

**Academy of Our Lady of Mercy  
Lauralton Hall**

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
Course Descriptions 2010-2011**

*The English Department requires that all students take four credits of English. The normal sequence includes English I, English II, English III and English IV. Advanced Placement options may replace English III and English IV for qualified students.*

**Students must have an A average to move from CP1 to Honors. To remain in an Honors level course, students must maintain at least a C+ average.**

**(111) English I Honors - Language and Literary Genres**

**Year**

**1 Credit**

Freshmen will examine a variety of literary types including poetry, drama, the novel, and the short story and recognize the literary techniques employed in each. Analysis through discussion and writing will help hone students' critical thinking skills. Honors students will write a variety of expository paragraphs and proceed to generate thesis statements which they will develop into full length essays. Students will review basic grammar, particularly parts of the sentence and consider vocabulary in context from works covered.

**(112) English I (CP) - Language and the Elements of Literature**

**Year**

**1 Credit**

College prep students will examine several genres and work to recognize the literary techniques employed in each. Analysis through discussion and writing will enhance students' critical thinking skills. Students will study parts of speech, sentence patterns, and usage and will explore, through writing, various paragraph structures. Students will also work to broaden their active vocabulary through the use of selected exercises

**(121) English II Honors - Sophocles to Shakespeare**

**Year**

**1 Credit**

(Prerequisite: English 111)

Literature covered will include a study of comparative mythology, the epic, the Arthurian legend, a Shakespearean comedy, and a close study of a modern novel with emphasis on thematic and symbolic levels. Students will review sentence structure and combining and apply these skills to papers of literary analysis. Students also create a personal essay and individual pieces after applying the ideas in *An American Childhood* to their own experiences. Testing will emphasize short answer and essay questions and involve applying literary principles to new material. Students will work to expand active vocabulary.

**(122) English II (CP) - Sophocles to Shakespeare**

**Year**

**1 Credit**

(Prerequisite: English 111 or English 112)

Literature covered includes a study of Greek mythology, the epic and Greek tragedy, the Arthurian legend, a Shakespearean comedy, and a modern novel. Students will review phrases, clauses and sentence structure and apply these skills to short papers of literary analysis. Students will work to broaden their active vocabularies through the use of selected exercises.

**(1501) English Language and Composition Advanced Placement Year 1 Credit**  
(Prerequisite: English 121 with a minimum final average of a B+)

This course closely analyzes a wide variety of American authors within a historical framework and concentrates on the relationship between reading and writing. The course stresses inferential skills, careful analysis of literary techniques, and critical writing. Emphasis is given to the writing process with students producing several analytical essays, revising original drafts, and exploring the structures and conventions used by different authors in their works. The course stresses attention to the nuances of words, the characteristics of style, the principles of logical argument, the manipulation of language, the importance of detail, sentence structure, and organizational patterns. Students take the AP exam at the conclusion of the course.

**(131) English III Honors - The American Experience Year 1 Credit**  
(Prerequisite: English 121)

Students cover a chronological study of American literature within an historical framework. Students write a number of expository essays in conjunction with the literature studied. Works include *The Scarlet Letter*, *Billy Budd*, *Walden*, *The Sun Also Rises*, and *The Women of Brewster Place*. Attention is given to the short story as a special genre. In preparation for the SAT, students develop their vocabulary from assigned exercises. They review grammar in conjunction with written analysis and prepare for the essay section of the test.

**(132) English III (CP) - The American Experience – Dream, Journey, and Reality Year 1 Credit**  
(Prerequisite: English 121 or 122)

Students cover a chronological study of American literature within an historical framework. The course places special emphasis on major movements and authors, including women and minority writers. Major works studied include *The Crucible*, *Huckleberry Finn*, *The Great Gatsby*, and *The Joy Luck Club*. In addition to emphasizing writing skills, the course reviews grammar, sentence structure, and usage in student papers and expands student vocabulary in preparation for the SAT.

**(1332) Once Upon a Time: A History and Examination of Fairy Tales as Literature (CP1) Semester .5 Credit**  
*Open to juniors and seniors.*

Students will examine characterization, imagery, setting, motifs, narration, and symbols in the fairy tales of Perreault (France), Hans Christian Anderson (Sweden), and the Brothers Grimm (Germany). Students will read a variety of short tales, write and illustrate at least two tales of their own, and explore the concept of manufactured fairy tales in modern literature including *WICKED* and *Ella Enchanted*. Class discussions will include a feminist perspective, religious imagery, biographical and Freudian analysis, and an examination of archetype in the tales.

**(1342) Introduction to Film Studies Semester .5 Credit**  
*Open to juniors and seniors.*

Using The Story of Movies project, a curriculum designed to expose new generations to classic cinema and to teach students about the cultural, artistic, and historical significance of film, this course will introduce students to the language of film and visual imagery, with emphasis on methods of characterization, the link between history and culture, the function of music, and the principles of composition in film.

**(1322) Shakespeare Semester (CP) Semester .5 Credit**  
*Open to juniors and seniors.*

This elective is designed for students who will closely read, hear and speak the words of Shakespeare in two tragedies and two comedies. The course is designed to explore characters and themes of particular relevance to young women. Students will write analytical essays, respond to performances and prepare their own readings.

**(135) Writer's Workshop (CP1)**

**Semester .5 Credit**

*Open to juniors and seniors.*

This elective is designed as a writing workshop for students who wish to further develop their writing skills and refine their sentence structure. Students have the resources of peer conferencing and group sharing available to them, as well as individualized editing of their writing. This course will allow the students the opportunity to practice a variety of techniques and writing styles. Writing for an audience and communicating ideas effectively are goals for this course.

**(1361) Modern Literature I Honors**

**Semester .5 Credit**

*(Prerequisite: English 121 or 131) Open to juniors and seniors.*

This elective is designed for students who wish to explore contemporary philosophical thought in literature through fiction and drama. Students will complete the course work of English 136 and be required to complete additional independent outside reading.

**(136) Modern Literature I (CP)**

**Semester .5 Credit**

*Open to juniors and seniors.*

This elective is designed for students who wish to explore contemporary thought in literature through fiction and drama. Through writing and in-class discussions, students develop confidence in literary perception and critical analysis. The focus of the literature is on self-identification. Group projects, student presentations, and other student-centered work as well as tests and essays are used to analyze the literature.

**(1371) Modern Literature II Honors**

**Semester .5 Credit**

*Open to juniors and seniors.*

Like Modern Literature I Honors, the focus continues to be placed on contemporary philosophical thought in literature . the novel, in particular; however Modern Literature I is not a prerequisite in order to take Modern Literature II Honors. Students will complete the course work of English 137 and be required to complete additional independent outside reading.

**(137) Modern Literature II (CP)**

**Semester .5 Credit**

*Open to juniors and seniors.*

Like Modern Literature I, the focus continues to be placed on contemporary philosophical thought in literature . the novel, in particular; however Modern Literature I is not a prerequisite in order to take Modern Literature II. Group projects, student presentations, and other student-centered work as well as tests and essays are used to analyze the literature.

**(1601) English Literature and Composition Advanced Placement**

**Year 1 Credit**

*(Prerequisite: English 1501 with a minimum final average of B- or English 131 with a minimum final average of B+) Open to seniors.*

Designed for seniors, who are motivated, articulate and highly disciplined, this college level course closely analyzes a wide range of American and British authors with attention to a work's structure, style, and theme. Through close critical reading, students examine ways in which figurative language, imagery, symbolism, connotation, and tone contribute to the meaning of a work. Significant time is devoted to the process of composition; in addition to numerous expository essays, each student submits a research paper. Practice is given in taking both multiple choice and essay sections of the AP Exam, which is required of all students.

**(141) English IV Honors - The British Tradition, Epic to Romance      Year      1 Credit**

*(Prerequisite: English 131)*

A chronological study of British literature within a historical framework beginning with the Anglo-Saxon Period and ending with contemporary literature. The works are varied and include epic poetry, lyric poetry, drama, short stories, and major novels. Students analyze the philosophical, stylistic, and psychological aspects of the works. Honor students also read independently a variety of critical essays about the works throughout the course. Writing includes learning writing techniques to develop personal style. Writing projects include critical writing, creative writing, and a major research paper.

**(142) English IV (CP) - Man, Monster and Meaning  
in the British Tradition      Year      1 Credit**

*(Prerequisite: English 131 or 132)*

A chronological study of British literature within a historical framework beginning with the Anglo-Saxon Period and ending with contemporary literature. The works are varied and include poetry, drama, short stories, and major novels. Particular attention is paid to improving comprehension and appreciation of style. Writing includes practicing a variety of sentence structures and writing techniques to develop style. Writing projects include critical writing, creative writing, and a major research paper.