

ENGLISH

AMERICAN LITERATURE 11				
Grade Level: 11	Credits: 1	College Credit: No	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: None
<p>This course is a chronological study of American Literature throughout history. Students will read, analyze, and discuss a variety of short stories, nonfiction, novels, poetry and drama from American Literary time periods. Writing assignments will be related to assigned readings.</p>				

ADVANCED PLACEMENT LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION				
Grade Level: 11	Credits: 2	College Credit: Yes	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: Should be in the top 25% of class
<p>This eleventh-grade course is great preparation for college-level thinking and writing skills. Students will read a variety of fiction and non-fiction works from American literature and examine a number of visual and multimedia texts (advertisements, political cartoons, films and documentaries, etc.) with a particular emphasis on argumentation and persuasion. Students will analyze how writers and speakers create arguments and craft texts.</p> <p>Students will also practice writing in a variety of formats, will prepare for the AP Language and Composition exam, and will prepare for the reading, writing and English usage sections of common college aptitude assessments including the ACT and SAT assessments.</p>				

ADVANCED PLACEMENT LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION				
Grade Level: 12	Credits: 2	College Credit: Yes	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: Should be in the top 25% of class
<p>This Advanced Placement course trains students to become skilled readers of literature written in a variety of styles. The intensive course also gives students the practice and helpful criticism necessary to make them flexible and capable writers. Through reading and writing, students should be able to communicate at a college freshman level.</p>				

ADVANCED PLACEMENT LITERATURE: EXTENDED READING & ANALYSIS				
Grade Level: 12	Credits: 1	College Credit: Yes	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: Completion of AP Literature (Part 1)
<p>This course is optional for students enrolled in AP Literature during their senior year. Students will select 3-4 novels of literary merit and conduct deep analysis of theme, style, and literary significance. Course will focus on strengthening and expanding students' analytical skills while also improving their chances of passing/scoring well on the AP Literature Exam.</p>				

COMPOSITION 10

Grade Level: 10	Credits: 1	College Credit: No	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: None
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Students will learn and practice skills and formats of writing, specifically with expository, narrative, and persuasion, and literary analysis. The study and application of improving writing skills, along with grammar, usage, and mechanics is emphasized throughout the course.

COMPOSITION 11

Grade Level: 11	Credits: 1	College Credit: No	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: None
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Students will learn and practice skills and formats of writing. Writing projects will involve reading and analyzing literature, as well as research-based writing. The study and application of grammar, usage, and mechanics is emphasized throughout the course.

COMPOSITION 12

Grade Level: 12	Credits: 1	College Credit: No	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: None
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Composition 12 focuses on the writing process: brainstorming, organizing, drafting, and revising. Students write a variety of essays applying different types of modes, including: definition, argumentative, and a culminating, researched major essay. Students study and implement narrative techniques into writing while reading the memoir *The Glass Castle*.

CREATIVE WRITING

Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 1	College Credit: No	Fine Arts Credit: Yes	Prerequisite: None
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This course is designed for students who are interested in gaining experience in creative writing. Students will explore different writing formats in poetry and fiction, and then practice writing in and melding personal styles with these existing formats/structures.

ENGLISH 9 (A & B)

Grade Level: 9	Credits: 2	College Credit: No	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: None
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We will survey genres of literature including novels, short stories, and a play, as well as non-fiction pieces. We will also study writing structure/organization in order to convey ideas clearly in written assessments, presentations, and other more informal projects.

INTRODUCTION TO FILM

Grade Level: 10-12	Credits: 1	College Credit: No	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: None
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(In school,) ARE YOU NOT ENTERTAINED?!?!? Then you should **watch more movies in class!** (bonus: name the film from which the above quote is heard). In this course, students will learn about the film techniques that directors, writers, cinematographers, foley walkers, sound technicians, and actors use to create their films as visual literature! After taking this class, students will have a new appreciation for the art of cinema, and will know the tricks to understand how movies work and create meaning. Students will also get a chance to create and practice some of those techniques for themselves! To understand the context for this creation, students will study a variety of genres from the different eras of film, as well as the techniques used to create within them. Genres covered are (but are not limited to): Classic Hollywood Cinema; The Western; Film Noir; Fantasy; Science Fiction; Social Thriller / Horror; Foreign film; Independent cinema; Documentary; Surrealism; Satire; etc. Sign up to experience cinematic greatness!

INTRODUCTION TO YEARBOOK

Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 1	College Credit: No	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: None
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In this class, students help to complete the WHS yearbook. Students help finish the book's layouts, learn how to write photo captions, practice elements of graphic design, and learn basic photojournalism skills. All class members will contribute to the production of the yearbook, and on-time completion of assignments is a minimum expectation.

LITERATURE STUDIES 10

Grade Level: 10	Credits: 1	College Credit: No	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: None
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This course will explore a variety of themes and motifs represented within the content, such as the coming of age story, societal value, and relevancy of content to student life. Students will read, analyze, discuss, and trace specific themes and central ideas throughout multiple forms of literature and communicative arts. Writing assignments and projects will be related to the assigned readings.

PRE-ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH 9 (A & B)

Grade Level: 9	Credits: 2	College Credit: No	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: Should be in the top 25% of class
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This course is considered "honors" and is strongly recommended, but not required, as a prerequisite to Pre-AP English 10A and 10B, AP Language, and AP Literature. To prepare for these upper-level classes, we will practice close reading and critical analysis of both literature and non-fiction to understand the way writers use language to make and convey meaning. We will also study vocabulary, grammar, syntax, and style as a means of refining our writing. Emphasis will be placed on the writing process, which will include both in-class essays and essays involving a revision process with multiple drafts, as well as creative writing.

PRE-ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH 10 (A & B)

Grade Level: 10	Credits: 2	College Credit: No	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: Should be in the top 25% of class
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This course is strongly recommended, but not required, as a prerequisite for AP Language and Composition and AP Literature and Composition. Reading for a Pre-AP English 10 student may include some of the twentieth century works of English 10, but students should expect a more rigorous expectation of an understanding and appreciation for the structures, themes, and literary devices associated with more classical works as well. Emphasis will be placed on a more extensive knowledge of the research process associated with the writing of both fiction and nonfiction. There will be an equal emphasis on not only a comprehension of the written word but also an understanding of word elements (phrases, clauses, sentence structure, rhetorical devices) and how they can make the English language work. Test taking practices will be rehearsed frequently.

SMSU COLLEGE ACADEMIC WRITING

Grade Level: 12	Credits: 1	College Credit: Yes	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: 3.0 or higher gpa, top ½ of class
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Southwest Minnesota State University and Waconia High School have teamed to offer College Academic Writing. Successful completion of this course will not only fulfill your high school senior composition requirement, but also awards 4 college credits in the MNSCU transfer curriculum. This course will enable students to determine a writing purpose, generate ideas to support a topic, determine an audience, develop a focus, and organize a written text, beginning with more personal, or reflective, writing and moving on to expository writing and argument. At least three of the papers will involve a research component through which students begin to learn the conventions of citation and documentation. Furthermore, the class will enable students to learn how purpose and audience affect the content, language, and form of a written text. This course fulfills the senior level composition requirement. **Students must have a GPA of 3.0 or above in order to enroll in this course.**

SMSU COLLEGE LITERATURE: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Grade Level: 12	Credits: 1	College Credit: Yes	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: 3.0 or higher gpa, top ½ of class
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This course is a study of works past and present that explore both the nature of humanity and humanity's relation to the world. The course will introduce students to literature from primarily outside the United States to enable cross-cultural comparison. Students will demonstrate the ability to read complex texts; will demonstrate the ability to comprehend both traditional and contemporary methods of critical theory and apply them to literary texts; will demonstrate familiarity with a variety of world literature. Successful completion of this course will award 3 college credits in the MNSCU transfer curriculum. **Students must have a GPA of 3.0 or above in order to enroll in this course.**

SPEECH

Grade Level: 9-12	Credits: 1	College Credit: No	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: None
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Students prepare and deliver speeches to inform, entertain or persuade. Instruction is given in controlling nervousness, speaking from notes, organizing information, and using library resources.

TEEN LITERATURE

Grade Level: 9- 12	Credits: 1	College Credit: No	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: None
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Do you love to read but just don't have the time? Teen Lit creates the time for you to simply read what you want to read. In this class, you'll find ways to access the most current lit and be a part of a community that loves reading as much as you do. Worried about your reading speed or the workload of taking another English class? Don't be. Reading speed doesn't matter, and the majority of class time is spent reading. Homework is practically non-existent. See Mrs. Peoples with any questions.

THEMES IN LITERATURE 11

Grade Level: 11	Credits: 1	College Credit: No	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: None
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This course will explore a variety of themes and motifs represented within the content, such as destiny, nostalgia, and hope. Students will read, analyze, discuss, and trace specific themes and central ideas throughout multiple forms of literature and communicative arts. Writing assignments and projects will be related to the assigned readings.

THEMES IN LITERATURE 12

Grade Level: 12	Credits: 1	College Credit: No	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: None
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This course will explore a variety of themes represented in literature, such as morality, justice, and human rights / liberty. Students will read, analyze, discuss, and trace specific themes and central ideas in multiple forms of literature and communicative arts. Writing assignments and projects will be related to the assigned readings.

YEARBOOK 2

Grade Level: 10-12	Credits: 1	College Credit: No	Fine Arts Credit: No	Prerequisite: Intro to Yearbook
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Students in this class create and design the WHS yearbook. Students will determine the book's theme, design page layouts, and design the book's cover. They will further develop skills in graphic design, page layout, and photo journalism. **This course may be repeated for credit or may be taken as an independent study course with teacher approval.**