

ACADEMY FOR BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY*
***A charter school of Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan**
Melvindale, MI

Curriculum Guide—Department of English

Courses:

Course Number	Recommended Grade	Course Title	Recommended Prerequisite
	7 th	English 7 Reading & Writing	
	7 th	English 7 Lab	
	8 th	English 8 Reading & Writing	
	8 th	English 8 Lab	
	8 th	Mythology 7 th & 8 th	
	9 th	English 9	
	10 th	English 10	English 9
	11 th	English 11	English 9 & 10
	11 th & 12 th	Creative Writing	English 9 & 10
	11 th & 12 th	Public Speaking	English 9 & 10
	12 th	English 12	English 9, 10, & 11
	12 th	African American Literature	English 9, 10, & 11
	12 th	AP English Language & Composition	English 9, 10, & 11
	12 th	AP English Literature & Composition	English 9, 10, & 11

Teachers Credential Requirement:

	BX Elem; BX Sec.	K-8 Language arts; 7-12 LA English Speech Journalism	Reading Creative writing Literature
	BA	English Language Arts Grammar Research writing Creative writing Business writing	Composition Poetry Literature Great books Shakespeare Drama (Study of literature)

Course Descriptions--English

ENGLISH 7 READING

½ credit

Students will explore language and genres through reading in a variety of media, including diverse language texts, appropriate films and novels. Students will comprehend grade-level reading material by using structural and context clues. They will recognize basic literary elements such as character, setting, plot and theme. Students will begin to develop critical and analytical skills when analyzing literature.

ENGLISH 7 WRITING

½ credit

The writing portion of English 7 is a continuation of the writing process. There will be an emphasis on narrative, expository and descriptive writing. Students will continue to develop their vocabulary and spelling skills. The study of grammar and writing mechanics will be incorporated throughout the various units. Students will correctly write simple and compound sentences, recognize and apply the eight parts of speech, recognize and correct subject/verb agreement and master more advance punctuation skills.

ENGLISH 8 READING

½ credit

The focus of English 8 is to reinforce and master knowledge and skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening. The emphases in the 8th grade reading classes are twofold: to teach students to read increasing difficult materials with greater understanding and to encourage students to be life-long readers. Vocabulary development is extensive. A variety of materials are used. Students read novels, short stories, essays and poetry. Reading skills, literary analysis and higher-level comprehension work is incorporated. Classes are literature-based and thematically organized around four domains: narrative writing, expository writing, descriptive writing and persuasive writing. Students will learn specific reading strategies to strengthen and comprehension skills and will respond to literature by examining elements of plot, characterization and themes in various literary works such as novels, short stories, and poetry. Emphasis will be placed on teaching students to become independent and strategic learners and critical thinkers. To establish the necessary foundation for developing critical thinking skills, students will continue to strengthen their basic skills in the area of spelling, vocabulary and grammar usage.

ENGLISH 8 WRITING

½ credit

Eighth grade language arts strengthen student's skills in following the writing process of prewriting, drafting, revising, proofreading and publishing. Three types of writing (expository, creative and technical) in multi-paragraph formats expand grammar, usage and mechanics skills. Literary excerpts and reading passages from content area serve as models of good writing and as sources of discussion, study and writing topics. Students continue to develop library-research skills, following MLA research style. An emphasis on developing spelling and vocabulary skills helps students increase sophistication of sentence structure. Collaborative learning activities enable students to work cooperatively. Computer word processing enhances the writing process and becomes a useful tool in writing development.

MYTHOLOGY

½ credit

Throughout this semester long course, students will be introduced to the "popular" myths and legends of classical and world mythology. The course will focus on identifying the elements of myths, as well as the reasons for creating them. Students will have a chance to learn about Greek and Roman mythology, as well as make comparisons to Native American, Japanese, Mexican, and African legends, to name a few. Students will study underlying themes and discover how these stories were produced. Students will develop their own god/goddess and rewrite myths of their choice. Students will be encouraged to read, write, and speak about the ideas they study.

ENGLISH 9

1 credit

This course concentrates on the fundamental language skills of reading, writing, listening/speaking and viewing/representing in an effort to build a foundation for student success in advance high school English classes. Students practice both reading and writing as a process. Students perform an array of reading strategies as they work to become proficient in understanding and responding appropriately to a variety of texts. In terms of writing, students work on development of ideas, voice, and fluency as logical presentations of materials. Although direct language instruction occurs in this class, students often work with grammar and usage in their own drafts in efforts to produce error free texts. A study of the short story, poetry, drama, the epic, and the novel along with practice in literary analysis is introduced early in the course and sustained through the year. Research skills are taught incrementally.

ENGLISH 10

1 credit

PREREQUISITES: English 9

This course emphasizes continuing development of language and composition skills. Included within the study is identification of literary themes and forms, the use of effective reading strategies, and on-going development of speaking/listening and viewing/representing skills. Through use of multiple writing experiences, the students work on development of ideas, voice, fluency, logical presentation of materials and the practice of appropriate conventions of language. Composition assignments include expository, descriptive, narratives, and persuasive forms. In addition to process pieces, students perform in-class writings of various lengths. Reading for this level are both historic and contemporary, include short stories, essays, novels, dramas, non-fiction and poetry. There is a required research project.

ENGLISH 11

1 credit

PREREQUISITES: English 10

American Literature explores a variety of authors and genres, from early Native American oral traditions to 20th century post-war reflections. Students will learn about the culture and lore of the United States by looking at novels, short stories,

poems, and other works written by influential authors over centuries of change. Using a variety of interactive activities, from group discussions to writing exercises, the course will help students build critical thinking skills, improve their reading comprehension, and craft academic responses to what they read. American Literature prepares students for future studies in English, communications, and social studies.

CREATIVE WRITING

½ credit

This course functions as a broad-based introduction to various forms of writing, such as short fiction, poetry and drama. Students also experiment with writing these genres. The class is usually comprised of technique and style discussions, reading assignments and writing exercises. Enrollees are introduced to the concept of a writing workshop, wherein they share pieces with peers in order to give and receive feedback.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

½ credit

This course will introduce students to the fundamentals of public speaking. These basics include every step of the process, from researching to outlining to delivering a speech. We will also focus on the relationship between speaking and listening, dealing with nervousness, gauging an audience, and using visual aids as support. Students will be asked to give an array of speeches that will enhance their appreciation of and comfort with the art of elocution. Through oral assignments and written assignments, we will cultivate strong critical reasoning, analytical, and argumentative skills.

ENGLISH 12

1 credit

PREREQUISITES: English 11

This course is a representative sampling of the literary heritage of England from the fifth-century Old English period through the Romance period (1798-1832). The course includes literary analysis of such works as Chaucer's Canterbury Tales and Shakespeare's Macbeth, as well as the works of such British writers as Donne, Milton, Coleridge, Shelley, Keats, and Austen. Using a variety of interactive activities, from group discussions to writing exercises, the course will help students build critical thinking skills, improve their reading comprehension, and craft academic responses to what they read. British Literature prepares students for studies in English, classic civilization, and other social sciences.

AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE

1 credit

This course is a survey of African-American literature from the early slavery period through Emancipation and Reconstruction up to the present. Various genres, including poetry, speeches, fiction, essays, and biographies will be sampled by examining dominant themes, motifs, and styles characteristic of the period. Efforts will be made to study the socio-cultural relationship between African and Anglo American writers through literature and film.

AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE & COMPOSITION

1 credit

PREREQUISITES: English 9 & 10

In this course students will explore language through short stories, play poems, essays, folklore and novels. Students will read and comprehend text, have meaningful discussions about the subject matter presented, write essays and reports, complete projects, write daily journals articles and take weekly vocabulary test. Students will be expected to critically examine the purpose and theme behind the works of many authors. Students will use background and historical information to interpret text, as well as understand and analyze societal issues that roots in our past and effects in our present. Students will analyze popular theme in American culture through literature and discuss the effects of liter and media on society. This course will require independent reading, group work and research.

AP ENGLISH LITERATURE & COMPOSITION

1 credit

PREREQUISITES: English 9 & 10

An AP English Literature and Composition course engages students in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. Through the close reading of selected texts, students deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. As they read, students consider a work's structure, style and themes, as well as such smaller-scale elements as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism and tone. The course includes intensive study of representative works from various genres and periods, concentrating on works of recognized literary merit; followed by intensive questioning and discussion.

PUBLICATIONS/YEARBOOK**1 credit****PREREQUISITES: Teacher Recommendation**

Publications/Yearbook is a yearlong study open to students in grade 9-12. Involvement in yearbook will occur after school and will not count for credit. The fundamentals and techniques of journalistic writing, editing and advertising are taught, as well, as the canons of journalistic ethics. Frequent written assignments are required. Students will have experience in news writing, peer editing, interviewing, and basic newsgathering techniques. Assessment will be based on the written assignments, quizzes, tests and classroom participation. The course will provide students with information to help them understand the particular nature of writing for periodicals. In addition, frequent writing assignments will focus on specialized journalistic writing styles such as sports writing, features, editorials and in-depth reporting. The fundamentals of layout and design, using desktop publishing hardware, and headlines writing and photo editing are taught. Students will produce a school newsletter as well as the school's yearbook and the ABT Almanac.