

ENGLISH

English at Mamaroneck High School is a four-year program. The English Regents, a graduation requirement, is given at the end of tenth grade. In grades 9-12 the department provides students with regular and varied opportunities to read, to write, to think critically, to listen, and to speak. English teachers recognize the recursive nature of language arts development across the continuum from the elementary grades through the senior year in high school. Students in every grade, for example, write expository essays; however, the complexity of these essays and the expectations for student performance increase as one progresses from the ninth grade to the twelfth grade. While there are common elements across grade levels, instruction within classes is adapted to meet the developmental needs of students as they work to achieve excellence in English.

NINTH GRADE PROGRAM

In their transition to high school English, ninth graders will explore the power of storytelling. Throughout the year, we read stories from visionary writers, who encourage us to use stories to speak truth, to explore a range of writing strategies, and to make sense of the world we live in. Whether we are examining ancient epics (*The Odyssey*), Grimm's fairy tales, or contemporary coming-of-age stories, students will learn the basics of text-analysis, persuasive arguments, and creative writing. All ninth graders will read Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, *Life of Pi*, and other rich texts. Vibrant and up-to-date classroom libraries provide students with hundreds of choices for their independent reading.

TENTH GRADE PROGRAM

Who am I? Sophomores will explore the vastness of identity, contemplating how internal and external forces shape who we are and who we can become. In *Forms of Literature and Writing* (aka English 10), students study a wide range of literature, including short stories, poetry, essays, fiction, non-fiction, film, and drama. All tenth graders will read *Night* and *Macbeth*. The extensive curriculum may include works by Alice Walker, John Steinbeck, Ray Bradbury, Eudora Welty, Margaret Atwood, Moises Kaufman, Jason Reynolds, Barbara Kingsolver, Khaled Hosseini, and George Orwell. Students will engage in deep discussion and writing around whole-class texts, join thematically organized book groups, and read from a rich selection of independent reading titles. They will further hone their writing skills through varied and purposeful assignments: essays, editorials, creative writing, and research-driven texts. Students will take the English Regents at the end of the year. .



Jasmine Mendez-Perez



Felicia Yan

ELEVENTH AND TWELFTH GRADE PROGRAM

Juniors and seniors have the choice of taking a full-year course or two half-year courses from the following:

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

FULL YEAR - 1 CREDIT

AP English Language and Composition is a college level course that helps students become skilled readers and writers through engagement with multiple forms of predominantly non-fiction texts, including narratives, research, speeches, analytical and argumentative essays. Texts range from historically significant texts like "Walden" and "The Crucible" to contemporary texts like "Just Mercy." As students read, they'll pay attention to the author's purpose, the intended audience, and how the two are tied together through language. Students will strive to strengthen the effectiveness of their writing through close reading and frequent practice, applying rhetorical strategies and incorporating information from multiple sources. The Advanced Placement English Language and Composition exam is required at the end of the course.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

FULL YEAR - 1 CREDIT

Advanced Placement English Literature provides college-level work in both reading and writing. The course follows the genre approach, and students are expected to unpack the stylistic nuances and layers of depth in such seminal works as *Frankenstein*, *Never Let Me Go*, *The Age of Innocence*, *The Sun Also Rises*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Beloved*, *Slaughterhouse-Five* and *As You Like It*. Students also critically evaluate a range of shorter readings in poetry and prose fiction and learn to write with sophistication, producing literary analysis essays and research papers as well as creative responses. The Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition exam is required at the end of the course.

ADVENTURE LIT.

HALF YEAR - 1/2 CREDIT

What drives someone to take an adventure? Does adventure mean the same thing to every person? What motivations and skill sets are required to have a successful adventure? In this course, we will attempt to answer these questions through examining the human desire to adventure into the unknown. We'll read, watch, and live vicariously through classic adventure stories, death-defying documentaries, encounters with nature, and journalistic accounts of expeditions. Exploring books, short stories, movies, blogs, and articles will introduce us to adventurers who are breaking new ground—as well as gender and racial barriers. Class projects will allow for fictional adventure writing and real-world reportage. In book groups, you will "choose your own adventure" and convey your interpretation of the characters in a creative way. The course

THE ART OF FILM

HALF YEAR - 1/2 CREDIT

This course will explore the unique nature of narrative through the medium of film. Organized around famous American directors such as Spielberg, Scorsese, Tarantino, Hitchcock, Welles (and others!), students will explore how these auteurs convey thematic content through a specific narrative point of view. In addition, students will have the opportunity to study the creative aspects of film from lighting to cameras to sound editing. Part of the course will be analyzing how directors translate the written word (in screenplays and novels) to the visual through storyboards and art design. Students will read novels and critical articles, write both creatively and analytically, and create storyboards in this course.

COLLEGE COMPOSITION

HALF YEAR - 1/2 CREDIT 3 COLLEGE CREDITS - IONA COLLEGE

This one-semester course, offered under the auspices of Iona College and taught by Mamaroneck teachers, is designed to help students master the process of writing mature, well-crafted expository essays for a variety of purposes and audiences. The curriculum for this course is the same one students would follow in a college composition course, and the expectations for the work produced are high. Students will study and write personal essays, position papers, research papers, and more.

Those who desire three credits from Iona must pay a \$300 registration fee to Iona and successfully complete the course. Students do not have to register for the college credit; students can pursue solely high school credit and an outstanding preparation for college writing demands.



Michael Lemus

COLLEGE JOURNALISM 1: FOUNDATIONS OF JOURNALISM

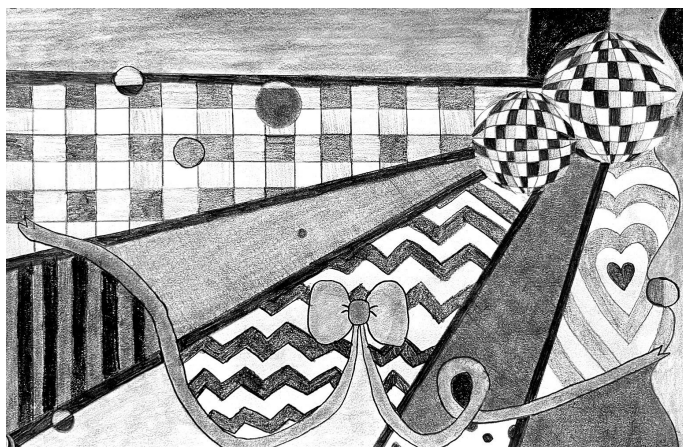
HALF YEAR – 1/2 CREDIT; 3 COLLEGE CREDITS–SUNY ALBANY

Journalism 1 is part media literacy/part journalism practice. Students will explore the tensions in creating and consuming news in the 21st century and acquire the basic skills needed to participate in the news gathering and sharing culture of our day. In the more philosophical units of the class, we will dive into the purpose of journalism; what we mean when we talk about truth, objectivity, and trust; and how the business of journalism has changed how we get our news—in fact, the very nature of news—in the last half century. We will research historical journalism milestones, from yellow journalism to pink slime, from the Pentagon Papers to podcasting. On the practical side, we will learn the skills of interviewing, writing profiles, and fact-checking. And we will analyze current trends in journalism—as well as our own personal news feeds—with the goal of curating a more accurate, reliable, and transparent set of news sources.

COLLEGE JOURNALISM 2: EFFECTIVE AND ETHICAL REPORTING

(NOTE: STUDENTS MUST TAKE COLLEGE JOURNALISM 1 BEFORE JOURNALISM 2)
HALF YEAR – 1/2 CREDIT; 3 COLLEGE CREDITS–SUNY ALBANY

This course is primarily designed as a Journalism Workshop. Students will be expected to work through the real-world process of pitching a story, then researching it, reporting it, writing it, rewriting it, fact-checking it, and learning the ins and outs of the editing process. Journalism 2 will focus on writing and storytelling: Students can explore different modes of writing (opinion, news, reviews), as well as different mediums (print, digital, audio, video). We will also delve more deeply into the ethics of contemporary journalism via case studies.



Avery Brausa



Valeria Urdaneta

CREATIVE WRITING

HALF YEAR – 1/2 CREDIT

All writing is creative, so what is different about this course? Students will experiment with new forms, and will pursue artistry in language use. Short stories, poetry, personal essays, and journals will constitute the majority of the written work, and students will write daily, either in class or at home. They will also share work through peer reviewing. Focused free writing, drafting, and revising will be regular class activities. Great writers also are voracious and critical readers. Therefore, students will be reading many varied selections—with an emphasis on short stories and poetry by modern and contemporary writers. Students will also read works about writing and being a writer by authors such as Stephen King, Ruta Sepetys, Gail Carson Levine, and Anne Lamott.

PSYCHOLOGY AND LITERATURE

HALF YEAR – 1/2 CREDIT

This course is a unique combination of studying contemporary literature through the lens of Freudian psychoanalysis in particular and psychology in general. Whether one thinks Sigmund Freud (1856-1939) is right, wrong, or somewhere in between, he raises provocative questions. The major topics are dream theory, personality, and therapy. In each unit, students will consider how Freud's ideas relate to them personally and how his theories can offer a lens into reading modern fiction. Students will write in a range of styles, including polished formal responses, creative work, and personal reflections.

CLASSIC COLLEGE SCIENCE FICTION

HALF YEAR - 1/2 CREDIT; 3 COLLEGE CREDITS-SUNY ALBANY

In this course, we will investigate how science fiction can be used not just to speculate about the future but also to look critically at our present. We will analyze what classic and contemporary works of science fiction convey about topics like the nature of reality, space exploration, dystopian societies, technology and social control, and many others. Texts may include the novel *The Martian* by Andy Weir, *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel and *Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline. We will also study science fiction through films like *The Truman Show*. Students will also be provided opportunities for creative writing in the genre and various ways of demonstrating learning through presentation and project-based assessment. Students have the opportunity to register for college credit, for a fee of \$190, through the University of Albany for three credits after successfully completing the course. Students are not required to sign up for college credit; students can pursue solely high school credit.

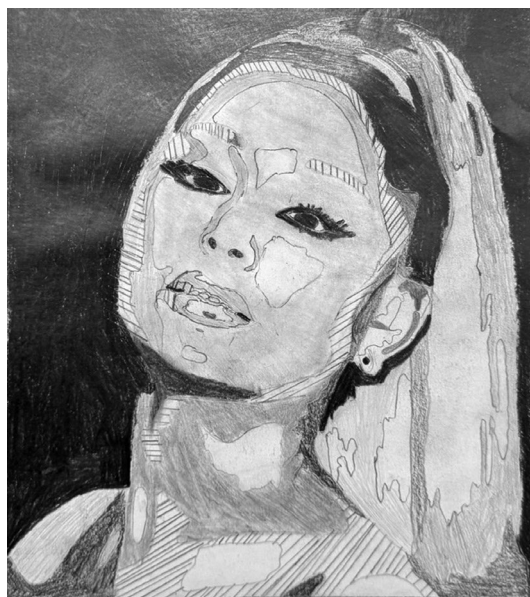


Erik Duran

SOCIAL JUSTICE

HALF YEAR - 1/2 CREDIT

In Social Justice, students explore the history of social justice movements and how people resist and thrive despite systemic oppression and injustice. Students will explore the social identity of themselves and others, reflecting on how identity impacts our perception and experiences, including (but not limited to) race, gender, sexual orientation, citizenship status, language, and ability. Social justice will be explored through a wide variety of genres, including short stories, poetry, novels, news articles, podcasts, film, music, photography and art. Students will also use these sources as models to create their own pieces, ranging from personal writing (such as self-reflections, poetry, and personal narratives) to more analytical pieces (such as research zines and literary analysis). Texts may include selections from *Disability Visibility* by Alice Wong, *Sitting Pretty* by Rebecca Taussig, *Dear America* by Jose Antonio Vargas, *The Future We Choose* by Christiana Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac, and selections from James Baldwin. Students will also have the opportunity to attend field trips and hear from speakers



Finley Orban

VOICES AROUND THE WORLD

HALF YEAR - 1/2 CREDIT

This course begins with examining yourself, your heritage, and your history. You'll see the many ways culture shapes choices, big and small in your life. From there, you will expand your view to learning about other cultures through literature, music, traditions, art, and film. This course offers a wealth of choice; you will explore Asian, African, Middle Eastern, Latin and Central American stories via independent reading, lit circles, and whole class texts. We'll cover topics pertaining to immigration, cultural currency, language, and maintaining a sense of self.