

October eNews 2019

As the Class of 2020 enjoys its “last” first day of high school, last Homecoming game and dance, and (soon!) its last First Semester Exams, **current juniors, the Class of 2021**, is already planning for its senior year. **All current freshmen, sophomores, and juniors will participate in Curriculum Day on Wednesday, October 30th**, which is designed for students to learn about the courses they are eligible to enroll in for the following year. Teachers in all core and elective classes share a slideshow, video, and/or handouts with students to provide an overview of the options and to motivate students to choose exciting and rigorous courses.



Registration activities for current juniors, the Class of 2021, begin on Thursday, November 14th when counselors will review the registration process in US History classes. **Formal registration for the 2020-2021 school year for current eleventh graders is scheduled for November 15th to November 26th.**

Unlike freshmen, sophomores, and juniors who choose between core, enriched, or honors/AP English classes, seniors have a variety of choices when they register for English classes. These options are previewed below.

Reminder: all students must enroll in at least one full year of English as seniors, so they can choose a full-year class or two semester-long courses. **All courses require students to complete summer reading.**

Full Year Courses:

AP English Language (1.0 credit)

AP Language and Composition is a course optimized to hone your critical thinking and overall communication skills. In order to process the flood of information we encounter daily, it is necessary to develop a sharp eye to recognize various modes of persuasion and rhetoric in all available texts. This course equips you with the tools to meet these demands and strengthens your confidence to express yourself. While preparing for the AP exam, students learn essential strategies to recognize the function of rhetoric be it current events, editorial writing, advertising, and works of fiction. **This challenging English class is an option for seniors who have completed English 3 Enriched. It is a very rigorous college-level course that requires daily reading, writing, and speaking.**

AP English Literature (1.0 credit)

Come out of the cave and dare to be the “enlightened” expert. Engage in an epic journey to the depths of Dante’s *Inferno*; dissect the sinister workings of *Frankenstein*; traipse the forbidden moors of *Wuthering Heights*. As you enter scholarly conversations, you will have the freedom to explore your findings as you interpret prose, poetry, and art. After you “strive” for growth, “seek” differing perspectives, and “find” answers to your theories, you will wield, not “yield,” your literary prowess by conquering the adversity of the AP Literature exam. In a culminating field trip, we will observe the true meaning of human nature and decipher who you are meant “to be.” Not convinced? Click on [Testimonials](#) from former Wego students now in college. **This the the most rigorous English class at**

Wego and requires daily reading, writing, and speaking. Students must complete AP Language as a junior to enroll in this course.

British World Literature (1.0 credit)



Have you ever wondered what people outside of your country or culture think about the big questions of life? If you asked someone from Russia why human beings make art, for instance, what do you think she would say? If you asked a few folks from China how to keep hope alive in the face of unrelenting oppression and diminishing freedom, what could they tell you? Could a German person broaden

your sense of what it means to be spiritual? What do you think an Englishman who grew up being mocked by his peers and called an ogre could help you see about what it means to be an outsider? If you had robbed an entire country of its natural resources to make yourself rich, do you think you'd have a better idea of what evil is? If you thought you could get away with something, how far would you go to accomplish your darkest ambitions? Or perhaps most importantly of all, what is this thing called life and what are we all doing trying to live it? (Is there a right answer to that question? And if so, who knows what it is?) These are just a few of the questions we consider in British World Literature, and we have a full year together to work our way through their answers in this class. Come broaden your horizons and enlarge your perspective with us! **British World Literature is equivalent to English 4 Enriched and is designed to prepare students for college English classes. It requires daily reading and speaking, as well as essay writing.**

Choose two or more semester courses:

Contemporary Literature (.5 credit)

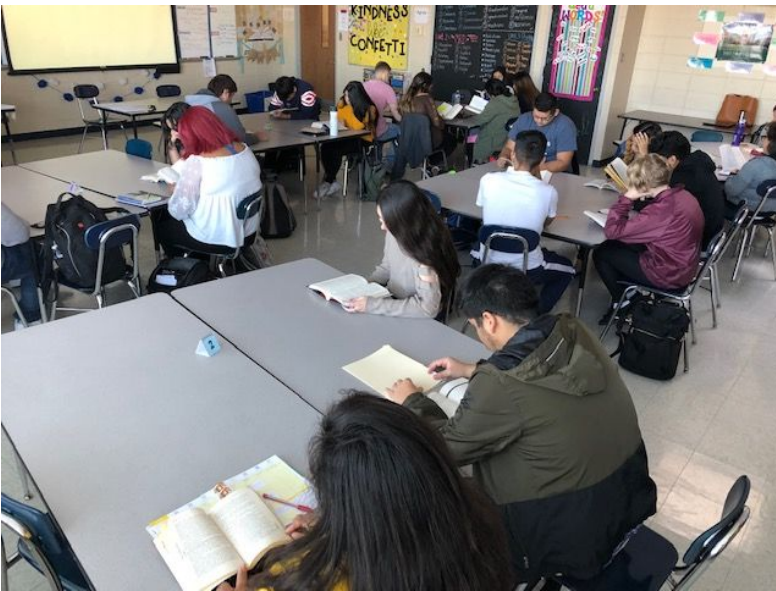
The Perks of being a Wallflower. Sharp Objects. The Hate u Give. YOU can read these titles and MORE if you decide to take Contemporary Literature for senior English! Over the course of one, super-fun-filled semester, we study contemporary writers and artists --those who are still alive today, (no dead white guys on our class reading list!) and contemporary, modern art. We begin by analyzing one of the world's most famous (and anonymous!) graffiti artists. We discuss why you should stop reading fairy tales, and then we transition into three novels that will leave you speechless. What could be better? This class grapples with current issues in society, the LGBTQ community and high school. We read articles that will challenge and enhance your way of viewing the world. We deal with very real and intense issues. In Contemporary Literature, you will work collaboratively in groups, analyze literature, create artistic depictions, write and participate in lively discussions. Get ready to meet your new favorite genre! **This class is intended for students heading directly into the workforce, Armed Forces, or a two-year college after Wego, or as an elective in addition to a college prep course for students who will enroll in a four-year college. This class requires daily reading.**

Creative Writing (.5 credit)

Creative Writing is a community of writers, poets, rap artists and story-tellers that share sacred writing spaces. When you open your notebook, step up to the mic, travel into the city to experience the longest-running open mic-- you are engaging with your inner artist and learning from the diverse voices around you. As a creative writer, you will take risks on the page, often “breaking the rules” of the traditional, academic writing of which you have most likely become accustomed. The journey to bring your “true self” to the page and stage will be explored through a variety of poetry styles, creative nonfiction, and the Gothic narrative. We will study a myriad of mentors, from published authors and seasoned spoken word poets to the people sharing our classroom space. Whether you consider yourself a novice or you’ve been waiting for a place to finally complete your trilogy, Creative Writing class is a place you can call home for a semester. Our class culminates in a field trip to Wordplay, an open mic space where the voices of the youth are cultivated and where artists like Chance the Rapper have begun their careers. You will leave this class with a complete portfolio of your work and memories to last you well beyond graduation! **This class is intended for students heading directly into the workforce, Armed Forces, or a two-year college after Wego, or as an elective in addition to a college prep course for students who will enroll in a four-year college. This class requires daily writing, sharing your writing, and presenting.**



Critical Reading (.5 credit)



Do you love to read? Has it been a dream of yours to choose the books you read at school? LOOK NO FURTHER! Take Critical Reading! You hand-select your own books to read during the semester. No books are forced upon you to read. Instead, you get to decide what **you** want to read. You average 100 pages a week of reading or approximately 4-5 books for the semester. We have a very structured weekly schedule with no surprises. Each week, you participate in current event article synopses and discussions within your table groups. You research and participate and a hot-button issue debate. You also have a weekly teacher conference about your book and various questions. Critical Reading will prepare you

to keep up with the rigorous pace of reading in college or get you comfortable with speaking and listening to adults or peers in the job setting or military. You'll become well-informed about current events and learn to respectfully navigate the difficult topics of our world. You'll do all this while reading your new favorite books! Take Critical Reading to become a more worldly, professional and well-versed person. **This course is designed for all seniors. It requires daily reading.**

Interpersonal Communication (.5 credit)

In this class students study effective interpersonal communication and apply these skills through the performance of speeches. Students will engage in structured discussion opportunities and will have a variety of occasions for public speaking. As students shift from one speaking occasion to another, they will attend to changes in audience needs, technique, format, and emphasis, and will participate in the critical assessment of their own speech performance and the performances of others. Students will also study effective communications through video, readings, and guest speakers. **This course is designed for all seniors. It requires reading daily formal and informal speaking.**



Journalism (.5 credit)

In the fast-paced world of 24-hour news that we live in, journalism is more important than ever! For every article you read or broadcaster you watch, a journalism course was the beginning. Join the class that teaches you real-life 21st Century skills, while learning how to take the next step to join the school newspaper, *The Wildcat Chronicle*. From discussing the ethics of journalism to writing news, features and editorials, you will not only develop as a writer, researcher, and thinker, but you should become a

better consumer of news and understand how the news business works. And if that's not enough to get you into the newsroom, an additional perk includes a demonstrated positive link between high school journalism and academic achievement. According to the Newspaper Association of America Foundation, students who work on high school newspapers get better grades in high school, earn higher scores on the ACT, and get better grades as college freshmen. Come test the research and join the fast-paced world of journalism! **This course is designed for all seniors; it requires daily writing.**

Media Literacy (.5 credit)

What does it mean to be awake? This is one of the central, driving questions that guides all that we do in Media Literacy. The truth is, you and I are bombarded by hundreds of messages daily. These messages are shaping who we are and our concept of what it means to be human at deep, fundamental levels. And frighteningly, we're asleep to many of them and don't even notice. As a course, Media Literacy seeks to offer you the tools with which you can wake up to these messages and begin decoding them and analyzing their (often hidden) content. We do this by taking a deep dive into all sorts of media, from advertising, the news, and pop culture (television and film), to the internet, its slew of social media platforms, and the nature of the devices we use to access all of this content. But exposure and analysis isn't the end game: by the end of this semester-long course, students will leave having *created and produced* multiple forms of original media content, as well, empowered by their sense that *all of us* have a key role to play when it comes to shaping the media we consume. Come wake up with us in Media Lit! **This class is intended for students heading directly into the workforce, Armed Forces, or a two-year college after Wego, or as an elective in addition to a college prep course for students who will enroll in a four-year college.**

Writer's Workshop (.5 credit)

Whether writing comes easily for you or you struggle to put words down on paper, Writer's Workshop has a place for you! In this course, you will develop your writing through different activities, helping strong writers further their craft and hesitant writers develop confidence. While the instructor selects the type of writing activity, such as descriptive, personal narrative, creative stories with dialogue, and more, you craft your work with your creativity. You'll learn the techniques to successfully complete all writing assignments, and then it's up to you to create. You also have the freedom to write about whatever you'd like each week in your own Writer's Notebook, a place for reflection, storytelling, and exploring different writing styles, (as long as it's school appropriate, of course). We workshop with peers to share ideas to help you develop further as a writer. When you leave class, you will be armed with a portfolio of work that should make you proud. **This course is designed for all seniors. It requires daily writing.**

Regardless of a student's post high school goals -- work, military service, or two year or four year college, there are senior English courses that can prepare and interest them in the future. As C.S. Lewis says, **"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream."**



For students interested in English electives, there are six options: **Advanced Drama, Broadcast Productions, Interpersonal Communication, Journalism, Journalism Production.**

Course descriptions for Interpersonal Communication and Journalism are above. Both courses are open to 9th-11 graders for elective credit.

Broadcast Production (.5 credit)

This course trains students in broadcast communication including the use of stabilizers to shoot on DSLR cameras and camcorders before uploading and editing footage on Apple's Final Cut Pro. Students will continue to develop skills in writing, editing, and speaking for broadcast. They will also have editorial responsibilities in finding, developing, and planning newsworthy stories for production. **This class is offered for elective credit to 10th-12th graders.**

Drama and Advanced Drama (.5/.5 credit)

Drama and Advanced Drama are exciting and interactive classes that help students learn how to present themselves. While focusing on the performing arts, the skills learned transfer into all areas of life. Taking a drama class can open doors in almost any industry. Taking a class will bolster your confidence and communication skills, while fostering empathy and cooperative learning. Students currently



enrolled state that they enjoy “practicing public speaking while memorizing and performing different acts with other students.” Another student stated, [I am] “becoming more comfortable and confident while performing in front of others, especially my peers.” “Drama allows students to express themselves and find out who they really are,” and “there is always another step to take in the endless escalator (of learning).” Finally, a fourth student said, “this class has made me realize that acting is more than remembering lines and pretending.” As students call the class a “Family of Friends” and a “Goofy Gang,, know that all students may take the *classes*- Drama and Advanced Drama. Each class is a semester-long and Advanced Drama may be repeated as units change every year. **These classes are offered to 9th through 12th grade students for elective credit. This course requires daily speaking.**

Journalism Production (.5 or 1.0 credit)

So what happens when you’ve mastered Journalism? You take your new-found knowledge and head to a reporter’s chair on the school newspaper, *The Wildcat Chronicle*! The award-winning newspaper staff hunts down the news in the building so students and the community can learn what is



happening at WeGo. On the online paper, reporters and editors strive to post stories as soon as possible after they happen, bringing a real-life buzz to the newsroom. From developing the story idea, to interview to writing, and posting a story, you will have your finger on the pulse of the school. You will have the opportunity to meet other student journalists at state and national competitions and conferences and have the chance to carry on the award-winning tradition of the paper. Join JPro and you will learn 21st Century technology and life skills that will prepare you for your next step in life while keeping the school and community informed with your stories. **This class is offered to 9th through 12 grade students for elective credit. This course requires daily writing.**