

# ENGLISH

<b>GRADUATION REQUIREMENT:</b> 4 years			
<b>Freshmen Required:</b>	<b>Sophomores Required:</b>	<b>Juniors Required:</b>	<b>Seniors Required:</b>
Rhetorical Skills	Literature & Composition	American Studies: English or American Literature & Composition or Honors Critical Reading & Writing	World Literature & Composition or Advanced Placement English

The English program at Saint Thomas Academy provides students with the opportunity to develop increasing mastery of skills in reading, writing, speaking and thinking. Grade nine emphasizes language skills necessary for successful study at the Academy, while courses in grades ten through twelve focus increasingly on preparation for successful study at the college level. The underlying assumption of our program is that individuals who understand and can use language effectively will enjoy more fulfilling lives.

Students will learn to:

- Read with understanding and critical insight.
- Express ideas clearly in a variety of written forms.
- Develop skills necessary for effective oral communication.
- Analyze and evaluate the significance of ideas.

In addition, a research paper is required to pass English courses in grades 9-12. Sophomores will be asked to purchase *A Writer's Reference* (6<sup>th</sup> ed) by Diana Hacker, a book which will be used throughout English classes from grades 10-12. All seniors are required to give a senior speech.

## **RHETORICAL SKILLS**

Grade Level: 9

1 year

Weight: 1.0

This course helps establish competence in the skills of English which are needed in a college preparatory program. Reading focuses on work in vocabulary, comprehension, and literary appreciation. Formal grammar and effective written communication emphasize sentence revision, paragraph formation, and the organization of essays. Effective speaking skills are learned through a variety of individual and group formats. Research techniques are developed through the completion of a large project.

## **LITERATURE & COMPOSITION**

Grade Level: 10

1 year

Weight: 1.0

The literature program integrates and builds critical thinking and reading skills by analyzing the different styles and techniques of different literary genres, including the short story, drama, poetry, essay, and the novel. Writing assignments are done in collaboration with the literature assignments and include writing expository, autobiographical, interpretive, persuasive, descriptive, and narrative essays, as well as researched papers which utilize students' library skills. Basic skills are stressed throughout the course while enriching the students' creative writing and thinking skills.

## **AMERICAN LITERATURE & COMPOSITION**

Grade Level: 11

1 year  
Weight: 1.0

This course offers a survey of American literature which is organized within dominant themes. Major authors, significant literary movements, and multicultural perspectives are highlighted. Composition and speech are integrated with the reading program, and students do a variety of writing, from informal journal writing to one formal research paper, as well as creative writing. Writing focuses include a final push for grammatical and mechanical correctness and an emphasis on development of ideas.

## **AMERICAN STUDIES: ENGLISH**

Grade Level: 11

1 year  
Weight: 1.0

**Prerequisite:** Students must also register for American Studies: History & American Studies: Art.

This survey of American literature is organized to parallel the American history part of the course, thereby establishing an historical context (e.g., the Civil War) for the work being studied (e.g., *Cold Mountain*). As in other junior English courses, major authors, significant literary movements, and multicultural perspectives are highlighted. Composition and speech are integrated within the reading program. Student writing ranges from informal journal writing to critical literary analysis to the research paper. Discussion, individual and small group presentations, videos and both creative and analytical work provide a means for student expression and proof of mastery of the material covered.

## **HONORS CRITICAL READING & WRITING**

Grade Level: 11

1 year  
Weight: 1.1

**Prerequisite:** B+ or better in Literature and Composition; 10<sup>th</sup> grade instructor's approval

This course is designed as preparation for AP English and introduces students to skills needed for reading and writing about literature with critical awareness. The primary emphasis is on major American writers, but the literature studied also includes works from other cultures. Specific techniques for analyzing poems, short stories, novels, and plays are practiced in writing assignments and oral presentations, and emphasis is placed on using textual evidence to support literary interpretations.

## **WORLD LITERATURE & COMPOSITION**

Grade Level: 12

1 year  
Weight: 1.0

Course material consists of important literary works selected from various cultures. In-depth study of one major work per quarter refines the student's ability to analyze a text closely. Traditional writing assignments on topics in literary analysis focus on developing the student's writing skills. Students write a research paper as a major portion of their grade to bring their research and writing skills to the college level. The senior speech requirement is fulfilled as part of the course objective.

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH**

Grade Level: 12

1 year  
Weight: 1.2

**Prerequisite:** B+ or better in Honors Critical Reading and Writing and instructor's approval

AP English is intended for seniors who intend to take the Advanced Placement Exam for possible college credit or placement in an advanced level of college English. AP English is organized around four recurring themes in literature (truth, beauty, goodness, and commitment) with philosophical essays, poetry, fiction (short stories and novels), and drama exploring how these themes are expressed in literary form. Formal papers, timed essays, and multiple-choice tests are used to provide each student with extensive exposure to the types of questions encountered on the AP English examination. The senior speech requirement is fulfilled as part of the course objective. **Weight changes to 1.1 if student does not take the AP exam.**