

## **ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

The English program of Utica Community Schools is a sequential, integrated program focusing on the development of ideas and skills through thinking, writing, reading, listening, and speaking.

It is the goal of the English program that all students will:

Communicate ideas and information effectively;

Demonstrate reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills;

Identify their strengths and weaknesses as writers, speakers, and listeners;

Summarize, interpret, apply, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate literature through speaking and writing or through an artistic response;

Demonstrate an understanding of the cultural significance and historical impact of literature as it relates to society; and

Demonstrate research and documentation skills.

## **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS IN ENGLISH**

The English requirements for graduation are as follows:

- Each student is required to take four years of English (grades nine through twelve).
- Each student is required to pass English 9, English 10, English 11, and English 12.

B020  
**ENGLISH 9** 2 semesters 1 credit 9

The major emphasis in the class is on writing and reading skills through a study of drama, poetry, the short story, the novel, and the essay. A term paper or annotated report is part of the required work in this course.

B030  
**HONORS ENGLISH 9** 2 semesters 1 credit 9

PREREQUISITE: Admission to the Honors Program

Honors English 9 is an accelerated class. Extensive writing and reading assignments will challenge students.

B040  
**COMPOSITION WITH A SURVEY OF GENRE (LITERARY TYPES)** 2 semesters 1 credit 10

The course stresses the development of critical thinking, reading, writing and speaking skills. Students develop these skills in correlation with the study of literary genres (fiction, poetry, drama, and non-fiction) and demonstrate a proficiency in the formal essay and research methods.

B050  
**HONORS ENGLISH 10** 2 semesters 1 credit 10

PREREQUISITE: Admission to the Honors Program

The course is designed for the exceptional English student. The course will lay the foundation for the interpretation of literature through the study of literary genre and literary movements. The primary focus of the literature will include British literature and classic Greek mythology. This course requires students to think, write and speak critically.

B060  
**COMPOSITION WITH A SURVEY OF AMERICAN LITERATURE** 2 semesters 1 credit 11

The course stresses critical thinking, reading, writing and speaking skills. Students examine the influence of American writers on society and society's influence on American writers. Students compose a variety of essays.

B070  
**HONORS ENGLISH 11** 2 semesters 1 credit 11

PREREQUISITE: Admission to the Honors Program

The course is designed for the exceptional English student. The course focuses on American literature and requires the students to think, write and speak critically. Preparation for the ACT, SAT, and AP test is a major focus of the class.

B080

**COMPOSITION WITH A SURVEY OF LITERATURE**

2 semesters 1 credit 12

The course stresses critical thinking, reading, writing and speaking skills. Students examine the influence of British writers on society and society's influence on British writers. Students compose a variety of essays.

B090

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH**

2 semesters 1 credit 12

PREREQUISITE: Admission to the Honors Program

The college level course is designed for the exceptional English student. The course requires students to think, write, and speak critically while studying great works of classic and contemporary World Literature in preparation for the Advanced Placement Test.

**ELECTIVES**

The courses which follow may be selected for enrichment. These electives do **not**, however, fulfill the English graduation requirements. (For drama or theatre arts electives, see Fine Arts Department.)

B075

**ADVANCED COMPOSITION**

1 semester 1/2 credit 10-12

The course is designed to help students become aware of various stylistic writing devices so that they may incorporate them in their writing. Selected writings by a variety of authors are used to promote discussion of writing styles and to generate writing assignments. Students study grammar, usage, sentence structure, and vocabulary as an aid to style. The course encompasses all forms of writing (i.e., description, exposition, argument, and narration).

B280

**CREATIVE WRITING**

1 semester 1/2 credit 10-12

The course encourages students to expand their imaginations through writing and interacting with literature. Students electing this course should be competent writers prepared to write extensively. Students may take this class for credit more than once.

B370

**EUROPEAN LITERATURE**

1 semester 1/2 credit 10-12

The course explores how diverse European cultures are reflected in literature. Students examine the European mind through a variety of genres: poetry, novel, short story and drama.

B610  
**MYTHOLOGY** 1 semester 1/2 credit 10-12

The course places emphasis on the appreciation and understanding of the mythological allusions in literature. Students study essays, plays, poetry, and prose of both world and classical mythology.

B640  
**THE NOVEL** 1 semester 1/2 credit 10-12

Students study and examine various novels as well as the techniques of representative novelists from diverse and historical backgrounds.

B660  
**POETRY** 1 semester 1/2 credit 10-12

Students study the style and content of verse as well as techniques and forms of world poets.

B730  
**SHAKESPEARE** 1 semester 1/2 credit 10-12

Shakespeare's language, stagecraft, and universality are studied through discussion and written analysis of his greatest works.

B770  
**TECHNICAL WRITING** 1 semester 1/2 credit 10-12

The course is designed to introduce the fundamentals of reading technical manuals and writing technical reports.

B790  
**WORLD DRAMA** 1 semester 1/2 credit 10-12

This course will provide a sampling of plays from classical to modern. Students will examine the style and techniques of great dramatists.

B800  
**THE BIBLE AS LITERATURE** 1 semester 1/2 credit 10-12

This course is not a study of religion but rather a study of the rich and various literature with history, poetry, stories and songs. Students will analyze and evaluate Biblical readings as literary types.

B860

**DEBATE**

2 semesters 1 credit 9-12

PREREQUISITE: Permission of instructor

This is a demanding speech course for motivated students who have demonstrated the verbal and intellectual ability to learn and practice analytical thinking, to gather and evaluate information, and to study and discuss current topics of importance. Since the course involves actual debate competitions outside the classroom, students entering the debate class must be willing and able to participate in these co-curricular activities.

B880

**ADVANCED DEBATE**

2 semesters 1 credit 10-12

PREREQUISITE: Debate and permission of the instructor

This course deals with advanced debate theories and techniques, therefore, an understanding of basic debate skills is essential. Students will study and discuss current topics of importance. Students entering this co-curricular activity are responsible for research, practice sessions, and competitions occurring outside of school hours. Students may take this class for credit more than once.

B840

**SPEECH COMMUNICATION I**

2 semesters 1 credit 9-12

PREREQUISITE: None

The purpose of this course is to develop effective communicators. Students will demonstrate appropriate speaking and listening skills in both formal and informal communication situations. The emphasis in the course is frequent speaking experiences that build student confidence. Given the value of oral communication skills in high school and beyond, students should complete this course early in their high school careers.

B850

**SPEECH COMMUNICATION II**

2 semesters 1 credit 10-12

PREREQUISITE: Speech Communication I

This is the second speech communication class offered for students who have successfully completed Speech Communication I. Students taking this course are expected to have demonstrated basic speaking and listening skills. The student will participate in and analyze various communication situations. Emphasis is placed on interpersonal communication, problem solving, and small-group dynamics. Students may take this class for credit more than once.

B851

**FORENSICS**

2 semesters 1 credit 9-12

PREREQUISITE: None

This is a demanding course for motivated students who have demonstrated an interest in individual or group competition outside of school. Research, interpretation, presentation, evaluation and coaching sessions are offered in public address categories such as informative, oratory, impromptu, extemporaneous, broadcast speaking as well as in oral-interpretation events such as prose, poetry, drama, humor, and children's literature. Students may take this class for credit more than once.

B890

**JOURNALISM I**

PREREQUISITE: None

This course is designed for students who have mastered writing skills and are interested in expanding their experiences to include journalistic writing. The course includes both a study of the principles of journalism and actual practice in gathering information, writing and editing. Emphasis is placed on expository prose and on its adaptation to various audiences. Areas of study include writing news and feature stories, editorials and interviews. Headlines, layout, and advertising are also incorporated into the course.

B895

**JOURNALISM II**

PREREQUISITE: Journalism I

This course offers an in-depth study and practice of the elements of journalism at an advanced level. This course is extremely helpful to those students electing newspaper or yearbook.

B900

**NEWSPAPER**

PREREQUISITE: Journalism or permission of instructor

The main objective of the class is to produce the school paper. The course includes writing of news, feature and sports stories, editorials, photography, advertising, copy preparation, and layout. Students should be able to stay after school when needed to meet publication deadlines. In addition, students are required to sell advertisements for their publication. Students may take this class for credit more than once.

B920

**YEARBOOK**

PREREQUISITE:       None

The main objective of the class is to produce the school yearbook. The course includes interviewing, copywriting, photographing school events, designing layouts and graphics, advertising, and fund raising. Students should be able to stay after school when needed to meet publication deadlines. In addition, students are required to sell advertisements for their publication. Students may take this class for credit more than once.

B930

**DESKTOP PUBLISHING**

2 semesters   1 credit    9-12

PREREQUISITE:       Approval of journalism teacher, newspaper or yearbook adviser, or course instructor

This course involves the use of computers and related technology for desktop publishing. Students will identify, practice and master the skills necessary to produce a variety of publications. These include writing, editing, photographing, learning layout and design, legal/ethical responsibilities and printing terminology. They will process all information and graphic design using computers and desktop publishing software. This will include such tasks as formatting, keyboarding, proofreading, editing, designing, creating graphics, manipulating and placing scanned and digital images, merging text and graphics, and paginating. It will also include business applications such as creating and maintaining files and writing business correspondence.