

# ENGLISH

The English program at Gunn High School focuses on the traditional concerns of the discipline—Literature, Composition, Language and Grammar. Literature serves as a resource for both the study of ideas, culture, and values, and the development of composition skills. The study of composition and writing emphasizes the art and the craft, the organization and the support, and the clear and effective use of language in its written forms. Vocabulary, language, and grammar studies are integrated with the study of literature and composition.

The Gunn English program includes a four-year sequence of required and elective semester-long courses designed to meet students' needs in literature, composition, and language study at levels appropriate to their individual skills and abilities in English. The complete sequence includes required courses in American, British, Contemporary, and World Literatures, and in communication skills and literary genres.

In 2011-2012, students in grades 9 and 10 should enroll for the two courses required of freshmen and sophomores. They should indicate on their Course Request forms a choice of (a) one semester of Fundamentals of Communications (General) or Advanced Communication (Advanced) AND (b) one semester of World Tradition (General) or World Culture (Advanced). The other two required courses for grades 9 and 10 will be offered the following year. The choice of general or advanced should be made with consideration of such things as prior performance in English classes, development of skills, and interests. Consultation with current English teacher and counselor may be helpful in making a choice.

In 2011-2012, students in grades 11 and 12 will select one required semester of British Literature and one elective course. During registration all students should enroll in British Literature (General). The English department will determine which students will be placed in English Masters II H, which carries "honors" designation on the transcript. In addition, students in grades 11 and 12 should indicate on their Course Request forms a choice of one semester elective and two alternate selections. *It is very important to make accurate and thoughtful selections on this early form so that the department schedule reflects students' choices accurately; requests made later are often difficult or impossible to satisfy, and courses with insufficient initial student enrollment are deleted from the department schedule.*

Students interested in English Literature AP will find the course described on page 77. Accepting enrollment in the course indicates a student's commitment to taking the AP Examination in Literature and Composition.

## **ESLRs and Homework Expectations for English Courses**

The four-year sequence of English courses provides students opportunities to demonstrate competence in all areas of the Expected Schoolwide Learning Results. Each course places particular emphasis on the following three ESLRs: 1) effective communication through listening, speaking, and writing; 2) reading with understanding; and 3) critical and creative thinking to solve problems.

By the nature of the discipline, the study of English will take some learners longer than others. In addition, the cycles of long- and short-term projects make a statement of the amount of time required an estimation and an average. Homework for English courses comprise reading, writing, and the study of vocabulary. Advanced and honors courses, including College English, require an average of three to five hours per week of work outside of class; regular and elective courses usually require less time.

## **WORLD TRADITION (GENERAL)**

### **1183    ENGLDTRAD                    Semester                    9-10**

This general level English course focuses and includes readings from the works and ideas of Shakespeare, Rostand, Remarque, and others. Because it is a required course, it includes particular emphasis on instruction in reading and writing. One semester of this course or World Cultures is required.

### **WORLD CULTURE (ADVANCED)**

**1184 ENGWLDCULT Semester 9-10**

This advanced course introduces the student to some of the major literary works of western civilization and includes selected titles from World Traditions as well as readings from such authors as Moliere, Orwell, and Cervantes. Because it is a required course, it includes particular emphasis on instruction in reading and writing. Recommended only for those students who have previous teachers' recommendations for advanced-level high school work in English. One semester of this course or World Traditions is required.

### **FUNDAMENTALS OF COMMUNICATION (GENERAL)**

**1180 COMMUNIC Semester 9-10**

This one semester course required of freshmen and sophomores is an introduction to basic school-level study of composition, reading, and public speaking. The major work of the semester is on organizing, selecting, and presenting material in a paper or a speech, with additional work selected readings that deal with problems of communication. One semester of this course or Advanced Communication is required.

### **ADVANCED COMMUNICATION (ADVANCED)**

**1181 COMMUNIC A Semester 9-10**

This one semester required course for freshmen and sophomores emphasizes advanced study of school-level composition, reading, and public speaking. The work of the semester is on effective persuasive organizing, supporting, and presenting of materials in a paper or a speech. Reading is selected to emphasize the problems of effective communication. Recommended only for students who have previous teachers' recommendations for advanced-level work in English. One semester of this course or of Fundamentals of Communication is required.

### **SMALL LEARNING COMMUNITY**

**(No Section Number) Year 9**

Our small learning community is designed for 28 freshmen and will provide a tightly knit community, integrated curriculum, outdoor adventure, and opportunities to grow as leaders.

All students will share some common classes and teachers. The content and standards will be the same as our traditional courses; however, in the small learning community program, the teachers and students will work together to explore common themes and demonstrate their knowledge in some cross-curricular projects.

Students in the Small Learning Community will be enrolled together in the same English, Biology IA, history and PE courses which, in addition to the traditional content, will focus on leadership, character, and team building games.

Although not required, we encourage students in the Small Learning Community to enroll in Art Spectrum, Living Skills, and Spanish as their electives, as those teachers will incorporate our common themes into their courses.

In addition, we will offer our students outdoor adventure trips and leadership training as they do a day field trip to Jasper Ridge and a four day trip to Yosemite and take part in the Yosemite Institute.

Our theme is "A Sense of Place," and in our integrated curriculum, students will explore their place in history and in the local and global community. Our small learning community will provide ninth graders with a sense of place at Gunn, as they transition from the middle to the high school.

## **BRITISH LITERATURE (GENERAL)**

**1341 BRIT LIT** Semester 11-12

This general introduction to British writers includes readings from Shakespeare and Shaw to Huxley and Orwell. Because it is a required course, it includes particular emphasis on instruction in reading and writing. One semester of this course or English Masters 11H is required.

## **ENGLISH MASTERS 11H (ADVANCED)**

**1359 ENGMAS 11 H** Semester 11-12

This course for students who want an advanced program in English uses the works of major British writers like Shakespeare and Dickens, Huxley, and Bolt as the source for studying composition and literature as well as the influence of British thought, culture, and values on western thinking. The course places a particular emphasis on instruction in reading and writing. Enrollment in this course requires teacher recommendation.

## **ELECTIVE COURSES**

These courses are open only to juniors and seniors, may not be repeated for credit, and will be offered annually *only if there is sufficient enrollment*. All electives meet the UC specifications for a significant reading and writing component unless otherwise indicated.

## **BEGINNING JOURNALISM**

**1457 JOURNAL 11** Semester / Fall 9-12

Through analyzing professional models of non-fiction writing including news, features, editorials, and reviews, students will learn to plan, write, and revise news stories, profiles, observational, and persuasive writing. Students will acquire the skills of fact gathering and note taking through interviews with primary sources and research of secondary sources. This elective course is a prerequisite for Advanced Journalism.

## **ADVANCED JOURNALISM**

**1453 ADV JOURN** Year (By application only)

This course does not meet UC English requirements.

Through such activities as reading and analyzing professional models, interviewing, research and writing, revising and editing, students will demonstrate the mastery of journalistic writing and ethics needed for publication of their work in the school and professional press. Students will acquire the technical skills needed for desktop publishing. At least a B in Beginning Journalism is a pre-requisite for this course. The course may be repeated for district graduation credit, but currently has not received approval to substitute UC English elective credit. With approval of the instructor, this course may also satisfy the Career Technical Education requirement.

## **FACING HISTORY & OURSELVES – SOCIAL JUSTICE THROUGH LITERATURE**

**1317 FACFILMLIT** Semester 11-12

*We need citizens with the moral imagination required to be tolerant of difference, who understand what a creative act it is to connect themselves to others.* – Margot Strol

This course allows students to become engaged in analytical and critical thinking about identity, history and ethics, and exploring lessons of civic courage, compassion, and responsibility in our society. Through writing, literature, and film discussion, students will be challenged to examine the deep roots of social injustice and negative traditions of discrimination and prejudices with the goal of promoting a more humane and informed citizenry.

## **COLLEGE PREP SKILLS**

**1334 BAS COL SK Semester 11-12**

This course focuses on grammar, vocabulary, writing, and SAT preparation. It is designed to help students achieve higher scores on college entrance examinations. Instruction focuses on the requisite skills: critical thinking (reading comprehension), vocabulary development, sentence completion techniques, effective timed essay writing, and thorough teaching of grammar. This course thus prepares students for success in college as well as for entry into the students' colleges of their choice. We encourage students to enjoy free reading throughout the semester. This course is recommended for seniors in the fall and juniors in the spring.

## **THE WORKS OF SHAKESPEARE**

**1364 SHAKESPERE Semester 11-12**

Afraid of being called a "beetle-headed, flap-ear'd knave"? Learn the language to fight back.

This course introduces the students to the range of Shakespeare's plays, including comedies, tragedies and histories, and to his sonnets. The course will also introduce students to Shakespeare's language and times. Students need not be experts in Shakespearean plays to enroll in the course. Experts and novices alike are welcome.

## **ESCAPE LITERATURE**

**1384 ESCAPE LIT Semester 11-12**

This course explores some of the literary avenues of escape from the ordinary through stories and novels selected from mystery and suspense, horror, fantasy and science fiction. We will do both expository and creative writing and a variety of individual and group projects related to the stories and books we read.

## **CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY**

**1469 CLASS MYTH Semester 11-12**

The antics and adventures of the ancient Greek gods and goddesses, heroes and monsters come alive in this multidisciplinary elective for juniors and seniors. Through the study of drama, art, athletics, poetry and architecture of ancient times, students will learn the iconography, the stories, the philosophy and the history which so influence our modern world. Students will read modern interpretations of the myths, perform the ancient tragedies and comedies, create written and artistic interpretations of their own and learn the history of Greek religious belief from the goddess-worshipping Minoans to the patriarchy of classical Greece.

## **WOMEN WRITERS**

**1314 WOM WRIT Semester 11-12**

This course allows students to focus their studies on works by women writers and to hear a wide range of cultural and historical female voices. Both contemporary and traditional authors will be explored, and all genres will be included.

## **SHAKESPEARE IN PERFORMANCE**

**1204 SHAKESPERF Semester / Fall 11-12**

This interdisciplinary course for juniors and seniors offers students five units of English and five units of Drama credit. Students will enrich their study of a variety of Shakespeare's plays and sonnets as literary texts with hands on experiences involving every facet of creating the "living" play. Students need not have extensive acting experience. Offered in alternate years. Any student wishing to enroll in this class must also be enrolled concurrently in Theatre 3 or 4.

## **ANALYSIS OF THE WRITER'S CRAFT**

**7601 WRIT CR II Semester 11-12**

**This is the course formerly known as Creative Writing.** This course offers students who are serious about writing an opportunity to read and write in such genres as short fiction, poetry, short drama, and personal essay. Students are required to share their writing regularly with other students in the class. Students are encouraged to enter at least one writing competition or submit writing to a journal or newspaper. The course is recommended only for students who understand that the best writing comes from both creativity and discipline.

## **SHORT FICTION**

**1383 FICTION Semester 11-12**

"*This blind man, an old friend of my wife's, he was coming to spend the night.*" So begins one of the short stories we'll read—written by American authors since the founding of this country. From Jhumpa Lahiri to Herman Melville, Bernard Malamud to Richard Bausch, Joyce Carol Oates to Edgar Allan Poe, "Short Fiction" introduces you to writers who write short. (They're neither as greedy for your time as novelists are nor as puzzling as poets!) The course is rich in discussion and reading, stresses content in writing over technique, and revels in spare modern language as well as 19<sup>th</sup> century multisyllablificationism. After figuring out what makes stories tick, you'll write your own; group panel-discussions will give you tremendous independence—but mainly you'll have the new companionship of all kinds of authors.

## **FILM AS COMPOSITION & LITERATURE**

**1332 FILM LIT Semester 11-12**

This course investigates narrative cinema as it relates to the themes, motifs, and symbols found in traditional literary canon, through the study of various feature films, articles, short stories, and novels. Students study form, content, directorial style and technique, and apply analysis to both literature and film, becoming worshippers at the altar of cinematic greatness and the greatest film critics around.

## **MODERN CALIFORNIA HISTORY & LITERATURE**

**1639 MODCAL HIST Semester 12**

**1099 MODCAL LIT Semester 12**

How did Hollywood and LA become what they are today? What kind of effect will immigration have on California? How does being on the west coast change the perspectives of war? Students will have a chance to examine these questions and more as they study modern historic events and literature from a California standpoint. This interdisciplinary semester-long course for seniors would offer students five units in Social Studies and five units in English.

## **PHILOSOPHY THROUGH LITERATURE**

**1179 PHILOS LIT Semester 11-12**

What is the purpose of our lives? Can we know what's right and wrong? What is real? How should we live our lives? In this introductory course we will read literature written by Asian prophets, ancient Greeks, renaissance philosophers, modern novelists, feminists and scientists (among others) in their attempt to answer these questions. Students will be encouraged to discuss, debate and write about their own beliefs as they explore the enduring enigmas of our human existence.

