

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT COURSE OFFERINGS

The English program is designed to improve a student's awareness of the essential role that the English language and its literature plays in one's personal and career development. The program emphasizes the development of powers of comprehension, critical thinking skills, and fluency in written expression and oral communication of ideas and emotions. Courses are aligned with the Common Core New York State Standards to ensure proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

The department provides for differences in ability and achievement with a two-level system in grades 9 through 11: Regents and Honors in grades 9 and 10, and Regents and Advanced Placement English Language and Composition in grade 11. During Senior year, students can choose either Advanced Placement Literature and Composition, or two of our senior semester course offerings.

At each grade level students read a variety of literature, including short stories, novels, plays, poetry, and non-fiction. The major differences between levels include materials used, the approach to those materials, and the rate of progress.

Teachers use the process approach to writing. Students participate in writing workshops. During in-class workshops, students use class time to plan, organize, draft, peer-edit, revise, and publish. When appropriate, "read-arounds" let writers hear their work and invite feedback from classmates.

ENGLISH REGENTS 9,10,11 **1 Credit each course**

English Regents courses, grades 9, 10 and 11, provide students with the literary content and writing and speaking skills that will prepare them for post-high school education. Using a combination of modern and traditional literature, these courses emphasize the ideas and attributes traditionally associated with a humanistic education. In June of junior year all students will take the state-mandated Regents Comprehensive Examination in English.

ENGLISH HONORS 9 and 10 **1 Credit each course** **(See Honors Criteria)**

The English Honors courses in grades 9 and 10 provide a broad experience in modern and traditional literature and in-depth literary study of the works read. Required reading is lengthy and of a demanding nature. The composition program requires outstanding technical ability as well as insight and imagination in written interpretation.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION 11 **1 Credit** **(See Honors AP Criteria)**

This course is designed for highly motivated students of superior ability who love reading and writing in a variety of forms. It is the equivalent of a freshman college course in composition. Students will learn to understand complex texts and write with sophistication, maturity, and an awareness of audience and purpose. They will carefully read primary and secondary sources and synthesize that material into their own pieces. Students will study American literature – both fiction and non-fiction, poetry and prose – to understand the rhetorical and linguistic choices authors make and apply these in their own compositions. Students take the state mandated Regents Comprehensive Examination in English in June. All students must also take the College Board Advanced Placement Examination in English Language and Composition in May. A special reading assignment is given for the summer prior to the course. This course will prepare students for portions of the SAT Subject test exam in Literature.

WRITING SEMINAR **½ Credit**

Writing Seminar is a year-long course designed to guide students into developing as self-directed learners. Training students to manage, monitor and modify their own learning is accomplished primarily through a focused study of the writing process. Through practice in the use of effective strategies, students broaden their ability to think about and demonstrate their understanding of what they learn in all subject areas. Successful completion of Writing Seminar is a requirement for graduation.

SENIOR COURSES

During their senior year, Pelham students may take AP English Literature, (a full year course), or they may choose two half year courses, one in the fall and one in the spring. As in college, seniors are encouraged to sign up for courses which match their interests.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION 12

1 Credit

(See Honors/AP Criteria)

This course is designed for highly motivated students of superior ability who love literature. The course is the equivalent of a freshman college course in English composition and literature. Its specific objectives are to develop an emotional, as well as intellectual response to many kinds of literature; to learn the basic techniques which the best writers have used to communicate their ideas and emotions; and to develop skills in literary interpretation, writing, speaking, and collaborative learning. Emphasis is on close reading of texts rather than on surveying a body of literature. All students must take the College Board Advanced Placement Examination in English Literature and Composition in May. A term paper of 5,000 - 7,000 words is written in place of a final exam. A special reading assignment is given for the summer prior to the course.

ENGLISH 12: CAREER AND COLLEGE READINESS

GRADE 12

1/2 Credit

The ability to articulately and intelligently present one's ideas is a critical skill required for any profession. In this course, students will hone the necessary research, writing, and presentation skills that will be required for life outside of PMHS. The literary focus for the class will be a mix of nonfiction and fiction genres and the course will center on the research of current events (i.e. *NY Times.com* and other media outlets) and presentation skills. Students will plan, design and deliver multimedia presentations, give speeches, and write research papers on current topics presenting challenges to today's society.

ENGLISH 12: CULTURE AND RESISTANCE IN AMERICAN LITERATURE AND ART

GRADE 12

1/2 Credit

Designed after a popular American studies and art history seminar at Yale, this course is devoted to the topics of race, ethnicity, and gender in American culture. Students will engage in an in-depth study of art and literature centered on the idea of being "different." While we will draw specifically from the experiences of African-Americans, Asian-Americans, Latinos, and Native-Americans to explore how identity is both defined and influenced by our culture, all students are encouraged to join in the conversation.

ENGLISH 12: COMPARATIVE FICTION

GRADE 12

1/2 Credit

This course will bring film education into the English classroom by integrating reading, writing, and visual literacies. Through a series of participatory experiences, students will build an understanding of the connections between viewing a film and reading a text, as well as using specific strategies for active viewing and active reading. Activities will integrate reading, writing, and the viewing of short films. Students will study film and literature while drawing connections to similar themes and ideas represented in each.

ENGLISH 12: LITERARY NEW YORK CITY

GRADE 12

1/2 Credit

New York City is known the world over for its skyscrapers, shops, parks, museums, restaurants, and culture. However, a less-known fact is that Manhattan has a rich history as a literary town. In this course, we will uncover and trace the literary history of New York, neighborhood by neighborhood, in a quest to see how authors have shaped and been shaped by the city. Our journey will take us from bustling colonial New York to the modern day, and our reading will range from Thomas Paine to Walt Whitman to E.E. Cummings to Langston Hughes to the Beat Generation to Junot Diaz. As suggested by the title of the course, classroom lessons will be supplemented through field trips so that we can gain an active experience of the historical literary haunts we have studied.

SUPA: CRS 325: PRESENTATIONAL SPEAKING**GRADE 12****1/2 Credit**

CRS 325 presents the conceptual and practical dimensions of formal presentations in organizational settings. It is designed to build a solid understanding of the fundamentals of public presentations, as well as the ability to employ those skills flexibly so that a speaker can adjust selected topics and tactics to specific audiences. Students who successfully complete the course are entitled to a Syracuse University transcript recording 3 credits earned. While there is no formal entrance criteria, students are advised that this is a college level class with appropriately rigorous expectations. The approximate cost for the class is \$330.00.

ENGLISH ELECTIVES

In addition to grade level courses, students may choose to enhance their program of study with one of these electives. Electives do not fulfill the school requirement as English credit at any grade level. However, Print Journalism, Theatre Arts, Creative Writing, Film Study and SAT Writing may be used as a fifth course in a five-credit sequence.

PRINT JOURNALISM (Grades 11&12)**½ Credit**

This course is designed for students who enjoy writing non-fiction and are interested in print journalism. Students will write original journalistic pieces to be published in the school newspaper, *The Pel Mel*. Print Journalism students are responsible for producing the newspaper as a part of their class. The course focuses on the different types of journalistic writing, intense revision, and layout design. Each student will have the opportunity to write for the following sections in the paper: news, editorials, features, and sports. Students also have the option of taking the course for a full year for one credit.

ADVANCED PRINT JOURNALISM**½ Credit****Prerequisite: Print Journalism**

This course is a continuation of Print Journalism for the serious student interested in journalism. Students also have the option of taking the course for a full year for one credit.

THEATRE ARTS (Grades 11 & 12)**1 Credit**

This course in self-expression can be used to meet the fine arts graduation requirement. The subject matter covers the entire scope of the human experience as well as newspapers, fiction, and other art forms. Through plays, debates, discussions, improvisations, games, and scene study, the student of theatre arts gains confidence in his/her ability to express ideas and think through life's beauty and its problems. Each project brings on new challenges. The student is evaluated for his/her commitment to learning, performance projects and Actor's Journal.

CREATIVE WRITING (Grades 11&12)**½ Credit**

In this workshop, students explore the power of words. By experimenting with poetry, short stories, memoirs, and other genres, students discover methods for improving their ability to express and explore their feelings and opinions, as well as their imaginations and memories. Using a variety of inspirational techniques, including the reading of original and creative texts by past and contemporary writers, the teacher assists students in "getting started" each day. In addition, students are provided with techniques for revision, i.e., how to make a good story or poem even better. The atmosphere of the class is supportive and informal, modeled on professional writer's and artist's workshops. All writers and would-be writers are encouraged to enroll.

FILM STUDIES (Grades 10-12)**½ Credit**

The aim of this course is to help students develop the ability to analyze and articulate their understanding of movies within a technical, literary, historical, and sociological context. Students will study the history, theory, criticism, and art of cinema and will produce both written and performance-based authentic assessments. All students with a serious interest in film are welcome.

SAT WRITING (Grades 10-12)

½ Credit

Students who choose this elective participate in a comprehensive review of the structures of English grammar beginning with the parts of speech. Students practice activities and questions similar to those that will appear on the writing component of the SAT test. In addition, students may apply the instruction when editing writing pieces for any course.

BROADCAST PRODUCTION (Grades 10-12)

1 Credit

In Broadcast Production, students build television shows from the pre-production planning stage, through script and storyboard writing, to taping and editing. The class is also designed to encourage the development of critical thinking, problem solving, team building, and interpersonal and written communication skills. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to design, produce, and edit a studio produced television program. Students will demonstrate practical working knowledge of the studio and control room equipment, understand the importance of teamwork in the television industry, and have a working knowledge of the many different positions available for employment in the television industry.

ADVANCED BROADCAST PRODUCTION (Grades 11 & 12)

Prerequisite: Broadcast Production

1 Credit

This course is a continuation of Broadcast Production for the serious student.