

W.C. Miller Senior English Course Options 2017-2018

Students pursuing a grade 11 or 12 English credit will have the opportunity to select from a variety of themed courses designed to interest students and help them to work through the English curriculum while focusing on areas of reading and writing that they are more likely to be passionate about. Students must choose one English credit for each of their grade 11 and grade 12 years, but may take additional credits with a maximum of one per category per year. Each themed course may only be taken once for credit. These courses are listed under the following categories: ELA: Transactional Focus, ELA: Comprehensive Focus, and ELA: Literary Focus.

ELA: TRANSACTIONAL FOCUS

Prerequisite: ELA Grade 10 (20F)

ELA: Spoken Word, Debate, and the Art of Story-Telling - ELTTSRLW (30S/40S)

In this course students will write, read, listen to, and watch many different forms of literature. As a core course, it emphasizes taking students speaking and writing skills from wherever they are to as high a level as possible. This course will focus specifically on how we express our ideas verbally, how we present in front of others, and how we then listen in kind. Presentations could include motivational speeches, eulogies, lessons, debates, stories, rants, and interviews.

ELA: True Stories and Real Life Writing - ELTTSRLW (30S/40S)

This course will focus on Non-Fiction texts in a wide range of styles, including Memoirs, Autobiographies/Biographies, Eulogies, Articles, Editorials, Blogs, and Documentaries. These styles will be read, but also written, focusing on the types of writing that happen in our actual lives. As much as possible, these texts will be presented authentically, such as Letters to the Editor, blogs, resumes, business letters, letters of reference, and proposals.

ELA: COMPREHENSIVE FOCUS

Prerequisite: ELA Grade 10 (20F)

ELA: Games: Exploring the Literature of Sports & Game Culture - ELCSGC (30S/40S)

The stories of sports are the stories of heroes, exalted and fallen. They are the stuff of fantasy and the reward of hard work and suffering. Our society makes a game of anything it can and in this way games may be the most powerful of symbols for us. They give athlete and fan alike a sense of purpose, belonging, and childlike wonder. This course, through a range of fiction and nonfiction, will explore the power of the sports story and our love of the game, from the athlete to the video gamer. A short list of possible texts include: Bernard Malamud's The Natural, W.P. Kinsella's Shoeless Joe, Chad Harbach's The Art of Fielding, Michael Lewis's Moneyball, and The Blind Side, Ken Dryden's The Game.

ELA: Fantasy and Sci-Fi Stories: The Worlds of Speculative Fiction – ELCFSF (30S/40S)

The genres of Fantasy and Sci-Fi writing, perhaps more than any other literary genre, are driven by the question, “What if?” *What if I find myself in a new land by walking through a closet? What if we could travel through a wormhole to a new galaxy? What if we all lived in silos buried deep into the ground? What if trees could walk and talk?* These questions create worlds that challenge our understandings of what it means to be human, the nature of the human condition, and the defining characteristics of reality. To ask “what if?” means to imagine, to wonder, and to speculate. Welcome to the Worlds of Speculative Fiction.

ELA: Stories: Multi-Genre Fiction - ELCMF (30S/40S)

This is a variety course in which students write, read, listen to, and watch many different forms of literature. As a core course, it emphasizes taking students’ writing, reading, and speaking skills from wherever they are to as high a level as possible. This course will focus on fictions many genres, such as mystery, gothic, horror, romance, tragedy, comedy, sci-fi, and fantasy. Work in this class will include analysis, reflection, and creative response.

ELA: LITERARY FOCUS

Prerequisite: ELA Grade 10 (20F)

ELA: Literary Focus – ELL (30S/40S)

Literature is the branch of English that looks at our world’s most important texts – the English canon. In this class we will study poetry, drama, short story, and novel, diving into Literary Theory and different ways of reading, exploring, and enjoying texts. Epic and classic texts will be balanced with important contemporary work. Types of writing will include reflections, creative writing, a reading journal, literary analysis, and argumentative and research essays.

- If you are planning to go to University at all, it is **important** to take this class at least once. It will prepare you for the reading and writing of higher education.

The materials in this class will change every other year, so it can be taken in grade 11 and again in grade 12.