

ENGLISH ELECTIVES 2021-2022



Juniors

General English Electives

Bible and Mythology

1 semester

1 credit

Open to Grades: 10-12

Grade Weight: IV

This course is provided for the student who desires to be able to interpret the meaning of the numerous Biblical and mythological references one encounters daily by reading about them in their original contexts. Twelve weeks will be devoted to the Bible and six weeks to Greek Mythology. Intensive reading in both the Biblical writings (ancient Hebrew culture) and Hellenistic mythology (ancient Greek

culture) will be accompanied by a clarification of the literary features of Hebrew and Greek writings in translations and by identifying their influence upon our own western world. The student should expect to master a large number of names, places and events. The following books will be read: *Bible*, *Odyssey*, *Metamorphoses*, *Mythology* and *J.B.*

Digital Storytelling

1 Semester

1 credit, Open to Grades 9-12

Grade Weight: III

Digital Storytelling is part of the Digital Media Production sequence and is an introductory level course that explores the basics of storytelling strategies, fundamentals of digital video production, camera functionality, video editing

applications, sound design, lighting, and audio capture. Students also learn about the structure of story design, character development, descriptive writing, and dialogue. Assignments will include developing a podcast, informative media package, promotional video, audiobook, and short film. This course is a prerequisite for Broadcast Production, which creates the video announcements (The **NWN**). This course satisfies the public speaking requirement.

Broadcast Production

1 semester

1 Public speaking credit, 1 non-English elective credit

Open to Grades: 9-12

Grade Weight: III

Prerequisites: Digital Storytelling

Broadcast Production students help create the video announcements for the **NWN (Niles West News)**. This course is a skill-level course designed to provide students with the foundation skills needed for a career in editing, anchoring, video production, sound design, and television broadcasting. Instruction and projects will include video camera operation, video editing, pre-production, production, and post-production processes, lighting, sound, shot composition, camera movement, and working as a production crew. Students will write, direct, announce, and assemble raw footage into a polished production meeting broadcast industry technical standards. Students will also create and edit commercials, news packages, short movies, and other student produced projects. Substantial time commitment during and outside of class is required as part of the

program. Students who have completed one semester of Broadcast Production, are encouraged to continue in Advanced Broadcast Production.

Prerequisite: Digital Storytelling

Advanced Broadcast Production

1 semester or 2 semesters

1 Public speaking credit, 1 non-English elective credit

Open to Grades: 10-12

Grade Weight: IV

Prerequisite: Director Approval

Advanced Broadcast Production are the student producers of the video announcements for the **NWN (Niles West News)**. **Advanced Broadcast Production is recommended as a full year course**

designed to create student led video announcements.

Students enrolled in Broadcasting Production will be responsible for producing the broadcast program seen by the school and community. This skill-level course allows students to expand their knowledge in the areas of video production, digital storytelling, and Broadcast Production. Students will produce news and a variety of feature stories covering the current events within the school and community. In addition, advanced camera techniques that are commonly used in television and film will be covered. Students will also learn the basics of motion graphics and visual effects using professional software. This course requires students to produce high quality content with skill, efficiency and timeliness. Students will

work both in team settings and individual roles to undertake specific short and long-term projects. Substantial time commitment during and outside of class is required as part of the program. Repeatable course.

Composition and Rhetoric

1 semester

1 credit

Open to Grades: 9-12

Grade Weight: III

The course is designed for the following:

- Students who want to sharpen their rhetorical, grammatical and compositional skills in preparation for standardized testing.
- Students for whom English is not their first language; and

- Seniors who recognize that they have gaps in their background in grammar and writing and want to improve these aspects before moving on to college.

Consideration: Because most work (except for essay composition) is done in class, the workload is comparatively light. However, be apprised that the subject matter can be very difficult to grasp on one's own. The combination of the complexity of the material and the daily in-class assessments makes regular attendance essential.

Creative Writing

1 semester

1 credit

Open to Grades 10-12

Grade Weight: III

Read. Analyze. Imitate. Experiment. This course is designed to enhance composition skills through the writing of poetry, short stories and plays. The course develops students' powers of observation and broadens their critical and aesthetic perceptions. Students should have a good command of the mechanics of written English and be willing to share their writing with others in a workshop fashion. Class activities include pre-writing, reading, peer editing, discussing professional and student works, sharing one's own works, and journaling.

Journalism

1 semester

1 credit

Open to Grades: 9-12

Grade Weight: III

This writing-intensive course introduces students to the varied aspects of news media and reporting and the role journalism plays in upholding democracy. In addition to examining stories as they unfold in the media, students learn how to ethically and objectively report on issues impacting our school and local community. Students produce stories covering local news, sports, opinion, and features, along with photography and multimedia packages. Exceptional work may be selected for publication on the **Niles West News** website.

News Production

2 semesters

1 credit

Open to Grades 10-12

Grade Weight: IV

Prerequisites: Journalism

Building on the skills developed in Journalism, this honors course produces Niles West's award-winning, student-run online news site: The **Niles West News**. Student editors, writers, photographers, videographers, and social media managers work together to report on a wide range of issues impacting the school and local community, while adhering to the highest ethical and professional standards. They produce rich, multi-platform content that averages 30,000 monthly page views!

Prerequisite: Journalism

Public Speaking

1 semester

1 credit

Open to Grades: 9-12

Grade Weight: III

This course is designed to improve a student's communication skills and to develop self-confidence in group interaction. During the semester a wide range of activities is covered. Basic speech skills including organization, audience analysis, effective delivery presentation, and speech preparation are learned primarily through practice with informative speeches drawn from the student's experience and knowledge. Both extemporaneous (impromptu) and prepared speeches will be made.

Yearbook Production

1 semester

1 credit

Open to Grades 10-12

Grade Weight: IV

Prerequisites: Journalism and/or approval of the instructor.

Note: This is a four-weight course but does not award an English credit. It may be taken for multiple semesters.

The Yearbook Production class edits and publishes the school yearbook. The skills necessary for effective design, layout, picture selection, and journalistic style are learned concurrently with the actual production of the book. Students receive one credit for each semester.

AP Options for Juniors

Great American Writers

2 semesters

2 credits

Open to Grade: 11

Grade Weight: V

AP Language and Composition: Great American Writers (GAW) engages students in critical analysis of the United States and

the competing values, ideals, and myths that inform our experiences. The goal: become a Great American Writer by reading masters in the U.S. literary canon and writing extensively. Our principal focus is rhetorically reading non-fiction -- essays, journalism, speeches, and non-fiction books -- though some time may be dedicated to novels, short stories, and poetry. This course sheds light on how authors' choices advance their arguments, and it invites students to think, write, and reflect critically about such choices. Often recalled by graduates as "the course that taught me how to write," this class also helps students become more deliberate, more effective writers. Intense but rewarding, GAW prepares students for the AP Language and Composition exam.

Asian American Literature

1 semester

1 credit

Open to Grades: 10-12

Grade Weight: III or IV

Asian American Literature is a course that will involve the study of the ideas and experiences in Asian America and of Asian Americans. While the term “Asian Americans” represents a singular broad and vast demographic, the experiences of Asian Americans are not monolithic. They are diverse, varied, and nuanced, and yet, they are also universal and every day. The course will examine these experiences through critical thinking about novels, poems, short stories, essays, and/or film. These works will be studied with understanding about historical and/or political context about the role of Asians in the United States. Central to these studies will also be the examination of orientalism, the model minority myth, and the perpetual foreigner syndrome. Additionally, the analyses of

race, identity, immigration, tradition, gender, and language will also naturally be included.