

Bridgemont High School Course Descriptions

English

Purpose

The English Department will train students to be able to write competently in a variety of accepted standard forms; to read and understand a variety of literary and instructional texts; and to analyze and appreciate recognized works of literature for their artistic, philosophical, and historical merits. These skills will enable students to communicate effectively in standard English, to pursue higher education and employment, to think critically and act responsibly as a member of society whose beliefs and actions will have eternal consequences.

Course: Vector

Type of Course: Required

Grade Level: 9 or new students

This is a one-semester course designed to teach and let students practice the organizational and study skills necessary to succeed in school. In the first quarter, students learn about thinking, writing, researching, and computing skills. In the second quarter, students will use these skills in a database unit and career research paper. Students will have the opportunity to use these skills in other subjects and bring materials from other classes to get assistance.

Course: English 1-2

Type of Course: Required

Grade Level: 9

This is a literature-based course that employs frequent writing. We explore the elements of literature (e.g. plot, setting, character, theme), reading all genres of literature. Writing and language skills are developed through the writing process and by speaking and listening. Students will frequently write 1 to 2 page papers, as well as a 4-page term paper, in which vocabulary, grammar, and paragraph structure are emphasized. Basic research skills will be emphasized and research papers will be required.

Course: English 3-4

Type of Course: Required

Grade Level: 10

Prerequisites: English 1-2

This is a literature-based course that employs frequent writing. We explore the elements of composition and literature (e.g. symbolism, irony, and conflict). A variety of writing genres are explored; all genres of literature are read, with an increased emphasis on poetry. Writing and language skills are developed through the writing process, complex sentence structure, and speaking and listening. Basic research skills will be emphasized and research papers will be required. Frequent 3-page papers and 5 to 6 page term papers are required.

Course: English 5-6

Type of Course: Required

Grade Level: 11

Prerequisites: English 3-4

This course provides an introduction to the various genres and periods of American Literature. Students read selections from American Experience as well as individual novels. Students will write frequently, and, though the emphasis is on essays and papers concerned with literary analysis, creative writing such as poetry, letters, and dialogue is also included. Methods of writing styles are required for literary analysis, with mandatory usage of literary vocabulary terms. Basic research skills will be required, as well as two 6 to 7 page papers.

Course: English 7-8

Type of Course: Required

Grade Level: 12

Prerequisites: English 5-6

This course explores the works of world literature from the classical period to the present. Students will read various works, write frequently and develop a sense of content. Basic research skills will be emphasized and research papers will be required as well as essays, poetry, dialogues, and narratives. During the second semester, students will read various novels and be expected to give a written analysis of each one.

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Course: Speech and Debate

Grade Level: 9-12

This is a year-long course designed to help students become better communicators. Students will develop skills in organization of ideas, writing, critical thinking, and self-confidence in public speaking. The skills developed in this course will assist the students in other classes, in college, in the careers they choose to enter, in communication skills, in personal growth, and, consequently, in life. This course is strongly recommended for all students, and starting with the graduating class of 2010, will be required for graduation from Bridgemont.