



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT COURSE OPTIONS

Preface: *The English Department of Washington Township High School strives to equip students with critical skills to lead literate lives and communicate effectively as engaged citizens in our ever-evolving society. The New Jersey Student Learning Standards for English Language Arts form the foundation by which we create and implement our instructional goals and objectives for learning. In a Reading/Writing Workshop approach, students will engage in a variety of 21st century learning experiences as they work towards mastering skills as readers, writers, speakers, and listeners.*

Honors English 9* (111)

Grade 9

5 credits

Prerequisite: 90 final average or above in ELA8.

Honors English 9 is an *intense, progressive* course for the self-motivated student who displays a *high aptitude* in English. Honors English 9 is a thematic study using a large variety of texts encompassing reading, writing, and speaking and listening skills. Students will participate in *high-level* class discussions, collaborative activities, and writing experiences based on the core texts. Reading will consist of curriculum core texts which will *challenge* the student and *increase their depth* of understanding. Additionally, student selected reading materials will be integrated to *enhance* reading skills and instill independent reading habits. Vocabulary instruction will be content and academic-based with an emphasis on self-directed acquisition and independent activities. Utilizing mentor texts, writing will be a continuous process focusing on different modes (narrative, argumentative, literary analysis, research paper, etc). Speaking and listening activities will require students to participate in peer discussions on various topics, texts, and issues, therefore preparing them for academic and real-world situations. Assessments will be authentic including both formative and summative. Performance based assessments will be given at the end of each semester.

****Furthermore, this course requires considerable independent, out-of-class work in preparation for class activities. Honors English 9 is designed to be rigorous in terms of pacing and expectations.***

CP English 9 (112)

Grade 9

5 credits

College Prep English 9 is a thematic study using a variety of texts encompassing reading, writing, and speaking and listening skills in a supportive environment. Students will participate in class discussions, collaborative activities, and writing experiences. Reading will consist of core assigned texts as well as student selected independent reading material to *develop* literacy skills and habits. Vocabulary instruction will be content and academic-based with an emphasis on self-directed acquisition and independent activities. Utilizing mentor texts, writing will be a continuous process focusing on varied modes (narrative, argumentative, literary analysis, research paper, etc.). Speaking and listening activities will require students to participate in peer discussions on various topics, texts, and issues, therefore preparing them for academic and real-world situations. Assessments will be authentic including both formative and summative. Performance based assessments will be given at the end of each semester. This is a course that includes independent, out-of-class work in preparation for class activities.

Honors English 10* (121)

Grade 10

5 credits

Prerequisite: Completion of Honors English 9 with an average of 80 or above or Completion of College Prep English 9 with a final average of 90 or above.

Honors English 10 is an *intense, progressive* course for the self-motivated student who displays a high aptitude in English. This course requires students to read, write, and think critically through the study of universal themes in American literature, nonfiction texts, and related media. Selected reading will be explored through a thematic lens that includes a study of the historical and social context of the

literature. There will also be an emphasis on student's continued development as independent readers. In addition, students will study both academic and contextual vocabulary with a focus on independent acquisition. Students will be expected to write in a variety of modes (narrative, argumentative/research, literary analysis, expository, etc.). Various forms of assessments will be utilized to measure student's academic growth and mastery of grade level skills.

****Honors English 10 is designed to be rigorous in terms of pacing and expectations and requires considerable independent, out-of-class preparation for class activities.***

CP English 10 (122)

Grade 10

5 credits

CP English 10 is course that encourages and supports students to read, write, and think critically through the study of universal themes in American literature, nonfiction texts, and related media. Selected reading will be explored through a thematic lens that includes a study of the historical and social context of the literature. There will also be an emphasis on student's continued development as independent readers. In addition, students will study both academic and contextual vocabulary with a focus on independent acquisition. Students will be expected to write in a variety of modes (narrative, argumentative/research, literary analysis, expository, etc.). Various forms of assessments will be utilized to measure student's academic growth and mastery of grade level skills.

AP English Language/Composition* (135)

Grade 11

5 credits

DUAL CREDIT ELIGIBLE

Prerequisite: Completion of Honors English 10 with an average of at least a 90, or 95 in CP English with accompanying PSAT score.

Advanced Placement (AP) Language and Composition is designed to prepare students to read and write at the college level and to take the AP Language and Composition Exam. Students will read a variety of texts (both non-fiction and fiction) over the course of the year and will analyze the rhetorical purpose of each text. Students will be required to read and research independently and to write in a variety of formats throughout the course of the year. This is a very fast paced course, intended for self-motivated learners.

[Refer to additional information on AP Courses](#)

Honors English 11* (131)

Grade 11

5 credits

Prerequisite: Completion of Honors English 10 with an average of at least an 80% or completion of College Prep English 10 with an average of at least 90%.

Honors English 11 is an *intense, progressive* course for the self-motivated student who displays a high aptitude in English. This course includes a rigorous study of a variety of literature. Students taking this course will be expected to read, write, discuss, and critically analyze works (assigned and independent) including plays, poems, short stories, nonfiction and novels to be read primarily independently. Students in this course will be expected to be fluent in the use of literary terminology when discussing and analyzing the assigned works. Students will be expected to write routinely in various modes throughout the school year. Mechanical and grammatical skills are reinforced through periodic skill work when necessary.

****Honors English 11 is designed to be rigorous in terms of pacing and expectations and requires considerable independent, out-of-class preparation for class activities.***

CP English 11 (132)**Grade 11****5 credits**

College Prep English 11 will continue to build upon student's skills as readers, writers, speakers, and listeners. In addition, this course will prepare students to attain skills and strategies necessary for successful achievement in college and career. Students taking this course will be expected to read, write, discuss, and critically analyze works including plays, poems, short stories, nonfiction and novels. Students in this course will be expected to be fluent in the use of literary terminology when discussing and analyzing the assigned works. Students will be expected to write routinely across various modes throughout the school year.

AP English Literature and Composition* (140)**Grade 12****5 credits**

DUAL CREDIT ELIGIBLE

Prerequisite: Completion of AP Prep English 11 with a minimum of 85.

Advanced Placement English 12 is the equivalent of a college-level introductory course in literary analysis and composition. In addition to the British literature survey included in Honors English 12, students are required to read 10-12 collateral novels and plays of varying lengths and write about two or three analytical essays (3-5 typed pages) per marking period. Students are encouraged to take the A.P. English Literature Test in May.

[Refer to additional information on AP Courses](#)

Honors English 12* (141)**Grade 12****5 credits**

Prerequisite: Completion of Honors English 11 with a minimum grade of 80% or completion of College Prep English 11 with a minimum average of 90%.

Honors English 12 is an *intense, progressive* course for the self-motivated student who displays a high aptitude in English. Students are expected to read extensively, write coherently, discuss, argue, and evaluate established ideas and common beliefs on a variety of subjects. Extensive independent work, including reading assigned/independent texts and preparing for class discussions will be a major component of Honors English 12. The course incorporates a survey of British/World literature, supplementary novels and plays, assorted non-fiction works of various time periods and cultures, and an examination of other disciplines and multimedia. Students will be expected to compose analytical essays and a research paper.

****Honors English 12 is designed to be rigorous in terms of pacing and expectations and requires considerable independent, out-of-class preparation for class activities.***

CP English 12 (142)**Grade 12****5 credits**

College Prep English

12 is designed to reinforce the necessary analytical, communicative, and writing skills that are required for students to fully participate, interact, and succeed in their college and career experiences. This course allows students to improve and master skills which emphasize critical thinking, analysis, interpretation, and evaluation. Students are expected to fully participate in class discussions and are responsible for assigned and independent reading, research, and writing outside of the classroom. Vocabulary as well as a review of language usage and proper grammar/writing skills is also addressed. Students will compose a variety of writing assignments, including essays, research papers, and narrative pieces.

English Enrichment Lab (182)**Grade 12****2.5 credits**

This course is designed to meet the varying needs of learners to improve their reading and writing skills in preparation for standardized testing. Students will be engaged in meaningful, relevant daily writing activities that require them to build writing stamina, organize their writing, focus on task and audience, and infuse voice. All genres of writing will be addressed with an emphasis on writing to sources using textual evidence and elaboration. Students will also practice close reading of various texts to improve their comprehension of both fiction and non-fiction. The delivery of instruction will be a combination of: whole group instruction, station activities, individualized learning (technology-based), one on one conferencing, targeted small group instruction, and independent practice.

Note: Upon successfully passing a state approved assessment, students may request a transfer out of this course. Students who have not successfully passed a state approved assessment by Semester 2 will begin to create a portfolio to meet the requirements of the State Portfolio Appeals Process.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT ELECTIVE COURSES**Creative Writing (151)****Grades 9 -12****2.5 credits**

This course is an introduction to writing poetry, short fiction, and essays. Students will focus on writing completed works that convey a desired mood, conjure sensory images, develop three dimensional characters and/or elaborate upon a chosen theme. Student writing will take a variety of forms. Students will keep an independent writer's journal to record thoughts, snippets of dialogue, story and poem ideas and anything else that might prove to be useful in future writing. With class assignments, the emphasis will be placed upon improving one's work through revision. Students will be expected to adhere to deadlines. Occasionally, working in large and small groups, students will brainstorm ideas, revise copy and critique the writing of classmates, offering suggestions and acknowledging strengths. As a class, students will also explore the markets for student writing and will submit work for publication. This course is not for the casual student but for the individual who genuinely enjoys writing and is striving to achieve the best possible product.

Journalism 1 (171)**Grades 9-12****2.5 credits**

This course is designed as an introduction to non-fiction writing for print and broadcast media. In addition to learning basic journalistic style through the writing, evaluating and editing of news stories, features, and editorials, students will confront issues of journalistic integrity, responsibility and ethics. While there is no specific academic prerequisite, students should possess strong grammar and writing skills as there will be no time to review basics. Students will be required to complete weekly assignments and adhere to strict deadline schedules. For practical experience, students will submit work to the school newspaper. This is not a course for the casual student but rather for the individual who enjoys writing and is genuinely interested in exploring the impact written language can have on our society.

Journalism 2* (198)**Grades 10-12****5 credits**

Prerequisite: Achievement of a 77 or better in Journalism 1.

This course is designed to build on the concepts and skills taught in Journalism 1 with the emphasis on elevating student writing through editing and revision. Assignments will perfect the students' use of journalistic style through the writing of news and feature stories. Students will also have the opportunity to explore their voices as writers through editorials and column writing. In addition, students will learn headline writing, basic page design and layout through the use of PageMaker,

Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop, and/or similar desktop publishing applications. Working in conjunction with the school newspaper and the Journalism I classes, students will gain hands on experience editing copy for conciseness, clarity, and correctness. This course should prove beneficial for students considering careers in the print or broadcast media.

Journalism 3* (Field Experience) (197)	Grades 11-12	5 credits
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Prerequisite: Achievement of an 85 or better in Journalism 2.

This is a course which would be taken by students who have already successfully completed Journalism 1 and 2. At this field experience level, students will act in a managerial capacity among the Journalism 2 students. Journalism 3 students will be involved with hands-on production work, especially with regards to the WTHS newspaper and be expected to provide journalistic leadership through exercise of their managerial skills. This course should prove beneficial for students considering a career in the print or broadcast media.

Journalism 4* (Field Experience) (196)	Grades 11-12	5 credits
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Prerequisite: Achievement of an 85 or better in Journalism 3.

The course builds on the concepts taught in Journalism 1-3. In addition, students will take the initiative in instructing Journalism 2-3 students in all aspects of producing the high school newspaper: from staff organization through reporting, writing and editing to page design and layout. Students will also play a primary role in planning organizing and maintaining the school news site, wthspatriot.com. To raise student awareness of quality writing and publications, coursework will also involve the reading and analysis of the work of student and professional writers. Through peer conferencing and editing, students will increase their understanding of the effective elements of both oral and written communication. Through this leadership role, will gain an enhanced understanding of reporting and the writing process and learn to become more discriminating readers as well as writers. They will continue to gain practical experience reporting the news, interacting with staff members and working with desktop publishing. Students will hone their skill and their recognition of the need for, and value of precise, concise, and engaging communication.

Contemporary Literature Studies (1)	Grades 10-12	2.5 credits
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Contemporary Literature Studies is a 2.5 credit, half-year course offered to grades 10-12. This course is designed to acquaint teenage readers with high interest, modern, young-adult novels that are not part of the standard English curricula taught in grades 10-12. Students will learn to comprehend different types of literature through higher level 'Socratic' discussions and through making connections with media surrounding the cultural and societal issues dealt with in the readings. The purpose of this class is to create life-long readers who have a thirst for knowledge and a better understanding of the quickly changing world around them. Grades will be based on journal writes, discussions, classwork, participation, and a final project based on an independently chosen book.

Film As Literature (1)	Grades 10-12	2.5 credits
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Film as Literature is a 2.5 credit semester course offered to students in grades 10-12. In this course, students will view, consider, analyze, and interpret films as forms of literature while utilizing supplemental reading materials. Students will learn to approach films in the same way they study literary texts: they will evaluate and identify various elements such as purpose, theme, characterization, and symbolism. The course encourages students to recognize and view films as narratives, to appreciate the many facets of storytelling, and to examine cinematic works in a different, thoughtful manner. Grades are derived from active participation, classwork, discussions, written assessments, and long-term assignments.

Exploring the Theater (761)**Grades 9-12****5 credits**

Dual Credit Eligible

Exploring the Theater is an introduction to all phases of the theater experience. Students will delve into various aspects of theater, including pantomime, improvisation, basic acting techniques, body movement, audition techniques, stagecraft, make-up, theater history and play production. Evaluations are based mainly on performance and improvement, as well as projects, quizzes, tests, and homework. Students will also learn techniques to improve memorization skills and conquer performance anxiety. **This course may not be repeated.**

Actors Studio (762)**Grades 10-12****5 credits**

Dual Credit Eligible

Prerequisite: Exploring the Theater with a minimum grade of 77.

This full-year elective is designed to further refine and develop skills introduced in Exploring the Theater. The course offers intensive exercises in voice, movement, imagination, concentration and character development. Examination of various acting theories prepares the student for practical application of the art of acting. Technical theater is also introduced with the study of scenery, lighting, costume, makeup and other design techniques. Students will gain insight into the role of a director and develop the skills to direct a play artistically. Musical comedy as an original art form will also be studied. Additionally, students will prepare professional audition materials and investigate career opportunities using trade publications and the Internet. Finally, students will be expected to incorporate all aspects of dramatic production by participating in several class projects and a full-length theater performance. **This course may not be repeated.**