

Adlai E. Stevenson High School

COMMUNICATION ARTS



2018-2019

ENGLISH COURSE OFFERINGS
for **SENIORS**

Adlai E. Stevenson High School
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Communication Arts

Senior Year

Welcome to Senior Year! Having completed the three-year scope and sequence for skill building and refinement in the study of English, now is the time to explore within the communication arts!

Four years of English instruction are required of all students to graduate from Stevenson. In the senior year, full-year and semester-long courses are available, providing seniors the opportunity to prepare for the AP Literature and Composition exam, to study World Masterpieces or Literary Genres, to focus on Literary Analysis, or to pursue in-depth practice in Creative Writing, Public Speaking, Film/Media or Political Thought. Additionally, our award-winning Journalism program provides motivated students the opportunity to experience the world of student newspaper production.

These and other avenues for exploration are outlined in the Stevenson Course Book. Working closely with your academic counselor to prepare for life after Stevenson will help clarify your goals in the study of English and how best to support them in your senior year.

Our congratulations and best wishes for an exciting and rewarding Senior Year!

Things to Consider:

Full Semester vs. One-Semester: Students not taking a full-year course are expected to take two one-semester electives.

College Prep, *Accelerated Option: indicates that the elective is part of a program in which students who qualify and who agree to predetermined academic expectations may earn accelerated grade weighting instead of the usual college prep grade weighting. Actual determination of level will not take place until the course convenes at the opening of the term. Students will apply and sign an academic agreement within the first two weeks of the term. The agreement will add to existing course expectations in terms of assignments and class participation. This option is available only for the English electives of Creative Writing, Creative Writing Seminar, Media Analysis, Film Genres, and some electives in the Journalism sequence.

Some colleges and universities prefer a literature or English skills elective as an admissions requirement. Film, Media, Public Speaking, and Political Thought, classes fulfill elective requirements for graduation from Stevenson and are accepted as English credit by many, but not all, colleges and universities.

GPA Waiver: indicates that a course grade will not be included in a student's GPA calculation. This option is available only for Journalistic Writing and Advanced Journalistic Writing, and only if the course is being taken as an elective beyond the eight-credit English graduation requirement.

World Masterpieces (Accelerated)

Full Year
Open to 12
Prerequisite: None

Semester 1: ENG431
Semester 2: ENG432

This two-semester sequence surveys world literature from ancient times to the present, focusing on both western and nonwestern cultures. Students will read poetry, prose, and drama in excerpted and complete forms. In addition to reading the "classics" early in the course's sequence, students will read and study contemporary works that draw their inspiration and form from various earlier periods of literature. Students will read works by such authors as Sophocles, Dante, Shakespeare, Mary Shelley, and Camus. During the course of the year, students engage in close readings of prose and poetry; analyze literary style; actively participate in small and large group discussions; write response papers as well as in-class timed writing essays; write at least two major papers each semester; and develop project-based presentations.

Top three reasons to take this class:

- Allows you to develop thinking and writing skills useful for all college level courses.
- Helps you to understand how a college level discussion course works.
- Helps you to expand your intellectual knowledge of canonical world masterpieces.

Advanced Placement, Themes in World Literature (Honors)

Full Year
Open to 12

Semester 1: ENG451
Semester 2: ENG452

Prerequisite: None, but most students take Junior Accelerated English or Advanced Placement English Language.

This course will provide students with a college-level literary experience that will foster readiness for the Advance Placement English Literature and Composition Exam. In compliance with the College Board requirements, students will study works from the sixteenth century to the present, including works by such authors as Yann Martel, William Shakespeare, Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Joseph Conrad, and Franz Kafka. During the course of the year, students are expected to continue to develop their knowledge of literary terms related to prose and poetry; demonstrate how the parts and techniques of a literary work contribute to the meaning of the work; actively participate in high level analytical discourse; and create cogent, sustained and sophisticated expressions of analytical interpretation in written form. Students should expect to write weekly, including response papers, in-class essays, and process papers. Near the conclusion of the course, students are encouraged to take the Advanced Placement English Literature Exam.

Top three reasons to take this class:

- Students have the opportunity to read, discuss, and further develop a deep appreciation for some of the world's finest literature, and in doing so, cement a lifelong love of reading.
- Students will gain a college-level experience in both reading and writing, better preparing them for the rigors of higher education.
- Students may earn Advanced Placement credit.

Topics in Composition: Media Analysis (College Prep, *Accelerated Option)

SEMESTER 1 ONLY
Open to 11, 12
Prerequisite: None

Semester 1: ENG691

This one-semester course with a focus on analytical writing is designed to lead students to a critical understanding of the media that surround us. The course focuses on the critiquing of advertising, news, and entertainment – and the print and non- print messages created by these industries. Students will learn how to take a critical approach to analyzing media messages and assessing their impact on media consumers. Students will be required to write weekly response papers, read college-level texts, critique a variety of forms of media, participate in class discussions, and complete analytical projects.

Top three reasons to take this class:

- It will help you improve as both a writer and critical thinker.
- It will challenge the choices you make in consuming media.
- It will change your perception of yourself and the world around you.

Topics in Composition: Film Genres (College Prep, *Accelerated Option)

Semester 2: ENG522
SEMESTER 2 ONLY
Open to 11, 12
Prerequisite: None

Semester 2: ENG722

This one-semester course is designed to lead students to an understanding of the art of film through the world of film genre, including suspense, comedy, and horror, among others. Topics of composition include film techniques, film history, film analysis, and elements of genre conventions. Students will be required to write weekly response papers, view a variety of films, participate in class discussions, and complete four analytical projects.

Top three reasons to take this class:

- You will learn to see movies not just as entertainment but as art.
- You will learn how the art of film has evolved to its current state.
- You will have the opportunity to learn how to craft your own short film.

Creative Writing (College Prep, *Accelerated Option)

SEMESTER 1 OR 2
Open to 11, 12
Prerequisite: None

Semester 1: ENG501
Semester 2: ENG502

Students learn to express their thoughts through short stories, poems, and plays. Class discussions analyze and implement different writing styles including, but not limited to, fiction, poetry, and drama. The course format is a workshop that includes daily writing. Students will give and receive feedback and peer edit in small and full class groups. Students are also required to read and annotate fiction. The reading will be assessed in a manner that engages students in a process through which they become more aware of how their reading improves over time. All students participate in a variety of approaches to literacy development and to apply what they learn to the art of writing creatively.

Top three reasons to take this class:

- Learn to write fiction, poetry and drama.
- Read great popular fiction novels.
- Astound yourself when you discover untapped creative writing reservoirs.

Creative Writing Seminar (College Prep, *Accelerated Option)

SEMESTER 2 ONLY
Open to 11, 12
Prerequisite: Creative Writing

Semester 2: ENG522

Students will refine their skills in writing and analyzing stories, plays, and poetry. Projects, readings, and assignments will cover the various genres that allow students to pursue individual interests. Class discussions focus on the analysis and consideration of different writing styles and genres including, but not limited to, fiction, poetry, and drama. Students explore writing in greater depth than in the pre-requisite course, examining how various genres impact writing style and what it means to create voice in writing. The course format is a workshop that includes daily writing. Students will give and receive feedback and peer edit in small and full class groups. Students are also required to read and annotate fiction. The reading will be assessed in a manner that engages students in a process through which they become more aware of how their reading improves over time. All students participate in a wide variety of approaches to literacy development and apply what they learn to the art of writing creatively.

Top three reasons to take this class:

- Take your creative writing to the next level of beauty in language.
- Learn the secrets of writing in various genres.
- Read great popular fiction novels.

Text Exploration and Analysis (College Prep)

SEMESTER 1 OR 2
Open to 12
Prerequisite: None

Semester 1: ENG681
Semester 2: ENG682

This reading class further builds students' reading, interpretation, and writing skills through investigations into topics and texts of student interest. During the semester, students study models of thoughtful inquiry, analysis, and writing, and then pursue their personal interests in various topics of fiction and nonfiction reading. Students often respond to their texts and inquiries in writing, discussion, or presentations to the classroom community.

Top three reasons to take this class:

- *Have some choice for books you want to read/study.*
- *Your Classmates. Group discussions and class discussions help you to better understand the stories and will also improve your speaking skills.*
- *Allows for analysis in a variety of ways.*

Journalistic Writing (College Prep)

SEMESTER 1 OR 2
Open to 9, 10, 11, 12
Prerequisite: None

Semester 1: ENG901
Semester 2: ENG902
GPA Waiver Option

This course includes interviewing students and adults, writing stories that could get published in the student newspaper, and solving problems that typically face reporters and editors. Designed to offer students background and practice in basic journalism concepts and skills, Journalistic Writing units include news gathering/interviewing, news writing, headline writing, copy editing, press law and page design. Oral and written communication skills, as well as critical thinking and problem solving skills, will be exercised.

Top three reasons to take this class:

- *To be empowered to think critically, gather information and assess its impact on identity.*
- *To effectively organize information and develop clarity and economy of style in writing.*
- *To reconcile the awesome power of your first amendment rights.*

Advanced Journalistic Writing (College Prep)

SEMESTER 1 OR 2
Open to 9, 10, 11, 12
Prerequisite: Journalistic Writing

Semester 1: ENG921
Semester 2: ENG922
GPA Waiver Option

Units in opinion writing (editorial, personal column, reviews), feature writing, sports writing, and in-depth reporting, along with hands-on production of pages and sections of the newspaper, prepare students for positions on the student newspaper. Students will build on their reporting and writing skills learned in Journalistic Writing. As in the prerequisite course, communication and problem-solving will be stressed.

Top three reasons to take this class:

- *See all 3 above (Journalistic Writing)*
- *To develop mega-confidence and poise to interview total strangers.*
- *To write real stories about real events that matter to real people.*

Writing for College (College Prep)

SEMESTER 1 OR 2
Open to 12
Prerequisite: None

Semester 1: ENG541
Semester 2: ENG542

This class provides students the opportunity to develop their writing through a variety of skills, including but not limited to argumentation, research, and impromptu responses. Using a workshop format, this course focuses on writing as a process, with a strong emphasis on revision. Students will enhance their ability to read and analyze selected models of prose writing, as well as synthesize other authors' ideas. The class will also explore the growing technology available in school libraries. Student progress is evaluated throughout the semester in a manner that authorizes students to take an active role in their learning. A student's overall performance is evaluated at the end of the semester based on a comprehensive portfolio review.

Top three reasons to take this class:

- *College. The writing you do in this class is a stepping-stone to college writing.*
- *Review. You'll get practice with skills you're behind on.*
- *Maturity. Your writing will become more interesting, sophisticated, and mature.*

Public Speaking (College Prep)

SEMESTER 1 OR 2
Open to 10, 11, 12
Prerequisite: Freshman English

Semester 1: ENG761
Semester 2: ENG762

This course is designed to provide experience and training in public speaking so that students are equipped with the skills essential for success in the business and academic worlds of today and tomorrow. Students learn to tailor a message to suit a particular audience, enhance the message through technology, understand logic and reasoning, develop listening skills, identify propaganda techniques, and understand the physical producers of voice to control and vary tone, volume, pitch and rate. Students participate in workshop-oriented groups to develop the various skills listed above. Students present approximately one speech per week and are responsible for constructive feedback of their peers' speeches.

Top three reasons to take this class:

- *Because every career requires the skill of public speaking.*
- *Because it is a practical set of abilities you will need throughout life.*
- *Because you will learn not only how to speak, but to think on your feet, use a microphone, be a better interviewer and much more.*

Journalism: Newspaper Production (Accelerated)

FULL YEAR
Open to 10, 11, 12
Prerequisite: Advanced Journalistic Writing

Semester 1: ENG951
Semester 2: ENG952

Students do all the work necessary to produce the school newspaper, the *Statesman*. Staff positions include managing editors, copy editor, design editor, advertising manager, photo manager, page editors (news, opinions, sports, in-depth and feature), reporter and photographer. Staff members gather news, research and write copy, and help complete pages. Students who hope to be photographers are encouraged to take a photography course through the Art Department. Because this is a student publication, all responsibilities, from planning of the content to the design of an issue to the processing of photos and the completion of pages, are handled by students. After-school work is necessary for the completion of each issue. This course may be repeated once for credit.

Top three reasons to take this class:

- *To practice real journalism on a real newspaper.*
- *To write for a real audience of thousands.*
- *To be an official member of the "Fourth Estate".*

Political Thought and its Literature (College Prep)

SEMESTER 1 OR 2
Open TO 12
Prerequisite: U.S. History and Junior English

Semester 1: ENG601
Semester 2: ENG602

This one-semester elective course focuses on the development and evolution of government policy affecting social, economic, political, ethical, and generational issues nationally and globally. Topics are explored and informed through reading, viewing, researching, and discussing fiction and non-fiction literature including novels historical documents, and pertinent electronic and print mass media artifacts. Students will write essays, research and participate in class debates, and speak before the class both individually and collaboratively on such diverse issues as individual rights versus social responsibility, and balancing civil liberties and national security. An important requirement of the class is fulfilling ten hours of service learning with an approved social service agency and/or political, educational, or denominational organization culminating in an experience-response essay and presentation on the challenges and rewards of community service.

Students may elect to take this course for EITHER a single credit of English or a single credit of Social Studies. PLEASE NOTE: Some colleges may grant only Social Studies credit; others will grant credit in either English or Social Studies.

Top three reasons to take this class:

- *Engage in intellectual thought as you become a political scientist.*
- *Read incredible fiction and great nonfiction.*
- *Be team taught by a social studies and an English teacher for a 360 degree view of the world.*

Proposed Course Selection

Student Name _____

Current Teacher _____

- AP Themes in World Literature (Full year)
- World Masterpieces (ACCL) (Full year)
- Journalism: Newspaper Production (Full Year)
- Topics in Composition: Media (Semester 1)
- Topics in Composition: Film (Semester 2)
- Creative Writing (Semester 1)
- Creative Writing Seminar (Semester 2)
- Journalistic Writing (One semester)
- Advanced Journalistic Writing (One semester)
- Text Exploration and Analysis (One semester)
- Writing for College (One semester)
- Public Speaking (One semester)
- Political Thought and Its Literature (One semester)

Reason for your selection:

Question(s) for your current teacher:

Notes:
