



COMMUNICATION ARTS DIVISION

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SCAN QR CODE TO READ MORE ABOUT COMMUNICATION ARTS ONLINE:
WWW.D125.ORG/ACADEMICS/COMMUNICATION-ARTS



The Communication Arts Department includes the academic areas of English, speech, literacy, and journalism. It offers courses on three levels: college preparatory, accelerated, and AP/honors. It is the department's goal to assist students in becoming critical and analytical readers, logical and insightful thinkers, and skilled users of written, visual, and oral communication.

Communication Arts Courses Required for Graduation:

Students are required to take four years/eight credits of English classes in order to fulfill the graduation requirements.

COMMUNICATION ARTS COURSE OFFERINGS

WWW.D125.ORG/ACADEMICS/COURSEBOOK



FRESHMAN ENGLISH (COLLEGE PREP AND ACCELERATED)

ENG111—SEMESTER 1

ENG131—SEMESTER 1

OPEN TO 9

PREREQUISITE: NONE

ENG112—SEMESTER 2

ENG132—SEMESTER 2

FULL YEAR

In each of these skills-based courses, students develop proficiencies in the areas of reading, literary analysis, writing, grammar and usage, oral communication, and research. Students explore the overarching theme of the course—the individual’s understanding of self and others—through short stories, essays and articles, novels, poetry, drama, and other texts. Through their reading and inquiry, students are introduced to various stylistic techniques that help them learn strategies to improve their reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. Students write in multiple formats to enhance student learning in all areas of literacy development. Authentic class discussion plays a vital role in that students talk in class as a means of enhancing their literacy skills.

Incoming 9th graders take one of these courses. Course selection is determined through the careful consideration of a number of testing and teacher recommendation factors. Freshman English (College Prep) serves students who will benefit from continued reinforcement of the foundational skills noted above, while Freshman English (Accelerated) is best suited for students who are prepared for a greater challenge. Both classes are outstanding preparation for college.

SOPHOMORE ENGLISH (COLLEGE PREP AND ACCELERATED)

ENG211—SEMESTER 1

ENG231—SEMESTER 1

OPEN TO 10

PREREQUISITE: NONE

ENG212—SEMESTER 2

ENG232—SEMESTER 2

FULL YEAR

In each of these skills-based courses, students continue to develop their proficiencies in reading, writing, literary analysis, grammar and usage, oral communication, and research. Students explore the overarching theme—the individual’s interaction and negotiation with society—through the study of short stories, short essays and articles, novels, poetry, and drama. Through their exposure to a variety of texts, students build upon the various stylistic techniques introduced in Freshman English as a means of enhancing their literacy skills. A focus on persuasion introduces students to the study of rhetorical analysis. This writing intensive course builds upon the argumentation skills introduced in Freshman English while reinforcing a structured process approach to writing. Sophomore English (College Prep) serves students who will benefit from continued reinforcement of the foundational skills noted above, while Sophomore English (Accelerated) is best suited for students who are prepared for a greater challenge. Both classes are outstanding preparation for college.

JUNIOR ENGLISH (COLLEGE PREP)

ENG311—SEMESTER 1
OPEN TO 11
PREREQUISITE: NONE

ENG312—SEMESTER 2
FULL YEAR

This skills-based course completes the department's three-year scope and sequence in the areas of reading, writing, speaking and listening, grammar and usage, and research. Students explore American themes and values through a variety of texts. Through their reading and writing, students deepen their analysis of language. Building on the previous focus on argumentation, students continue to develop their writing through a structured process approach that is aligned with college writing expectations. This reading intensive course provides opportunities for students to select texts to read both independently and in book clubs, as well as full-class reading experiences. Additionally, students participate in SAT exam preparation in the areas of identifying English language skills and reading.

JUNIOR ENGLISH (ACCELERATED)

ENG381—SEMESTER 1
OPEN TO 11
PREREQUISITE: NONE

ENG382—SEMESTER 2
FULL YEAR

This course promotes continued development in the areas of reading, literary analysis, argumentation, grammar and usage, oral communication, and research. The course explores American themes and values through the study of both short works of fiction and nonfiction. In addition, the course emphasizes the analysis of poetry, literature, language, and the study of rhetoric. The course introduces students to literary criticism as well as building skills related to persuasion and argumentation. This writing intensive course is rigorous in terms of quantity and depth of work. The course emphasizes literary analysis and argumentative writing in order to explore various modes as well as the development of voice, purpose, and audience. The course includes exam preparation skills as well as vocabulary building throughout the year.

JUNIOR ENGLISH (AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION) (HONORS)

ENG371—SEMESTER 1
OPEN TO 11
PREREQUISITE: SOPHOMORE ENGLISH

ENG372—SEMESTER 2
FULL YEAR

This is a college-level course, one that adheres to the objectives articulated by the College Board, and students may obtain college credit by taking the AP English Language and Composition exam, a natural culmination of the year-long study of language. Students are guided to proficiency in the areas of reading, literary analysis, argumentation, writing, grammar and usage, oral communication, and research. The course emphasizes a variety of British and American texts as a means of critical analysis of language and rhetoric. This writing intensive course focuses on literary analysis, rhetorical analysis, synthesis, and argumentation, and is more rigorous than the accelerated level in terms of quantity and complexity of the writing assignments. The writing assignments, ranging from process essays to a research paper, require students to assume an increasing degree of independence as the year progresses. In addition, students write numerous short papers and in-class essays each semester. Students will be assessed regularly in the area of full-class and small-group discussions, as well as formal presentations. SAT and AP exam preparation are used to sharpen reading, editing, and revising skills. Students also engage in independent and intensive vocabulary study throughout the year. Students who enroll in this course will be prepared to take the AP English Language and Composition exam in May.

AMERICAN STUDIES (AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION AND AP U.S. HISTORY) (HONORS)

ENG341—SEMESTER 1

OPEN TO 11

PREREQUISITE: SOPHOMORE ENGLISH AND WORLD HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

Students are scheduled for consecutive periods of history and English, allowing for an integrated study of the two disciplines, development of skills for informed citizenship, and thematic movements in our country's history and literature. This course fulfills the College Board's objectives for both AP English Language and Composition and AP United States History and Geography, with attention to how a shared focus on both content and skills reinforces the development of the common and separate course objectives, including preparation for both AP exams. The AP U.S. History and Geography component focuses on the development of historical thinking skills (chronological reasoning, comparing and contextualizing, crafting historical arguments using historical evidence, and interpreting and synthesizing historical narrative) and an understanding of content objectives and themes. The AP English Language component features the study of primary source documents, contemporary and historical nonfiction and fiction which students review to deepen their analysis of rhetoric, and to develop their perspective of both history and contemporary society. In developing their skills with English and history, students also learn to write and orally present original arguments—both with and without sources. All forms of writing—analysis, argument, synthesis, creative prose—are influenced by students' awareness of the interdisciplinary content. This writing intensive course features weekly writing assignments—both in class and out of class—as well as substantive research. SAT and AP exam preparation are used to sharpen reading, editing, and revising skills.

ENG342—SEMESTER 2

FULL YEAR

THEMES IN WORLD LITERATURE (AP LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION) (HONORS)

ENG451—SEMESTER 1

OPEN TO 12

PREREQUISITE: JUNIOR ENGLISH

This course will provide students with a college-level literary experience that will foster readiness for the AP English Literature and Composition exam. In compliance with College Board requirements, students will study works from the 16th century to the present. 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 essays.

ENG452—SEMESTER 2

FULL YEAR

WORLD MASTERPIECES (ACCELERATED)

ENG431—SEMESTER 1

OPEN TO 12

PREREQUISITE: NONE

This two-semester sequence surveys world literature from ancient times to the present, focusing on both western and non-western 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. 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.

ENG432—SEMESTER 2

FULL YEAR

PUBLIC SPEAKING (COLLEGE PREP)

ENG761—SEMESTER 1
OPEN TO 10-11-12
PREREQUISITE: FRESHMAN ENGLISH

ENG762—SEMESTER 2
ONE SEMESTER

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.

POLITICAL THOUGHT AND ITS LITERATURE (COLLEGE PREP)

ENG601—SEMESTER 1
OPEN TO 12
PREREQUISITE: U.S. HISTORY AND JUNIOR ENGLISH

ENG602—SEMESTER 2
ONE SEMESTER

This one-semester elective course, which can be taken as an English credit or social studies credit, helps students develop skills in the areas of reading, literary analysis, writing, oral communication, and research in order to help them better be prepared for future education. Students explore the overarching themes of the course—the individual's understanding of self and others, individualism v. collectivism in democracy, ethics and morals, political partisanship, race relations, diversity, income inequality, politics and media relations, civil liberties, and many other important political issues—through short stories, essays, articles, novels, poetry, drama, and other intriguing texts. Through their reading and inquiry, students are introduced to various stylistic techniques that help them learn strategies to improve their reading comprehension, writing, listening, and speaking skills. Students write in multiple formats throughout the year, including narrative and argumentative, which is a framework for critical thinking. Authentic class discussion plays a vital role in that students talk in class as a means of enhancing his or her speaking and listening skills as a critical thinker. Students will participate in a mock trial, reach outside of the community, participate in class discussions, and examine what it means to develop a worldview and what it means to be a political scientist.

CREATIVE WRITING (COLLEGE PREP, *ACCELERATED OPTION)

ENG501—SEMESTER 1
OPEN TO 11-12
PREREQUISITE: NONE

ENG502—SEMESTER 2
ONE SEMESTER

Students learn to express their thoughts through writing 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.

CREATIVE WRITING SEMINAR (COLLEGE PREP, *ACCELERATED OPTION)

ENG522—SEMESTER 2 ONLY
OPEN TO 11-12
PREREQUISITE: CREATIVE WRITING

ONE SEMESTER

Students will refine their skills in writing and analyzing stories, plays, and poetry. Projects, readings, and assignments will cover 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 prerequisite 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.

SEMESTER-LONG ELECTIVES FOR SENIORS

Seniors not taking a full-year course (World Masterpieces or Themes in World Literature Honors [AP Literature and Composition]) are expected to take two semester electives.

TOPICS IN COMPOSITION: MEDIA ANALYSIS

(COLLEGE PREP, *ACCELERATED OPTION)

ENG691—SEMESTER 1 ONLY

OPEN TO 11-12

ONE SEMESTER

PREREQUISITE: NONE

This one-semester composition course is designed to lead students to a critical understanding of the media that surround us. The course focuses on the analysis of three major media industries—advertising, news, and entertainment—and the print and non-print messages created by these industries. Students will be required to write weekly response papers, read college-level texts, view a variety of forms of media, participate in class discussions, and complete analytical projects.

TOPICS IN COMPOSITION: FILM GENRES

(COLLEGE PREP, *ACCELERATED OPTION)

ENG722—SEMESTER 2 ONLY

OPEN TO 11-12

ONE SEMESTER

PREREQUISITE: NONE

This one-semester composition course is designed to lead students to an understanding of the art of film through the world of film genre, including suspense, comedy, 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.

TEXT EXPLORATION AND ANALYSIS (COLLEGE PREP)

ENG681—SEMESTER 1

OPEN TO 12

PREREQUISITE: NONE

ENG682—SEMESTER 2

ONE SEMESTER

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 presentation to the classroom community.

WRITING FOR COLLEGE (COLLEGE PREP)

ENG541—SEMESTER 1

OPEN TO 12

PREREQUISITE: NONE

ENG542—SEMESTER 2

ONE SEMESTER

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. Student progress is evaluated throughout the semester in a manner that authorizes students to take an active role in their learning.

COLLEGE PREP, *ACCELERATED OPTION

*(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, and Film Genres.

Because each college determines its own definition of an academic unit, it is always important that a student speaks with their counselor about the number and type of academic units they have accumulated.

JOURNALISTIC WRITING (COLLEGE PREP)

GPA WAIVER OPTION (NOT AVAILABLE TO SENIORS)

ENG901—SEMESTER 1

OPEN TO 9-10-11-12

PREREQUISITE: NONE

ENG902—SEMESTER 2

ONE SEMESTER

This course includes interviewing students and adults, writing stories that could get published in the student newspaper or yearbook, 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.

ADVANCED JOURNALISTIC WRITING (COLLEGE PREP)

GPA WAIVER OPTION (NOT AVAILABLE TO SENIORS)

ENG921—SEMESTER 1

OPEN TO 9-10-11-12

PREREQUISITE: JOURNALISTIC WRITING

ENG922—SEMESTER 2

ONE SEMESTER

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 and yearbook, prepare students for positions on the student newspaper or yearbook. Students will build on the reporting and writing skills learned in Journalistic Writing. As in the prerequisite course, communication and problem-solving will be stressed.

BROADCAST JOURNALISM (COLLEGE PREP)

ENG911—SEMESTER 1

OPEN TO 10-11-12

PREREQUISITE: NONE

ENG912—SEMESTER 2

ONE SEMESTER

This one-semester course is designed to combine the journalistic principles of coverage and writing with video production. The course requires that students learn the techniques and tools to accurately, efficiently, and ethically communicate using video and audio in a variety of platforms (studio desk, live at the scene, vlog, podcast, radio, game coverage, etc.). Students will write scripts, apply visual messaging, and research stories and topics, as well as critically evaluate past broadcasts and film. Additionally, students will produce video segments for different audiences and topics in a variety of roles.

PUBLICATION DESIGN AND PRODUCTION (ACCELERATED)

ENG951—SEMESTER 1

OPEN TO 10-11-12

PREREQUISITE: ADVANCED JOURNALISTIC WRITING

ENG952—SEMESTER 2

FULL YEAR

Students do all the work necessary to produce the *Statesman* (newspaper and website) and help produce the *Ambassador* (yearbook). Staff positions include executive editors, copy editors, design editors, advertising manager, section editors (news, opinions, sports, in-depth, and feature), and reporter. Staff members gather news, research and write copy, and help complete pages. Staff will assist in the writing, designing, and creating of the *Ambassador* yearbook. Because this is a student publication, all responsibilities—from the 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 these publications. This course may be repeated.

SEMESTER-LONG ELECTIVES FOR SENIORS

Seniors not taking a full-year course (World Masterpieces or Themes in World Literature Honors [AP Literature and Composition]) are expected to take two semester electives.