

Ponderosa High School Freshman English Options

	English 1	Advanced English 1
Classroom Structure	<p>Credit in this class satisfies the freshman English requirement for four-year colleges.</p> <p>Typically 30-35 students per class</p> <p>Students desire a challenging and moderately-paced class.</p>	<p>Credit in this class satisfies the freshman English requirement for four-year colleges.</p> <p>Typically 35-38 students per class</p> <p>Students desire a rigorous and fast-paced class, read above their grade level, and have consistently earned an A or B in Language Arts.</p>
Reading Comprehension	<p>Many pages are read aloud, discussed, and analyzed in class with the teacher.</p> <p>Teacher guides analysis and offers support for accurate comprehension.</p>	<p>Students are expected to read, comprehend, and analyze literature independently.</p> <p>An essential component of the class is student involvement in analysis, discussion, and higher-level thinking regarding literature.</p>
Writing	<p>Review and support is given as long as necessary for students to understand the components and organization of various writing assignments.</p> <p>Outlines, graphic organizers, and/or feedback are given to the entire class and to individual students to guide the writing process.</p>	<p>Initial instruction is given to transition to the expectations of high school level writing. Students then write independently and fluently with little support.</p> <p>Students should be able to read a prompt, follow directions, outline a piece of writing, edit, and write a final draft that contains few grammatical errors.</p>
Expectations/ Homework	<p>Most independent reading is done in class. Reports or projects prove completion.</p> <p>Write sections of narratives, essays, and poetry in class and at home. More structure and support is given during the writing process through outlining, graphic organizers, and independent feedback.</p> <p>Students will be given support to manage their time, organize their materials, and determine best studying practices.</p>	<p>Students read and comprehend 100+ pages of required or student-chosen literature per week (2000+ pages per school year).</p> <p>Write complete narratives, essays, and poetry approximately once per week at home. Students should be able to write fluently and edit independently to keep up with the pace of the class.</p> <p>Excellent time management, organizational, and study skills are expected of students in this class.</p>
Literature	<p>Short Stories, Greek Mythology, <i>The Odyssey</i>, <i>Of Mice and Men</i>, <i>Romeo and Juliet</i></p> <p>Other titles as determined by teacher*</p>	<p>All titles listed in English 1 (column to the left) plus at least one of the following titles: <i>Les Miserables</i>, <i>Great Expectations</i>, <i>Dracula</i></p> <p>Other titles as determined by teacher*</p>

*Other possible English 1 titles are: *Fahrenheit 451*, *The House on Mango Street*, *Out of the Dust*, *Julius Caesar*, *Down River*, *Farewell to Manzanar*, *A Long Walk to Water*

Students requesting Advanced English 1 should be able to read, comprehend, and analyze text like the sample below independently and with little support from the teacher.

Text sample from *Les Miserables* by Victor Hugo:

“As we have seen, prayer, celebration of the religious offices, alms, consoling the afflicted, the cultivation of a little piece of ground, fraternity, frugality, self-sacrifice, confidence, study, and work filled up each day of his life. Filled up is exactly the word, and in fact, the bishop’s day was full to the brim with good thoughts, good words, and good actions. Nevertheless, it was not complete if cold or rainy weather prevented his passing an hour or two in the evening, when the two women had retired, in his garden before going to sleep. It seemed as if it were a sort of rite with him, to prepare himself for sleep by meditating in presence of the great spectacle of the starry firmament” (Hugo 5).

Students requesting Advanced English 1 should be able to organize their thoughts into essay format and have strong skills in the use of vocabulary, correct grammar, and sentence structure. Although teachers will assist with each of these skills throughout the course of the year, Advanced English 1 students are expected to be able to write and edit independently.

Writing sample from an Advanced English 1 student:

Because mankind tends to face the same problems throughout history, it is important to look to history’s examples and literature for advice on issues today. *Les Miserables*, being one such literary work, is a well-known classic by Victor Hugo that follows the story of an ex-convict and takes place during the French Revolution; it provides insightful commentary about the nature of man and the problems mankind faces. Victor Hugo, in his preface, lists three particular problems which he addresses especially: the degradation of man by poverty, the ruin of woman through starvation, and the dwarfing of childhood through physical and spiritual night. While all characters in the book experience, cause, or alleviate these problems, Jean Valjean, Fantine, and Cosette, respectively, are used to illustrate those issues. “The degradation of man by poverty, the ruin of woman by starvation, and the dwarfing of childhood through physical and spiritual night” are the three problems that Victor Hugo lists as the problems of our age, and he discusses the causes and solutions of these problems through the characters of Jean Valjean, Fantine, and Cosette.