

# English Curriculum

Courses in the English department are designed to:

- Develop each student's reading skills
- Encourage interest in reading as a both research and leisure activity
- Introduce students to a variety of writing styles and authors
- Hone students' listening skills
- Encourage confident and well-organized speakers and writers
- Develop students' analysis and synthesis skills

## **101/102 World Literature/Writing I**                      **9<sup>th</sup>** **Grade**    **1 credit**

This is a yearlong course taught in an integrated fashion with **Sacred Scripture** and **World History**. Emphasis is placed on archetypes, genres, and different literary devices used to create each unique piece of writing. Writing skills cover sentence structure, paragraph development, and common grammar and punctuation problems. Creative writing, literary analysis, art analysis, and research writing, along with other writing styles, are explored. **Students are expected to purchase their own vocabulary workbooks from the School Store for this course.**

## **109 Speech** **9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade**    **.5 credit**

This semester course is designed to give students opportunities to explore and practice different rhetorical styles. Types of speeches include: informative, demonstration, persuasive, oral interpretation, impromptu, group presentation, and special occasion.

## **111/112 Contemporary Issues in Literature/** **Writing II** **10<sup>th</sup> Grade**    **1 credit**

This yearlong course will provide opportunities to build on the reading and writing skills learned in **World Literature**. The selections, both non-fiction and fiction, will focus on current issues and will include topics such as the challenge of change, the search for identity, appearance versus reality, and the lessons of history. Vocabulary improvement will be a significant part of this course. **Students are expected to purchase their own vocabulary workbooks from the School Store for this course.**

## **113/114 Honors British Literature/** **Advanced Writing II** **10<sup>th</sup> Grade**    **1 credit**

This is a full year course recommended for students with strong writing and reading comprehension skills. It is an essential class for students who wish to qualify for **Advanced Placement English** in their senior year. Challenging reading, writing, presentation, and critical analysis assignments will be important aspects of the course. A research project and presentation will be required for successful completion of this course. Challenging vocabulary development will also be provided. **Students are expected to purchase their own vocabulary workbooks from the School Store for this course.** Written teacher approval is required for students who wish to enroll in this class and earned less than a "B" in English in freshman year.

## **120/121 American Literature/ Writing III** **11<sup>th</sup> Grade**    **1 credit**

This is a yearlong course integrated with **United States History** and **Ecclesiology** to provide a chronological perspective of the important themes in America's history. Vocabulary study is a significant aspect of this course, as is developing the critical essay. A research paper will be required in order to complete the course. **Students are expected to purchase their own vocabulary workbooks from the School Store for this course.**

**122/123 Honors American Literature/  
Advanced Writing III  
11<sup>th</sup> Grade 1 credit**

This challenging course highlights the relationships among ecclesiology, United States history and American literature. Sophisticated vocabulary development will be emphasized. Students will hone their writing skills to meet college expectations. This is an integral course for those students who wish to take **Advanced Placement English** next year. **Students are expected to purchase their own vocabulary workbooks from the School Store for this course.** Written teacher approval is required for students who wish to enroll in this course and have earned less than a “B” in sophomore English.

**124 Modern Literature  
12<sup>th</sup> Grade .5 credit**

The major themes of the twentieth century will be explored through literary forms from around the world. The varied selections will demonstrate how literature reflects important issues of the modern world. Students will be expected to engage in critical analysis in oral and written forms as demonstrations of their understanding of the works they study. **Students are required to purchase their own vocabulary workbooks from the School Store for this course.**

**125 Creative Writing  
11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade .5 credit**

Through the opportunity to develop imaginative writing selections, students will improve their writing skills in the areas of clarity, description, grammar, and usage. Students must be able to function independently in a lab situation and collaboratively as peer critics.

**126 College Writing  
12<sup>th</sup> Grade .5 credit**

Students who wish to refine their writing skills in preparation for college expectations will find such an opportunity in this course. Assignments will focus on developing a strong vocabulary, practicing writing processes, refining writing skills, and producing a variety of typical college writing assignments. **Students are expected to purchase their own vocabulary workbooks from the School Store for this course.**

**127/128 AP English  
12<sup>th</sup> Grade 1 credit**

This course explores four interconnected facets of reading and writing about literature: close reading and analysis of drama, prose, and novels; short and long writing assignments worked and reworked to a polished state indicative of collegiate level literary exposition; contemplation and exploration of the texts in a personal, reflective manner; and engagement in and discussion of these same texts in a group format. This is an enjoyable and rigorous year-long exploration and honing of the skills detailed in the *AP English Literature and Composition Course Description*. The course may not change your life entirely, but it will deeply impact the way you read, write, and think about the connection between literature, culture, and life.

**129 Dramatic Literature  
12<sup>th</sup> Grade .5 credit**

This one semester course will explore the genre of drama through reading plays and viewing productions. The selections will range from ancient Greek tragedies to modern comedies. Students will be expected to analyze form, theme, content, and other aspects of each piece both orally and in written format.

**150 Independent Classical  
Reading 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>  
Grade .5 credit**

This is an independent elective that can be accomplished outside of the classroom during a student’s high school years at Holy Family Catholic High School. Students are responsible for reading, discussing and writing about 25 works of literature. Selections are made from an approved list. This course can be started at any time. Interested students must register their desire to begin the program with the principal. There is no penalty for not completing the 25 works. *This class does not qualify as one of the required English credits.*