



# ENGLISH

**REQUIREMENTS:** English 1, 2, 3 and 4 and Speech

**ERIE BUSINESS CENTER ARTICULATION AGREEMENT:** Students can earn 3 credits when they receive a grade of B or better in English 4 A, English 4H or English 4 AP.

**EDINBORO UNIVERSITY ARTICULATION AGREEMENT:** Upon matriculation at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, students can earn 3 credits (English 115) when they earn an "A" or "B" in the following classes: English 1 H, English 2 H or English 2 AP, English 3 H or American Literature and English 4 H or English 4 AP.

**GANNON UNIVERSITY ARTICULATION AGREEMENT:** Upon matriculation at Gannon University, students can earn 3 credits (LENG 111) when they earn a B or better in the following classes: English 1 H, English 2 H or English 2 AP, English 3 H or English Literature and English 4 H or English 4 AP.

## CREATIVE WRITING & LITERARY MAGAZINE

# 5152

Grade level: 9, 10, 11, 12

Credit: 0.50

In workshop and seminar sessions, you will be encouraged to stretch your creative talents by daily writing and evaluating poetry, memoirs, profiles, short stories, etc...You will read and write various genres from poetry to a one-act play. All students are expected to share their writing with the class, which includes peer editing, evaluation and conferencing. Students are expected to submit to Literary Magazine. This course may be taken for Academic or Honors credit. Students taking this course for Honors credit will sign a contract during the first week of class.

**ENGLISH 1 H**  
**ENGLISH 1 A**

# 1114  
# 1124  
Grade level: 9  
Credit: 1.0

Two novels are required for summer reading. Opportunity for research, speech, vocabulary and grammar development, and theater evaluations is provided. A wide variety of writing assignments including critical analysis of literature read, I-search, varied types of expository composition, and journal writing is presented. The goal in the writing program during freshman year is to enable students to meet school requirements with writing, critical reading, note taking and information management for all classes at Villa Maria Academy. McDougal Littell LITERATURE and a wide variety of assigned and optional novels form the literature core. Language skills are strengthened through use of WRITERS INC and VOCABULARY WORKSHOP, Level D.

**ENGLISH 2 H**  
**ENGLISH 2 A**

# 2114  
# 2124  
Grade level: 10  
Credit: 1.0

Two novels are required for summer reading. All students prepare a variety of expository and creative compositions including a required interdisciplinary research paper. Other writing includes SAT timed essays, literary analysis papers, commentary writing, and various forms of narrative and descriptive composition. Vocabulary development and oral presentations are fundamental units. McDougal Littell LITERATURE and a wide variety of novels are used, in addition to VOCABULARY WORKSHOP, Level E.

Prerequisites for H: "B-" in English 1 H or "A-" in English 1 A or Department approval. Excellent critical and rhetorical awareness is expected for this level course.

**ENGLISH 2 AP**

# 2174  
Grade level: 10  
Credit: 1.0

This course will provide a sound background in rhetorical terminology, reading compositions on a variety of subjects and writing weekly (and sometimes daily) in the narrative, exploratory, expository, and argumentative formats. The books used are THE MC GRAW HILL READER\_by Gilbert Muller and AP LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION WORKBOOK. Students will analyze essays for purpose, expectations of the audience, tone of the piece, and the voice of the author, in addition to a myriad of other rhetorical strategies. Oral presentations are a requirement, also. Throughout the course, students will study the vocabulary needed for the SAT, and how to write for both the SAT and Advanced Placement tests. The English Language and Composition AP exam may be taken in May 2010. The fee for this exam is approximately \$90.

Prerequisite: "A-" in English 1 H and completed application

**ENGLISH 3 H**  
**ENGLISH 3 A**

# 3114  
# 3124  
Grade level: 11  
Credit: 1.0

Two novels are required for summer reading. All students follow a chronological study of American Literature using Prentice-Hall THE LANGUAGE OF LITERATURE: AMERICAN LITERATURE, supplemented by assigned and optional novels and other literary works. A wide variety of expository and creative writing is required, including a mandatory research paper (6-8 page for Honors and 5-7 page for Academic) based on a topic from American Literature. Vocabulary study is from reading and WORD CLUES (Honors) and JOY OF VOCABULARY (Academic).

Prerequisites for H: "B-" English 2 H or "A-" in English 2 A or Department approval.

**ENGLISH 3  
AMERICAN LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION**

# 3134  
Grade level: 11  
Credit: 1.0

This course is designed to explore American culture from the earliest colonizing efforts through 1990 and examines the literature and philosophy, which have contributed to American popular culture. Specifically, the aim is to help students understand the development of American culture and to view literature as the expression of concepts and values that have formed the national character. With an emphasis on communication skills, written and oral, the course, in a general sense, helps students hone their skills and begin to prepare for the English Literature AP exam to be taken at the end of the senior year. Students in this course will receive AP quality points and will be required to move onto ENGLISH 4 AP. Students who do not take English 4 AP, will receive Honors quality points. This class requires high interest and ability due to the level of reading, writing and discussion required. Students will be using *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*, Volumes 1 and II and novels and dramas such as: *The Scarlet Letter*, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *The Great Gatsby*, *The Awakening*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Walden*, *Death of a Salesman* and many more. Excellent critical and rhetorical awareness is expected for this level course.

Prerequisite: "B-" in English 2 AP or "A-" in English 2 H and teacher recommendation.

**ENGLISH 4 H  
ENGLISH 4 A**

# 4114  
# 4124  
Grade level: 12  
Credit: 1.0

Two novels are required for summer reading. All students follow a chronological study of British and World Literature using McDougal Littell THE LANGUAGE OF LITERATURE, BRITISH LITERATURE supplemented by assigned and optional novels and other literary works. A wide variety of expository and creative writing is required, including a mandatory 6-8 page research paper based on a topic from world literature. Vocabulary study and oral presentations are also fundamental components of this program.

Prerequisites for H: "B-" in English 3 H or "A-" in English 3 A or Department approval. Excellent critical and rhetorical awareness is expected for this level course.

**ENGLISH 4 AP**

# 4174  
Grade level: 12  
Credit: 1.0

Students are required to read and respond to three works from a prepared list for summer reading. This course provides the student with the critical ability to analyze literary works, to explicate them, and finally to evaluate their literary merit. Using a chronological approach, the course demands extensive reading of British and World Literature. Students will be expected to prepare numerous critical and creative projects, including required AP level timed essays on a weekly basis, demonstrating an ability to express ideas clearly and coherently. Robert Di Yanni's LITERATURE: APPROACHES TO FICTION, POETRY & DRAMA, NORTON ANTHOLOGY OF BRITISH LITERATURE, Perrine's INTRODUCTION TO POETRY, AP LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION WORKBOOK, and a variety of novels and dramas provide the basis for an in-depth study of literature requiring intellectual curiosity and a willingness to pursue English on a mature level. The English Literature AP exam may be taken in May 2010. The fee for this exam is approximately \$90.

Prerequisite: "A-" in English 3 H or "B-" in American Literature and Composition or Department approval.

## **JOURNALISM H**

# 5124 and # 5182  
Grade level: 9, 10, 11, 12  
Credit: 1.0 (# 5124)  
Credit: 0.5 (# 5182)

Students will learn and apply journalistic skills as they help produce the school newspaper, THE VILLA VOICE. The course includes the study of news, feature and opinion writing, editing, layout design and photography in newspaper production. Students will also gain an understanding of press law, press rights, and journalistic ethics. Journalism students serve as staff members of VILLA VOICE. Preparation and publication may require time commitments after school. Students must commit, by contract, to fulfill class requirements professionally and punctually. Students may take this course more than once.

Prerequisite: Department approval

## **LEADERSHIP 1**

# 5112  
Grade level: 10, 11, 12  
Credit: 0.50

Leadership 1 assists students in developing a personal philosophy of leadership. It provides a basic understanding of leadership concepts, theories and group dynamics and offers realistic opportunities in which to implement the skills acquired through study, discussion and observation. It is active, "hands-on, minds-on" experiential learning in areas such as: Leadership styles, motivation, meeting skills, communication and many more. Projects involve a research paper of 3-5 pages, a communication project and a portfolio. Students taking this course for Honors credit will sign a contract during the first week of class. Depending on the enrollment, 2 classes may be offered, one for underclassmen (Grade 10) and one for upperclassmen (Grades 11 & 12).

## **LEADERSHIP 2 H**

# 6152  
Grade level: 10, 11, 12  
Credit: 0.5

This course builds on existing skills with units on Group Dynamics, Problem Solving, Conflict Resolution, Ethics and Principles, Pluralism, and Evaluation. The final project will be to prepare and execute a seminar for incoming freshmen to acclimate them to VMA (high school life) for successful transition and optimum achievement. Excessive absenteeism is unacceptable.

Prerequisite: "B-" in Leadership 1 or Department approval

## **MINORITY LITERATURE**

# 6172  
Grade level: 10, 11 & 12  
Credit: 0.5

The focus of this class is to study literary works and the social/historical context of American groups who remain marginalized in dominant American cultures. You will study various genres of literature – short story, novel, poetry, personal essay, speech, memoir, autobiography, commentary and some drama. You will read, write and discuss literary works by a number of American minorities – African-American, Mexican-American, Native American, etc... In addition to studying racial minorities, this class will briefly touch on other minorities – homosexuals, the physically challenged, women writers, and religious minorities. Daily reading assignments and writing will be required in addition to preparing for individual and group presentations. Students taking this course for Honors credit will sign a contract during the first week of class.

## **SAT/ACT PREP**

# 5422

Grade level: 10, 11, 12

Credit: 0.5

This pass/fail course helps students prepare for standardized tests such as the SAT and the ACT. The course will be divided into three sections: verbal and writing skills, math skills and science skills. The verbal/writing section familiarizes students with the various aspects of the verbal and writing sections of the SAT and ACT tests. The topics covered are: sentence completion, reading comprehension, paragraph organization, identifying sentence errors, vocabulary and timed-writing responses. The math portion of the course includes practice with gridding student-produced responses, numbers, operations, algebra, functions, geometry, measurements, data analysis, statistics, and probability. The science portion of the course will include topics from biology, chemistry, physics, and the Earth/space sciences (geology, astronomy and meteorology). Students will practice skills such as graph reading, interpretation of scatterplots, interpretation of information presented in tables, interpretation of experimental results, and analysis and comparison of alternative viewpoints or hypotheses. This course helps prepare students by teaching them strategies for standardized test taking. Although this class cannot cover all topics as thoroughly as necessary, this class will provide specialized study skills, teacher and student feedback, and daily practice. This course will be taught in the Fall semester.

Prerequisite: Algebra 2, or Geometry with concurrent enrollment in Algebra 2

Fee: Students will purchase their own SAT and/or ACT workbooks. The cost for all workbooks is approximately \$45

## **SPEECH**

# 4132

Grade level: 11, 12

Credit: 0.50

This course provides students with numerous opportunities in various speaking situations, such as: argumentative, persuasive, introductory, demonstrative, informative, commercial, comedic, impromptu and improv, to mention a few. Students will become more comfortable in formal and informal speaking situations. Students who have completed 2 years of Speech and Forensics with a "C" average or above will be exempt from this course.