

# Senior English Course Offerings

## Senior English

Course Number: 201

**Number of Credits:** 1

**Unweighted**

**Open to grade(s)** 12

**Full Year**

**Prerequisite courses:** Junior English or Junior English A

**This course is recommended for students who** are reading and writing at grade level and have post-high school academic goals.

### Course Description

Senior English is a comprehensive course designed to refine critical skills in communication, analysis, and writing, preparing students for college and career success. The curriculum incorporates diverse modern and classic texts from various cultures and genres, fostering a broad literary understanding. Students engage in both formal and informal writing assignments, with a strong emphasis on literary analysis and the development of personal style and fluency. The course focuses on enhancing speaking, listening, and reading comprehension skills, while nurturing critical thinking abilities. Throughout the year, students progressively build these skills, culminating in a capstone legacy project and a speech on a topic of personal significance. This final project allows students to demonstrate their mastery of course objectives and serves as a bridge to future academic and professional pursuits.

**This course meets the following graduation requirement:** English

## IB English Higher Level Language A: Literature II (HLA II)

Course Number: 811

**Number of Credits:** 1

**Weighted**

**Open to grade(s):** 12

**Full Year**

**Prerequisite courses:** IB English Higher Level Language A: Literature I (HLA I)

**This course is required for** students who wish to pursue the IB diploma or a certificate in IB English.

### Course Description

IB English HL II is the second year of a two-year, in-depth study of major pieces of literature, including international literature studied in translation. The expectation for this course is that students will be self-motivated learners and inquirers. Students who wish to pursue the IB diploma or a certificate in IB English must enroll in this course. The emphasis is on analysis, critical thinking, and writing. Students will demonstrate understanding through group discussions and presentations, written analysis of studied and unseen texts, and in-class essays and reflections. Students will keep a learner portfolio of their notes and reflections on their learning. Students continue to strengthen reading comprehension, make meaningful connections, collaborate effectively with peers, practice responsible research habits, and use evidence to build arguments. The IB assessments for this course are the Higher Level Essay (an extended literary analysis essay), the Individual Oral (an oral examination focused on the literary representation of a global issue), and the IB Examination Paper 1 (an analysis of two unseen literary texts) and Paper 2 (an extended comparative essay). Students who register for the course should be prepared to sit for IB Examinations in May.

**Course Fee:** IB examination fee

**This course meets the following graduation requirement:** English

## College Credit English (SNC)

Course Number: 203

**NDA Credits:** 1

**St. Norbert College:** 8 credits

**Open to grade(s):** 12

**Dual Credit, Weighted**

**Prerequisite courses:** Honors or Junior English and teacher recommendation; Prerequisite: GPA of 3.0 or higher and an ACT English score of 23 or higher or PSAT of 540 or higher

### Course description

The first semester of this 8-credit course concentrates on the study of drama and tragedy. In addition to reading plays, students will read critical essays on dramatic theory. These readings and class discussions provide significant material as the basis for a systematic series of exercises and essays to help the student explain his or her ideas in clear and effective writing. The first semester will also include a brief investigation of dramatic comedy. The second semester attempts to develop student skills in the close reading and analysis of poetry, short stories, **nonfiction**, and novels. Readings are tested according to various principles and techniques of literary criticism. Research skills and proper documentation of sources are emphasized in the first semester and continue to be refined in the second semester. Both semesters of work are directed not only by the teacher but also by supervisory persons from St. Norbert College. Students in this class enjoy the privilege of using the libraries on the St. Norbert campus.

**Course fee:** \$400

**SNC Courses:** ENGL 101 and ENGL150

**This course meets the following graduation requirement:** English

## Journalism

Course Number: 401

**Number of Credits:** .5  
**Open to grade(s):** 9,10,11,12  
**One Semester**

**Unweighted**

**Prerequisite courses:** None

**This course is recommended for students** interested in improving their writing and critical thinking skills.

**Course Description**

Taught as a differentiated classroom, this course offers students the opportunity to master the concise, precise style of journalistic writing that requires an understanding of fact versus opinion. Students write news stories, feature stories, opinion pieces, and sports stories. Students are expected to stay abreast of current events, distinguish what is “news” in a world overloaded with “media,” and practice interviewing and writing articles for publication in the *Online Tritonian*. Grammar basics are reviewed; encouragement comes from publication; and many of these students enroll in Advanced Journalism, an independent study that produces the school newspaper, *The Tritonian* (print) and its online counterpart, the *Online Tritonian*.

**This course meets the following graduation requirement:** Elective

**Advanced Journalism**

**Course Number: 447**

**Number of Credits:** .5  
**Open to grade(s):** 9,10,11,12  
**One Semester**

**Unweighted**

**Prerequisite courses:** Journalism

**This course is recommended for students** willing to work independently and write weekly stories for the school newspaper.

**Course Description**

Students in this class work independently with the journalism teacher who sends out weekly story ideas for the school newspaper. Students then select stories, conduct the research and interviews, and submit two assignments per week. Stories cover all aspects of journalism learned in their previous journalism class--that is, news, feature, sports, and opinion writing. The “media” part of today’s journalism/communications world is also addressed with the opportunity to practice online layout, do photos for publication, and write for the *NDA Alumni Magazine*. This class can be repeated semester after semester for credit.

**This course meets the following graduation requirement:** Elective

**Creative Writing**

**Course Number: 424**

**Number of Credits:** .5  
**Open to grade(s):** 10,11,12  
**One Semester**

**Unweighted**

**Prerequisite courses:** None

**This course is recommended for students who** have an appreciation and interest in poetry and prose writing.

**Course Description**

Although there is some study of contemporary and classical literature, this course is primarily writing, writing, and more writing. From imitating the works of published writers to responding to daily prompts to sharing their work with classmates, students will grow in confidence and skill. A tune-up of basic grammar skills, literary terms, and tactful peer-editing goes along with the continuous writing. Students will be encouraged to share their work in the *Online Tritonian*, which has a section for creative writing, as well as *The Muse*, the literary magazine published by NDA’s Writers’ Union.

**This course meets the following graduation requirement:** Elective

**Public Performance**

**Course Number: 514**

**Number of Credits:** .5  
**Open to grade(s):** 11,12  
**One semester**

**Unweighted**

**Prerequisite courses:** None

**This course is recommended for** students of all ability levels and backgrounds.

**Course Description**

The course objectives include increased concentration, development of creativity, practice in the ability to “speak on one’s feet,” and growth in both interpersonal and intrapersonal communication. Through improvisation, pantomime, and theater/speech games, students become more comfortable with their bodies, voices, and up-front presence. Emphasis is placed upon group cooperation and interaction.

**This course meets the following graduation requirements:** Elective

