

# English

The English Department at BSM is committed to preparing students for life beyond BSM through a rigorous and thoughtfully constructed curriculum that reflects both universal human truths and the diversity of lived experiences. As students are required to take an English class each semester at BSM, they will develop and refine skills in critical thinking, reading, speaking, and writing.

We believe that students can and should encounter difficult but necessary issues in the classroom, where they can be supported and scaffolded in a safe environment. We value the power of language and literature to illuminate, to communicate, and to create change. Contact your counselor with any questions on courses.



S = Semester Course YR = Year Long Course

English 9  
YR

Honors English 9  
YR

English 10  
YR

Honors English 10 Contemporary  
YR

Honors English 10 Classic  
YR

**Option 1**

Advanced Composition S1, S2 and American Literature S1, S2

**Option 2**

AP Language and Composition YR

**Option 3**

Advanced Composition S1 and American Studies S2

*Must enroll concurrent with S2 American Studies Social Studies*

Creative Writing S1, S2

Debate S2

Film Studies S1, S2

Great Am Works S1, S2

Mythology S1, S2

Non-Fict Writing S2

Sci-Fic Lit S1, S2

CIS Intro to Lit S1, S2

AP Literature YR

AP African American Studies- English\* S1

**Sophomores and Juniors**  
Students have the option of enrolling in specific electives in addition to the class requirement. Enrollment in an elective as a Sophomore or Junior **does not** fulfill the senior requirement.

## Journalism

Journalistic Writing S, YR

Yearbook Staff YR

Yearbook Edit Sangraal YR

Edit Lead Knight Errant YR

\*Taken in conjunction with AP African American Studies – Social Studies (S2)

## Freshmen

*Enrollment in a yearlong English course is required. Placement is based on test scores and teacher recommendation.*

### **English 9 (YR)**

*Two semesters, two credits, open to freshmen*

The goals of English 9 are to help students grow in appreciation of literature, develop critical thinking skills, express themselves in an articulate manner both orally and in writing, and to effect a better command of the English language. Writing skills, with a review of the fundamentals of grammar, are stressed with emphasis on paragraph structure and the five-paragraph essay format. Plays, short stories, poetry, and novels are read, studied, and analyzed. A vocabulary program is also part of the curriculum. Students must complete a required summer reading assignment.

### **Honors English 9 (YR)**

*Two semesters, two credits, open to freshmen*

*Because this is a reading and writing intensive course, it is recommended that students have earned an "A" in their previous English classes and possess strong literacy skills.*

This course is for students who possess superior language arts skills and have the desire to learn at an intense and accelerated pace. Students will examine the principal literary genres in a varied selection of approximately ten texts, ranging from Greek drama to contemporary novels. The focus of the class will be critical analysis of the literature through discussion, presentation and writing. Students must complete a required summer reading assignment.

## Sophomore

*Enrollment in a yearlong English 10 course is required. In addition, these elective options (listed under "Senior") are available to sophomores:*

*Creative Writing*

*Mythology*

*Debate*

*Yearbook Staff - Sangraal*

*Journalistic Writing*

### **English 10 (YR)**

*Two semesters, two credits, open to sophomores*

The English 10 reading program explores a variety of literary genres, the study of which will develop and advance those critical and interpretive reading skills introduced in English 9. The composition portion of this course reviews paragraph development and multi-paragraph essays including an emphasis on research skills. Additionally, students will write a multi-paragraph literary analysis each semester. The first semester focuses on literature covering novels and plays. Included in the second semester is a research unit; students will also gain experience in organizing and delivering formal and informal speeches. A vocabulary program is also part of the curriculum. Students must complete a required summer reading assignment.

### **Honors English 10: Contemporary (YR)**

*Two semesters, two credits, open to sophomores*

*Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of English 9 with an "A" both semesters or completion of Honors English 9.*

This course is designed for students interested in gaining insight into the complex world they live in who also demonstrate superior language arts skills and desire to learn at an accelerated pace. Students will read approximately ten contemporary works including non-fiction, novels, poems, a memoir, plays, and illustrated (graphic) novels. Seeking to increase writer representation, this course incorporates BIPOC authors and authors from around the world. Writing instruction focuses on composing multi-paragraph essays and utilizes the writing process. Students will explore the research process while writing an analytical essay as well as deliver oral presentations. Students are expected to complete a summer reading assignment. Content covers mature themes and language but will be supported accordingly.

# English

## **Honors English 10: Classic (YR)**

*Two semesters, two credits, open to sophomores*

*Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of English 9 with an “A” both semesters or completion of Honors English 9.* This course is intended for students who demonstrate superior language arts skills, feel comfortable reading often outside of class time, and have the desire to learn at an accelerated pace. Students study approximately ten classic and contemporary novels and plays from Greek, European, and American literature, and selected works of poetry. Writing instruction focuses on composing multi-paragraph essays, incorporating multiple sources, and employing revision practices throughout the writing process. Students will also engage in the research process during which they write an analytical essay as well as deliver formal and informal oral presentations. Students must complete a required summer reading assignment. Content covers mature themes and language but will be supported accordingly.

## **Junior**

*Juniors are required to take one of the following options:*

*Option 1: American Literature and Advanced Composition- one each semester*

*Option 2: Advanced Composition (S1) and American Studies (S2)*

*Option 3: AP Language and Composition- full year*

*With the four exceptions of AP English Literature and Composition, Writing for Justice, Introduction to Literature: Poetry, Drama, Narrative and Non-Fiction Writing, juniors may choose to enroll in any English electives listed under “Senior.”*

## **Advanced Composition (S1) or (S2)**

*One semester, one credit, open to juniors*

This course prepares students for college writing assignments developing fundamental writing skills. Students will develop their own voices as writers and learn to make the structure and form of their writing match its content through the process of revision. Students will master the basics of grammar, mechanics, and usage as well as elements of logic and rhetoric. Major assignments include a descriptive essay, a narrative essay, a persuasive essay, a college application essay, an art review essay, and an expository essay with a multimedia component. Students must complete a required summer reading assignment.

## **American Literature (S1) or (S2)**

*One semester, one credit, open to juniors*

This course focuses on developing a foundation in American Literature while examining American culture as seen through novels, poetry, history, and art. Students must complete a required summer reading assignment.

## **American Studies/English (S2)**

*One semester, one credit, open to juniors*

*Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of English 10 OR Honors English 10 IN ADDITION TO: Satisfactory completion of World History OR AP Human Geography.*

*IN ADDITION, students must enroll in first semester Advanced Composition. Second semester students must enroll in American Studies English and American Studies Social Studies. This course fulfills the second semester English requirement.*

This course blends US historical events and themes in American literature to provide students with a comprehensive social, political, economic, and literary history. Five time periods each reflecting different epochs are team-taught: Great Depression, World War II, Cold War Conflict, Civil Rights, and Vietnam Conflict Era. Having both literary and historical figures illuminating the human experience, American Studies fosters a deeper understanding of the principles, problems, and issues basic to the establishment of our country. This approach helps students develop an essential understanding of and fully appreciate the complexities of history as it unfolds in modern times. Students enrolled in this course will meet two consecutive class periods.

## Senior

*Enrollment in one English elective is required per semester. Electives may not be repeated.*

### **Creative Writing (S1) or (S2)**

*One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors*

In this course, we'll study a multitude of topics concerning short fiction (short stories) and poetry. We'll be reading several short stories and poems, analyzing those stories and poems, and crafting original stories and poems of our own. The primary goal for this course is to teach students the nuts and bolts of fiction and poetry, not just how to analyze different forms but how to craft original work, too. Thus, in order to become a better writer, one must become a better reader. For this reason, we will be reading quite a bit. The stories we read will vary wildly in subject matter, style, tone, and genre. In turn, you'll be asked to write your own original work in any number of styles.

### **Debate (S2)**

*One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors*

Students in this course will learn effective argumentation and the principles of debate. They will study valid persuasion techniques as a defense against irrational arguments and use these techniques to influence others. Students will be involved in researching topics, learning debate techniques and terms, and improving speaking skills. Many types of debate will be covered in the class. No previous experience in debate is necessary, and students may enroll in the course without being on the school's debate team.

### **Film Studies (S1) or (S2)**

*One semester, one credit, open to juniors and seniors*

This course is for students who are genuinely interested in film as a contemporary means of communication and art. The course will cover landmark films, including their relationship to contemporary cinema along with various genres and their relationship to the audience. Students will be expected to write often, putting into practice critical thinking skills as they respond to various films. Students will have the opportunity to make their own digital short films. Because of the high level of writing and discussion, the course is much more than just watching movies. This course does not meet the core course requirements of the NCAA.

### **Great American Works (S1) or (S2)**

*One semester, one credit, open to juniors and seniors*

This discussion-based course is for students who want to have a wider grasp of American texts as they prepare for college. It picks up where American Literature leaves off, focusing on great novels mostly from the Twentieth Century. Students will explore how American novels reflect the diversity of the American experience and consider what makes a novel "great."

### **Mythology (S1) or (S2)**

*One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors*

This course covers a wide range of myths from various societies and time periods. While reading these stories of myth, students will examine universal archetypes, elements of culture, and human nature. Ultimately students will have the opportunity to critically examine contemporary culture and how their own story is part of it. The primary texts will be Edith Hamilton's *Mythology* and Joseph Campbell's *The Power of Myth*, but the course will also pursue many other avenues for studying myth in the modern world.

### **Non-Fiction Writing (S2)**

*One semester, one credit, open to seniors*

This course focuses on non-fiction essay writing and is geared toward students who have completed either Advanced Composition or AP Language and Composition. With an emphasis on the writing process, this class is taught as a writing workshop with students actively working in small and large groups. Students will cultivate their writing in a variety of genres and forms, culminating in a final portfolio of revised and original content.

### **Science Fiction Literature (S1) or (S2)**

*One semester, one credit, open to juniors and seniors*

This course is for students who want to examine the genre of science fiction as important and deserving of intelligent consideration and commentary. Using short stories, this course examines the development of science fiction over time. Novels will be read to examine what this genre – which is filled with what seem to be non-realities and impossibilities – has to offer to our present-day world and issues.

# English

## Journalism

### **Editorial Leadership: Knight Errant (YR)**

*Two semesters, two credits, open to juniors and seniors*

*Prerequisite: one semester of another journalism class and instructor approval.*

*NOTE: Seniors who choose to enroll in this course as their sole English course must be aware that colleges and universities may not accept this as a core curriculum English course. Juniors enrolled in Editorial Leadership must enroll in required English courses.*

Students who take this hands-on course will oversee production of the print and online editions of the Knight Errant. They will be responsible for all aspects of the publication. As the editorial board of the Knight Errant, students in this class will coordinate the work of the students in Journalistic Writing, and other classes that support the work of the publication such as Graphic Design, in addition to creating their own content for publication. Each student in the class will be assigned a specific leadership role. This course does not meet the core course requirements of the NCAA.

### **Journalistic Writing (S1) and/or (S2)**

*One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors*

*Sophomores and juniors may repeat this course. Seniors may only take the course one semester senior year.*

*Sophomores and juniors enrolled in Journalistic Writing must enroll in required grade-level English courses.*

Students who take this hands-on course will produce content for the Knight Errant and the KEQ magazine. They will work in conjunction with students in the Editorial Leadership class who will guide them through the composition process, from the conception of ideas to the final published product. Students in this class will explore the different styles of reporting encompassed in the Knight Errant, including interview-based stories for the news, sports, and feature sections as well as opinions and reviews. With an emphasis on clear, concise, and engaging storytelling, this class will help students develop and hone their reporting skills and provide them with an authentic audience for their content. Photographers and videographers' welcome!

### **Yearbook Staff - Sangraal (YR)**

*Two semesters, two credits, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors*

*Prerequisite: Instructor approval.*

This course will allow students to learn about graphic design principles, photography, and journalism through a hands-on manner while producing the Senior High yearbook. Staff members will be actively engaged in the production process throughout the school year. Staff responsibilities will range from conducting interviews, taking photographs, writing copy, planning and designing page layouts. Enrollment does not qualify as an English credit.

### **Yearbook Editorial Leadership: Sangraal (YR)**

*Two semesters, two credits, open to juniors and seniors*

*Prerequisite: Sangraal Staff and instructor approval.*

Editorial Leadership: Sangraal is open to students who have been assigned editorial positions on the upcoming Sangraal publication. The production process will be further explored through performing editorial duties, such as supervising staff members, editing proofs, and communicating with the production plant. Enrollment does not qualify as an English credit.

## Advanced Placement

### **AP African American Studies - English (YR)**

*Open to juniors and seniors.*

*Yearlong course: one English credit and one Social Studies credit for seniors*

*Juniors must enroll in required grade-level English & Social Studies courses.*

*Seniors must enroll in semester one U.S. Government course, and one semester two English Course*

This year-long course will explore the historical, political, cultural, and economic developments that have shaped North American people of African descent. Students will learn about the diversity, strength, and complexity of medieval African societies before the emergence of transatlantic slavery, the slave economy, reconstruction, the civil rights movement, and contemporary issues facing African Americans today. Using a multi-disciplinary approach, students will identify major themes that inform literary and artistic traditions of the African diaspora and understand the contributions of diverse Black communities in the United States.

Students will read both secondary and primary historical materials, poetry, essays, and novels. There will be a required summer reading assignment.

## Junior

### **AP Language and Composition (YR)**

*Two semesters, two credits, open to juniors*

*Recommended: Satisfactory completion of English 10 OR Honors English 10.*

This accelerated writing course is taken in lieu of Advanced Composition and American Literature and is designed for those students who possess advanced writing skills. It is designed to further challenge those students as writers and to prepare them for more complex writing situations. Students will be required to complete a major writing project along with a variety of formal, informal, and in-class essays. In addition, students will be required to read several texts over the course of the year, focusing on American culture and rhetoric in fiction and nonfiction pieces. This is a reading and writing intensive course. Students must complete a required summer reading assignment. Because this is a reading and writing intensive course, it is recommended that students have earned As or Bs in their previous English classes.

## Senior

### **AP English Literature and Composition (YR)**

*Two semesters, two credits, open to seniors*

*Recommended: Satisfactory completion of both Advanced Composition and American Literature OR AP Language and Composition.*

This is an intense, college-level course in the reading and critical analysis of literature with a heavy emphasis on formal expository composition. A range of literature representative of different genres and historical periods will be studied, including approximately four novels, a dozen short stories, one play, and a wide selection of poetry. This yearlong course is preparation for the AP Literature exam that is given in mid-May. Thus, it is expected that students taking this course will also take the AP Literature exam. Students must complete a required summer reading assignment. Because this is a reading and writing intensive course, it is recommended that students have earned As or Bs in their previous English classes.

## College in the Schools

*Allows motivated juniors and seniors to earn college credits by taking University of Minnesota, Twin Cities courses, at BSM. Courses listed are subject to University of Minnesota approval.*

### **Introduction to Literature: Poetry, Drama, Narrative (LITR, WI) (S1 or S2)**

*One semester, one credit, open to seniors.*

*Four college credits from the University of Minnesota.*

This is a writing-intensive course that also meets the Literature Core requirement. From epic battles against monsters in legendary kingdoms to stories about characters in worlds like our own, literature engages us with the diverse perspectives and experiences that make up our communities and world. This course introduces students to ways of understanding and appreciating literature in English across cultures and historical periods. Through this course, we will develop skills to help us understand literature, especially the ability to read language closely (a skill valuable in many disciplines beyond literature).

We will explore how writers use language and literary aspects, such as genre, voice, tone, symbol, motif, theme, imagery, narrative, and form. We also will learn how to write about literature, sharing our interpretations of how and why literary works have meaning for ourselves and others, while viewing them through critical cultural lenses, including ways to understand how gender, race, ethnicity, religion, and class can function in literary texts.