

English and Theater Course Offerings

The following presentation offers a brief overview of the English and drama courses offered at Tremper. The courses are in sequential order with electives listed last.

Survey of Literature and Composition (English 9)

Course Prerequisites: None

Survey of Literature/Composition builds on the knowledge acquired in middle school and sets a foundation for the students' literature and writing skills used in high school. This literature-based course draws from a variety of genres. Students gain an understanding of the writing process, including prewriting, drafting, and revision for persuasive and expository writing. Skills in the areas of reading, writing, study strategies, listening, speaking, and research will be developed.

Course Overview

Major Units:

The Long and the Short of It (Short Stories)
The Power of the Novel (Novel Study)
Heroes and Quests (Epic Study)
Love, Loyalty and Relationships (Drama)
Hope, Despair, and Memory (Novel Study)

Central Texts

Animal Farm by George Orwell
The Odyssey by Homer
Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare
Night by Elie Wiesel

Essential Questions: How much does the text agree or clash with your view of the world? How do people learn values? From whom or what do people learn values? How do values shape the life of an individual and the choices that individual makes? How can an individual's values change based on life experiences?

Grades are weighted so that "process" grades account for 40% of the coursework grade, while "product" grades account for 60%. These two grades are then averaged together in conjunction with the semester exam components at the conclusion of both semesters to determine a final grade.



Survey of Literature and Composition Honors (English 9 Honors)

Course Prerequisites: Survey 9 Honors students should expect a rigorous and accelerated pace and workload.

****Additional reading, including summer reading, is required for this course.**

Survey of Literature/Composition builds on the knowledge acquired in middle school and sets a foundation for the students' literature and writing skills used in high school. This literature-based course draws from a variety of genres. Students gain an understanding of the writing process, including prewriting, drafting, and revision for persuasive and expository writing. Skills in the areas of reading, writing, study strategies, listening, speaking, and research will be developed.

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Grades are weighted so that "process" grades account for 35% of the coursework grade, while "product" grades account for 65%. These two grades are then averaged together in conjunction with the semester exam components at the conclusion of both semesters to determine a final grade.



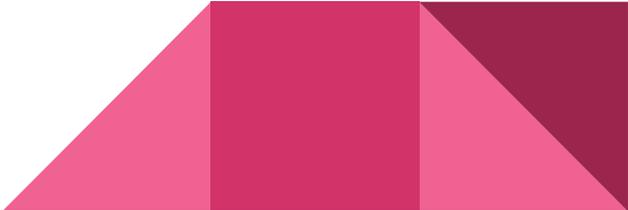
American Literature and Composition (English 10)

Prerequisite: Survey of Literature and Composition

Course work: The focus of this course is various literary forms by American authors. The genres covered are drama, short stories, novels, and nonfiction essays. Students are required to analyze these pieces with key concepts and questions in mind. Students are expected to improve grammatical skills, reading strategies, and formal writing structure. They also receive introductory instruction to poetry analysis.

Potential texts: *The Crucible*, *Just Like Us*, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, *There Are No Children Here*, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Of Mice and Men*, *The Catcher in the Rye*

Grades are weighted so that “process” grades account for 35% of the coursework grade, while “product” grades account for 65%. These two grades are then averaged together in conjunction with the semester exam components at the conclusion of both semesters to determine a final grade.



American Literature and Composition Honors (English 10 Honors)

Prerequisite: Survey of Literature and Composition Honors, or a B or better in Survey of Literature Regular with teacher recommendation

Course Description This is a rigorous course that prepares students for World Literature Honors or AP Language and Composition. A summer reading assignment is a crucial part of the curriculum. The course covers various genres of American literature: drama, short stories, novels, and nonfiction essays. Students analyze pieces specifically looking at literary devices and the writer's craft. There is a heavy emphasis on grammar as it relates to writing. ****A summer reading assignment is required, as is an independent classic text during the school year.**

Central Texts:

- *Of Mice and Men*
- *The Great Gatsby*
- *A Streetcar Named Desire*
- *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*

Grades are weighted so that “process” grades account for **30 %** of the coursework grade, while “product” grades account for **70%**. These two grades are then averaged together in conjunction with the semester exam components at the conclusion of both semesters to determine a final grade.



World Literature & Composition (English 11)

Prerequisites: Survey, American Lit. & Comp.

Number of Credits: 1

Course Description

World Literature & Composition, taken during students' junior year, is a literature-based course that explores a variety of non-American writers, giving students a chance to broaden their literary landscape! An emphasis on rhetoric and critical thinking skills will allow students to improve writing and communications skills, and an intense study of phrases, clauses, and other grammatical structures, will prepare students for the ACT exam, given in the spring of junior year.

Major Units:

- Heroes, Myths, and Legends
- Transformation: *Journeys that Lead to Understanding*
- The Power of Drama: *Good vs. Evil*
- Man's Inhumanity to Man

Central Texts:

- *The Epic of Gilgamesh, The Iliad*
- *The Aeneid, The Inferno, The Motorcycle Diaries*
- *Macbeth*, by Shakespeare
- *A Long Way Gone*, by Ishmael Beah

Grades are weighted so that "process" grades account for **30%** of the coursework grade, while "product" grades account for **70%**. These two grades are then averaged together in conjunction with the semester exam components at the conclusion of both semesters to determine a final grade.

World Literature and Composition Honors (English 11 Honors)

Prerequisites: Survey Hnrs, American Honors, or a “B” or better in American Lit. with teacher recommendation

Number of Credits: 1

Course Description

World Literature & Composition honors, taken during students’ junior year, is a literature-based course that explores a variety of non-American writers, giving students a chance to deepen their understanding of literary commonalities across both time and distance. Students will develop skills for using language to understand a world that is changing in terms of how information is produced and shared. An emphasis on rhetoric and critical thinking skills will allow students to improve writing and communications skills, and an intense study of phrases, clauses, and other grammatical structures, will prepare students for the ACT exam, given in the spring of junior year. A social issues research paper is an integral part of semester two. **Summer and winter reads are required.**

Major Units:

- Heroes, Myths, and Legends
- Transformation: *Journeys that Lead to Understanding*
- The Power of Drama: *Good vs. Evil*
- Man’s Inhumanity to Man

Central Texts:

- *The Iliad & The Aeneid (excerpts)*
- *Sundiata*
- *Jane Eyre*
- *The Art of War (excerpts)*
- *The Inferno*

- *The Motorcycle Diaries*
- *Lord of the Flies*

Grades are weighted so that “process” grades account for **25%** of the coursework grade, while “product” grades account for **75%**. These two grades are then averaged together in conjunction with the semester exam components at the conclusion of both semesters to determine a final grade.

Advanced Placement Language and Composition (AP Lang)

Prerequisites: Honors American Literature and Composition recommended, American Literature teacher recommendation

Number of Credits: 1

Concentration: Unlike traditional literature courses, AP Language and Composition concentrates on rhetorical analysis of primarily nonfiction texts (argument, speeches, visual, graphic texts), vocabulary building, and construction of effective, civil argument.

Critical thinking and synthesis of sources (depth of thought and analysis of what is behind a text) is paramount.

A Typical Day: Read and discuss opinion articles from *The New York Times*. Interpret what the author is doing and how s/he crafted his/her argument. Expect less busy work and more advanced thinking.

Additional Expectations: Summer reading assignment, Winter reading assignment, 2 additional nonfiction books (outside of class during the school year)

Texts: *Language of Composition* (check-out from school), *Freakonomics* (buy/borrow copy), *Eats, Shoots and Leaves* (excerpts, buy/borrow), *In Cold Blood* (summer read, buy/borrow), *The New York Times* op-ed articles (provided), additional essays, letters, advertisements, cartoons, photos, etc. will be analyzed.

Grading: Grades are weighted so that “process” grades account for 20% of the coursework grade, while “product” grades account for 80%. These two grades are then averaged together in conjunction with the semester exam components at the conclusion of both semesters to determine a final grade.

Perspectives in Literature and Composition (English 12)

Prerequisites: Survey, American, World Lit. & Comp.

Number of Credits: 1

Course Description

The course encourages students to consider multiple and complex points of view on universal themes and global issues. Students continue to develop skills for using language to understand a world that is changing in terms of how information is produced and shared. The four thematic units of the course focus on literature and nonfiction, both classic and contemporary, and they challenge students to study texts from different genres and to discuss why literature continues to matter. Compositional elements focus on preparing students to produce high quality work for either post-secondary education or the employment world. Continued emphasis on rhetoric and critical thinking skills continues from World Literature and Composition.

Major Units:

- Human Societies: Paradise or Perdition?
- Comedy and Satire
- Trying on a New Perspective
- Fear and Deception

Central Texts:

- *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury
- *The Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare
- *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker
- *The Strange case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by R.L Stevenson

Grades are weighted so that “process” grades account for 25% of the coursework grade, while “product” grades account for 75%. These two grades are then averaged together in conjunction with the semester exam components at the conclusion of both semesters to determine a final grade.

Perspectives in Literature and Composition Honors (Honors English 12)

Prerequisites: Survey, American, World Lit. & Comp. Honors, or AP, or a “B” or better in World Lit./Comp **Number of Credits:** 1

Course Description

The course encourages students to consider multiple and complex points of view on universal themes and global issues. Students continue to develop skills for using language to understand a world that is changing in terms of how information is produced and shared. The four thematic units of the course focus on literature and nonfiction, both classic and contemporary, and they challenge students to study texts from different genres as well as new modes of literary criticism and to discuss why literature continues to matter. Compositional elements focus on preparing students to produce high quality work for either post-secondary education or the employment world. Continued emphasis on rhetoric and critical thinking skills continues from World Literature and Composition. Writing research papers, in particular those that focus on APA citation format, are a central focus.

****Additional reading, including summer reading, is required for this course.**

Major Units:

- Human Societies: Paradise or Perdition?
- Comedy and Satire
- Trying on a New Perspective
- Fear and Deception

Central Texts:

- *Fahrenheit 451* and *1984* by Ray Bradbury and G. Orwell
- *The Merchant of Venice* and *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by William Shakespeare and Oscar Wilde
- *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker
- *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad

Grades are weighted so that “process” grades account for 20% of the coursework grade, while “product” grades account for 80%. These two grades are then averaged together in conjunction with the semester exam components at the conclusion of both semesters to determine a final grade.

Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition (AP English Lit.)

Prerequisites: AP Language and Composition, an A in World Literature and Composition and teacher recommendation, or an A or B in World Literature and Composition Honors with teacher recommendation.

Number of Credits: 1

Concentration: AP English Literature and Composition concentrates on explication and analysis of highly sophisticated literary models found in poetry, fiction, and drama. Critical thinking and analysis of sub textual and thematic elements is paramount. Success with AP writing conventions from Language and Composition allow for the majority of the course's focus to remain on literary inferencing and analysis.

Additional Expectations: summer reading assignment, winter independent reading assignment, significant work on poetry analysis (outside of class during school year).

Texts: *Perrine's Sound and Sense* (check-out from school), *The Awakening*, *Antigone*, *Hamlet*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, *Heart of Darkness*

Grading: Grades are weighted so that “process” grades account for 20% of the coursework grade, while “product” grades account for 80%. These two grades are then averaged together in conjunction with the semester exam components at the conclusion of both semesters to determine a final grade. This course has few opportunities for daily work assignments, so timely completion of all required reading and assessments remains a necessity for student success.

Drama I

Drama I focuses on the foundations of theatre. Students will study the history of drama, beginning with the Greeks. Students also will create short scenes, learn principles of stage combat, and learn the basics of costume and set design. Students are never graded on acting ability for this course.

Students will study the following texts:

- *Medea* by Euripides
- *Everyman*
- *King Lear* by William Shakespeare
- *Tartuffe* by Moliere



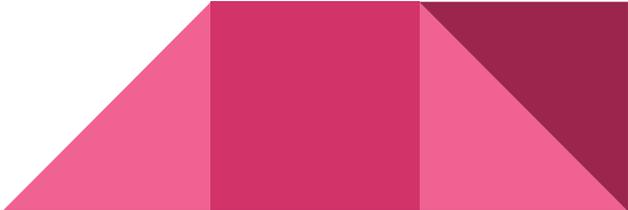
Drama II

Drama II asks the students to take on the role of a theatrical designer. After studying plays from the Modern Theatre, students will design sets, costumes, props, and sound.

Students will study the following texts:

- *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde
- *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen
- *The Cherry Orchard* by Anton Chekhov
- *Waiting for Godot* by Samuel Beckett

Prerequisites for this course: Successful completion of Drama I



Drama III

In Drama III students study contemporary theatre (plays from the 21st century), and will also try their hand at directing. Students will study staging techniques and emotional characterization, learn basics of group dynamics and communication, and how to make their creative concepts into a reality on stage.

Students will work with texts from the following playwrights:

- Arthur Miller
- Eugene O'Neill
- Tennessee Williams
- Edward Albee

Prerequisites for this course: Successful completion of Drama II



Acting/Acting Honors

Students are allowed to take Acting courses over four years at Tremper. During the first year, students will learn the basics of body movement, facial expressions, and voice control. The second year of Acting will focus on historical techniques, including Greek and Shakespearean. Students taking Acting for the third year will study contemporary styles, focusing on theatre for children, docudramas, and one-person plays. The final Acting course is an independent study, focused on how Acting will help students in their specific field of study outside of high school.

Students will be graded on their performances, but also on their ability to critique other performances.

Acting courses require students to have an open mind, to give and accept criticism, to think creatively, to learn group dynamics, and to self-manage and motivate, all skills that are useful in any work environment, not just performance.



Yearbook Honors

Prerequisites: A or B in past English course and teacher recommendation preferred

Number of Credits: 1

Students will participate in a collaborative effort to produce Tremper High School's yearbook, *The Classic*. Students will be responsible for conducting interviews; brainstorming ideas for pages, sections, and the yearbook theme; administering surveys; taking, editing, and publishing photographs; and most importantly, writing articles and columns concerning the events and activities of the entire school year, from the first day to graduation. This requires dedication, creativity, and punctuality regarding the deadlines required to produce Tremper's award-winning yearbook. Students will also learn how to use a graphic design program in order to make merge visually appealing commercial designs with journalistic composition for *The Classic* that is Tremper's yearbook.

Grading: Grades are weighted so that "process" grades account for **20%** of the coursework grade, while "product" grades account for **80%**. These two grades are then averaged together in conjunction with the semester exam components at the conclusion of both semesters to determine a final grade.



Journalism 1

Journalism 1 is a one semester course that counts as a .5 elective credit and is recommended for sophomores and juniors. The course **FOCUS** is on research, writing, editing, and revision.

The goal of the course is to teach the following skills:

1. How to write well under pressure.
2. How to gather information independently and organize it effectively.
3. How to use desktop publishing equipment and software.
4. How to interview effectively.
5. How to work effectively with your peers.
6. How to write the following newspaper formats:
 - news story
 - features: people, ideas, fads
 - reviews: restaurants, movies, concerts, books, shows
 - editorials and opinion pieces
 - sports stories

Grading: Grades are weighted so that “process” grades account for 35% of the coursework grade, while “product” grades account for 65%. These two grades are then averaged together in conjunction with the semester exam components at the conclusion of both semesters to determine a final grade.



Journalism 2 Honors

This is a full year course which counts as 1 honors elective credit. The course is recommended for juniors and seniors. The course has a **HEAVY FOCUS** on writing, editing, and revision.

Prerequisite for this course: Successful completion of Journalism 1 **AND** English or Journalism teacher recommendation. Seniors who have not completed Journalism 1 can only be enrolled with instructor approval.

Students will participate in a collaborative effort to produce Tremper High School's online newspaper, *The Tempest*. Students will be responsible for conducting research and interviews, brainstorming ideas, administering surveys, taking photographs, and (most importantly) writing articles and briefs concerning the events of the entire school year, from the first day to graduation. This requires dedication, creativity, and punctuality with regard to the very real-life deadlines we as a class must meet in order for the newspaper to be updated on a **WEEKLY** basis.

Grading: Grades are weighted so that “process” grades account for 20% of the coursework grade, while “product” grades account for 80%. These two grades are then averaged together in conjunction with the semester exam components at the conclusion of both semesters to determine a final grade.