

ENGLISH

English 9

Grade 9

English 9 is the study of various literary genres: short stories, novels, poetry, non-fiction, the epic, drama and research. Students also continue to develop their analytical and creative writing skills learned in English 8 and earlier. Vocabulary enrichment and grammar review are also important components of the course. *One credit*

English 9 Honors

Grade 9

Prerequisite: Outstanding performance in English 8 and recommendation by the English department. This course will typically cover material more difficult than English 9 and in greater depth. Students are also expected to work more quickly and independently than they would in English 9. Analytical and creative writing, as well as vocabulary enrichment and grammar review, are essential elements of the course. *One credit*

English 10

Grade 10

This course continues to develop the skills addressed in ninth grade and addresses vocabulary, research methods, reading comprehension, and writing. The selected texts focus principally on British authors. Writing assignments stress thesis-driven essays that move beyond the five-paragraph formula, although some exploration of creative writing will take place. Some grammar instruction will occur as well, but written assignments will drive this aspect of the curriculum. *One credit*

English 10 Honors

Grade 10

Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of English 9 Honors or outstanding performance in English 9 and recommendation by the English department. This course also covers British literature, but in greater depth and at a faster pace than in English 10. In addition to reinforcement of grammar and vocabulary skills, the class includes extensive work on expository and creative writing. *One credit*

English 11

Grade 11

This course focuses on American writers of short stories, poetry, novels, and plays. Critical writing includes development and mastery of the thesis driven essay. Students continue to develop and improve their vocabulary skills. *One credit*

English 11 Honors

Grade 11

Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of English 10 Honors or outstanding performance in English 10 and recommendation by the English department. This course focuses on a survey of American literature. In addition to improving vocabulary skills, students continue to develop their writing, research, and reading skills with more numerous and more difficult assignments than those in English 11. *One credit*

AP Language and Composition

Grade 11

Prerequisite: Superior ability in previous English courses and recommendation by the English department. This course focuses on the rhetorical techniques appropriate to an author's purpose and the ways in which those techniques enable writers to convey particular meanings and messages to their readers. It focuses on texts written by American authors with an emphasis on non-fiction, although the course presents several works of fiction over the course of the year. These works reflect the development of American literature from colonial to modern times. The course centers on the examination of social satire and how the author calls for change through rhetoric via debate, discussion, individual projects and presentations, and writing. *One credit*

Senior Elective**Grade 12**

Seniors at Athens Academy have the option of taking two different semester electives in the fall and spring of their final year. In the past, offerings have included courses focused on specific authors or on literary movements. Other courses have explored significant questions as presented by several different authors. Students who choose to do honors elective work should expect significantly longer reading assignments as well as at least one more formal essay than those students working at the CP level. Senior elective teachers will present their course offerings at a spring junior class meeting prior to course registration. *One credit*

AP Literature and Composition**Grade 12**

Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of English 11 Honors (or AP) or outstanding performance in English 11 and recommendation by the English department. This course is designed for committed students who have demonstrated excellence in both literary analysis and composition. Students are expected to work independently, to read complex texts with understanding, to think critically, to write with clarity, and to synthesize ideas. Comprehensive grammar, mechanics, usage, and vocabulary skills are reinforced in the context of students' written work. *One credit*

Journalism (Academic elective)

The journalism program serves as a measure of the school's academic health, sharing important student events and concerns through a student-generated newspaper. Behind each article is a long, unseen, and often underappreciated process involving planning, researching, interviewing, writing, editing, and revising. Much of the grade earned in this course will be "hands-on": the result of an accumulation of daily work. Students must meet deadlines and actively participate in the publication process. No specific text has been assigned, but each student is expected to read the newspaper daily. *0.5 or one credit*

Journalism and Yearbook classes carry academic credit as elective courses, not English courses.