

# ENGLISH

It is the purpose of the English program to assist each student in increasing his/her ability to convey information, ideas, and emotions, both in speaking and writing, and to receive through reading, viewing and listening, the information and ideas available through written and spoken English. Students are given the opportunity to develop their abilities in the various forms of writing, in correct use of parts of speech and sentence structure, and reading comprehension. A wide choice of literature is made available in order that students may develop a lifetime interest in books and the habit of reading widely.

**FRESHMEN, SOPHOMORES, JUNIORS, and SENIORS may take English electives including** Speech, Creative Writing, Mass Media, Test Prep, Science Fiction, and Myths and Legends.

**FRESHMEN must take English 1 or English 1 Honors.**

**SOPHOMORES must take English 2 or English 2 Honors.**

**JUNIORS must take English 3 or AP Language and Composition.**

**SENIORS must take English 4 or AP Literature and Composition.**

## PLACEMENT IN ENGLISH COURSES & ELIGIBILITY FOR HONORS/AP ENGLISH CLASSES

Both of the following are required for placement in English Honors and A.P. classes:

- a) a recommendation from an English teacher;
- b) and grades of A or B in all previous English courses.

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### ENGLISH 1 1.0 Cr.

- Prereq: None

Description: This course emphasizes reading skills and reading stamina. Students will be reading a wide variety of fiction and nonfiction texts. Students will also learn foundational writing skills including Claim-Evidence-Warrant essay structure and citing sources. Students also participate in graded discussions and create a formal presentation. Students engage in weekly academic routines such as Independent Reading, Article of the Week, and Writing of the Week to further build reading and writing skills. Summer reading is required.

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### ENGLISH 1 HONORS\* 1.0 Cr.

- Prereq: Students must meet the criteria for English Honors courses. (see page 11).

Description: This course presents many of the same curricular experiences as English 1 and pursues topics in greater depth and at a faster rate. Students demonstrate their speaking and listening skills while leading discussions and presenting independent projects. In addition to the English 1 curriculum, students may also read *Bless Me*, *Ultima* and other literary works. Summer reading is required.

\*grade weight differential (pg. 5)

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**ENGLISH 2**

1.0 Cr.

- Prereq: Successful completion of English 1.

Description: English 2 builds on the reading, writing, and speaking skills introduced in English 1. Students further develop writing skills through persuasive research writing tasks. Throughout the year students will read fiction and nonfiction texts tailored to their interests and reading abilities. Students will participate in multiple graded discussions and formal presentations. Summer Reading is required.

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**ENGLISH 2 HONORS\***

1.0 Cr.

- Prereq: Students must meet the criteria for English Honors courses. (see page 11).

Description: This course covers reading, writing, and English college targets through the use of various genres with a thematic focus of “Man’s Inhumanity to Man”. The course is challenging and fast-paced while topics are pursued in great depth. This course also incorporates the major research paper about business ethics and advertising practices. Students will participate in multiple graded discussions and formal presentations. Literary works may include *The Lord of the Flies*, *Antigone*, *Macbeth*, as well as poetry, short stories, and nonfiction. Summer reading is required.

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**ENGLISH 3**

1.0 Cr.

- Prereq: Successful completion of English 2.

Description: This course introduces students to prominent writers of American Literature. The student should be prepared to do a considerable amount of reading and demonstrate his/her understanding of the readings. The choices of fiction, nonfiction texts, poetry, and dramatic literature will reflect the American experience. This includes writers who touch upon the hopes/fears, dreams, values, and freedom that were felt individually or collectively by Americans. Students will engage in improving writing skills and presentation skills as well as SAT preparation. Summer reading is required.

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**ADVANCED PLACEMENT LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION\***

1.0 Cr.

- Prereq: Junior standing and students must meet the criteria for English Honors courses. (see page 11).

Description: This course is designed to prepare self-motivated students to attain a qualification score on the Advanced Placement Exam, which they will be required to take in May of the junior year. Language skills, rhetorical analysis of non-fiction readings, and mature writing under time pressure are emphasized in the curriculum. Students receiving a “4”, or “5” on the A.P. exam may be eligible for college credit at many colleges. A \$92 test fee will be collected with other fees. Summer reading and written work is

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**ENGLISH 4**

1.0 Cr.

- Prereq: Successful completion of English 3.

Description: In this course students will read a diverse and compelling variety of world literature. A particular focus of study will be on connecting literary works with world news, cultures, and western philosophies. Critical analysis and other writings, including a personal philosophy essay, will be assigned in connection with readings. Each student will complete a major philosophy research project, several oral presentations, and a capstone portfolio project. Students will participate in frequent discussions and confer about their writing in and out of class. Literary works include choices for students, world literature, Shakespeare, and existential texts. This course is a requirement for graduation. Summer reading is required.

\*grade weight differential (pg. 5)

ADVANCED PLACEMENT LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION\*

1.0 Cr.

- Prereq: Senior Standing and students must meet the criteria for English Honors courses. (see page 11).

Description: This course is intended for those students with the academic background and the desire to complete a college level course. Students enrolling in this class are required to take the nationally administered Advanced Placement Exam in May of their senior year. The curriculum and methods used are designed to prepare students for this exam. Students must purchase the required anthology. Students receiving a "3", "4", or "5" on the A.P. exam will be eligible for college credit at many colleges. A \$92 test fee will be collected with other fees. Summer reading is required.

SPEECH

0.5 Cr.

- Prereq: None

Description: This course will prepare students for oral presentation. Impromptu, persuasive, and informative speaking techniques will be demonstrated. The course design provides training for college and business experiences.

CREATIVE WRITING

0.5 Cr.

- Prereq: None

Description: This course will prepare students to express themselves in writing in a variety of ways, including: narrative essays, short stories, and poetry. Students will focus on using style, form, and language. Reading will include the fiction and nonfiction of professional authors as well as the reading of student writing. Students are expected to do the majority of their writing in class.

MYTHS AND LEGENDS

0.5 Cr.

- Prereq: None.

Description: This course will enrich students' experience with Greek, Norse, Asian, and Native American myths as well as Arthurian legends. The course will survey world myths while examining the universal motifs and archetypal patterns that unite these mythologies, with special attention to the myth of the hero, creation myths, and the cultural and psychological implications of the stories. Students will compare and contrast works and learn to interpret the meaning of the myths in the cultural and historical context in which they were written.

MASS MEDIA

0.5 Cr.

- Prereq: None

Description: This course will allow students to learn about all aspects of social media, TV, film, books, newspapers, music, radio, and more. Students will examine media's relationship to their lives. Pupils will obtain a format for understanding and examining media products. This course also incorporates writing projects and the reading of novels.

\*grade weight differential (pg. 5)

## JOURNALISM: NEWSWRITING

0.5 Cr.

- Prereq: None

Description: This course will introduce students to the basic elements of news writing. Students will learn the fundamentals of newspaper reporting and article writing. In addition, the students will research and write their own in-depth newspaper/magazine style features and analyze award-winning news/magazine articles. The students will learn to write editorials and reviews. An introduction to photo journalism will be included.

## SCIENCE FICTION

0.5 Cr.

- Prereq: None

Description: This course provides an introductory exploration of the science fiction literary genre. It identifies the characteristics of the genre and how those elements distinguish it from other genres. Students will analyze and interpret science fiction works and the way they comment on current issues of society and its future. Students will also examine the plausibility of scientific and technological advances portrayed in the literature and film through reading and discussion of non-fiction works of science fact. Written responses, viewing and discussing contrasting media, and oral presentations in connection with the readings will be a regular component of the course. The themes of the course's literature include futuristic technology, genetic engineering, artificial intelligence, space exploration, time travel, and extraterrestrials.

## TEST PREP ENGLISH

0.5 Cr.

- Prereq: None

Description: This course is designed to prepare students for the SAT, and therefore focuses on the college-bound, especially sophomores and juniors. The purpose of this .5 credit class is to raise SAT scores by increasing vocabulary and English language proficiency and by overcoming test anxiety. In addition, the student should benefit from an expanded command of the language in both written and verbal expression. The content includes the history and development of English, Latin and Greek prefixes, roots, and suffixes, general advanced vocabulary, familiarization with standardized test format, and correct language usage. Activities in the class range from researching vocabulary in an area of special interest to learning to use vocabulary in proper context, learning to recognize words in context, and perfecting English grammar and usage by utilizing computer tutorials. This course is offered every year.

## ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)

These courses are for students whose first language is not English, and whose English language skills are not developed enough to permit them to be fully successful in regular mainstream classes. Placement in ESL classes is determined by diagnostic testing, teacher referral, and/or collaboration with the student and their family. Placement out of ESL will only be considered after the student and his/her parent/guardian consult with an ESL teacher and complete all required paperwork.

### ESL 1

2.0 Cr.

- Prereq: Based upon IPT testing and teacher recommendations.

Description: This course is designed to develop the basic English language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing for students who have recently arrived in the United States from a foreign country and need to develop English proficiency.

During content area instruction, the emphasis will be on the development of academic vocabulary, academic communication, conceptual thinking, evaluation of problems/conflicts, compare/contrast, and problem-solving skills. Development of oral proficiency is an integral part of this course.

One credit of the two credits earned in this course counts toward the English graduation requirement. Must be taken in 2 consecutive terms.

### ESL 2

2.0 Cr.

- Prereq: Based upon IPT testing and a diagnostic reading comprehension test which indicates the appropriate reading level; teacher recommendations.

Description: This course is designed to improve basic English language skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. The reading/writing program focuses on the reading and writing process. It stresses reading comprehension, vocabulary development, use of proper grammar and sentence structure, paragraphing, outlining, and revising. Students are expected to produce logical and coherent compositions on the computer. Oral book reports and impromptu speeches, which focus on the projection of a positive self-image and personal achievement, allow students to develop speaking proficiency.

One credit of the two credits earned in this course counts toward the English graduation requirement. At the end of the first term, students whose proficiencies in these areas have improved will be placed in ESL 3 and English 1. Students who require additional work to improve in these areas will remain in this course for the second term and receive elective credit.

- Prereq: Appropriate reading level and teacher recommendation; concurrent enrollment in English 1.

Description: This course is designed to improve reading/listening comprehension and speaking/writing proficiency.

The program focuses on academic reading and on expository, narrative, and persuasive writing. The program emphasizes vocabulary development. Students are expected to think critically, to write logically, and to produce and revise papers on the computer.

This course does not fulfill an English credit requirement for graduation.

#### CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH

1.0 Cr.

- Prereq: Open to all ESL students.

Description: This course teaches ESL students to recognize and produce high frequency idioms and phrasal verbs in a range of conversational situations. Target idioms will be presented contextually in dialogues, readings, exercises, and communicative activities.

This course does not fulfill an English credit requirement for graduation.

#### ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE RESOURCE

1.0 Cr.

- Prereq: Concurrent enrollment in any of the ESL courses.

Description: This course is designed to help ESL students with their mainstream class work. This class focuses on developing and broadening basic English and study techniques for mainstream class work. Emphasis will be on helping students with daily homework assignments from their mainstream classes. Students are expected to increase their English comprehension, to become familiar with American-rooted concepts, and increase their self-confidence communicating in English.

This course does not fulfill an English credit requirement for graduation.

#### SHELTERED ENGLISH SOCIAL STUDIES

1.0 Cr.

- Prereq: Currently enrolled in ESL 2 or ESL 1 with teacher recommendation.

Description: This course is intended to provide an introduction to social studies and our community and nation for ESL students new to our country. The course will include elements of U.S. geography World History, and World Cultures. Modified English materials will be used for readings, explanations of various concepts, and exams. Vocabulary development will be stressed.

SHELTERED ENGLISH AMERICAN HISTORY

1.0 Cr.

- Prereq: Sophomore, Junior or Senior standing, ESL teacher recommendation.

Description: This course is designed for the ESL student who has limited English proficiency. It will cover the scope of American History illustrating our development as a nation. Students will receive a broad overview of American History from the 1500s until the present. Modified English materials will be used for readings, explanations of various concepts, and exams. Vocabulary development will be stressed. Passing this course fulfills the American History graduation requirement.

SHELTERED ENGLISH AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

1.0 Cr.

- Prereq: Junior or Senior standing, ESL teacher recommendation; an English proficiency of at least ESL 2.

Description: This course is designed for the ESL student who has limited English proficiency. It is designed to give the student a working understanding of our government system on the state and federal levels. There is emphasis on participation in our government through various means. Passing this course fulfills the American Government graduation requirement.

# READING

JUMPSTART READING – (Summer)

1.0 Cr.

- Prereq: Teacher recommendation based on standardized tests.

Description: Jumpstart Reading is an intensive summer school freshmen course designed to improve all aspects of a student's reading performance using authentic reading and writing situations appropriate for the student's needs. In addition to bolstering a student's reading comprehension, the course focuses on improving vocabulary, strengthening study skills, enhancing the enjoyment of reading, and increasing reading speed and fluency. Some students are required to take this course.

JUMPSTART READING

0.0 Cr.

- Prereq: Teacher recommendation based on standardized tests.

Description: Reading Enrichment I is a year-long freshmen course designed to improve all aspects of a student's reading performance using authentic reading and writing situations appropriate for the student's needs. In addition to bolstering a student's reading comprehension, the course focuses on improving vocabulary, strengthening study skills, enhancing the enjoyment of reading, and increasing reading speed and fluency. Some students are required to take this course.



# SOCIAL STUDIES

## PLACEMENT IN SOCIAL STUDIES COURSES & ELIGIBILITY FOR HONORS/AP SOCIAL STUDIES CLASSES

ALL of the following are required for placement in Social Studies Honors and A.P. classes:

- a) above average performance on locally administered standardized tests OR
- b) grades of A or B in all previous Social Studies courses.

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### WORLD CULTURES 1.0 Cr.

- Prereq: Open to all grade levels. None

Description: This course will study diverse cultural groups throughout the world, with an emphasis on the history as well as the physical, social, political, and economic structures of cultures. This course stresses the development of academic skills, along with knowledge of the cultures of various regions of the world.

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### ADVANCED PLACEMENT HUMAN GEOGRAPHY\* 1.0 Cr.

- Prereq: Students must have a minimum Explore reading score of 15.

Description: The AP Human Geography course helps students develop critical thinking skills through the understanding, application and analysis of the fundamental concepts of geography. Through AP Human Geography, students are introduced to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of the Earth's surface. Students will employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to analyze human social organization and its environmental consequences. Students will meet the five college level goals as determined by the National Geographic Standards. They also learn the methods and tools geographers use in their science and practice. A \$92 test fee will be collected with the other fees.

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### CIVICS 0.5 Cr.

- Prereq: None

Description: The Civics course is designed to provide the students with the necessary tools to become an active member of our political society. To meet this goal the student will learn the foundations of our American Government, his/her role as a citizen of the United States, service learning, the makeup/functions/roles of our legislative, executive, and judicial branches, the role of state and local governments, government and the general welfare, and the U. S. role in the world today as compared to other world powers. We will discuss current topics that include both domestic and foreign policy issues. Current resources, both print and electronic, will be used. Students will also take part in a mock election to better learn about the democratic process.

The state and federal constitution test graduation requirement will be fulfilled when a student passes this course.

\*grade weight differential (pg. 5)

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT GOVERNMENT\*

1.0 Cr.

- Prereq: Sophomore or better standing. Student must meet the criteria for Social Studies Honors courses (see page 31).

Description: The AP Government & Politics: United States course provides an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. This course involves both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. politics and the analysis of specific case studies. It also requires familiarity with the various government institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute U.S. political reality. While there is no single approach that an AP Government & Politics: United States course must follow, certain topics are generally covered in college courses. These topics include, but are not limited to: current and controversial issues, and service learning. Students will also take part in a mock election that simulates the democratic process. This course meets the Civics requirement mandated by the State. A \$92 test fee will be collected with other fees.

## INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMICS

0.5 Cr.

- Prereq: None

Description: This course will give students an understanding of the fundamental concepts of economics, their historical development, and their application to the current American market economy and other global economies.

## PRACTICAL LAW

0.5 Cr.

- Prereq: None

Description: The course is designed to give students a basic overview of the American judicial system and to provide them with opportunities for practical applications of legal concepts. Topics covered will include the history of law and the American judicial system, adult and juvenile criminal law, tort law, current legal issues, and numerous actual cases involving individual rights and liberties. Additional topics might include family law, housing law and consumer law. Electronic resources will be used to complete legal research. Strong vocabulary and writing skills are very helpful in this class.

## SOCIOLOGY

0.5 Cr.

- Prereq: None

Description: Sociology is the examination of the nature of society as well as people's behavior in groups. Primary groups, secondary groups, communities, and societies are the substance of sociology. Students will examine the influences of society and culture on their own lives. Additionally, elements of social tension, such as prejudice, discrimination and racial/ethnic relations resulting from the interaction of different groups, will be studied and discussed. Strong vocabulary and writing skills are very helpful in this class.

\*grade weight differential (pg. 5)

## PSYCHOLOGY

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0.5 Cr.

- Prereq: None

Description: This course is a general survey of the field of psychology. Topics that are examined include: the biology of behavior (brain, etc.), perception, learning (classical and operant conditioning), language, thought, methods of research, and personality theory. The primary emphasis is on the exploration of individual human behavior and experience.

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT PSYCHOLOGY\*

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1.0 Cr.

- Prereq: Junior or Senior standing. Student must meet the criteria for Social Studies Honors courses (see page 31).

Description: The AP Psychology course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. They also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice. A \$92 test fee will be collected with the other fees.

## HONORS ECONOMICS\*

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0.5 Cr.

- Prereq: Student must meet the criteria for Social Studies Honors courses (see page 32).

Description: The Honors Economics course will give the student a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply the functions of individual decision makers, both consumers and producers, within the larger economic system (microeconomics). It will also give students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics as they apply to an economic system as a whole (macroeconomics). It will develop the student's familiarity with economic performance measures, economic growth, and international economics. Thematically, the course will mirror Introduction to Economics. However, students will delve deeper into the ideas and institutions. Being enrolled in an honors course, students will be expected to utilize critical thinking skills when examining text and be able to express their thoughts through writing. Class activities will include the reading of current periodicals, debate, guest speakers, and problem-based learning.

## AMERICAN HISTORY

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1.0 Cr.

- Prereq: Junior or senior standing.

Description: This course examines major themes in United States history through extensive use of critical thinking, analysis of primary source documents and reading comprehension skills. The major themes focused on in this course are: Freedom and Oppression, War and Peace, The Changing American Economy, American Dream v. Reality. In addition to these themes, students will be participating in the U.S. History Fair as part of National History Day.

\*grade weight differential (pg. 5)

ADVANCED PLACEMENT U.S. HISTORY\*

1.0 Cr.

- Prereq: Student must meet the criteria for Social Studies Honors courses (see page 31).

Description: This course consists of a chronological survey of the political, economic, social, and foreign policy history of the United States. This course is designed to be equivalent to an introductory college level course for which a student receives honors credit. The readings, writing assignments, and exams are also selected to help students prepare for the Advanced Placement Examination in American History. Passing this course fulfills the American History graduation requirement. Students must purchase the required textbook for this course. A \$92 test fee will be collected with the other fees.

CHICAGOLAND: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

1.0 Cr.

- Prereq: Junior/Senior standing or approval of the Social Studies Division Chair/Special Education Chair

Description: Chicagoland: Past, Present, and Future will dive into the historical background and development of the area's buildings, parks, programs, and people. Furthermore, the course will have students examine present day issues that the area tackles on an everyday basis. The class is designed to be experiential in nature, where students will have the opportunity to explore different landmarks, neighborhoods, entertainment and other items the City of Chicago has to offer. Students will also research, formulate, and solve pressing issues in today's society. The overarching goal of the class is not only to educate about Chicago but experience the city firsthand.

\*grade weight differential (pg. 5)