

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

ENGLISH 1

Grade: 9

Prerequisites: none

Credit: 1 credit; ½ per semester

This two-semester course builds upon each student's mastery of core academic skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking to meet and exceed the performance requirements of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS). Vocabulary development, journal writing, grammar and usage, essay development and research skills are central to the course that covers a range of literature through a variety of activities in the language arts.

ENGLISH 1 - PRE AP

Grade: 9

Prerequisites: None

Credit: 1 credit; ½ per semester

Pre AP English 1 is a course that covers a wide variety of language art skills with special attention given to developing critical thinking skills and rhetorical style. Students produce analytical and creative writing through personal journals, reading response journal, essays, and a research paper. Reading instruction focuses on analysis of novels, short stories, poetry, and essays. Vocabulary emphasis is PSAT preparation.

ENGLISH 2

Grade: 10

Prerequisites: English 1

Credit: 1 credit; ½ per semester

This two-semester course continues to develop each student's mastery of core academic skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking to meet and exceed the performance requirements of Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills. Test preparation, vocabulary development, journal writing, grammar and usage, essay development and research skills are fundamental to this literature-based course. Course content and student performance link academic skills and knowledge to grade level.

ENGLISH 2 - PRE AP

Grade: 10

Prerequisite: English 1

Credit: 1 credit; ½ per semester

Pre AP English 2 is a course that prepares students in a variety of advanced language arts skills and focuses on major contemporary and classical works of literature. Students will read extensively. Students will write a variety of essays, analytical journal responses on literature, covering major issues, themes, conflicts, and symbols, and a research paper. Vocabulary study will continue to prepare students to be successful in taking the PSAT/SAT.

ENGLISH 3

Grade: 11

Prerequisites: English 1 and 2

Credit: 1 credit; ½ per semester

This two-semester course continues to develop each student's mastery of core academic skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking to meet and exceed the performance requirements of Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills. Students must pass all parts of the TAKS test to graduate. Students study all genres of literature with the focus upon American literature from colonial to modern times. Vocabulary building, essay writing and reading comprehension are all activities basic to the course. Course content and student performance link academic skills and knowledge to grade level.

AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION (ENGLISH 3)

Grade: 11

Prerequisites: Application to the AP program; teacher recommendation;

Pre AP English 1 and 2

Credit: 1 credit; ½ per semester

AP English Language and Composition is a rigorous academic course designed to engage students in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of literary periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Students should develop an awareness of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, and subjects as well as the way conventions and resources of the language contribute to effectiveness in writing. Students will be required to write extensive analytical compositions showing understanding of the use of rhetorical devices by authors for meaning and pleasure, and demonstrating the student's understanding of literary style and ability for critical thinking. Students enrolled in this course are expected to demonstrate a willingness and ability to meet academic challenges, to read extensively and independently a variety of college level texts as preparation for the AP exam, to complete summer reading assignments, and to take the AP exam in May.

ENGLISH 4

Grade: 12

Prerequisites: English 1, 2, and 3

Credit: 1 credit; ½ per semester

This two-semester course reinforces and refines each student's mastery of core academic skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking to meet and exceed the performance standards. Students study all genres of literature with the focus on British literature. Course content and student performance link academic skills and knowledge to real life experiences.

AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION (ENGLISH 4)

Grade: 12

Prerequisites: Application to the AP program; teacher recommendation;

Pre AP English 1 & 2; AP Eng.3 Credit: 1 credit; ½ per semester

AP English Literature and Composition is a rigorous academic course designed to develop a body of knowledge, skills, and strategies for careful reading of texts that produces sensitive responses, for independent analysis that reflects critical thinking and concern for the literary dimensions of imaginative texts. Through the close reading of selected texts, students should deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for the reader. Students will analyze a work's structure, style, and themes as well as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone, and use the analysis to write well developed essays and to participate in discussions/seminars. Students enrolled in this course are expected to demonstrate a willingness and ability to meet academic challenges, to read extensively and in dependently a variety of college level texts as preparation for AP exam, to complete summer reading assignments, and to take the AP exam in May.