

ENGLISH

AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION (1 credit)

Grades: 11-12

An AP course in English Language and Composition engages students in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Both their writing and their reading should make students aware of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, and subjects as well as the way generic conventions and the resources of language contribute to effectiveness in writing. The college composition course for which the AP English Language and Composition course substitutes is one of the most varied in the curriculum.

AP Exam: Exam fees are to be paid by the student or by school district. The individual school district orders the exam on behalf of the student and administers it.

Pre-Requisites: Teacher recommendation, English I, II (honors), with a B+ average

CONTEMPORARY NOVELS (.5 credit)

Grades: 9-12

For this course, students will read a set of novels and novellas that were written during the twentieth century and reflect themes common to contemporary literature, such as the ability of the human spirit to rise above seemingly-impossible circumstances. Through creative projects and writing assignments, students will identify and analyze each novel's themes and also compare and contrast the novels' treatment of common themes. Please note that, like most contemporary literature, the novels assigned for this course contain realistic situations and language. In addition to the novels listed, each student will read another contemporary novel of his or her choosing that the instructor must approve. MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation is required on all papers submitted. The following novels are read during this course.

- Picture Bride By Yoshiko Uchida
- Night By Elie Weisel
- To Kill a Mockingbird By Harper Lee
- Fallen Angels By Walter Dean Myers
- The Old Man and The Sea By Ernest Hemingway
- Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption
By Stephen King

CREATIVE WRITING (.5 credit)

Grades: 9-12

For many hundreds of years, literature has been one of the most important human art forms. It allows us to give voice to our emotions, create imaginary worlds, express ideas, and escape the confines of material reality. Through creative writing, we can come to understand ourselves and our world a little bit better. This course provides students with a solid grounding in the writing process, from finding inspiration to building a basic story to using complicated literary techniques and creating strange hybrid forms of poetic prose and prose poetry. By the end of this course, students will learn how to discover their creative thoughts and turn those ideas into fully realized pieces of creative writing.

ENGLISH 9 (1 credit)**Grade: 9**

In English 9, students take a journey through important concepts—the Unknown, Equality, Identity, Opportunity, and Understanding—to learn the foundations of communication and analysis. In each unit of the course, students explore a variety of STEM-related literature, including genre fiction, poetry, non-fiction, and speeches. Through the study of this writing, students hone their own skills in communication and analysis.

To facilitate engagement and academic responsibility, students are encouraged to make choices at different points in the course. Most notable is the novel unit, in which students must select their book from a list of titles available. This practice gives ownership to the student and places each learner in a position to develop a deeper appreciation of reading.

ENGLISH 10 (1 credit)**Grade: 10**

In English 10, students learn how the human experience—real life—is the foundation of the best stories, plays, poems, films, and articles. In each unit of the course, students explore a specific aspect of the human experience such as laughter, obstacles, betrayal, fear, or transformation. Through the study of literature, nonfiction, and life, students explore what it means to be human, what it means to be fulfilled, triumphant, empowered, and transformed.

As in life, students have many choices in the English II course. They choose the order in which they complete the units. Students also choose some of the works they read and have countless choices when it comes to demonstrating what they have learned. Whether reading a poem or a novel, writing a story or an analysis, or studying a Shakespearean tragedy or a modern suspense film, students explore what it means to be human, a subject on which they are already experts!

ENGLISH 11 (1 credit)**Grade: 11**

“Extra, extra, read all about it!” It’s all right here in black and white, in the pages of The Virtual Times newspaper. Published at key periods in American history, The Virtual Times takes us right into the action. The writing is clear and concise. The stories and opinions give us perspective. The sports and entertainment sections give us the color and flavor of the times.

In English III, the writing and insights of authors throughout our history are collected in the fast-paced pages of The Virtual Times. Students gain an appreciation of American literature and the ways it reflects the times in which it was written. They discover how people thought and lived and wrote about their experiences. Students are also asked to observe, investigate, and report on stories of today. The goal is for students to be thorough, accurate, and compelling in their writing.

ENGLISH 12 (1 credit)**Grade: 12**

Why do people do what they do? English IV you will give you a front row seat to study of the motives that have driven people's actions for centuries. Along the way you will encounter epic heroes defying danger, tormented minds succumbing to the power of greed and ambition, enlightened thinkers striving for individual rights and freedoms, sensitive souls attempting to capture human emotion, and determined debaters taking a stand on critical issues. You will read to analyze the way language is used to express human motivation and research to examine the results of actions in the real world. The lessons in each module will give you the tools you need to gain insights from what you read and to use your knowledge in creative and analytical writing.

FILM & TELEVISION (.5 credit)**Grades: 9-12**

The culture of cinema and television tells a unique story of history and innovation. Students in Film and Television will be introduced to industry icons and stars of the big and small screen. By studying and writing about film and television, students will analyze trends in technology and culture and better understand how to be an informed viewer.

GOTHIC LITERATURE: Monster Stories (.5 credit)

From vampires to ghosts, these frightening stories have influenced fiction writers since the 18th century. This course will focus on the major themes found in Gothic literature and demonstrate how the core writing drivers produce, for the reader, a thrilling psychological environment. Terror versus horror, the influence of the supernatural, and descriptions of the difference between good and evil are just a few of the themes presented. By the time students have completed this course, they will have gained an understanding of and an appreciation for the complex nature of dark fiction.

JOURNALISM (.5 credit)**Grades: 9-12**

Understanding the role of the free press in America helps us to be better informed and more able to analyze media. In this course, you will explore the history of journalism in the United States from its inception in the colonies and its key role in the first amendment, all the way up to present day issues regarding "right to know" and the changing landscape of journalistic media in the 21st century. You will acquire the skills and information needed to actively participate in the consumption, analysis, and creation of news media and will have the opportunity to investigate the constantly evolving career opportunities within the field of journalism.

THE LORD OF THE RINGS: An Exploration of the Films & Their Literary Influences (.5 credit)**Grades: 9-12**

Hobbits, Orcs, wizards, dashing knights, and powerful elves are all part of the magic created in J.R.R. Tolkien's famously epic tale, *The Lord of the Rings*. For years, the vivid characters within this beloved story could exist only in the "reader minds" until it was adapted into a movie that allowed fans to finally see, through the eyes of Hollywood magic and brilliant technology, the manifestation of these characters onscreen. What does it take to transport these well-known images like Gollum and the Shire from dusty pages to the giant screen? In *The Lord of the Rings: An Exploration of the Films & Its Literary Influences*, you

will see first-hand how classic literature can become modern film and bring the fantasy alive for a whole new generation of believers. **Required Materials:** You will be required to own or have access to the standard (non-extended) versions of the three Lord of the Rings films. Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES will not provide the films for this course. If you do not already have access to these movies, you may consider other sources such as your local library.

- The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring
- The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers
- The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King

THEATRE STUDIES (.5 credit)

Grades: 9-12

Lights! Camera! Action! Let's explore the enchanting world of live theater and its fascinating relationship to the silver screen. In Theater, Cinema, and Film Production, you'll learn the basics of lighting, sound, wardrobe, and camerawork while examining the magic that happens behind all the drama. Delve into the glamorous history of film and theater, and examine the tremendous influence these industries have had on society and culture over the years. During this unit, you'll discuss and analyze three classic American films "*Casablanca*, *Singing in the Rain*, and *The Wizard of Oz*" to help you learn how to critique and appreciate some of the most famous dramas of all time.