



English Department Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Classes



Pre-AP/IB English

9th grade

Pre-AP English 9 is a course designed to prepare freshman students for AP English or the IB program; as such it is more rigorous than on-level English 9 though some of the reading is the same. Pre-AP students will engage in higher-order thinking through literary and rhetorical analysis and writing. Students will work independently and in cooperative groups to enhance their skills and increase their depth of knowledge and experience with challenging texts.

Pre-AP English 9 moves at an accelerated pace, and requires more self-discipline and motivation. Students need to be able and willing to think critically, flexibly and creatively. Writing and analyzing complex texts are daily activities in the classroom for Pre-AP English 9 students.

Pre-AP/IB English

10th grade

Our curriculum explores the questions of identity. Who are you? How are you growing and changing as you move through high school?

During class we will be exploring those questions through analysis of classic novels. You will be close reading numerous texts throughout the semester and building your reading and writing skills through analysis, essays, Socratic seminars, dialectic journals, and independent reading projects.

Works for the year are:

House on Mango Street
Siddhartha
Things Fall Apart
A Midsummer Night's Dream
Short Stories

Summer Reading is:

Farewell to Manzanar

IB Higher Level: Literature

11th and 12th grade

2 year class



A New Perspective

What do we study in IB Literature?

- Diverse Literature, not normally found in high school classrooms
- Global Issues
- Political Views & Conflicts
- Social Movements/Civil Rights

How is IB Literature different?

- Discussion-based
- Student-led and driven
- Fast paced but in-depth
- Multiple perspectives





English Department

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IB Standard Level Literature and Performance

11th and 12th grade
2 year class

Lit and Performance is a course which celebrates students who are artistically-minded and interested in performance art. We investigate the deeper meaning of literature from different cultures and how it reveals certain truths about humanity. Come join the fun!

Lit and Performance:

- Has smaller class sizes
- Is discussion-based
- Develops artistic expression
- Demands creativity
- Fosters critical thinking
- Is collaborative
- Encourages participation in theatre
- Exposes students to a wide range of reading material
- Has assessments based on performance and writing
- Asks challenging questions about philosophy and existence
- Widens understanding and perspectives of art and literature



AP Language and Composition

11th grade

Advanced Placement English Language and Composition is designed to help students become highly discriminating consumers and producers of ideas and language. Emphasis is on exploring, analyzing, and evaluating American ideological and material culture. Students primarily engage non-fiction texts by American writers, which are supplemented with visual and audio media, and poetry and fiction when appropriate. *Intensive* composition practice includes rhetorical analysis, argumentation and persuasion, and synthesis/research, with opportunities to write creative non-fiction. At the end of the year students may take the Advanced Placement English Language and Composition Exam for college credit.

Juniors joining APELC are expected to read *Democracy in America*, by Alexis de Tocqueville (unabridged, preferred translation by Gerald Bevan, published by Penguin).



AP Literature and Composition

12th grade

AP Literature and Composition is an alternative to the on-level English 12 course which is required for graduation. College Board divides the course into 3 units of study, each comprised of short fiction, poetry, and longer fiction. Works vary from classic pre-19th century to contemporary 21st century fiction. If you are a reader, interested in honing your critical thinking skills, or improving your analytical writing, then this is the course for you.

The AP Lit. Course:

- looks great on a transcript
- is fast paced
- collaborative
- smaller class size
- deeper discussion
- loaded with critical-thinking opportunities
- writing workshop
- online/in class test practice
- college credit opportunity

Listen to what students say about AP Lit:

“It puts the LIT in Literature!”

“Read literature that opens your eyes to different views and perspectives.”

“Provides a challenge in an environment that encourages hard work.”

“Learn analytical techniques that help with literary expression...”

“Build writing skills.”

“The teacher is a unicorn!”