

English

The foundation of the curriculum standards for all English courses includes the content standards of writing, reading, speaking, listening, viewing, and representing, all of which should be taught in an integrated manner and not in isolation. All English courses follow the WCS Literacy Curriculum, with works studied in thematic units around various literary conflicts. Each thematic unit culminates in a performance-based assessment (PBA).

**The following Framework of Standards for Honors Courses is required by the State Board of Education to ensure that additional rigor is being provided in all honors courses:*

All honors courses substantially exceed the content standards, learning expectations, and performance indicators approved by the State Board of Education. They include instructional approaches that facilitate maximum interchange of ideas among students: *independent study, self-directed research and learning, and appropriate use of technology*. They must include multiple assessments exemplifying coursework (such as short answer, constructed-response prompts, performance-based tasks, open-ended questions, essays, original or creative interpretations, authentic products, portfolios, and analytical writing). Additionally, **an honors course shall include a minimum of five of the following components, which will compose the student's Honors Portfolio:**

1. Extended reading assignments that connect with specified curriculum.
2. Research-based writing assignments that address and extend the course curriculum
3. Projects that apply course curriculum to relevant or real-world situations.
4. Open-ended investigations in which the student selects the questions and designs the research.
5. Writing assignments that demonstrate a variety of modes, purposes, and styles.
6. Integration of appropriate technology into the course of study.
7. Deeper exploration of the culture, values, and history of the discipline.
8. Extensive opportunities for problem solving experiences through imagination, critical analysis, and application.
9. Job shadowing experiences with presentations which connect class study to the world of work.

3001 English/English I Honors*

Grade Level: 9

Credit: 1

English I students read selections from major literary genres, including short stories, poetry, drama, and longer works, and study vocabulary from their reading. Students practice and analyze various types of writing, including narration, description, persuasion, and comparison/contrast. Students add to their knowledge of research techniques and complete an I-search project using MLA format.

3002 English II/English II Honors*

Grade Level: 10

Credit: 1

English II students explore a wide range of literature from around the world and extend the writing experiences from English I. Students are asked to demonstrate a personal voice in their writing and to acquire and use a more mature vocabulary. Students complete an informative research paper using MLA format. Students take the State of Tennessee's Gateway English test in the spring; passing this test is required in order to earn a high school diploma.

3003 English III/English III Honors*

Grade Level: 11

Credit: 1

English III students read selections from American literature in various literary genres. Class discussions, projects, oral interpretations, multimedia presentations, and a plethora of writing opportunities give students practice in refining their high-level thinking skills and creative problem-solving techniques. Mastery of the elements of exposition and persuasion is expected, along with the integration of ACT/SAT-based vocabulary. A significant focus of writing instruction is in preparation for the TCAP writing assessment administered in February. The research process culminates in a persuasive research paper using MLA format.

3013 AP English III

Grade Level: 11

Credit: 1

Special Note: Advanced Placement English classes are open to any student who is willing to keep pace with the advanced curriculum, which involves additional reading, writing, and class presentation assignments.

Recommended: English II Honors teacher evaluation and writing sample.

This is a course of advanced composition paired closely with an eclectic mix of literature from different periods. Timed AP writing practices are a major focus. The art of composition within various rhetorical modes is stressed, and students write expository, persuasive, and analytical essays, as well as a major research paper on a literary topic, following MLA guidelines. Students read for literary techniques, including style and structure, and explore the connections among the author, text, and reader. Analyzing text for style, voice, and structure is designed to aid the students in taking the AP Language and Composition exam. Scores on the AP exam given in May determine college credit.

3005 English IV/English IV Honors*

Grade Level: 12

Credit: 1

English IV focuses on both thematic and historical perspectives of British and world literature, with continued practice in building analytical skills. To help students prepare for writing in college and the workplace, emphasis is placed on proofreading, editing, and revision. Students write informative, analytical, and reader-response papers. They also practice writing the personal narrative that accompanies college applications. The research process culminates in a fully developed analytical research paper following MLA guidelines. All students are required to complete a senior project comprising community service, writing, technological, and oral presentation components.

3014 AP English IV

Grade Level: 12

Credit: 1

Special Note: Advanced Placement English classes are open to any student who is willing to keep pace with the advanced curriculum, which involves additional reading, writing, and class presentation assignments. All students are required to complete a senior project comprising community service, writing, technological, and oral presentation components.

Recommended: English III Honors or AP teacher evaluation and writing sample.

English IV AP is a survey of world literature, primarily poetry, drama, and fiction. It is a college-level course that requires extensive reading and writing both in and out of class. The development of analytical skills needed to read, discuss, and write about challenging texts is the main goal of the course. Practice in evaluating texts for style, tone, structure, and other literary elements and in writing about these texts critically and analytically is intended to prepare students to take the AP Literature and Composition exam in May. Scores on the AP exam given in May determine college credit.

3012 Creative Writing I

Grade Level: 10-12

Credit: .5

Students often have the opportunity to experience expository writing in the classroom but have little time to develop imaginative writing. Creative Writing provides an avenue for self-expression, and allows them to explore various writing styles and to strive for variety in diction, sentence structure, and format. The primary goal of this class is to help each student become a better writer and thinker and a more effective communicator through the sharing of thoughts and ideas. Students are given the opportunity to develop their creativity through additional shared writing experiences.

Creative Writing II

Grade Level: 10-12

Credit: .5

This course is a continuation of Creative Writing I. Students will continue to develop writing skills through diverse assignments. They will study various authors and genres, but the main emphasis of the class will be to publish the students' work. It is desirable that the student take Creative Writing I before enrolling in this course.

3099 Film as Literature I

Grade level: 10th, 11th, and 12th only

Credit: .5

Film as Literature I is a semester course that includes viewing and studying such classic films as *Citizen Kane*, *On the Waterfront*, and *Rebel without a Cause*. The course explores the art, language, and creators of film. This course comprises both a critical and an analytical approach to discussing and writing about films.

Film as Literature II*

Grade level: 10-12

Credit: .5

Film as Literature II is a semester course that includes a study of film as a medium that can produce a narrative. Particular emphasis will be given to film theory and techniques. Students will view films ranging from Hollywood classics to more contemporary examples with an eye toward critical examination of the different ways stories are told. There will be an emphasis on writing, with several critical papers and an independent project. It is recommended that students complete Film as Literature I before enrolling in this class.

3097 Great Books I Honors

Grade Level: 11-12

Credit: 1

Great Books is the study of philosophical and literary texts that are considered essential reading for the well-educated individual. The class aims to develop careful, analytical reading; thoughtful discussion; and competent, well-reasoned writing. In addition, through the synthesis of reading, discussion, writing, and introspection, students will come to know themselves and formulate a personal ethic. Texts range from selections by classical writers such as Homer, Plato, and Aristotle to the writings of 19th and 20th century authors such as Freud, Kant, Steinbeck, and Garcia Marquez.

3008 Journalism

Grade level: 10-12

Credit: 1-2

The primary goal of the journalism program is for students to improve oral and written communication skills and to explore career possibilities in print media. The successful journalism student will work effectively both as part of a team and independently. The primary goal of this class is the production of both the school newspaper and the yearbook. The class functions in a lab situation, with emphasis on reporting and writing, advanced layout design, photography, business techniques, and art in the production of the newspaper and the yearbook.