

English I

Course Description: This course offers instruction in grammar, usage, vocabulary, spelling, reading skills, and writing process. Students study literature using texts and materials from a variety of genres, cultures, and time periods, examining how literature expresses human themes.

Reading Texts and Foundational Skills

Students should be reading consistently in and out of school to answer this essential question: **What literary elements are crucial to understanding each genre?**

- *The Odyssey*: epic, epic hero, figurative language, theme
- *Romeo and Juliet*: tragedy, blank verse, figurative language, theme
- Poetry, novel, short fiction, non-fiction: structure, theme, characterization, conflict
- Self-selected reading: stamina, personal choice

Writing Assignments and Foundational Skills

From reading a variety of literary models, students should apply the organizational and stylistic elements of writing in specific genres. Students should be consistently working on writing assignments in and out of school. ***Honors students can expect to write 3 to 6 polished writing assignments during the year; all other students should expect 2 to 4.***

- Opinion Statement: form and develop arguments connected to literature and/or non-fiction texts
- Process Description: organize information to suit purpose (***this is the S2 anchor***)
- Narrative Account: use narrative techniques and details to develop a storyline
- First Semester Anchor Assignment: analysis of conflict

Focus Skills for all writing

- Sound paragraph structure to organize and communicate ideas
- Prepositional phrases to create sentence variety and fluency
- Transitions to assist with fluency
- Subject-verb/ pronoun-antecedent agreement
- Distinguish between formal and informal voice
- Eliminate sentence fragments and run-on sentences

American Literature

Course Description: Students study American literature using texts and materials from a variety of genres and time periods, examining how literature reflects culture. In addition, this course continues the study of grammar, usage, vocabulary, spelling, reading skills, and the writing process. Writing a research paper that follows the research process is a major component of this course.

Reading Texts and Foundational Skills

Students should be reading consistently in and out of school to answer this essential question: **Why does an author make particular structural and stylistic decisions in a text?** Students should already be able to understand and identify what literary elements are crucial to understanding each genre.

- *Of Mice and Men*: setting, characterization, character motivation, elements of a novella
- *The Crucible*: setting/historical context, elements of drama
- Poetry, short story, informational writing, and novel: structure, theme, characterization, conflict
- Self-selected reading: stamina, personal choice

Writing Assignments and Foundational Skills

From reading a variety of literary models, students should apply the organizational and stylistic elements of writing in specific genres. Students should be consistently working on writing assignments in and out of school. ***Honors students can expect to write 5 to 7 polished writing assignments during the year; all other students should expect 3 to 5.***

- Persuasive essay: address and refute counterclaims
- Literary analysis: use textual evidence to support interpretation of literature
- Research paper: use the research process to synthesize evidence from primary and secondary sources to develop and support an argument in proper MLA format (also serves as second semester Anchor Assignment)
- Modes of writing that use a variety of text features such as bulleted lists, flow chart, memo

Focus Skills for all writing (in addition to 9th grade skills)

- Development of voice through stylistic decisions to communicate with audience
- Word choice that demonstrates thoughtful consideration of artistic purpose
- Methods of developing sentence fluency: transitions, parallel structure, semicolon, comma usage

British Literature

Course Description:

Students study British literature in relation to author's style and purpose, historical background, literary movements, and history of the English language. In addition, this course continues the study of grammar, usage, vocabulary, spelling, reading skills, and the writing process.

Reading Texts and Foundational Skills:

Students should be reading consistently in and out of school to answer this essential question: **How do authors manipulate language to communicate their ideas?** Students should already be able to understand and identify what literary elements are crucial to understanding each genre and why authors use those elements.

- *Beowulf*: cultural context, epic, multiple themes
- *The Canterbury Tales*: cultural context, satire, irony, multiple themes
- *Macbeth*: figurative language, ambiguity, blank verse, author's choices of structure and style
- Other poetry and prose, fiction and non-fiction: multiple works' treatment of a topic, argument, media presentations of literature
- Self-selected reading: stamina, personal choice

Writing Assignments and Foundational Skills:

From reading a variety of literary models, students should apply a developing understanding of how writers manipulate words to communicate ideas. Students should be consistently working on writing assignments in and out of school. ***Honors students can expect to write 6 to 8 polished writing assignments during the year; all other students should expect 4 to 6.***

- Literary analysis: use textual evidence to support interpretation of authors' choices in historical context
- Short narrative accounts: imitate authors' styles
- Argument: use literary or informational text to develop argument
- Annotated works cited: synthesize research on a selected topic
- Other assignments: use hyphens, choose active vs. passive voice, vary syntax and usage for purpose

Topics in Literature

Course Description:

Students study a variety of American and world literature to consider author's style and purpose in relation to several important themes central to the human experience. In addition, students in this course will use the processes of writing and research to complete the Senior Exhibition.

Reading Texts and Foundational Skills:

Students should be reading consistently in and out of school to answer this essential question: **How do authors manipulate language and narrative to communicate their ideas?** Students should already be able to understand and identify what literary elements are crucial to understanding each genre and why authors use those elements.

- *Hamlet* or *Othello*: figurative language, ambiguity, blank verse, author's choices of structure and style
- Other poetry and prose, fiction and non-fiction: multiple works' treatment of a topic, argument, media presentations of literature
- Self-selected reading: stamina, personal choice

Writing Assignments and Foundational Skills:

From reading a variety of literary models, students should demonstrate a clear understanding of how writers manipulate words and narrative styles to communicate ideas. Students should be consistently working on writing assignments in and out of school. ***Honors students can expect to write 8 to 10 polished writing assignments during the year; all other students should expect 6 to 8.***

- Literary analysis: use textual evidence to support interpretation of authors' choices in historical context
- Argument: use literary or informational text to develop argument
- Senior Project: explained in its own student guide