



HSHS English Department

Course Selection Guide Tenth, Eleventh, and Twelfth-Grade Courses

Core Courses

Grade 10: English II OR Honors English II

Grade 11: English III OR Honors English III OR AP English III (Language and Composition)

Grade 12: English IV OR Honors English IV OR AP English IV (Literature and Composition)

Students should work closely with their current English teachers for appropriate recommendations for core English II, III, and IV classes. The department reserves the right to change placements based on final averages, EOC scores, 10th-Grade Writing Test scores, and/or AP test scores. The following guidelines are used to determine level placement in English:

- Academic:
1. reads on grade level
 2. anticipates attending some form of post-secondary education
 3. is currently enrolled in standard-level English classes
- Honors:
1. reads above grade level
 2. works well independently and in collaborative settings
 3. anticipates attending a four-year college or university
 5. is currently enrolled in advanced-level English classes
- AP:
1. has the unqualified recommendation of current English teacher
 2. fulfills all criteria for Honors level
 3. plans to take the AP exam to get an early start on college
 3. enjoys rigorous and analytical study of literature and writing

Students are NOT permitted to take two core English courses simultaneously without the approval of the English department. Students must pass the four years of English in sequence. They should not take the next course in the sequence until they have passed the previous course.

Special Note: Students taking AP English III/Language and Composition and/or AP English IV/Literature and Composition are reminded that these are college-level courses and require at least an hour of preparation per class meeting. College credit can be earned based on the score made on the College Board AP exam. All students enrolled in AP English are expected to take this test. Students will complete an AP Contract in order to enroll in AP English III or IV.

Electives for 10th, 11th, and 12th-Graders

African-American Literature

This course explores African-American writing and its relationship to American history and culture. Students study critical theories of African-American literature and the contexts of cultural criticism through selected works by African-American writers.

Creative Writing I

This course is designed for students interested in writing original poetry, plays, and short stories. Students will analyze published and peer short stories, poetry, and musical lyrics; work cooperatively and independently on a variety of projects, such as a children's book and travel brochure; and prepare original work for consideration in creative writing contests.

Creative Writing II (Prerequisite: Creative Writing I)

In this course, students research, create, read, and study a specific genre. They create manuscripts for presentation in school-wide publications and other literary contests. This class will be responsible for the production of the school's literary magazine.

Introduction to Communications and Mass Media

This course is a prerequisite to all other Newspaper and Yearbook publications courses. Students will examine the basics of writing, design, and production of publications, as well as current industry issues.

Newspaper I (Prerequisite: Introduction to Communications and Mass Media)

Students interested in newspaper writing and production may apply to the newspaper advisor for enrollment in Newspaper I. This class is designed for students interested in the construction and publication of regular editions of the school newspaper. Focus areas are newspaper writing and the responsibilities of newspaper business management. **NOTE:** Students must be prepared to come outside of regular class hours to fulfill their responsibilities and meet deadlines.

Newspaper II (Prerequisite: Newspaper I and teacher recommendation)

This second-level newspaper course is available by application only. The course will teach students refined skills in interviewing, reporting, design, and newspaper business management. **NOTE:** Students must be prepared to come outside of regular class hours to fulfill their responsibilities and meet deadlines.

Newspaper II, Honors (Prerequisite: Newspaper I and teacher recommendation)

This honors-level course offers junior and senior students the opportunity to develop advanced journalistic skills and leadership. Students enrolled for honors credit are required to fill an editor's position or another leadership role on the newspaper staff. Editorial skills will include the planning and layout of entire issues, copy editing, and mastery of digital design. Students at this level will supervise other members of the staff as they fulfill their responsibilities. **NOTE:** Students at this level must be prepared to dedicate significant extracurricular time to the production of the school newspaper.

Newspaper III (Prerequisite: Newspaper II and teacher recommendation)

Students who have completed Newspaper I and II and who desire to refine skills in writing, editing, imaging, finance, and printing may elect this course. In addition to development of higher level writing skills and business management procedures, students enhance their knowledge of the laws and ethics of journalism. **NOTE:** Students at this level must be prepared to dedicate significant extracurricular time to the production of the school newspaper.

Newspaper III, Honors (Prerequisite: Newspaper II and teacher recommendation)

This honors level course provides advanced journalism students the opportunity to expand their portfolios (begun in Newspaper II Honors) and to develop and deliver modules for all staff positions. Students electing this course are required to fill an editor's position or take a leadership role on the publication staff. In addition, they refine writing, editing, imaging, finance, and printing skills. Students may receive honors credit in Newspaper III Honors one time only. **NOTE:** Students at this level must be prepared to dedicate significant extracurricular time to the production of the school newspaper.

SAT Verbal/Math Preparation: Juniors only

This paired course prepares students to succeed on the Reading section of the SAT. The course offers an intensive study in language and vocabulary; advanced techniques in reading analysis; and the skills necessary to answer the high-level questions that appear on the test. Attention to the new addition of the SAT Writing section will also be given.

Shakespeare, Honors: Juniors and Seniors only

This honors-level course curriculum focuses on an in-depth study and analysis of selected Shakespearean poetry, history plays, tragedies, and comedies. Students also research origins of Shakespearean works, Shakespeare's influences on later literary works, and relevant contemporary criticism of his dramas.

Speech I

In this course, students will prepare speeches, deliver them to class audiences, and participate in class discussions. Students will develop poise and effective techniques for various speaking situations, including the Graduation Project requirement for all high-school students.

Speech II (Prerequisite: Speech I)

Students learn logical, emotional, and ethical methods of persuasive speech. The course emphasizes collection, organization, and presentation of material on current topics of interest. Teams present formal debates in preparation for interscholastic competition in forensic debate.

Structured Writing: Sophomores Only

This course is designed for students who need additional instruction in the writing process. Students work with focusing on the main idea, organization, support and elaboration, style, and grammar/conventions. Students who need specific writing instruction and conferencing before the English II (Grade 10) Writing Assessment, as well as students who experience difficulty in writing during English I, or II should take this course.

Yearbook I (Prerequisite: Introduction to Communications and Mass Media)

Open by application only, this course offers students involvement in the production of the school yearbook. Activities include planning, layout, photography, copy writing and editing, and business management of a publication. NOTE: Students must be prepared to come outside of regular class hours to fulfill their responsibilities and meet deadlines.

Yearbook II (Prerequisite: Yearbook I and teacher recommendation)

Open by application only, this course teaches students to refine their skills in the production of the school yearbook. Activities include planning, layout, copy writing and editing, photography, and business management of a publication. NOTE: Students must be prepared to come outside of regular class hours to fulfill their responsibilities and meet deadlines.

Yearbook II, Honors (Prerequisite: Yearbook I and teacher recommendation)

Open by application to Juniors only, this course requires students to fill an editor's position or another leadership role on the yearbook staff. Editorial skills will include the planning and layout of entire issues, copy editing, and mastery of digital design. Students at this level will supervise other members of the staff as they fulfill their responsibilities. NOTE: Students at this level must be prepared to dedicate significant extracurricular time to the production of the school yearbook.

Yearbook III (Prerequisite: Yearbook II and teacher recommendation)

Students who have completed Yearbook I and II and who desire to refine skills in planning, layout, and technology may elect this course. In addition to development of higher level writing skills and business management procedures, students enhance their knowledge of the laws and ethics of journalism. NOTE: Students at this level must be prepared to dedicate significant extracurricular time to the production of the school yearbook. NOTE: Students at this level must be prepared to dedicate significant extracurricular time to the production of the school yearbook.

Yearbook III, Honors (Prerequisite: Yearbook II and teacher recommendation)

This honors level course provides journalism students the opportunity to expand their portfolios (begun in Yearbook II Honors) and to develop and deliver training modules for all staff positions. Students electing this course are required to fill an editor's position or take a leadership role on the yearbook staff. In addition, they increase technological skills and refine writing skills. Students may receive honors credit in Yearbook III Honors one time only. NOTE: Students at this level must be prepared to dedicate significant extracurricular time to the production of the school yearbook.

Please direct questions to Karen Burden, HSHS English Chairperson at kburden@wcpss.net