Open To: 9

Term: 1&2

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite Course/Grade Recommendation: Placement

Fees: None

Reading Seminar is a year-long course designed for freshman students. This course will delve deeper into concepts such as reading comprehension, fluency, advanced vocabulary skills, critical thinking, study skills, and reading rate in all content areas. Additionally, this course will promote the students' ability to integrate information into their reading and writing. Students enrolled in this course will also be enrolled in English 9. **This course may be taken for elective credit only. This course does not count toward English credit for graduation.*

Rhetoric 1

Grade Open To: 12

Term: 1 or 2

Credit: 0.5 toward HS graduation plus
3.0 semester hours of JJC credits

Prerequisite/Grade Recommendation: Completion of American Literature, American Studies, English Literature I and II Honors, or English 11 AP Language and Composition and qualify on the JJC Compass Test.

Fees: Payment of JJC Tuition and Purchase of Textbooks

This course is designed to teach writing skills necessary for success in college. It is required for students intending to continue in a baccalaureate program. Special emphasis is placed upon summary writing, exposition, and argumentation. This course is offered as a dual credit course through Joliet Junior College. Students who successfully complete this course will receive 3.0 semester hours of credit for Eng. 101 – Rhetoric at JJC. This course will be weighted.

Rhetoric 2

Grade Open To: 12

Term: 1 or 2

Credit: 0.5 toward HS graduation plus
3.0 semester hours of JJC credits

Prerequisite/Grade Recommendation: Open to students who have attained a score of 3-4-5 on the AP English Language and Composition Examination or successful completion of Rhetoric 1

Fees: Payment of JJC Tuition and Purchase of Textbooks

This course provides continued training and practice in composition. It employs examples of literary genres to help students develop their writing competencies. A 2500+ word research paper is required. This course is offered as a dual credit course through Joliet Junior College. Students that successfully complete this course will receive 3.0 semester hours of credit for Eng. 102 – Rhetoric at JJC. This course will be weighted.

Themes in American Literature

Grade Open To: 11 (12/placement only)

Term: 1 & 2

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite/Grade Recommendation: Teacher recommendation

Fees: Cost of required paperback books (and workbook if needed)

This course is for those students who need more experience to further develop composition skills in writing about literature. This course will explore individuals in different situations and environments, specifically focusing on characters' adaptations to changing conditions. The class will use various novels as a basic source for writing assignments and projects. Through their reading and writing, the students will learn more about themselves and the environments that surround them. Additionally, the students will gain an understanding of the definition of a theme, how to identify themes in literature, and how to relate these themes to their own lives.

NOTE:

- 1) **Students taking honors courses are required to fulfill a pre-course reading assignment. See the high school website (English Department Honors Pre-Reading) or your English Teacher for details.**
- 2) **Students who are able to pass the 8th grade English Honors course with a minimum of a B grade, will be sequenced into English 9 Honors.**