

# URSULINE ACADEMY 2018-2019 Curriculum Guide

## ENGLISH

### EN 310 ENGLISH I

Grade: 9

Credit: 1 Credit

Length: 2 Semesters

Prerequisite: High School Placement Test

Description: This course strengthens the student's grasp of grammar and involves the analysis of various genres such as the short story, the novel, the essay, the drama, and the biography. To develop writing skills, the student studies the paragraph as a unit of thought and practices writing various types of coherent, unified paragraphs in connection with the literature studied. This practice in writing will lead to essay writing in various discourses: description, exposition, and literary analysis. Students also become familiar with the library and basic library skills. Outside readings may be assigned according to the genre. Vocabulary is stressed and studied in conjunction with the reading of a text.

### EN 319 HONORS ENGLISH I

Grade: 9

Credit: 1 Credit

Length: 2 Semesters

Prerequisite: High School Placement Test

Description: English 319 involves intensive interpretation and critical study of the various genres of literature: short story, drama, poetry, the novel, and the technical, literary terms which accompany these literary types. In this close study of literature, the students develop the vital skills of critical interpretation and inferential reasoning. Students also learn to express themselves lucidly in class participation and in their weekly writing. They encounter the different writing modes: exposition, description, narration, persuasion, and analysis. Students write vivid paragraphs and then advance to the five-paragraph essay.

Homework: Approximately one hour of homework is required each evening.

### EN 320 ENGLISH II

Grade: 10

Credit: 1 Credit

Length: 2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Successful completion of EN 310

Description: Building upon the foundation of composition study begun in freshman year, this course requires students to work extensively on the process of writing in the various discourses: description, narration, exposition, and persuasion. Emphasis is placed on generating ideas, developing effective thesis statements, revision strategies, and critical analysis. Continued vocabulary and grammar review is encouraged. This course will also focus on a study of representative world literature in all genres including biography, fiction, drama, and poetry. Students read and discuss selections from ancient Greece and Rome, the European continent, Asia and Africa. Emphasis is placed on effective critical reading and writing on topics about the literature both teacher-generated and student-selected.

### EN 329 HONORS ENGLISH II

Grade: 10

Credit: 1 Credit

Length: 2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

Description: Honors English moves at a quick pace and with a larger body of required readings than EN 320. Emphasis is placed on the writing process and developing a clear voice in prose. Students complete an essay every two weeks on both teacher and student-selected topics. Vocabulary is discussed in context. Students must also be prepared to read extensively and to actively participate in class discussions.

Homework: Approximately one hour of homework is required each evening.

### EN 330 AMERICAN LITERATURE

Grade: 11

Credit: 1 Credit

Length: 2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Successful completion of EN 320 or EN 329

Description: This class in American Literature teaches students an appreciation of the literature that nearly five centuries of America's growth have produced. This course combines a discussion of the history of our country with an enriching study of the literature accompanying the period. In conjunction with the study of American Literature students will prepare a library research paper on a student-selected topic. Further emphasis will be placed on writing as a tool students can control and develop. Writing fluency, conciseness and correctness (grammar and punctuation) will also be stressed.

**EN 339 HONORS AMERICAN LITERATURE**

Grade: 11

Credit: 1 Credit

Length: 2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

Description: This honors course takes an interdisciplinary approach to examining American culture through different lenses including literary, historical, political, visual, sociological, and philosophical among others. Critical thinking will be required at all stages of the course and will include outside readings at a rapid pace, a scholarly research paper, essays, enrichment exercises, projects, quizzes, and an emphasis on relevant literary terms and vocabulary and how those can be applied to our readings and discussion. This course is available for college credit through the University of Missouri – St. Louis Dual Credit Program and is taught at a college level with elevated expectations for student performance.

Homework: Approximately one to two hours per night

Special cost or materials: If taken for college credit through University of Missouri – St. Louis, there is an additional fee.

**EN 351 THE HERO IN LITERATURE**

Grade: 12

Credit: ½ Credit

Length: 1 Semester (first semester)

Prerequisite: Successful completion of EN 330 or EN 339

Description: This course, taken as an elective during the first semester of a student's senior year, explores the beliefs, cultures, and history of societies from around the world, with a focus on gods and heroes in World Literature from ancient times to the contemporary idea of the hero. Students analyze the values and beliefs these stories communicate. Continued emphasis is placed on composition skills, particularly the critical analysis essay.

**EN 352 COMIC & TRAGIC TRADITION IN LITERATURE**

Grade: 12

Credit: ½ Credit

Length: 1 Semester (first semester)

Prerequisite: Successful completion of EN 330 or EN 339

Description: This course, taken as an elective during the first semester of a student's senior year, explores the early period in theater through the study of comedy and drama by such writers as Johnson, Marlowe, Shakespeare, and Moliere (among others). The class encourages students to not only enjoy the works but will involve analysis of the times in which the works were created and a discussion of theatrical techniques employed in the works.

**EN 353 SATIRE & SENSIBILITY IN LITERATURE**

Grade: 12

Credit: ½ Credit

Length: 1 Semester (first semester)

Prerequisite: Successful completion of EN 330 or EN 339

Description: This course, taken as an elective during the first semester of a student's senior year, discusses the concept of satire and reflects on its development in world literature from its beginning to the contemporary period. Students explore the connection between the satire and the elements of culture--political, social, economic, religious--that it critiques. Students will challenge themselves to write satire in the model of texts discussed in class and respond critically to the satires discussed.

**EN 354 WRITING AND LITERATURE**

Grade: 12

Credit: ½ Credit

Length: 1 Semester (second semester only)

Prerequisite: Successful completion of EN 330 or EN 339

Description: This course, taken as an elective during the second semester of a student's senior year, aides students in creative expression as well as the honing of one's writing skills--both creative and critical. Students read and evaluate poetry and fiction of various styles and compose in a variety of styles by developing content, employing specific forms, and selecting language appropriate for a particular audience and purpose.

**EN 355 WOMEN'S VOICES IN LITERATURE**

Grade: 12

Credit: ½ Credit

Length: 1 Semester (second semester only)

Prerequisite: Successful completion of EN 330 or EN 339

Description: This course, taken as an elective during the second semester of the student's senior year, highlights the contributions made by women writers in both fiction and nonfiction throughout history. While emphasis will be given primarily to writers of English, authors representing various traditions and ethnic backgrounds will be read. Students will read, write, and examine theories of women's literature, making relevant connections to their own lives.

### **EN 356 MODERN LITERATURE**

Grade: 12

Credit: ½ Credit

Length: 1 Semester (second semester only)

Prerequisite: Successful completion of EN 330 or EN 339

Description: This course, taken as an elective during the second semester of the student's senior year, explores literature through the study of drama, poetry and fiction from the modern and contemporary periods. The class will not only encourage students to enjoy the works, but will involve an analysis of the times in which the works were created, a discussion of literary techniques, and the development of critical connections between modern literature and contemporary life.

### **EN 349 AP HONORS ENGLISH IV (Advanced Placement English, 1-8-1-8 College Level Course, St. Louis University)**

Grade: 12

Credit: 1 Credit

Length: 2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

Description: This is a specialized English course. It fulfills the suggested requirements of an Advanced Placement Course. It focuses on close and analytical reading of outstanding literature; it includes explication of various prose and poetry selections and contains comprehension exercises and thematic analysis of various literary genre. Assignments include in-class, impromptu writings on the designated reading material. The assigned writing tasks fall into two categories: weekly, in-depth, but moderate length student-selected critical analysis essays on the assigned readings; and extended research papers on student-selected topics for which the student is expected to frame a thesis, marshal evidence for it, and present it as effectively as possible. In keeping with the 1-8-1-8 requirements, students spend time exploring and developing a definite writing style. It is expected this style develops as the student's ability to analyze writing matures. The class is heavily dependent upon student participation: as a result, the student's active involvement in class discussion is essential to successful completion of this course.

Homework: Approximately one hour of homework is required each evening.

Special cost or materials: Fee for Advanced Placement Exam if student chooses to take it. If taken for college credit through St. Louis University, there is an additional fee.

### **JN 346 NEWSPAPER (Zero Hour)**

Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

Credit: 1 Elective Credit; this course is an elective and does not fulfill the requirement for English.

Length: 2 Semesters, Students must commit to working on the publication of *THE BEAR FACTS* for the duration of the entire year.

Prerequisite: Students must have a "B" average in English Classes. **Teacher approval required.**

**Additional time may be needed outside of class time to meet deadlines and cover events.**

Description: Newspaper is a less traditional class that personalizes assignments to student interests and skills. Learn by doing, not practicing. Staff of the student-run newspaper will receive instruction in journalistic concepts and skills while working on the publication of the school newspaper, *THE BEAR FACTS*. This is **not** just a writing class. Students will gain experience in the following areas: reporting, interviewing, writing (news, editorials, features, sports, headlines, etc.), computer graphics, photography, desktop publishing (Microsoft Publisher), layout and design.