

English Course Offerings 2018-2019

Rhetoric and Composition 1: (Grades 9, 10) 2-semester course, 1 credit

Prerequisites: None

This course develops skills in critical reading and writing necessary for success in Upper School courses. Students hone their ability to select significant concepts from a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts and learn to analyze and evaluate those concepts, with a critical eye on their intended purpose and audience. Students will be introduced to the tenets of sound argument, including identifying appropriate and convincing evidence from a selection of mentor texts. They will apply what they learn from master writers to their own writing pieces to help them discover the elements of effective argumentative and analytical style.

Rhetoric and Composition 2: (Grades 10, 11) 2-semester course, 1 credit

Prerequisites:

1. recommendation of CDS English teacher
2. for students new to CDS: recommendation of department based on evaluation of written response to writing samples from application

This course builds upon the skills developed in Rhetoric and Composition 1 by refining the practice of effective style, organization, argument, analysis, and research. Students apply their advanced critical reading and analysis skills to selected texts in multiple disciplines.

Advanced English Courses - Fall Selections

Advanced English Elective courses are open to students who have completed Rhetoric and Composition 2. Additional prerequisites are listed below individual courses.

Honors American Literature: (Grades 11, 12) 1-semester course, Fall, 0.5 credit

Prerequisites:

1. Rhetoric and Composition 2

American Literature speaks to the identity of the ever changing American people. Those shifting identities present powerful changes in literature and create a lasting impact on the American voice. Students will engage with the poetry, short stories, novels, and songs of the groups who raised their voices in a new literature, shifting American identity. Some of these include the Beat Generation, the Harlem Renaissance, and Hip Hop. We will read their anthems to a new direction, listen to recordings and commentaries, and recreate "Coffee House" experiences. We will also view the influence their music and poetry has on the world in both the past and in the present.

Biosocial Ethics & Motives: (Grades 10, 11, 12) 1-semester course, Fall

Prerequisites:

1. Rhetoric and Composition 1

*Counts as either a science **or** English credit. Students who have already taken Bioethics and Social Justice are not eligible for this course.

Team-taught by English and science teachers, this interdisciplinary semester course explores the relationship between scientific engagement and social responsibility. The class will focus on what is ethical and just in terms of life rights, environmental issues, and societal-medical rights. For example, what constitutes the beginning and end of life, and how can legislature and autonomy coexist? How do we balance biological concepts and social constructs in terms of gender identity and genetic engineering? How have environmental practices and racism intersected? Should using animals to grow organs for humans be promoted or discouraged? In this course, we will develop and share informed opinions based on case studies, data analysis, laboratory investigation, literature, reflections, research, debate, as well as team and independent investigations.

Creative Writing: (Grades 11, 12) 1-semester course, Fall, 0.5 credit

Prerequisites:

1. Rhetoric and Composition 2

In this course, students will develop their confidence and skills to create effective, satisfying stories regarding plot, characterization, setting, dialogue, theme, and pacing. Students will engage in guided writing exercises, sharing their writing, studying/emulating professional writers' techniques, and reading specific suggestions for crafting elements of fiction. They will respond to prompts, submit manuscripts, and receive feedback from the teacher and also as they participate in workshops discussing the strengths and making suggestions regarding each other's strongest writing piece. Students will create many original pieces of fiction, and three of those pieces will be polished—ready to submit to our school's literary magazine and other publications.

Victorian Ghosts and Monsters: (Grades 11, 12) 1-semester course, Fall. 0.5 credit

Prerequisites:

1. Rhetoric and Composition 2

In this course we will read novels like *Dracula*, *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, and *A Christmas Carol* to examine how and why cultures create monsters. We'll ask each book a series of questions: What do these monsters represent? Why do we keep telling these stories? What can we learn about inclusion/exclusion from these stories?

Wildness and Wilderness: (Grades 11, 12) 1 semester course, (Grade 11,12) Fall, 0.5 credit

Prerequisites:

1. Rhetoric and Composition 2

In this course we will read a number of fiction and nonfiction works about the wilderness, including passages from Cheryl Strayed's *Wild*, Gretel Ehrlich's *The Solace of Open Spaces*, Helen MacDonald's *H is for Hawk*, and both short fiction and children's literature. We'll consider a number of issues related to the relationship between humans and nature, including what it means for a space to be "wild" and what the relationship between humans and non-human nature is or should be. As you read the beliefs of others and weave your own, you'll write both analytically and creatively.

Advanced English Courses - Spring Selections

Advanced English Elective courses are open to students who have completed Rhetoric and Composition 2. Additional prerequisites are listed below individual courses.

The Literature of the Civil Rights Movement: (Grades 11, 12) 1-semester course, Spring, 0.5 credit

Prerequisites:

1. Rhetoric and Composition 2

In his 1963 "Letter from Birmingham Jail," the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. urged, "We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed." In doing so, King called his audience to action. And what followed may be a familiar history: the march on Washington, Freedom Summer, Selma, and much more. Still, what of the literature that inspired such action? What of the rhetorical tools employed by various writers? What of the ideas that empowered and equipped the oppressed to act? This course will explore just that: speeches, sermons, songs, and other forms of literature from the civil rights movements that empowered the dispossessed and marginalized communities to demand their freedom. Beginning with texts from the experience of African Americans, we'll take an expansive perspective of the U.S. Civil Rights Movement, starting before the 1950s and drawing upon the Chicano, Native American, and women's civil rights movements as well. Along the way, students will be asked to practice and sharpen their critical thinking, reading, and communication skills as they engage in class discussions, critical research, and analytical projects.

Contemporary American Short Fiction: (Grades 11, 12) 1-semester course, Spring, 0.5 credit

Prerequisites:

2. Rhetoric and Composition 2

Students will read short stories by living, U.S. authors (such as Lorrie Moore, Jhumpa Lahiri, Rick Bass, Tim O'Brien, ZZ Packer, George Saunders, Jennifer Egan, Robert Olan Butler, and Junot Diaz). Throughout the semester course, they will read quite a variety of stories, study/discuss each author's techniques in crafting essential elements of the short story, give presentations on selected stories, and write annotations on selected stories. For the final project of the class, each student will write a short story for our class anthology.

Sports In Literature: (Grades 11, 12) 1-semester course, Spring, 0.5 credit

Prerequisites:

1. Rhetoric and Composition 2

In this course, as students read and reflect on the many pieces of literature that focus on sports, they will reflect on numerous examples of how sports allow for strong character development and present powerful metaphorical fodder for personal obstacles, failure, triumph, and resilience. They will discover and discuss sports as the most public arena for challenging societal norms and consider how often and significantly

athletes and coaches have challenged—and broken—racial, gender, physical, and sexual orientation boundaries. Stories will illuminate athletes as the underdog, the hero, and the rebel. Students will read poetry, fiction, and nonfiction (biography, autobiography, and journalism) that features individual and team sports. They will write many reflections and essays based on both theme and craft. Additionally, students will write a personal essay, a poem, and a fictional piece.

**Wit Lit: Reading, Appreciating, and Writing Humorous Works: (Grades 11, 12)
1-semester course, Spring, 0.5 credit**

Prerequisites:

1. Rhetoric and Composition 2

Humor is a powerful tool of persuasion that requires intellectual pursuit of a topic and a sophisticated delivery (in regard to tone, surprise, pacing, and originality/specificity). In this course, students will read, study, discuss, and emulate a variety of humorous fiction, nonfiction, drama, and poetry. They will practice many *forms* and *techniques* of humor, simultaneously delighting and persuading. Peer-editing and class workshops are crucial parts of this course, as students must test-drive their original pieces before improving them. By the end of the semester, students will be armed with at least three polished, hilarious pieces, and they will read their favorite piece at a casual lunch-time gathering.

Film and Literature: (Grades 11, 12) 1-semester course, Spring, 0.5 credit

Prerequisites:

1. Rhetoric and Composition 2

The study of film opens the door to understanding the world and self. Film paints the broadest pictures of humanity and the smallest snapshots. Through analysis and research of film techniques, study of directorial choices, and synthesis of theme and context, students will examine films from multiple genres and time periods. Student discussion supported by specific references to film technique, choice, or theme constitutes an essential element of class. Students will study both classic and contemporary films and have the opportunity to make selections for individual study and research. During and after viewing, students will write argumentative, interpretive, and creative analyses of films. This course includes multiple films, short stories in comparison to the films developed from them, and theatre viewing when appropriate.

Honors Modern Western Philosophy: (Grades 11, 12) 1-semester course, (Grade 11, 12) Spring, 0.5 credit English or Social Studies

Prerequisites:

1. Rhetoric and Composition 2 and Global Studies

AND

2. recommendation of current social studies teacher

At its heart, the practice of philosophy is deeply concerned with the question of individual identity and community belonging, at the individual, collective, and national levels. In the development of the modern worldview, Enlightenment philosophers reconceptualized reason, progress, and individualism as a means to come to terms with a Europe that seemed unceasingly in flux. This course will focus on the

development of the modern tradition in philosophy, specifically in the thought of Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Mill, Wollstonecraft, Marx, and Arendt while developing critical reading and writing skills through the use of class discussions, historical research, and analytical writing.

Public Rhetoric: (Grades 11, 12) 1-semester course, Spring, 0.5 credit

Prerequisites:

1. Rhetoric and Composition 2

Almost anything can be “read” -- art and architecture, the way people dress, advertisements, and more. This course will take a broad look at texts -- including podcasts, fashion, and sketch comedy -- to examine how they convey meaning, what conventions of argument are unique to them, and what elements of argument transcend textual boundaries.

The History of Mystery: (Grades 11, 12) 1-semester course, Spring, 0.5

Prerequisites:

1. Rhetoric and Composition 2

If you turn on the TV today, you're likely to find a variety of mystery stories -- one of an endless array of Law and Order, CSI shows, or sensational true crime stories. But that has not always been the case. Mystery is a fairly new genre, originating in the nineteenth century. This class will look at the development of mystery stories, starting with Edgar Allen Poe's "Murders in the Rue Morgue," stopping over in the golden age of mystery with Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express*, and ending with a grittier recent novel: Ian Rankin's *Tooth and Nail*. Students will write essays that analyze how the novels reflect moral and cultural shifts.

Advanced English Courses - 2 Semester Course Selections

Advanced English Elective courses are open to students who have completed Rhetoric and Composition 2. Additional prerequisites are listed below individual courses.

Literature of Civic Life: American Journalism: (Grades 11, 12) 2-semester course, 1 credit; may be repeated as an elective course only

Prerequisites:

1. completion of Rhetoric and Composition 2 or advanced English course with minimum of grade **85** or higher or teacher approval

This course will permit students to pursue their individual interests in special column writing, investigative reporting, formatting and design, photography, and advertising. Students will practice the tenets of effective interviewing, reportage, and journalistic style as they write articles intended to uncover the truth about real-world problems, and controversies. They will find and pursue stories about which they can write with seriousness and passion, contributing articles to the school newspaper, *The Scratching Post*. Students will critically analyze the mass media's coverage of current events on local, national, and global levels and learn to regard with healthy skepticism information they receive from the web, the television, and the radio; they will confront their own hindrances to critical thinking as they challenge the assumptions, inferences, and opinions in both subjective and objective reportage. Finally, students will

further hone their voices and styles by critically analyzing the work of Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists and other non-fiction writers like Truman Capote, Hunter S. Thompson, and Eric Schlosser.

Skilled students who have demonstrated success with the journalistic form, a dedication to growing Carolina Day School's newspaper program, and a desire to take on leadership roles as editors and publication designers will have the opportunity to earn an Honors designation on their transcript. Students who wish to pursue the Honors curriculum will produce their own long-form, investigative projects, with the intent to publish them via both on and off-campus platforms.

AP Literature and Composition: (Grades 11, 12) 2-semester course, 1 credit

Prerequisites:

1. minimum average of **92** in current English course
- OR
2. recommendation of current English teacher for students with a strong commitment to academic work equivalent to a college-level English course

In this course, students read and discuss literature as they closely examine and support their own ideas with specific details. Almost daily, they defend their critical thinking with textual support in small literary circle groups, full class discussions, or analytical writing. Class study revolves around thematic concepts and close textual study of wide ranging literature, including student choice novels. Some topics include: Knowing Self, The Pivotal Moment, Love, Exile, and Environment. Throughout the year, Advanced Placement students participate in outside reading, creative assessments, weekly instruction, and/or practice in stylistic and analytic writing for Free Response Questions on the AP English Literature Exam. Blending these elements of reading, discussion, analysis, and practice, provides opportunities for students to consistently increase sophistication in all these skills.

AP English Language and Composition: (Grades 11, 12) 2-semester course, 1 credit

Prerequisites:

1. minimum average of **92** in current English course
- OR
2. recommendation of current English teacher for students with a strong commitment to academic work equivalent to a college-level English course

This writing-intensive course is for students with a high level of interest in the study of English and writing. The course challenges students' critical thinking skills through rigorous rhetorical analysis of non-fiction texts, refinement of effective argumentative strategies, and engagement with current social issues. The course will introduce students to the practical application of sound logic and reasoning as they grapple with both classic and contemporary texts as well as their own arguments. Students will prepare for the AP English Language and Composition exam in May by developing the skills of critical reading, analysis, synthesis, and argument.

Advanced English Courses - Not Offered in 2018-2019

Honors Ancient Western Philosophy: (Grades 11, 12) 1-semester course, (Grade 11, 12), (EOY- Not offered in 2018-2019) 0.5 credit English or Social Studies

Prerequisites:

1. Rhetoric and Composition 2 and Global Studies

AND

2. recommendation of current social studies teacher

At its heart, the practice of philosophy is deeply concerned with the question of identity and being, either at an individual, collective, or national level. In their pursuit of answers to this question, the Ancient Greeks created the conceptual underpinnings of not only their own society but also the entire western world. In an effort to understand the relevance of this fact in modern society, this course will explore the major works and history of western philosophy, beginning with the pre-Socratic Greeks and continuing through the fall of the Roman Empire. Students will analyze important primary texts of the Ancient world, considering them in terms of both their own context and in relation to the contemporary world. This class will encourage the development of critical reading and writing skills through the use of class discussions, historical research, and analytical writing.

Honors Social Justice: An Exploration of Ethnicity, Gender, and Mental Health through Literature, Video, and Current Events: (Grades 11, 12) 1-semester course, 0.5 credits (Not offered in 2018-2019 - We are offering a revised version of this course, taught jointly with Bioethics in the fall of 2018-2019 under the name of Biosocial Ethics & Motives)

Prerequisites:

1. Rhetoric and Composition 2

AND

2. recommendation of current English teacher

In this course, students will read and view a variety of sources that allow them to empathize with others--as well as to recognize/define themselves. Social conflicts and opinions on what is just are complex, so the class will examine opposing perspectives in order to articulate more informed opinions on ensuring rights, opportunities, and dignity for all. Students will read short pieces that spotlight important, controversial tensions regarding social justice —connecting the conflicts and themes to current events. They will discover and proclaim their personal reactions to these tensions through guided and thoughtfully revised writing. Written work will comprise literary analysis, personal reflection, creative writing, argumentative writing, and a research paper.

The Power of the Graphic Novel: (Grades 11, 12) 1-semester course, (Not offered in 2018-2019), 0.5 credit

Prerequisites:

1. Rhetoric and Composition 2

To understand the highly complex medium of graphic novels (also referred to as “graphic narratives,” “sequential art,” or “image-texts”) and how they have clawed their way into the American academic consciousness, students will apply their close-reading, analysis, and research skills to a survey of the best modern graphic novels. These include, but are not limited to the Pulitzer-Prize winning *Maus* by Art Spiegelman, *The Watchmen* and *V for Vendetta* by Alan Moore, and *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi. To ground their critical analysis of the contemporary comics canon, students will engage with the theories offered by scholar Scott McCloud in his revolutionary text *Understanding Comics*. Students interested in art, communication, and pop culture will particularly delight in the sophisticated intersection of the three in the graphic novel.

Science Fiction: Comparative Analysis and The Transformative Power of Experience: (Grades 11, 12) 1-Semester Course, (Not offered in 2018-2019) 0.5 credit

Prerequisites:

1. Rhetoric and Composition 2

Science Fiction presents an alternate reality that often provides another lens into an existing reality. A close reading of Science Fiction pieces reveals the transformative power of experience, of heroism, and of knowledge. Exploring the nature of truth and the impact of symbol guides protagonist and audience to a keen understanding of self and a broader interpretation of life. Such considerations are the subject of class discussions and readings. Through reflective and narrative writings as well as presentations, students will examine individual observations and conclusions.