

# ENGLISH

(four credits required)

English literature courses generally use canonical literary texts from the genres of short story, novel, drama, poetry, mythology, and non-fiction to teach and practice skills in critical reading, academic writing, and critical thinking. Students will write a minimum of four compositions over the course of the year, including at least one research-based assignment. Specialized English courses, such as AP offerings, Drama, Creative Writing, and Speech, draw from sources best suited for teaching such subjects, often including literary criticism and non-fiction readings. Students' academic needs and abilities determine their placement into English classes.

## English I-Survey of Literature (Freshmen)

This survey course samples texts to familiarize students with the genres of short story, novel, drama, poetry, mythology, and non-fiction. The curriculum includes instruction on reading skills, literary analysis, vocabulary, grammar, and academic writing skills.

## Honors English I-Survey of Literature (Freshmen)

This accelerated course is an intensified version of Survey of Literature, with more reading and writing assignments as well as further instruction in vocabulary and grammar.

Prerequisite: standardized test scores and teacher evaluation

## English I-Exemplar Scholar Survey of Literature (Freshmen)

This course covers the skills and materials of the Survey of Literature course with special attention to understanding the cultural context of readings as well as attention to developing a personal artistic ethic. The course may be taken at either the college prep or honors level. The course is open only to students in the Exemplar Scholar Fine Arts Program.

Prerequisite: standardized test scores and teacher evaluation

## English II-World Literature (Sophomore)

This survey course focuses on texts taken from a wide variety of world literature, beginning with the earliest known writings and continuing into modernity.

## Honors English II-World Literature (Sophomore)

This course is an intensified study of world literature, with more reading and writing assignments as well as further instruction in vocabulary and grammar.

Prerequisite: standardized test scores, GPA, and teacher recommendation

## English II-Exemplar Scholar World Literature (Sophomore)

This course covers the skills and materials of the world literature course with special attention to understanding the cultural context of readings as well as to developing a personal artistic ethic. The class may be taken at either the college prep or honors level. The course is open only to Exemplar Scholar Fine Arts students.

Prerequisite: standardized test scores, GPA, & teacher recommendation

## English III-British Literature (Junior)

This course covers classic texts of British Literature chronologically: Anglo-Saxons, Middle Ages, Renaissance, Restoration, Romantic Age, Victorian Age, and Modern Age.

## Honors English III-British Literature (Junior)

This course is an intensified study of British Literature, with more readings, creative and academic writing assignments as well as further instruction in vocabulary and grammar.

Prerequisite: standardized test scores, GPA, and teacher recommendation

## English IV-American Literature (Senior)

This course covers classic texts of American Literature chronologically: Pre-Colonial Writing, Colonial Literature, Political Writings, Romanticism, Naturalism, and Modernism.

## Honors English IV-American Literature (Senior)

This course is an intensified study of American Literature, with more readings, creative and academic writing assignments as well as further instruction in vocabulary and grammar. Prerequisite: standardized test scores,

GPA, and teacher evaluation

## Advanced Placement English Literature & Composition (Senior Elective)

AP English Literature and Composition is a highly rigorous course of study that focuses on helping students understand and question a wide body of imaginative literature – poetry, short stories, essays, novels, and dramas. It is modeled on college-level courses, and it meets the curricular requirements sanctioned by College Board. This course provides students with the intellectual challenges and workload commonly encountered in a typical undergraduate English Literature or Humanities course and culminates in the AP English Literature and Composition Exam in May (required). Prerequisites: standardized test scores, GPA, teacher recommendation, and a student-signed contract.

## Advanced Placement English Language & Composition (Junior-Senior Elective)

Students in this introductory college-level course read and analyze a challenging range of nonfiction prose in order to deepen their awareness of rhetoric and how language works. Through close study and frequent writing, students develop the ability to read texts with a growing awareness of purpose and strategy, while simultaneously strengthening their own composition skills. Course readings feature expository, analytical, personal, and argumentative texts from a variety of authors and historical contexts. Students examine, respond to, and mimic essays, letters, speeches, images, and imaginative literature. In lieu of a final exam, students will sit for the AP English Language and Composition examination (required).

Prerequisites: standardized test scores, GPA, teacher recommendation, and student-signed contract.

## Film Criticism I (Elective)

This one-semester elective course studies the concepts and techniques of film, primarily using American movies of the early and mid-twentieth century. The course covers the historical development of film and is designed to give students the tools to analyze and evaluate movies. Class requires outside readings, tests, and papers.

## Film Criticism II (Elective)

This second semester elective course continues studying the concepts and techniques of film adding more world cinema. The course covers the historical development of film and is designed to give students the tools to analyze and evaluate movies. Class requires outside readings, tests, and papers. *Prerequisite of Film Criticism I.*

## Speech (Elective)

This one-semester elective helps students in developing voice (inflection, projection, and enunciation), self-confidence, and non-verbal communication in presenting oral readings and speeches. Students also learn techniques for effective interpersonal communication by working together on group projects and contributing to class discussion.

## Creative Writing (Elective)

This one-semester elective helps students to become effective writers through the creation of a writing portfolio. Students will read and write fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry in order to learn and practice the fundamental elements of creative writing (developing personal voice, crafting story, developing diction, and revising) and the technical aspects of writing (structure, grammar, and punctuation).

## Journalism (Elective)

This year-long course is designed to teach the skills necessary to produce the LCHS yearbook, this course commences in discerning a unifying theme and scope of coverage for the next edition. Students will subsequently study layout and design techniques, interviewing, photography, writing and editing copy, and proper norms; business strategies of planning and marketing the book and senior ad sales are also addressed. This course is by application and invitation only.

## Introduction to Drama (Elective)

This semester course studies the structures and history of acting, improvisations, mime, and vocal interpretation. The course also introduces play production, scene designing, lighting, costuming, and makeup. Students may use this course to fulfill part of the Fine Arts graduation requirement.

## Christian Literature (Junior-Senior Elective)

Christian Literature is designed to explore Christian themes in a wide body of literature by such writers as Thomas Merton, C.S. Lewis, Graham Greene, G.K. Chesterton, Flannery O'Connor, Evelyn Waugh, Walker Percy, St. Therese, and St. Augustine. The course will develop reading and analytical skills but will mainly focus on thematic analyses that are particularly Catholic and directly in line with the mission of our school.

## Women's Literature: Female Voices (Senior Elective)

Women's Literature is a semester long elective course for students who want to read compelling literature that focuses on the experiences of girls and women as told by women writers and famous female figures such as Sandra Cisneros, Isabel Allende, Barbara Kingsolver, Kate Chopin, and Michelle Obama. Students will study novels, short stories, poetry, essays, and speeches from a variety of historical and contemporary female writers from diverse backgrounds. The readings will serve as bridge to examine how both women and men are influenced and influence the world around them. Student work will focus on reflection, reading, writing, and discussion. *Prerequisite: successful completion of Survey of Literature or Honors Survey of Literature with a B or higher grade and a teacher recommendation (English, Social Studies, or Religion).*

## Dystopian Literature: Cautionary Tales of the Future (Senior Elective)

Dystopian Literature is a semester-long elective course for students who want to explore popular dystopian themes in literature and other works from authors of various cultures and time periods. Students will read a variety of dystopian short stories and novels, as well as study portions of some dystopian films and television shows by writers such as George Orwell, Ray Bradbury, Philip K. Dick, Ayn Rand, and Cormac McCarthy. The assigned content will prompt students to consider how dystopias mirror disturbing and questionable trends in society and thus serve as cautionary tales. Student work will focus on reflection, reading, writing, and discussion. *Prerequisite: successful completion of Survey of Literature and a teacher recommendation (English, Social Studies, or Religion).*