

# English Department Course Descriptions and Expectations

## 9th Grade Options

### **English 1** (Meets A-G requirements)

English 1 is a course that develops the skills all freshmen need to be successful. Students will focus on literary elements as they read a variety of short stories and up to 4 novels over the course of the year. Students will complete several small, informal pieces of writing, and they can expect to write 4 fully developed essays. Students should expect to have up to 3 hours of homework per week for this course.

### **Advanced English 1** (Meets A-G requirements)

Advanced English 1 is a fast paced course with increased expectations for reading and writing. There is an increased emphasis on critical thinking in this course, and students are expected to participate in Socratic Seminars on a regular basis. Students will read a variety of short stories and up to 6 novels over the course of the year. Students will complete several small, informal pieces of writing, and they can expect to write up to 6 fully developed essays. Students should expect 3-4 hours of homework per week for this course.

## 10th Grade Options

### **English 2** (Meets A-G requirements)

English 2 continues to build on the skills taught in English 1. Students will continue to work on literary elements as they read a variety of short stories and up to 4 novels over the course of the year. Students will complete several small, informal pieces of writing, and they can expect to write up to 4 fully developed essays. Students should expect to have up to 3 hours of homework per week for this course.

### **Advanced English 2** (Meets A-G requirements)

Advanced English 2 is a fast paced course that emphasizes the development of reading, writing, and critical thinking skills necessary for future AP courses. Students will also develop and refine their speaking and listening skills by actively participating in Socratic seminars and debates. Students will read a variety of short stories and informational texts, and they will read up to 6 novels. Students will complete several informal pieces of writing, and they can expect to write up to 8 fully developed essays over the course of the year. Students should expect to have up to 4 hours of homework per week for this course.

## 11th Grade Options

### **English 3** (Meets A-G requirements)

English 3 continues to build on the skills taught in English 2. With a focus on American Literature, students will read a variety of short stories and up to 4 novels. Students will complete several small, informal pieces of writing, and they can expect to write up to 4 fully developed essays. Students should expect to have up to 3 hours of homework per week for this course.

### **Advanced English 3** (Meets A-G requirements)

Advanced English 3 is an in-depth course that emphasizes the development of reading, writing, technology, and critical thinking skills. This course is for students who want to be challenged with a more rigorous course than English 3, yet are not ready for the demands of the AP Language course. Students will read a variety of short stories and informational texts, and they will read up to 4 novels. Students will complete several informal pieces of writing, and they can expect to write up to 5 fully developed essays over the course of the year. Students should expect to have up to 4 hours of homework per week for this course.

### **AP Language and Composition** (Meets A-G requirements)

AP Language and Composition is a rigorous course taught at a college level. The pace and rigor of this class is significantly higher than that of the other junior English classes we offer at ORHS. Students will read prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts. The expectation for writing in this course is high; students should expect to do several smaller pieces of writing and up to 10 fully developed essays. Students should expect to have up to 4 hours of homework per week for this course, and there is a summer assignment that must be completed prior to the first day of school. Upon passing the AP exam in May, a student may earn up to a year of college credit.

## **12th Grade Options**

### **Contemporary Literature** (Meets A-G requirements)

Contemporary Literature is a course that focuses on literature from the 20th and 21st centuries. Reading selections and activities will deepen a student's interaction with the text and help develop critical thinking skills. Students will read a variety of pieces, including up to 7 novels. Students will complete several informal pieces of writing, and they will write up to 5 fully developed essays. Students should expect up to 4 hours of homework per week for this course.

### **Science Fiction** (Meets A-G requirements)

Science Fiction is a course that helps students define, analyze, and interpret the genre of Science Fiction. A great deal of reading and writing will be demanded in this course. Students will read up to 7 novels and write up to 5 essays over the course of the year. Students should expect up to 4 hours of homework per week for this course.

### **Expository Reading and Writing** (Meets A-G requirements)

Expository Reading and Writing helps students prepare for their first year of college as part of the California State University's Early Assessment Program. While only 2 novels are used in this course, students will spend the majority of the year reading shorter selections, learning how to analyze content and rhetorical structure, and use evidence to support written arguments. Students will be expected to write up to 8 fully developed essays.

### **AP Literature and Composition** (Meets A-G requirements)

AP Literature and Composition is a rigorous course taught at a college level. Students will be exposed to a variety of genres and periods, concentrating on works of recognized literary merit. Students will read a number of shorter selections and up to 8 novels. The expectation for writing in this course is high; students should expect to do several shorter pieces of writing in addition to up to 10 fully developed essays. Students should expect to have up to 4 hours of homework per week in this course, and there is a summer assignment that must be completed prior to the first day of school. Upon passing the AP exam in May, a student may earn up to a year of college credit.