

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS - ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

HONORS COMMUNICATION 9 – 0100

Grade 9
REQUIRED (1 credit)

Purpose: Honors English 9 is a year-long college preparatory course designed for freshman who want to begin preparation for the senior English Advanced Placement test or for advanced students who want to take an accelerated English course. It is integrated with Honors Social Studies, which is also a year-long course. English and social studies meet on alternate days.

Course Description: This course emphasizes an American humanities approach, which ties together literature, history, culture, and the arts of the twentieth century. Honors Communication 9 also stresses the basics: development of reading, writing, speaking, and vocabulary skills. Because the course uses a historical and humanities approach, the curriculum demands that applying students think, interpret, and respond both globally and analytically.

Requirements: Students must be willing to challenge themselves to think and communicate on high levels. All students will complete at least one I-Search paper, including in-text citations and works cited, on some aspect of American society. Course assignments include frequent compositions, projects, and oral presentations for various purposes and audiences, including a presentation at FMS. Students will read major works of American literature such as novels, plays, short stories, and poetry, in addition to selected excerpts from an American literature text.

Prerequisites: Students with a 93% or above in eighth grade English are eligible to apply; however, a comprehensive assessment of the following criteria will determine placement in this course: previous courses taken/grades earned; teacher recommendation; PSSA reading and writing scores: Advanced; eighth grade classroom reading and writing pre- and post-test scores: Advanced; reading stanines: 7-9; required entrance essay submitted within timeline specified by Honors American Studies and communication teachers: Superior performance. *Students enrolled in Honors Communication 9 must also enroll in Honors Social Studies 9.*

HONORS COMMUNICATION 10 - 0104

Grade 10
REQUIRED (1 credit)

Purpose: Honors Communication 10 is a semester-long college preparatory course designed for sophomores who want to continue preparation for the senior English Advanced Placement test, or for advanced students who want to take an accelerated English course.

Course Description: Emphasizing a world humanities approach, this course surveys representative literature from ancient myths to contemporary novels and poetry. Honors Communication 10 also stresses the basics: development of reading, writing, speaking, and vocabulary skills. Because the course uses a historical and humanities approach, the curriculum demands that applying students think, interpret, and respond both globally and analytically.

Requirements: Students must challenge themselves to think and communicate on higher levels. All students will complete a multi-genre research paper, including in-text citations and works cited, on a world literature novel or play. Course assignments include frequent compositions, projects, and oral presentations for various purposes and audiences. Students will read major works of world literature such as novels, plays, short stories, and poetry, in addition to selected excerpts from a world literature text.

Prerequisites: Students who successfully completed Honors Communication 9 with a score of 77% or above and students who earned a 93% or above in ninth grade College Prep Communication are eligible to apply; however, a comprehensive assessment of the following criteria will determine placement in this course: previous courses taken/grades earned; teacher recommendation; PSSA reading and writing scores: Advanced; ninth grade classroom reading and writing pre- and post-test scores: Advanced; reading stanines: 7-9. While some students may have the potential for honors work, they are accepted into the program on the basis of their academic performance during freshman year. Students must complete the summer reading assignments (two required literary works), which will be assessed by summer journal writing, projects, and online discussions.

HONORS COMMUNICATION 11 - 0108

Grade 11
REQUIRED (1 credit)

Purpose: This course continues the Honors 9 and 10 Communication program. Its purpose is to challenge and improve students' reading, writing, speaking, and critical thinking skills through literary analysis, writing, discussion, and creative projects. This course is designed for the highly motivated student who possesses an excellent command of reading and writing skills.

Course Description: This course seeks to improve students' communication skills by examining classic and modern world humanities and literature from a variety of authors and genres. This course also includes vocabulary development and SAT and A.P. preparation.

Requirements: Students must be willing to challenge themselves to think and communicate on higher levels. They will read classic and modern novels, drama, short stories, and poetry by western European, eastern European, Indian, Asian, African, and South American writers. Students will write creative and expository compositions and two research-oriented essays. Students will have ongoing vocabulary development and SAT and A.P. preparation.

Prerequisites: Students who successfully completed Honors Communication 10 with a score of 77% or above and students who earned a 93% or above in tenth grade College Prep Communication are eligible to apply; however, a comprehensive assessment of the following criteria will determine placement in this course: previous courses taken/grades earned; teacher recommendation; PSSA reading and writing scores: Advanced; tenth grade classroom reading and writing pre- and post-test scores: Advanced; reading stanines: 7-9. While some students may have the potential for honors work, they are accepted into the program on the basis of their academic performance during freshman and sophomore years. Students must complete the summer reading assignments given the preceding spring and be ready for an assessment of their reading during the summer and the first two weeks of the course.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION – 0112

Grade 12
REQUIRED (1 credit)

Purpose: This course continues the Honors 9, 10, and 11 Communication program. Its purpose is to challenge and improve students' reading, writing, speaking, and critical thinking skills through college-level literary analysis, writing, discussion, and creative projects. This course is designed for the highly motivated student who possesses an excellent command of reading and writing skills.

Course Description: This course seeks to improve students' communication skills by examining British and world literature and humanities from the Renaissance to modern times. This course includes vocabulary development and preparation for the Advanced Placement examination.

Requirements: Students must be willing to challenge themselves to think and communicate on higher levels. They will read British and world novels, drama, short stories, and poetry from the Renaissance to modern times. Students will write creative and expository compositions and a research paper. Students will have vocabulary development and preparation for the Advance Placement test, which all students are expected to take (as part of the final exam or in May). Students are encouraged to take Advanced Placement European History 12, which provides historical analysis of the eras studied in this course.

Prerequisites: Students who successfully completed Honors Communication 11 with a score of 77% or above and students who earned a 93% or above in eleventh grade College Prep Communication are eligible to apply; however, a comprehensive assessment of the following criteria will determine placement in this course: previous courses taken/grades earned; teacher recommendation; PSSA reading and writing scores: Advanced; eleventh grade classroom reading and writing pre- and post-test scores: Advanced; reading stanines: 7-9. While some students may have the potential for honors work, they are accepted into the program on the basis of their academic performance during freshman, sophomore, and junior years. Students must complete the summer reading assignments given the preceding spring and be ready for an assessment of their reading during the summer and the first two weeks of the course.

COLLEGE PREPARATORY COMMUNICATION 9 - 0101

**Grade 9
REQUIRED (1 credit)**

Purpose: This freshman preparatory course is designed to familiarize the college-bound student with a variety of literary genres, composition techniques, and language and thinking skills.

Course Description: Emphasizing basic English skills and early American literature, this course is designed to provide students with a common background in reading, writing, speaking, and listening competencies. Additionally, SAT vocabulary development, reading, and information management will be stressed as skills necessary to prepare the student for college.

Requirements: Students will write numerous compositions emphasizing paragraphing skills and illustrating a variety of modes and styles. Each student will complete multi-paragraph formal reports based on reading and research activities. Other projects are also required. Literature study will focus on different genres of American Literature from 1600 to 1900 with each student reading selected short stories, poems, non-fiction works, and novels. In addition to composition and literature assessments, regular tests in vocabulary will be required.

Recommendations: It is recommended that students have a combined 77% or above in eighth grade English and reading before enrolling in this course.

Prerequisite: It is required that students requesting enrollment in this class have a combined score of 77% or above in eighth grade English and reading. Additionally, a comprehensive assessment of the following criteria will determine placement in this course: previous courses taken/grades earned; teacher recommendation; PSSA reading and writing scores: Proficient; eighth grade classroom reading and writing pre- and post-test scores : Proficient; reading stanines: 4-6.

COLLEGE PREPARATORY COMMUNICATION 10 - 0105

**Grade 10
REQUIRED (1 credit)**

Purpose: This sophomore preparatory course is designed to familiarize the college-bound student with a variety of literary genres, composition techniques, and language and thinking skills.

Course Description: Emphasizing twentieth and twenty-first century American literature, this course is designed to provide students with a common background in reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Additionally, test taking skills, vocabulary development, reading skills, and information management skills will be stressed, as will the skills necessary to prepare the student for college.

Requirements: Composition skills will stress effective completion of multi-paragraph compositions. Each student will complete a literary analysis utilizing in-text citations and a works cited list. Literature study requires students to read novels, poetry, a Shakespearean drama and various shorter pieces of literature. In addition, a vocabulary journal is required as development of language skills is stressed. A variety of projects and presentations are also required. Students are expected to successfully complete homework, and pass quizzes, tests, and written assessments.

Recommendations: It is strongly recommended that students earn a 77% or better in College Prep Communication 9 before enrolling in this course.

Prerequisites: It is required that students requesting enrollment in this class have a score of 77% or above in College Prep Communication 9. Additionally, a comprehensive assessment of the following criteria will determine placement in this course: previous courses taken/grades earned; teacher recommendation; PSSA reading and writing scores: Proficient; ninth grade classroom reading and writing pre- and post-test scores: Proficient; reading stanines: 4-6.

COLLEGE PREPARATORY COMMUNICATION 11 - 0109

**Grade 11
REQUIRED (1 credit)**

Purpose: This junior preparatory course is designed to enhance reading, speaking, writing, listening and thinking skills through a study of world literature.

Course Description: Emphasizing world literature, this course is designed to provide language and compositions skills necessary for the college-bound student. Vocabulary and SAT skills are also stressed.

Requirements: All students will be required to successfully complete classic readings, long and short stories, essay and objective tests, and quizzes as assigned. In addition, students will be assigned vocabulary activities, compositions, research projects and novels. Critical reading, composition and language skills will be stressed.

Recommendations: It is strongly recommended that students earn an 85% or above in College Prep Communication 10 before enrolling in this course.

Prerequisites: It is required that students requesting enrollment in this class have a score of 77% or above in College Prep Communication 10. Additionally, a comprehensive assessment of the following criteria will determine placement in this course: previous courses taken/grades earned; teacher recommendation; PSSA reading and writing Scores: Proficient; tenth grade classroom reading and writing pre- and post-test scores: Proficient; reading stanines: 4-6.

COLLEGE PREPARATORY COMMUNICATION 12 - 0113

Grade 12
REQUIRED (1 credit)

Purpose: The senior preparatory course is designed to prepare students for their future collegiate careers, focusing on various composition skills, reading strategies, speaking techniques, and research skills.

Course Description: Emphasizing world literature, this course is designed to provide language and composition skills necessary for the college bound student. This course will integrate the following skills: literary analysis, composition, vocabulary, basic language skills, and technology.

Requirements: The students will be required to write research-oriented critical reviews and short compositions (both creative and expository). In addition, students will read selected pieces from world literature in all literary genres. Some project work on major units will be required. Frequent quizzes, unit tests, and compilation of a writing portfolio will assess student progress. Development of basic language and computer application skills will also be expected.

Recommendations: It is strongly recommended that students earn a 85% or above in College Preparatory Communication 11 before enrolling in this course.

Prerequisites: It is required that students requesting enrollment in this class have a combined score of 77% or above in College Prep Communication 11. Additionally, a comprehensive assessment of the following criteria will determine placement in this course: previous courses taken/grades earned; teacher recommendation; PSSA reading and writing scores: Proficient; eleventh grade classroom reading and writing pre- and post-test scores: Proficient; reading stanines: 4-6.

ACADEMIC DECATHLON (Independent Study #1) – 0320

Grade 9, 10, 11, 12
ELECTIVE – FALL Semester (.5 credit or 1 credit)

Purpose and Course Description: This course will prepare the student to participate in the Academic Decathlon Program. Specific class work and lessons will highlight the study areas for the year's competition. There are three main concentrations of content material in the following curriculum areas; literature and fine arts, math and science, and the social sciences. Students will also be instructed in speech writing and delivery, and skills necessary to participate in an interview. Attendance at three [3] Saturday competitions is required.

Prerequisites: None

NOTE: Students may *not* fulfill their English credit obligation by taking this elective course. Students may take this course and not compete on the team or students may be on the team but not take this course. This course may be taken multiple years.

YEARBOOK - 0803

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12
ELECTIVE (1 credit)

Purpose: This course is designed to introduce students to the technology of the publishing industry.

Course Descriptions: As a semester long course open to beginning and experienced yearbook staff alike, this course will explore publishing design and layout, photojournalism, digital photography, basic journalistic writing, computer graphics, online publishing and photo enhancement. Students will also learn how to handle the business aspect of yearbook production including marketing, budgeting, and sales. This workshop style class will include hands-on activities that focus on every aspect of yearbook production. By being in this class, students will become a part of the *Challenge* Yearbook staff.

Requirements: Students will be required to take a daily active role in the conceptualization and production of the school's yearbook including writing, picture taking, editing, and creating templates. Each student will be required to sell four advertisements or page sponsors outside of school, take pictures of extra-curricular events, and complete thematic double-page spreads. Meeting production deadlines will factor into the grading procedure.

Prerequisites: All students interested in being on the yearbook staff ***must*** complete an application available from the instructor. Depending on number of students and grade levels represented, some students who request this course may not be selected. Student backgrounds and interests in the yearbook will factor into the selection process. Access to a digital camera and the Internet may be a deciding factor in selection. An interview with the instructor and/or editor may occur if the demand becomes too large.

APPLIED COMMUNICATION 9, 10, 11, 12 - 0102 (grade 9)
- 0106 (grade 10)
- 0110 (grade 11)
- 0114 (grade 12)

**Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12
REQUIRED (1 credit)**

Purpose: These courses are designed to introduce, develop, reinforce, and apply basic skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Effective communication skills for the work place are emphasized. Vocabulary development of SAT and PSSA test preparation practice are also elements of the courses. The student enrolled in these courses will be prepared either to enter post-secondary schools, technical institutions, or community colleges where degrees and/or diplomas are awarded for those preparing for "high-tech" careers.

Course Description: The courses focus on oral and written communication skills, covering the following areas: composition, grammar, literature, vocabulary and speech as related career-oriented communication skills.

Requirements: Career-related communication will be stressed. Students will write various compositions and read literature from a variety of time periods and genres. Oral and other projects will also be required.

Prerequisites: Those students who meet the following criteria, based on a comprehensive assessment, are required to enroll in the appropriate Applied Communication course: Classroom pre- and post-test scores: Basic or Below Basic; PSSA reading and writing scores: Basic or Below Basic; reading stanines: below 4. Previous courses taken and the grades earned, along with teacher recommendations, will also be taken into consideration when recommending placement in this course.

JOURNALISM - 0121

Grades 11, 12
ELECTIVE (1 credit)

Purpose and Course Description: Journalism is designed to acquaint **eleventh and twelfth grade** students with the various aspects of publication, i.e., research, writing, editing, proofing, layout and design and circulation. This course recruits students with above average communication skills (listening, speaking, and writing) and those who are willing to extend work beyond the school day. The course of study develops critical writing skills and provides the knowledge and procedure for publishing the school newspaper.

Recommendations: The screening process recommends a grade of at least 85% in the student's previous English class and a teacher recommendation.

Prerequisites: None

NOTE: Students may ***not*** fulfill their English credit obligations by taking this elective course.

FILM STUDY - 0127

Grades 11, 12
ELECTIVE (1 credit)

Purpose and Course Description: Film Study is designed to help students better understand and appreciate film and filmmaking. Content highlights film structure, cinematography, production design, editing, sound design, narrative, foreign film, Hollywood history, film criticism and film theory.

Requirements: Students taking film study are required to watch films both in and out of school, conduct and report on research, write about and discuss film and potentially work through the process of creating an original film.

Students may repeat Film Study for credit.

NOTE: Students may ***not*** fulfill their English credit obligation by taking this elective course.

SAT Math-Verbal / Computer Applications II - 4010

Grades 11
Offered FALL 2006 only

SAT Description: The purpose of this course is to provide students with an introduction to the strategy, format, and content of the SAT college board verbal exam. It is required that all students taking this course register to take the SAT on the first test date scheduled following the completion of the course. The test dates usually fall on the first Saturday in November and the third Saturday in January. In addition, students will explore the college selection and application process.

Prerequisites: SAT Verbal: Students must have completed two credits of college-bound or honors communications with passing grades. **SAT Math:** Students must have completed one credit of algebra and one credit of geometry or higher with passing grades. Students must provide their own

calculator.

A TI 30x or above is recommended. **Computer Applications II: Computer Applications I**

NOTE: Students may *not* fulfill their English credit obligation by taking this elective course.

NOTE: Students may *not* fulfill their English credit obligations by taking these elective courses. Students may earn elective credits for Journalism, Theater Arts and Competitive Speech & debate by taking the courses more than once during their high school careers.

PSSA Test Remediation: Reading 12 – 0130
Reading 9, 10, 11 – 0131

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12
***REQUIRED (1 Credit)**

Purpose: This remediation course is designed to improve the reading, writing, and test-taking skills of those students whose Pennsylvania System of School Assessment test scores fall in the Basic or Below Basic Achievement range.

Course Description: This course seeks to improve the students' reading and/or writing skills and to familiarize the students with the formal jargon and scoring of the test. The students will practice analytical reading: compose in narrative, informative, and persuasive modes; and investigate and analyze sample scored essays.

Requirements: ★Guidance and administration officials will assign students to this course in August following a student's PSSA Reading score in the range of Basic or Below Basic Achievement. The student will retake the PSSA test or an alternative at the next available testing date or submit a mastery portfolio after completion of the course. Successful completion of this course required for graduation.

NOTE: Students may *not* fulfill their English credit obligation by taking this remediation course.

NOTE: Students may *not* fulfill their English credit obligations by taking these elective courses. Students may earn elective credits for Journalism, Theatre Arts, and Competitive Speech & Debate by taking the courses more than once during their high school careers.

THEATRE STUDIES I – 0115

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12
ELECTIVE (1 Credit)

Purpose and Description: Theatre Studies I is designed to acquaint students with the foundations of theatre. Topics covered will include but not be limited to: improvisation, playwriting, technical theatre, musical theatre, theatre research and history, dramatic literature, movement, and acting.

Requirements: Students taking Theatre Studies I are required to complete daily activities concerning theatre. This is an active class – students must be willing to participate.

NOTE: Students may *not* fulfill their English credit obligation by taking this course.

THEATRE STUDIES II – 0116

Grades 10, 11, 12
ELECTIVE (1 Credit)

Purpose and Description: Theatre Studies II is a continuation of Theatre Studies I, covering more

in-depth the following topics: improvisation, playwriting, technical theatre, musical theatre, theatre research and history, dramatic literature and acting.

Prerequisites: Theatre Studies I

Requirements: Students taking Theatre Studies II are required to complete daily activities concerning theatre. This is an active class – students must be willing to participate.

NOTE: Students may not fulfill their English credit obligation by taking this course.

Theatre Studies II may be repeated for credit.