



UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL

English

The curriculum of the English Department is designed to help students read literary texts very closely in order to discover what the text says, what the text means, how the text affects them, and how the text achieves its effect. We study texts by a variety of authors from various countries (concentrating especially, though by no means exclusively, on literature originally written in English) and from various periods. Although we explore backgrounds to the texts we read, our courses do not survey literature chronologically. Through class discussions and activities, study guides, written homework grounded in the text, and analytical essays, we help our students to understand figurative language, imagery, patterns of language, and to draw progressively more sophisticated inferences. Through their work, students engage in a dialogue with the text at hand, letting it speak directly and personally to them, and, in their turn, speaking their insights to it and asking their questions of it.

Our writing program focuses on analytical writing. We help our students learn how to find a valid thesis; how to research a text to find support for the thesis; how to narrow or expand the thesis to fit the assignment; and how to organize according to what

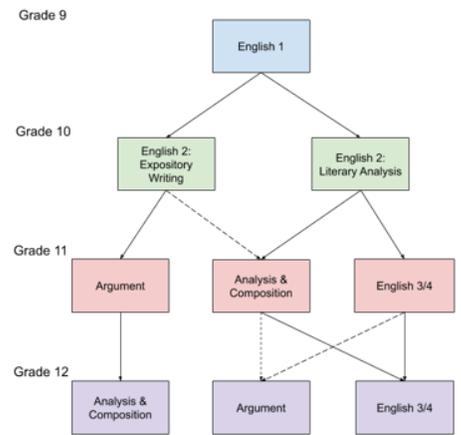
the thesis says and to its logic. Students use rough drafts to develop appropriate rhetorical strategies; to check for errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics; and to come to logical conclusions. As in our class discussions, we teach our students to support their ideas by quoting directly from the text or texts under consideration. Our students also explore literature by writing personal essays, short stories, and poems.

Students must complete four credits of English and be enrolled in an English class during each term.

The dotted paths between grade 11 and grade 12 above indicate the following (further explained in the course descriptions):

- The department will consider Argument as an option for seniors who have completed Analysis and Composition or a year of English 3/4. Enrollment, however, is limited by available space.
- Argument students do have the opportunity to take English 3/4 for their senior year, but enrollment requires department approval.

The dotted path between grade 10 and



grade 11 indicates that beginning with the class of 2024, ninth graders who enroll in Expository Writing for tenth grade will have the opportunity to take either Argument or Analysis and Composition for their junior year. Enrolling in A&C, however, will require permission of the department, as further explained in the course descriptions.