

## Senior English & Communication Courses

### Senior Year- Long Courses (covers both the Literature and Expression requirements)

Courses	Description of Course	Other information
AP Literature (teacher rec/approval required)	Close reading of sophisticated texts allows students to elevate reading and reasoning skills. The course requires that students devote the time necessary to read closely, converse thoughtfully, and compose and revise essays on demanding literature.	<p>--Previously been in honors sequence or received DC approval</p> <p>--Willing to read a good deal outside of class</p> <p>--Analytical skills</p> <p>--Previously demonstrated mastery of essay construction and analysis of complex text</p>
Humanities & Critical Expression	<p>Students will examine the human condition and how humans are inspired to create. Through the study of literature, philosophy, and the visual and performing arts, students will investigate the human creative response to the world, society, religious tradition, and the human experience.</p> <p>*The course will emphasize critical analysis of a variety of literary, visual, and auditory texts, including myth, painting, sculpture, architecture, fiction, Greek and Shakespearean drama, music drama, and film.</p>	<p>--<b>This year long course explores how works of literature, art, music, drama, and philosophy are related.</b> Need to be interested in texts beyond books, such as art, paintings, sculptures, storytelling (myths), drama, etc.</p> <p>--Interested in philosophy and myth study as well to understand the human perspective throughout time.</p> <p>--In studying these human issues, students will learn how to write a critical response to the wide range of media through: <u>personal narrative</u>, critical review <u>of a work of art</u>, one persuasive/research project <u>on a major artist</u>, <u>expository</u> writing, one essay exploring <u>your personal philosophy</u>, and one <u>creative</u> piece.</p>
Journalistic Expression & Media Literacy	Students will develop reading, writing and other communication skills through an exploration of various media genres. Students will gain knowledge of the writing process, including research techniques, structural analysis, and revision and editing and apply these concepts to their own writing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Analyze and create stories in newspaper and magazine format as well as for radio and television broadcast (The Sun-Times and other selections are used regularly)</li> <li>● Investigate what is going on in the world and in our school and learn to report the news, cover sports and entertainment, write opinion pieces, review movies and restaurants, and create blogs</li> <li>● Design newspaper and magazine layouts and study photojournalism to understand how visual images tell stories</li> <li>● Discuss what is ethical and legal in journalistic writing</li> <li>● View documentary films and exposes</li> <li>● Read books about investigative reporting, rock 'n roll journalism, sports reporting, etc.</li> </ul>

### Senior Literature Courses (Must Choose One)

Courses	Description of Course	Other information
Critical Lenses	In this course, students will study how artists (authors, filmmakers, photographers, painters, etc.) comment on society through different literary and visual media and other technologies. Students will learn to decode an artist's vision in the context of political, social, personal, economic, and cultural arenas. Students will explore not only the thematic content of various texts but also how artists' use techniques.	<p>--Develop <i>advanced</i> skills in being able to read both traditional (books, poems, essays) and non-traditional texts (political cartoons, films, TV shows, music videos).</p> <p>--Explore how artists and authors critique and challenge society through comedy and satire.</p> <p>--Examine how visual, literary, and aural images influence society and how ideas are shaped by differing voices and perspectives.</p>
Cultural Transitions	Students will study literature from different cultures. They will explore and discuss the definition of culture and analyze how to learn about cultures and their values through storytelling. They read origin myths, short stories, tall tales, and 2 full-length novels. The class involves discussion, individual and group work, research, presentations, and brief analytical and reflective writing.	<p>- Need students who are open-minded or have a desire to learn about types of people and perspectives that may differ from their own</p> <p>- Student needs to be prepared to read full-length novels that involve mature content and ideas and to participate in small and large group discussions.</p>
Dramatic Literature	This course serves as an introduction to dramatic literature, studying the development of drama and its various genres. This course will focus on cultural, literary, and political context of individual works. Students will also be exposed to the elements of dramatic structure as well as analytical criticism. Students will utilize dramaturgy (theatrical research) to enhance their analysis of the plays.	<p>--For students who are interested in dramatic literature as an art form and social commentary. It is an exploration of theater, playwrights, and dramatic criticism</p> <p>--Student should be prepared to not only read plays, but also to analyze and discuss the unique structure and ways authors use the medium to deliver ideas to the audience and how they are/were received by society</p>
Realms of Possibility	Students will study science fiction, horror, and fantasy. They will read usually 2 novellas and one full-length book, as well as some short stories. Additionally, they will study several films, analyze them like texts, and use them to contextualize the class discussion. They will study the elements of the genres and focus on digging deeply into analyzing the author's intent and messages about humans and our current reality. It's about how the author is using this particular creative genre to get across something about real people in the real world.	<p>-Students ideally should demonstrate some interest in the genres since many conversations are student driven.</p> <p>-Students should demonstrate basic mastery in essay construction and the ability to develop their ideas.</p> <p>-Students should demonstrate a willingness to complete reading assignments outside of class.</p> <p>-There is a heavy emphasis on student-led discussion as well as written, analytical journals.</p>
Transformation & Triumph	In this course, students will study highly accessible and contemporary genres (novels, dramas, essays, poetry, and films) to understand the nature of transformation. Students will identify, interpret and evaluate character evolution--how people adapt, survive and triumph over challenges. Students will explore how and why artists transform creative works from one medium to another.	<p>Students will examine what it means to be human in a complex and impersonal world.</p> <p>Students will not only analyze and discuss texts and films, but also write in a variety of formats, including: <i>Personal Memoir, Movie Reviews, Character Analysis, Reading Logs, and Personal Response</i></p>
Voices from the Edge	This course investigates those artists and writers who reject societal and structural norms and advocate for alternative viewpoints and art forms. Through the study of literature, film, and art, students will consider rebellion from the perspective of the rebel and the society in which he or she lives. Students will have an opportunity to think critically about the effectiveness of the rebel in raising social consciousness and in contradicting established beliefs.	<p>Students will examine and discuss a variety of art, film, music, and literature in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Investigate how rebels react to and influence a society that tries to hold them down</li> <li>● Discover how literature, film, and art can be utilized as vehicles for the rebel or innovator to express alternative perspectives and ideas</li> <li>● Examine how writers, artists, filmmakers, and musicians defy ordinary expectations to create new</li> </ul>

or innovative works of art

**Senior Expression Courses (Must Choose One)**

Courses	Description of Course	Other information
Effective Expression	This writing course provides students opportunities to develop and strengthen their writing, speaking and listening skills. In a workshop setting, students will practice proofreading, editing and revision of multiple drafts. Students will read models that will deepen their understanding of the writer’s craft, and they will experiment with technology in the production of alternative texts such as digital storytelling and/or Power Point presentations.	Students interested in learning more about language, writing, and speech as related to real world application. In this class, students will work on... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Multi-media projects</li> <li>❖ Creative writing</li> <li>❖ Letter writing</li> <li>❖ Personal writing (Memoir)</li> <li>❖ Persuasive letter writing</li> <li>❖ Career Research</li> <li>❖ Interviewing Practice</li> <li>❖ Publishing opportunities</li> </ul>
Literary Expression	In this class, you will walk in the shoes of a writer, tracing the development of a creative piece from the spark of an idea to its publication or delivery to an audience. It is a class in writing and thinking creatively. Students will write a lot of poetry, some prose, and some little plays or scripts.	--Students should consider the following questions : --Do you like to write poetry? OR Would you enjoy writing poetry if given more time in school to learn about it? --MUST LIKE TO WRITE CREATIVELY
Oral Expression	A writing class where students prepare for authentic audiences in public speaking situations. They will also have to deliver the speeches they craft, and they will learn aspects of public speaking, such as non-verbal communication,	- Students who want to learn how to speak publically or are scared to - Students who think they are good at public speaking - Despite the title with Oral in it, they ALL will have to write and they ALL will have to meet multiple deadlines
Written Expression	Students will develop an understanding of their own writing processes as well as the processes of other students and professional writers. The classroom becomes a community of writers in which students engage in the collaborative production and revision of texts. Students and teachers will confer with and consult one another at different points in the writing process. Through these interactions, students will establish a set of skills, strategies, and practices for generating, revising, and editing texts.	- IT IS A WRITING HEAVY course. Students will learn and practice multiple drafts of several different types of writing. Students explore their voice as a writer through freewriting, choosing their own topics, and real audiences. UNITS include but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Research-based discussion post</li> <li>● E-mail and business letter writing</li> <li>● Creative nonfiction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ College Essay</li> <li>○ Memoir</li> <li>○ Narrative</li> <li>○ Scholarship</li> </ul> </li> <li>● TEDTalk writing and presenting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Informative</li> <li>○ Persuasive</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Writing portfolio</li> </ul>

Writing for Broadcast Expression	In this intensive writing course, students will explore literary, expository and persuasive writing through the lens of broadcasting. They will use radio and/or video technology to produce projects focusing on contemporary media issues. The topic of media influence on society also will be explored. While this course will require the use of audio and video editing software, no prior knowledge of either is required since the emphasis on the class is on writing.	Types of assignments may include: <ul data-bbox="906 149 1544 365" style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A research paper on a contemporary media issue</li><li>• Write and produce a radio drama (performed on radio)</li><li>• Write and perform a public service announcement using persuasive strategies (performed on radio)</li><li>• Create a blog and compose media reviews through text, audio, and video (includes movies, TV, music, etc.)</li><li>• Create a 5-minute documentary</li></ul>
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