

# *Norwood Public Schools*

## **Junior Honors (English) Curriculum Overview**

### **Description (including primary objectives and outcomes):**

This course is designed for college-bound juniors whose competence in English has been firmly established and/or for those who despite exceptional ability choose commitment to other disciplines over AP English. This rigorous curriculum requires students to read critically and widely, to demonstrate competency in the skills and strategies of the writing process, to speak effectively, and to refine a mature writing style. A personal/college essay and an oral research project are required. Assessment of all grade 11 students includes the department-wide midyear exam and the grade 11 final exam.

### **Learning Experiences:**

Reading: Typical; reading assignments are 20-25 pages per night. During the summer students must read one selection chosen by the department. Reading strategies, which include reading out loud and silent reading, and timed reading, are designed to enhance understanding of the works studied. Particular emphasis is placed on an appreciation of the “underlying” text. Explanation and practice is given for SAT preparation. Vocabulary development is an integral part of the course. Writing: Assessment of all grade 11 students includes department-wide midyear exam and the grade 11 exam. Assignments generally pertain to class reading and include formal and informal essays, shorter open responses, and creative responses. Students are also required to write an independent research paper. Additional class time is spent on evaluating and writing the college application essay and preparing for the writing section of the SAT. Note-taking skills are also addressed. Speaking and Listening: Speaking and listening skills. Reading: Required texts are *The Great Gatsby*, *Hamlet* or *Macbeth*, *Scarlet Letter* or *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Other works studied focus on American writers of nonfiction, short stories, poetry, and drama. include full class and small group discussions, group and individual presentations.

### **Content Outline:**

Emphasis is placed on the development of an American national literature, as well as a Shakespearean play. Students read a minimum of 5 of the following works: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *Catcher in the Rye*, *Cold Sassy Tree*, *The Crucible*, *The Education of Little Tree*, *A Farewell to Arms*, *Grapes of Wrath*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Macbeth*, *Native Son*, *Ordinary People*, *Othello*, *Our Town*, *The Scarlet Letter*. Reading: Required texts are *The Great Gatsby*, *Hamlet* or *Macbeth*, *Scarlet Letter* or *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Other works studied focus on American writers of nonfiction, short stories, poetry, and drama.

### **Resources Used:**

Beyond texts, literary anthologies, and films; various online sites are used. The Princeton Review is used for SAT preparation.

As of (insert date)