

ENGLISH**Level Expectations**

	CP2	CP1	HR	A.P.
Organization				
Independence	Students can work independently for 15-20 minutes at a time. A teacher or classroom aide is available to answer questions and direct learning.	Students can work independently for 30-45 minutes at a time. Students speak in Socratic seminars monitored by teachers.	Students work independently for as long as needed. Students are assigned reading assignments and are expected to discuss themes, motifs, and symbols during regular class discussions.	Students are independent. They are assigned reading assignments and can balance their time to read by the due date. Students facilitate class discussions.
Writing Skills	With guidance and models, students can write a 5 paragraph essay. With help, students can write a thesis sentence and select appropriate quotes.	Students understand the basic elements of the 5 paragraph essay with the guidance of the teacher; students can write a thesis statement and incorporate quotes in an essay.	Students can write a solid thesis statement and are assigned various essays over the course of the year.	Students write 40 minute essays regularly to prepare for the AP exam. They are expected to analyze the techniques authors utilize to reveal theme.
Reading Skills	Students can follow the plot of a text when it is reviewed in class. Difficult or challenging texts will be read primarily in class	Most reading is done outside of class; during class a review of the plot is done before analysis begins.	Extensive and challenging reading is done outside of class. Class discussions are based on analysis; very little plot review takes place at this level.	Extensive and challenging reading is done outside of class. Class discussions are based on analysis; very little plot review takes place at this level
Analytical/Critical Thinking Skills	With guidance, students can follow the discussion and participate in discussion about plot and themes of a story.	With guidance, students can organize their notes to facilitate class discussions.	Students take notes during class and outside of class to participate regularly in discussions. Discussions topics may be student generated and deal with the deeper themes of a text.	Students read challenging literature, discuss the themes of the text, and write analytically daily.
Homework	See Course Descriptions			
Time Commitment - Outside of Class	Homework is usually a review of skills or new learning, i.e. vocabulary exercises, grammar exercises, or study questions from reading. Average time 15 - 20 minutes	Homework may be a review of skills or new learning, i.e. vocabulary exercises, or HW may be independent reading or writing. Average time 30 minutes	Homework is usually reading, writing, or both. Writing may be a response to the reading or it may be analytical essay writing. Average time 45 - 60 minutes	Students are responsible for their own organization and time management skills. Students have regular reading and writing assignments. Average time 3 - 4 hours a week.
Participation	Students are expected to follow along with the class. Students may volunteer to participate, or they may be called on by the teacher to check for understanding. Class participation may be graded.	Students at this level are expected to participate in class discussion. Teachers will call on volunteers and will use random order selection to elicit information and to check for understanding. Participation may be graded	Students participate in all aspects of the class. Class discussions and Socratic seminars are a regular part of the class and participation may be graded.	Students are expected to participate in discussions; students work in small groups to critique their and their classmates' writing.

REQUIRED CORE COURSES AND LEVELS

Freshmen Year

- Honors
- College Prep Level 1
- College Prep Level 2

Sophomore Year

- Honors
- College Prep Level 1
- College Prep Level 2

Junior Year

- AP Language and Composition
- Honors
- College Prep Level 1
- College Prep Level 2

Senior Year

- AP Literature and Composition (full year course)
- AP Language and Composition (full year course)
- Honors: College Writing /Literature (semester courses, must take both)
- College Prep Level 1: College Writing/Literature (semester courses, must take both)
- College Prep Level 2: College Writing and Literature (A full year course)

ENGLISH ELECTIVE COURSES

- Journalism I – So., Jr., Sr.
- Journalism II – Jr., Sr.
- Journalism III – Sr.
- Digital Film Making I -So., Jr., Sr
- Digital Film Making II - So., Jr., Sr.
- Advanced Film Making - Jr., Sr.
- Creative Writing: A Focus on Poetry and the ScreenPlay – Jr., Sr
- Foundations of Creative Writing: Short Fiction and NonFiction – Fr., So., Jr., Sr.
- Public Speaking - Fr., So., Jr., Sr.
- Film Studies: A Critical Look at Films -Jr., Sr.
- Essentials of Journalism - Fr., So., Jr.
- Essentials of Digital Film Making - Fr., So., Jr.

Note: Students must pass each year’s required English class before proceeding to the next year’s class. The sequence of English classes develops students’ language arts skills cumulatively. Each year builds on the previous year’s foundation in reading, writing, and vocabulary.

The English curriculum consists of three required core courses, two semesters of Senior English core courses, plus a number of elective courses that do not satisfy the graduation

requirement of four core courses. English courses are designed to develop the communication skills essential to students throughout their personal, academic, and professional lives. The English curriculum stresses reading comprehension, essay writing, vocabulary development, speaking skills, and cultural literacy. Students must pass each year's core course before proceeding to the next. Freshmen, sophomores, and juniors may take only one core English course per year. Seniors may enroll in Junior English CP-2 if necessary for graduation.

FRESHMAN ENGLISH HONORS

Year Course 5 credits
Prerequisite: 8th grade English, min grade of 93, Open to: Fr.
Or Department Chairperson Approval

Freshman English Honors is designed for students who have demonstrated outstanding ability and achievement in all aspects of language arts and read above grade level. The course moves at an accelerated pace, and students are expected to work independently, either at home or in school, for a period of 60 minutes. Emphasis is placed on analytical reading and writing, vocabulary and grammar development, and class-driven discussions. Students read challenging literature in a variety of genres, including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama. Students can expect frequent multi-paragraph essays, weekly grammar or vocabulary assessments, and multiple long-term projects that focus on a variety of writing styles. Average nightly homework commitment: 60 minutes.

FRESHMAN ENGLISH CP-1

Year Course 5 credits
Prerequisite: 8th grade English, min grade of 78, Open to: Fr.
Or Department Chairperson Approval

Freshman English CP-1 is designed for students who have demonstrated strong ability and achievement in language arts and who read at or above grade level. The course moves at a moderate pace, and students are expected to read and work independently, either at home or at school, for a period of 30 minutes. Emphasis is placed on developing analytical reading and writing strategies, vocabulary and grammar development, and class-driven discussions. Students receive guided in-class instruction for examining literature beyond plot and writing analytically. Students read challenging literature in a variety of genres, including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama. Students can expect multi-paragraph essays every term, weekly grammar or vocabulary assessment, and long-term projects that focus on a variety of writing styles. Average nightly homework commitment: 45 minutes

FRESHMAN ENGLISH CP-2

Year Course 5 credits
Prerequisite: Or Department Chairperson Approval Open to: Fr.

Freshmen English CP-2 is designed for students who read at or below grade level and are progressing in their language arts skills. Emphasis is placed on developing study skills and organization strategies, developing vocabulary and grammar skills, and writing multi-

paragraph essays in a variety of writing styles. Students receive more focused in-class individualized instruction for reading and writing methods. Student read literature in a variety of genres, including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama. Requirements and materials provide the flexibility to meet the needs of each student. Average nightly homework commitment: 30 minutes

SOPHOMORE ENGLISH HONORS

Year Course 5 credits
Prerequisite: Fresh. English Honors, min. grade of 80, or Open to: So.
Fresh. English CP-1, min grade of 91,
Or Department Chairperson Approval

Designed for students who have demonstrated outstanding ability and achievement in English, this course focuses on in-depth, high level reading of novels, poetry, and plays. Students practice writing cogent, open-ended essays on various topics from literature. Students are expected to complete a significant amount of independent work including projects and outside readings. The curriculum focuses on American literature. Average nightly homework commitment: 60 minutes

SOPHOMORE ENGLISH CP-1

Year Course 5 credits
Prerequisite: Fresh. English CP-1, min grade of 75, or Open to: So.
Fresh. English CP-2, min grade of 85,
Or Department Chairperson Approval

This course is designed for students who have demonstrated in grade nine that they have a mastery of reading, writing, and study skills. Students read and analyze literature, practice paragraph and essay writing, review grammar, and build vocabulary. The class readings focus on American literature. Average nightly homework commitment: 45 minutes

SOPHOMORE ENGLISH CP-2

Year Course 5 credits
Prerequisite: Fresh. English Open to: So.
Or Department Chairperson Approval

Similar to Sophomore English CP-1 in its emphasis on reading, writing, and vocabulary, this course also stresses study skills and test taking. Students read and analyze literature, practice essay writing, review grammar, and build vocabulary. The class readings focus on American literature. Average nightly homework commitment: 30 minutes

JUNIOR ADVANCED PLACEMENT LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

Year Course 5 credits
Prerequisite: Sophomore Honors English, min grade of 90 Open to: Jr.
And Successful Completion of Application to Course

AP English Language and Composition is a course for students recommended to study English at an advanced level. Students study advanced composition and analysis of language at a level equivalent to an introductory college course, with a focus on non-fiction, diction, style, and syntax. In the process of refining their awareness of language and the writer’s craft, students will examine the art of rhetoric through carefully focused conversation, extensive analysis, and frequent synthesis writing assignments. The rigor of the course is designed to prepare students for the required Advanced Placement examination in English Language and Composition. This course will be available to a select number of juniors who meet the prerequisite standards. Average nightly homework commitment: 60+ minutes

JUNIOR ENGLISH HONORS

Year Course 5 credits
Prerequisite: Soph. English Honors, min grade of 80, or Open to: Jr.
Soph. English CP-1, min grade of 91,
Or Department Chairperson Approval

This honors course is for juniors who have demonstrated outstanding ability and achievement in English. Students study selected pieces of British literature, write analytical essays, build vocabulary, and practice skills tested on the new SAT. Average nightly homework commitment: 60 minutes

JUNIOR ENGLISH CP-1

Year Course 5 credits
Prerequisite: Soph. English CP-1, min grade of 75, or Open to: Jr.
Soph. English CP-2, min grade of 85,
Or Department Chairperson Approval

This course is designed for students who have demonstrated in grade ten that they have a mastery of language skills. Students read a sampling of British literature, write analytical essays, build vocabulary, and practice skills tested on the new SAT. Average nightly homework commitment: 45 minutes

JUNIOR ENGLISH CP-2

Year Course

5 credits

Prerequisite: Soph. English CP-2 or

Open to: Jr.

Or Department Chairperson Approval

Similar to Junior English CP-1, this course emphasizes reading, essay writing, vocabulary development, and study skills. Students study British literature and practice skills tested on the new SAT. Average nightly homework commitment: 30 minutes

SENIOR ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

Year Course

5 credits

Prerequisite: Junior English Honors, minimum grade of 90,

Open to: Sr.

Or Department Chairperson Approval

Designed for students who have demonstrated exceptional English skills, this challenging course covers the equivalent of an introductory college level course. Requirements include extensive reading of fiction and writing of analytical essays. The course prepares students for the required AP exam in May. Average nightly homework commitment: 60+ minutes

SENIOR ADVANCED PLACEMENT LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

Year Course

5 credits

Prerequisite: Junior English Honors, min grade of 90

Open to: Sr.

Or Department Head Approval

AP English Language and Composition is a course for students recommended to study English at an advanced level. Students study advanced composition and analysis of language at a level equivalent to an introductory college course, with a focus on non-fiction, diction, style, and syntax. In the process of refining their awareness of language and the writer's craft, students will examine the art of rhetoric through carefully focused conversation, extensive analysis, and frequent synthesis writing assignments. The rigor of the course is designed to prepare students for the required Advanced Placement examination in English Language and Composition. Average nightly homework commitment: 60+ minutes

SENIOR ENGLISH ONE-SEMESTER CORE COURSES (EXCEPT CP-2)

In order to fulfill graduation requirements, seniors must successfully complete two one-semester core courses, one in the fall semester and one in the spring semester. Students in all senior English classes practice active reading, analytical writing, personal writing, and vocabulary building. Students participate in class discussions and classroom presentations.

HONORS: COLLEGE WRITING / LITERATURE

1 Semester each

2.5 credits each

Prerequisite: Jr. English Honors, min. grade of 80, or
Jr. English CP-1, min. grade of 91,
Or Department Chairperson Approval

(COLLEGE WRITING)

Similar to a college course, this class will allow students to explore and analyze an aspect of literature through multiple works of their own choosing. They will develop a theory about these works and write a lengthy paper (10+ pages). The class will discuss the writing process as well as strategies to develop an analytical theory. Students will frequently meet with the teacher during class time to discuss ideas. It is recommended for students who enjoy reading and writing independently.

(LITERATURE)

Students will read a variety of fiction and nonfiction as they develop 21st century literacy skills. In a thematic approach to literature, students will make connections between and among several works.

CP-1: COLLEGE WRITING / LITERATURE

1 Semester each

2.5 credits each

Prerequisite: Jr. English CP-1, min. grade of 75, or
Jr. English CP-2, min. grade of 85,
Or Department Chairperson Approval

(COLLEGE WRITING)

Similar to a college course, this class will allow students to explore and analyze an aspect of literature through multiple works of their own choosing. They will develop a theory about these works and write a lengthy paper (8+ pages). The class will discuss the writing process as well as strategies to develop an analytical theory. Students will frequently meet with the teacher during class time to discuss ideas. It is recommended for students who enjoy reading and writing.

(LITERATURE)

Students will read a variety of fiction and nonfiction as they develop 21st century literacy skills. In a thematic approach to literature, students will make connections between and among several works.

CP-2: COLLEGE WRITING AND LITERATURE

Year Course

5 credits

Prerequisite: Jr. English
Or Department Chairperson Approval

In this yearlong course, seniors will practice reading and writing skills necessary for success at the college level and in the workplace. Students will write argumentative, persuasive,

narrative, and expository essays. They will produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. They will read a variety of fiction and nonfiction as they develop 21st century literacy skills. In a thematic approach to literature, students will make connections between and among several works. The themes of focus will be drawn from the following: Literature of War, Literary Heroes, Memoirs and Autobiographies, and Coming of Age.

ENGLISH ELECTIVE COURSES

Note: English elective courses do not count toward fulfilling the four-year core English graduation requirement and are not included in the calculation of Class Rank or Grade Point Average.

JOURNALISM I

Year Course 5 credits
Prerequisite: Min. grade of 80 in Honors English, or Open to: So., Jr., Sr.
90 in CP-1 English,
Or Department Chairperson Approval

This course is open to students in Honors and CP-1 English levels who would like to explore the field of journalism. Emphasis will be on journalistic writing techniques as well as desktop publishing skills essential to the production of the school newspaper, The Rebellion. This course is recommended for students who possess strong writing skills.

JOURNALISM II

Year Course 5 credits
Prerequisite: Journalism I, min. grade of 80, Open to: Jr., Sr.
Or Department Chairperson Approval

This course is open to students in English Honors and CP-1 levels who would like to continue to enhance their knowledge and skills in the field of journalism. Students in Journalism II assume greater roles of leadership in the publishing of the school newspaper, The Rebellion. They are expected to do much independent work.

JOURNALISM III

Year Course 5 credits
Prerequisite: Journalism II, min. grade of 90, Open to: Sr.
Or Department Chairperson Approval

Working in conjunction with Journalism II, students in Journalism III assume roles of leadership in the publishing of the school newspaper, The Rebellion. They are expected to do significant independent work.

DIGITAL FILM MAKING I

Semester

2.5 credits

Prerequisite: Department Chairperson Approval

Open to: So., Jr., Sr.

This film class is devoted to teaching students how to make independent short films. Students study the different aspects of preproduction, production, and postproduction. These skills include script revision, storyboards, art direction, camera work, and editing. Students will complete both independent and group projects that utilize all skills learned throughout the course.

DIGITAL FILM MAKING II

Semester

2.5 credits

Prerequisite: Min grade of 80 in Digital Film Making I

Open to: So., Jr., Sr.

Or Department Chairperson Approval

Students learn the various aspects of hands-on filmmaking, from the technical (sound and editing) to the creative (screenwriting, directing). Working in close conjunction with the Creative Writing class, students produce and direct their own films with the opportunity of possibly earning a spot in the Walpole High School Film Festival.

ADVANCED FILM MAKING III

Year Course

5 credits

Prerequisite: Min grade of 80 in Digital Film Making I & II

Open to: Jr., Sr.

Or Department Chairperson Approval

Students in Digital Film Making III help teach Digital Film Making I students how to work in a film crew, set up shots, and direct scenes. All Digital Film Making III students are expected to work on the Film Festival website and blogs to keep the community up to date with ongoing projects. Each Digital Film Making III student will be required to direct a movie for the Film Festival. Digital Film Making III is only open for students who have excelled in Digital Film Making I&II or have successfully completed two Independent Film Festival movies. Please note that Digital Film Making III runs concurrently with Digital Film Making I&II.

CREATIVE WRITING: A FOCUS ON POETRY AND THE SCREENPLAY

Semester

2.5 credits

Prerequisite: Department Chairperson Approval

Open to: Jr., Sr.

The Creative Writing course functions much like a college writing workshop. The students engage in a semester long poetry unit that encourages their writing through peer editing and teacher evaluation. Other units include the screenplay and the short story. Due to the amount of work and individual freedom given in this class, students considering this class should not only be motivated writers, but also be well-organized and disciplined students. All student poetry compiled in the class will be considered for publication in the high school's literary magazine, The Cricket. The Walpole High School Film Festival will consider all student screenplays for production.

FOUNDATIONS OF CREATIVE WRITING: SHORT FICTION AND NONFICTION

Semester Course

2.5 credits

Prerequisites: None

Open to: Fr., So., Jr., Sr.

In this course, students will be introduced to three forms of marketable creative writing: memoir/personal essay, short story, and flash fiction. In addition to learning how to outline a story's characters, conflict, and plot twists, students will also be exposed to a variety of texts in order to develop a sense for modern style and storytelling techniques. Students will participate in small groups that function as writing workshops; using these groups they will rewrite at least one piece using their peers' suggestions. By the end of the class, students will also draft a cover letter for one piece of writing with the intention of sending it to a teen literary journal such as *New Moon* or *Teen Ink*. If interested, students can send out their work with this letter to seek publication, but it will not be a requirement. This class will serve as a solid foundation for anyone who is interested in writing creatively in high school and beyond.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Semester Course

2.5 credits

Prerequisite: None

Open to: Fr., So., Jr., Sr.

This course will help students improve personal communication, awareness, and effectiveness. Students will research, organize, and develop a variety of public speeches (informative speech, persuasive speech, small group presentation, toast, etc.). Students will enhance their ability to deliver speeches to an audience and learn how to analyze an audience and the communication of other public speakers. Students will present one speech every cycle, reflect their performance in self-evaluations, participate in group activities and peer evaluations, and respond to and analyze readings about communication and films of famous speakers.

FILM STUDIES: A CRITICAL LOOK AT FILMS

Semester Course

2.5 credits

Prerequisite: None

Open to: Jr., Sr.

Film Studies teaches students how to analyze films beyond plot and dialogue. Students will learn technical and visual terms used in film, while also learning universal symbols, structures, and archetypes. Students will be responsible for writing short critiques and reviews, as well as, participating in an online discussion board. Parent permission slips required for viewing R rated films in class.

READING AND WRITING FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Year Course

5 credits

Prerequisite: Department Chairperson Approval

Open to: Fr., So., Jr., Sr.

This course is for students whose native language is not English. Instruction is tailored for students with different levels of proficiency in reading and writing. The goal is to develop

their overall English language proficiency and help them learn strategies for reading and writing which would also be applicable for reading and writing in content areas.

ESSENTIALS of JOURNALISAM

Semester Course

2.5 Credits

Prerequisite: Dept. Head Approval

Open to Fr. So, Jr.

The course is open to students who are interested in the field of journalism and developing necessary skills. Students will practice the skills to conduct interviews, write editorials and review books, movies, and video games. Among other resources, the student will use the school newspaper *The Rebellion* as model to explore journalism concepts. Students will be introduced to basic desktop publishing skills. This course is recommended for students with emerging writing skills. This course is co-sponsored by the Special Education Department and the English Department at Walpole High School.

ESSENTIALS of DIGITAL FILM MAKING

Semester Course

2.5 Credits

Prerequisite: Dept. Head Approval

Open to Fr. So, Jr.

This is an introductory course for students who are interested in developing the skills necessary to create independent short films. Students will become familiar with the prerequisite skills of preproduction, production and postproduction of film making. In this small group elective, students will receive direct instruction on writing scripts, creating storyboards and basic camera work. This course is sponsored by the Special Education and English Department at Walpole High School.