

ENGLISH

Language and Literature I* Credit 1.00 Year F

As students start their high school journey, they often ask themselves “Who am I in this new community?” Freshman Language and Literature students use literary analysis, personal reflection and written expression to explore the concepts of community and identity. Examples of the literary genres (novels, plays, short stories, poetry, and non-fiction) are read and analyzed for structure and content, especially as they pertain to these key themes. This course focuses on learning the basic elements of the genres of literature, the foundation for close reading and literary analysis in subsequent years. Students begin the year by mastering the composition of a strongly structured paragraph and build upon these skills to write a five-paragraph essay by the end of the year. Language and Literature also provides practice in vocabulary and test-taking skills. Honors students receive a challenging list of readings and intense work in the essay form with an eye toward building AP close reading and analytic skills. Because we are an educational ministry of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, special thematic emphasis is placed on their Critical Concerns for women, anti-racism, and non-violence.

Language and Literature II* Credit 1.00 Year SO

In Language and Literature II, students continue to explore the concept of identity, in more complex and mature ways. Texts from a variety of genres are studied as models for expressive, creative, informative, and persuasive writing. Students are encouraged to find their own voices as they continue to work on writing skills such as word choice, style, tone and structure. Additionally, students begin to learn research and presentation skills and apply them to their MYP Personal Project. Students continue to build upon their vocabulary, test-taking, and analytical skills. Honors sections include the study of a wider range of novels and essays, as well as more in-depth analytic writing assignments to prepare students for their junior year AP Language and Composition course. Because Mercy is a Sisters of Mercy educational ministry, special emphasis is placed upon their Critical Concerns for women and anti-racism.

Language and Literature III Credit 1.00 Year J

Language and Literature 3 is a survey course of the literature of the British Isles from 495 A.D. to present. However, the course does cover various literature from other traditions. It enables students to use what they have learned and helps them make connections to their lives beyond high school and prepares them for success in their senior year.

The primary goal of this year long course is for all students to attain the highest degree of literacy possible. Students need to use English fluently and accurately to meet the demands of society and the workplace. This course will serve them well as it prepares students to approach a wide range of texts (literary and non-literary) in various genres and media to build an understanding of the many dimensions of human experience. Furthermore, students need a command of language and an appreciation of the richness of literature for self-fulfillment and to accomplish their own purposes.

* Honors section offered

AP Language and Composition Credit 1.00 Year J

The Advanced Placement English Language and Composition is a university-level course which engages students in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of rhetorical contexts and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Both their writing and their reading should make students aware of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, and subjects as well as the way generic conventions and the resources of language contribute to effectiveness in writing.

This university-level, year-long course is designed around the College Board's *AP English Language and Composition* course description. The course requires narrative, expository, analytical, and argumentative writing assignments that are based on readings representing a wide variety of prose styles and genres. Reading both fiction and nonfiction texts and writing in a variety of rhetorical modes and for a variety of purposes, students in English 11 AP facilitate awareness of their own writing styles to develop their own inner voices. This American literature focused course represents a study of the evolution of the language and style of American writing and includes 17th century Puritan literature through contemporary texts, and is intermittently supplemented with pieces of literature that exemplify various rhetorical contexts. Students will read primary and secondary sources, both print and non-print text, and synthesize ideas in order to formulate and articulate their own positions in a variety of timed, untimed, and researched persuasive papers. Students will cite sources using MLA format and will revise and edit both timed and out-of-class writing assignments. By responding to both AP style writing prompts and multiple-choice questions, students will become familiar with the rigor of collegiate assessments and the importance of critical thinking.

Language and Literature IV Credit 1.00 Year S

This senior course focuses on the power of individual and societal stories to shape identities and aspirations, beginning with an examination of self-identity as a Mercy senior and college applicant. Branching outward, students will study classical and contemporary literature to determine origins of the concepts embedded in our culture as expressed in fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. The second semester includes rhetorical concepts and media criticism as well as a research paper on a subject of personal interest to each student. By examining communication across literary form and textual type, students will investigate the nature of language itself and the ways in which it shapes and influences identity and culture. Special emphasis will be placed on the Sisters of Mercy Critical Concerns for women, anti-racism, and immigration.

AP Literature and Composition Credit 1.00 Year S

Close reading and literary analysis is at the core of this AP course. Works from world literature are read to determine how authors employ individual elements to construct the meanings of the works as wholes. Students examine how nuance of meaning is constructed in language and literature and how a writer uses technical aspects of structure and syntax, diction, detail, allusion, figurative language, symbolism, and tone to create singular and powerful meaning. Students produce a researched literary analysis paper and frequent analytic essays that explicate literary texts and demonstrate rhetorical control in preparation for the AP Literature and Composition exam given in early May.