

English Electives

Creative Writing I: 1435.H000.Y / 1435.R000.Y

The course, offered as either regular or honors credit for grades 10 - 12, assumes an independent dedication to creative and imaginative writing. The course is designed to provide a writing workshop and forum for the continual development of writing skills through model study, skill building, and writing practice. Primary focus is the short story. However, students are given an opportunity to explore other genres including non-fiction, drama, poetry, etc.



Creative Writing II: 1432.H000.Y

In addition to Creative Writing I requirements, students are expected to pursue more independent and/or extended writing tasks, contribute to school publications, enter writing contests, and provide extra editing and feedback to peers.

Film Analysis I: 1448.H000.Y / Film Analysis II 1432.H000.Y

Concepts: Film Genres; Elements of film such as direction, cinematography, editing, acting; social and cultural relevancy of film and the relationship of cultural and social movements on film

Topics: Quintessential films from various eras, countries, schools such as Film Noir, documentary, science fiction, animation, Western, etc.

Gifted and Talented Independent Studies/Mentor Seminar/UIIL Academics Preparation 8931.H000.Y

Students will create a professional portfolio with the help of mentors in career areas in which the students are interested. Students will engage in career research, product design, and lengthy presentations. This course will also use UIL academics to provide enrichment for GT students. Students will explore each of the events in UIL academics including Science, Math, Social Studies, Computer Science, Current Events, and Journalism. Students will try to show as many connections between the topics as possible and try to place them all in a larger context. There will be two novels read for the course as well as a significant writing component. Students will use computers as a resource in finding information for all topics and analyzing the information once it is found.

Greek Mythology/World Mythology 1438.H000.A and B

Concepts: Critical thinking; text analysis; effective verbal and written communication; Greek myths, stories, and legends exploration that examines their influences on current societal, emotional, and cultural beliefs and understandings. Topics: Edith Hamilton's Greek Mythology, short stories, myths, nonfiction, poetry, vocabulary, word origins, music, visuals, grammar/mechanics, propaganda.

Practical Writing 1428.R000.A and B

The focus of Practical Writing is writing with appropriate voice for appropriate audiences. Students will learn the basics of written language, expository mode, and persuasive mode, as well as participate in discussion based writing workshops. Explicit instruction in grammar, mechanics, and high frequency words is given with authentic practice opportunities.

Professional Communications: 8314.R000(X)

Careers in the global economy require individuals to be creative and have a strong background and proficiency in professional oral and written communication. In this course, students will develop and expand the ability to write, read, edit, speak, listen, manipulate computer graphics, and use various computer and technology applications. The class covers topics including interpersonal communication, group communication, listening skills, nonverbal communication, persuasion, public speaking, and many forms of professional communication. Students get prepared to communicate successfully with peers, supervisors, and colleagues, and to set and reach personal and professional goals.

Reading I, II, III: 1313.R100.Y / 1323.R100.Y / 1333.R100.Y

Read silently and orally with fluency and comprehension in increasingly demanding texts. Various strategies are used to comprehend, analyze, and evaluate texts. Students apply a variety of word recognition strategies and build an extensive vocabulary through systematic word study. The Achieve 3000 reading program is utilized to promote reading growth. This includes leveled reading, computer and student interaction, and lot of practice.

SAT/ACT and College Readiness: 1334.R000.X

This class uses the SAT and ACT as a tool to teach skills that will be invaluable to students throughout their college years and beyond! Not only does this class focus on SAT and ACT-specific strategies, it encompasses methods that students can apply to all tests which will increase their confidence and reduce test anxiety. Further to this, we look at the college admissions process and have seminars with college admissions officers as well as professors, learning the common pitfalls students encounter both in applying for college and studying there. Students also learn to think about what college is suitable to their learning style, how to select the right college, and are introduced to the financial aspects: how much it costs, how to pay for it, and how to apply for financial aid and scholarships. Students will learn multiple approaches to studying, from ancient Greek methods of cultivating memory to modern technological resources that boost student achievement. Naturally, in this English course, students will learn how to effectively analyze text for rhetoric and evidence, build a college-level vocabulary, as well as learn how to avoid the 8 predominant errors that writers make. On average, students in this course improve their SAT English scores 20% from the first to the final diagnostic assessment!

Scholars (Humanities): 1439.H000.Y

Scholars is designed to provide exposure to the Arts by attending various events, which include concerts, plays, operas, museums, poetry readings, etc. Students gain credit for attending a specific amount of events per grading period (usually 3-5). Grades are also determined by Q&A talkbacks, online discussion, journals, reflections and/or reviews. Everything is completed outside of the school day, and students must be willing to experience a wide range of arts-related events. Students may decide to take the course for one semester.

If you have questions about these courses, be sure to ask your English teachers!

