

**GMHS High School - English Department Curriculum Presentation**  
**Wednesday, November 6, 2024**

**1D Maps / Program of Studies Language**

**English 9**

**College Preparatory/Unleveled**

Texts take center stage in the English 9 classroom; this full-year, heterogeneously grouped ninth grade course focuses on the close reading, analytical writing, and language skills most essential for students' future work in high school, college, and careers. Through exposure to literary genres, students grapple with the themes of identity and coming of age. English 9 emphasizes the following priorities:

- Reading closely: Students persevere to analyze a range of complex literary and informational texts.
- Valuing evidence: Students evaluate textual evidence and incorporate it effectively in writing and speaking.
- Noticing language choices: Students understand how writers and speakers use specific words and sentences to move the thoughts, emotions, and actions of readers and listeners.
- Writing effectively: Students write with an understanding of the audience, support arguments with carefully chosen evidence, and effectively demonstrate conventions of grammar, usage, mechanics, and spelling.
- Speaking and listening: Students adapt and adjust speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, listening closely and responding respectfully to diverse perspectives.
- Expanding vocabulary: Students acquire and use challenging and appropriate vocabulary.

**ENGLISH 10 - WORLD LITERATURE**

**College Preparatory/Academic**

This full-year course for 10th grade students approaches literature thematically and builds on the skills learned in the Grade 9 course. We examine the influences that contribute to identity, what happens when influence becomes too powerful, and how individuals can respond to power. Using novels, short stories, poetry, and film, students study multiple perspectives and differing viewpoints, while focusing on how writer's choices influence our experience of a story. Students analyze universal themes through an exploration of the literature of cultures around the world. Students will increase their proficiency in reading literature and non-fiction, writing in a variety of modes, speaking and listening, and the conventions of the English language. Students will demonstrate understanding through projects as well as narrative and analytical writing. Vocabulary, grammar, and mechanics are integrated into the course content.

## **ENGLISH 10 HONORS - WORLD LITERATURE**

This full-year course for 10th grade students approaches literature thematically and builds on the skills learned in the Grade 9 course. We examine the influences that contribute to identity, what happens when influence becomes too powerful, and how individuals can respond to power. Using novels, short stories, poetry, and film, students study multiple perspectives and differing viewpoints, while focusing on how writer's choices influence our experience of a story. Students analyze universal themes through an exploration of the literature of cultures around the world. Students will increase their proficiency in reading literature and non-fiction, writing in a variety of modes, speaking and listening, and the conventions of the English language. Students will demonstrate understanding through projects as well as narrative and analytical writing. Vocabulary, grammar, and mechanics are integrated into the course content. The Honors English course moves at a faster pace than the academic level and requires more independence on the part of students. In addition, the course explores both content and skills at a greater depth with increased rigor, in preparation for upper level Advanced Placement courses.

### **Film as Literary Text**

This one (1) semester course examines film as a storytelling genre through its literary aspects. Course activities include analysis of literary elements such as narrative arc, character, theme, symbolism, motif, allusion, and writer/director intent. Students will also explore how film techniques such as lighting, costume, sound, and set design enhance and support the literary elements. While exploring a range of film genres and styles, students will also study film theory and criticism. Course requirements include a heavy emphasis on writing in the form of criticism, as well as thematic, character, and stylistic analysis.

### **Journalism**

#### **Dual Registration: CCSU**

We are surrounded by information. Content creators, influencers, and corporations saturate social media to capture our attention. But, in this flood of content, how do we know what's real, what's important? How do we know if an event has really happened? Why do we *need* to differentiate between content designed to entertain and content intended to inform?

This one-semester course will introduce students to journalism and its function in a democratic society. In order to establish trust and credibility with the public, journalists must meet high ethical standards for accuracy. Engaged journalists must be aware enough to find a story, curious enough to dig for details, and committed enough to publish facts. Journalists must find creative ways—using text, images, and sound—to tell important stories of the day. In this course, students will practice the skills journalists use to provide truthful, fact-based, ethically obtained information in the public interest. Students will also read and respond to articles, making them more informed consumers of news stories.