



**WINCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

INCLUSION • SERVICE • INNOVATION

# **English Class Offerings**

*Winchester High School*

2025-2026

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## **GRADE 09**

### **0104 GRADE 9 ENGLISH (H) Y 5.0**

In this course, exposure to a wide range of literature is intended to increase students' awareness of the power and variety of language, broaden their experience, and provide a foundation for the in-depth exploration of upper English courses. Careful reading of short fiction, novels, non-fiction, poetry and drama encourages the development of analytical skills. The emphasis is on interpretation, with special attention to literary terms and concepts, theme and figurative language. Expository writing assignments, based on the literature, stress: clarity, claims and evidence, quote weaving and specific details. Complex writing tools such as tone, diction and voice are taught to develop each student's writing style. Instruction in research methods, process, and organization prepares students for writing research papers. Creative writing includes short fiction and poetry. Grammar review focuses on usage, and vocabulary units focus on recognizing and using words in context.

### **0103 GRADE 9 ENGLISH (CP) Y 5.0**

Grade 9 CP English focuses on developing reading and writing skills and fostering enjoyment of reading and writing. Students read short fiction, novels, non-fiction, poetry, and drama. The emphasis is on analysis, through an understanding of the elements of fiction and of literary devices; synthesis, through discovering themes; and connection, through comparison with other works of literature and with students' own experience. Expository writing assignments correspond with the reading assignments and emphasize clarity, claims and evidence, quote weaving and specific details. Students also have the opportunity to do some creative writing of short fiction and poetry. Grammar lessons focus on usage, while vocabulary lessons focus on using words in context. Instruction in research methods, process, and organization prepares students for writing research papers.

## GRADE 10

### **0136 WRITING AND THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE (H) Y 5.0**

The source materials for composition will be a sampling of American Literatures from colonial times to the present. The choice of readings will be guided by a critical examination of the “American Experience.” Selections will explore both canonical works and texts composed by those who have been historically underrepresented; hence, these literary investigations will represent diverse perspectives. Students will sample dramatic works, poetry, short stories, novels, and nonfiction texts. Moreover, selections will be both textual and digital, allowing students to practice “reading” across various forms of digital media. Additionally, reading selections will not only be longer and more challenging, but they will also be supported by philosophical and theoretical texts

### **0135 WRITING AND THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE (CP) Y 5.0**

The source materials for composition will be a sampling of American Literatures from colonial times to the present. The choice of readings will be guided by a critical examination of the “American Experience.” Selections will explore both canonical works and texts composed by those who have been historically underrepresented; hence, these literary investigations will represent diverse perspectives. Students will sample dramatic works, poetry, short stories, novels, and nonfiction texts. Moreover, selections will be both textual and digital, allowing students to practice “reading” across various forms of digital media.

### **0125/0126 CREATIVE WRITING (second semester) (CP or H) S 2.5**

*NOTE: Can ONLY be taken as an elective course in the second semester.*

This course will include the writing of poetry, fiction, and drama; a study of literary terms and concepts; close reading and analysis of literary samples in each genre; close reading and critiquing of each student's own work; and related writing, such as journals and self-portraits for college applications. Students selecting this course should be competent writers who enjoy writing, want to improve their writing skills, want to become better readers of literary writing, and are interested in a close and honest observation of their own experience, both real and imaginative.

## **GRADE 11**

### [Presentation of 11th and 12th Grade English Offerings](#)

#### **0116 SURVEY OF BRITISH LITERATURE (H)Y 5.0**

In this course students read many of the masterpieces of British literature, becoming acquainted with the political, economic, and cultural forces which influenced the writings as well as the developments in literature. The class format includes occasional lectures, frequent class discussions of work assigned, the preparation of numerous critical essays and the completion of a research paper. Literature selections include such authors as the anonymous Beowulf poet, Chaucer, Shakespeare, the Romantic poets, Dickens, Hardy, Conrad, Joyce, Woolf, and Eliot. Papers and projects are both analytical and creative.

#### **0110 GRADE 11 ENGLISH (CP) Y 5.0**

This thematically-based course is designed to give students a deeper understanding of the development of literature in English needed for college-level study. Through reading and writing, students will analyze novels, short stories, nonfiction, drama and poetry. Often canonical works will be paired with readings that provide students with opportunities to explore connections between cultures that share the English language. Students' understanding will be driven by interpretation, argumentation and creation.

#### **0131 AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION (AP) Y 5.0**

Through close readings of mostly nonfiction and focused written assignments, students become more aware of rhetorical strategies and the purposeful use of language. Students will incorporate these argumentative strategies into their own writing and cultivate personal writing styles. Students will also develop the skills needed to analyze visuals (photographs, paintings, sculptures, political cartoons, advertisements, etc.) with the same critical lens used on traditional print texts. This course is different from the Grade 12 AP English Literature and composition.

## **GRADE 11 and 12**

### [Presentation of 11th and 12th Grade English Offerings](#)

#### **0124 SPEECH AND DEBATE (second semester) (CP) S 2.5**

*NOTE: Can also be taken as an elective course first semester.*

Speech and Debate will introduce the student to a variety of forms, including persuasive speaking, public speaking, debating, group discussion, interviewing skills and public readings. Emphasis is on researching a topic, outlining material, creating specific speech formats, and overcoming nervousness. Additional speech experience comes through dramatic presentations and improvisations.

#### **0125/0126 CREATIVE WRITING (second semester) (CP or H) S 2.5**

*NOTE: Can also be taken as an elective second semester.*

Creative Writing will include the writing of poetry, fiction, and drama; a study of close reading and critiquing of each student's own work; and related writing, such as journals and self-portraits for college applications. Students selecting this course should be competent writers who enjoy writing, want to improve their writing skills, want to become better readers of literary writing, and are interested in a close and honest observation of their own experience, both real and imaginative.

#### **0101/0102 COMEDIC LITERATURE AND PERFORMANCE (second semester) (CP or H) S 2.5**

What makes something funny? In this course, we will explore comedic performance from the Greeks to Shakespeare to modern improv, sketch, and stand-up comedy. Students will be asked to investigate the nature of humor in performance through a variety of assessments, including an emphasis on performing (monologues, skits, and improv comedy). However, no performance experience is necessary, just a willingness to take risks and speak aloud in class.

#### **0132 THE GRAPHIC NOVEL (first semester) (CP) S 2.5**

Can also be taken as an elective.

In this course we will be reading some of the most important graphic novels or comics series ever written. We will discuss the history of the medium and read works by writers like Alan Moore and Warren Ellis. We will also discuss themes as diverse as dystopian worlds, history and politics, or coming of age stories.

#### **0129/0130 GENDER STUDIES THROUGH LITERATURE AND MEDIA (first semester) (CP or H) S 2.5**

Can be taken as an elective.

This course will challenge students to become increasingly aware of the ways in which gender is depicted in text. In particular, we will study who is excluded and the representation of those who are included. This course will center on gender issues and touch upon their significance in both American and world histories. We will read from a variety of conventional text genres, including fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction/memoir, and plays/screenwriting. We will also touch upon their impact on wider culture, with the creation of film and mass media.

## **GRADE 12**

### [Presentation of 11th and 12th Grade English Offerings](#)

#### **0119 AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION (AP) Y 5.0**

In AP English strong, well-motivated students read, discuss, and analyze selected examples of Greek, medieval, Renaissance and nineteenth and twentieth century "classics" while also exploring the social, intellectual and philosophical forces which shaped each author's sensibility.

Works studied are by authors such as Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, Dante, Shakespeare, Swift, Melville, Austen, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Dickinson, Woolf, Joyce, Eliot, Garcia Marquez, Faulkner and Yeats. Through critical analysis and discussion students sharpen their awareness of language and the writer's craft and increase their sensitivity to literature, which enables them to understand better both themselves and the world in which they live. Analytic and persuasive papers focus students on the study and practice of expressing their ideas in honest, effective language which demonstrates an understanding of the relationship between style, tone, and audience. Analysis of Shakespearean critical commentary is required.

#### **0117/0118 WORLD LITERATURE (CP or H) Y 5.0**

This course presents some of the literary masterpieces which comprise an important part of our knowledge of the global world we live in today. Through selected readings and active participation, students search for universal themes which reflect and give insight into the human condition. The literary, historical, cultural and aesthetic value of each work is emphasized through the incorporation of music, film, art and various online resources. Students contribute to class discussion and submit expository writing related to their reading. They read works of authors such as Sophocles, Shakespeare, Dante, Dostoevsky, Kafka, Achebe, Paton and Ondaatje.

#### **0142/0141 LITERATURE AND FILM: MOVIES AND MADNESS (CP or H) Y 5.0**

The purpose of this course is to pursue the intersection of specific themes in the world of film and in the world of literature. This will include a study of the language of cinema and an exploration of what it really means to: Watch a movie. The course will also explore

complex works of literature, beginning with William Shakespeare, including Richard III and Hamlet. We will also be reading novels such as Patricia Highsmith's *The Talented Mr. Ripley* and *The Stranger* by Albert Camus. Films will include works by Alfred Hitchcock, the Coen brothers, and Martin Scorsese.

### **0157 MODERN CULTURE AND MEDIA (CP) Y 5.0**

This course will explore a range of narrative and thematic possibilities available under the umbrella term "Modern Culture and Media." We will consider questions of structure and theme in a number of genres including: the personal essay, literary journalism, travel essays. Readings will include works by John Krakauer, Susan Orleans, Sebastian Junger, and Ishmael Beal. Additional electronic sources will include *The New York Times* and *The Boston Globe*, [The Learning Network: Teaching and Learning with The New York Times](#). Semester One will be organized around the theme of Obsession. Semester Two will be organized around the theme of Conflict. These two themes will not only direct the reading of the texts provided in the curriculum, but they will also help students engage in the world around them. This course is offered for CP credit.