

Dear 2023,

The purpose of this document is to help you make the best decision for yourself in both 11th and 12th grade so you can be successful not only in high school, but in college. Please read through this handout carefully and follow up if you have questions. For AP Literature questions, email lauren.berry@yesprep.org For IRC questions, email kim.cao@yesprep.org.

LET’S START WITH YOUR SENIOR YEAR PLANS AND WORK BACKWARDS, SHALL WE?

12th Grade: AP English Language (EVERYONE will take this course their senior year)
Like IRC in 11th, this college-level course focuses on non-fiction writing to prepare all students for reading and writing after high school. You will learn about real world issues (politics, science, government, social justice, etc.) and how to craft persuasive arguments about these issues. Passing the AP Lang exam in May = college credit for English Composition, which is a class that is required for 100% of college students, regardless of their major.
<i>Note: AP Lit is only a required college course for English majors but passing the May exam would offer you 3 hours of overall credit.</i>

11 th Grade Option 1: IRC (Intro to Rhetoric & Composition)	11 th Grade Option 2: AP English Literature
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.75 GPA boost added to overall GPA score • Pre-AP on your transcript • Retakes offered for the full year • Offers preparation for AP Lang and a wider range of college courses, including STEM, communications, etc. • Connects to real world issues and arguments (politics, science, government, social justice, history, etc.) • 2 essays: rhetorical analysis and the argument essay • More support and training before taking AP Language so that you will be successful your senior year; this class is aligned to AP Lang and offers lots of practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.00 GPA boost added to overall GPA score • AP on your transcript • No retakes after the first six weeks of school • Offers preparation for college-level literature, fine arts, philosophy, and humanities courses more specifically • Connects to philosophy and the arts (poetry, novels, short stories, Shakespearean plays, literary theory) • 3 essays: fiction, poetry, open-ended (novel analysis) • Less support for AP Lang your senior year, but a diverse challenge in terms of various genres of writing and the push to think in abstract thematic terms

IRC IS THE CORRECT CHOICE IF MOST OF THE FOLLOWING ARE TRUE FOR YOU!

1. I am interested in discussing social issues happening in the world such as access to quality education, impact of racism, and the criminal justice system.
2. I prefer reading non-fiction texts from diverse authors.
3. I want extra support in rhetorical analysis writing and argument writing for my senior English class
4. I want extra practice in the Reading and Writing section for the SAT.
5. I enjoy debating controversial issues in class such as gender roles and how they function in society.
6. I am interested in analyzing how a speaker persuades an audience to believe their message.
7. I am interested in 1 or more of the texts for the class.

Unit	Text Title and Author	Topics and Themes
1	<i>My Dungeon Shook</i> by James Baldwin <i>Letter Anthology</i> (various authors)	religion, civil rights movement, racism, family, division and fear, authority, love, identity
2	<i>We Should All Be Feminists</i> by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie	feminism, women and femininity, gender roles, masculinity, social norms, identity
3	<i>Just Mercy</i> by Bryan Stevenson	judicial system, juvenile justice, law enforcement, race, class, mass incarceration, advocacy
4	<i>Being Mortal</i> by Atul Gawande	aging, mortality, illness, family, physician-assisted death, bioethics, morality
5	<i>Death of a Salesman</i> by Arthur Miller	American dream, success, failure, post-war America, family drama, infidelity
6	<i>Girl, Rising</i>	education, gender inequality, child marriage, forced labor, developing world, economics

AP LIT IS THE CORRECT CHOICE IF MOST OF THE FOLLOWING ARE TRUE FOR YOU!

1. I plan on majoring in English, Communications, Fine Arts, or the Humanities in college.
2. I work hard for consistent A in English II and I am regularly on honor roll.
3. I passed my English 1 STAAR exam with “Advanced” and am on track to do the same for English II.
4. I enjoy reading and journaling for pleasure. I frequently read during my free time and like to visit the library.
5. I am committed to spending time over the summer reading *A Thousand Splendid Suns* (415 pages) and completing analytical journals so that I can be successful from the start of the year. Note: they are due on the first day of school.
6. I enjoy English because I can interpret literature so many ways; there’s not one “right” answer if you argue well.
7. I could honestly balance outside priorities and other AP courses and still succeed with the workload of AP Lit.
8. I enjoy Socratic Seminars about stories; I think it’s fun to have deep philosophical conversations about characters.
9. I am disciplined enough to read not only the class texts but independent reading books (required) for AP Lit.
10. I often find myself craving more of a challenge in my English course and would like to be pushed with more rigor.
11. I am interested in 1 or more of the texts for this class.

Unit	Text Title and Author	Topics and Themes
1	<i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i> by Khaled Hosseini (summer reading text!)	women and femininity, religion, war, sacrifice, family, power, education
2	<i>Poetry Unit</i> (various authors)	unrequited love, nature, time, identity, art
3	<i>The Great Gatsby</i> by F. Scott Fitzgerald	the American Dream, the Roaring 20s, friendship, deception, love, classism
4	<i>Pride and Prejudice</i> by Jane Austen	love, marriage, wealth, social class, family, language and communication
5	<i>The Color Purple</i> by Alice Walker	family, love, sexual violence, women and femininity, sexual identity, racism, religion, the power of writing
6	<i>Macbeth</i> by William Shakespeare	ambition, fate and free will, violence, the supernatural, masculinity, insanity