

English

A minimum of 4.0 ENG credits are required

Students are not required to stay in a specific stream for English. They are free to move from a regular English class to an Honors/AP class or from an Honors/AP class to a regular English class. Students are encouraged to make decisions based on their ability.

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Required Courses	English 1 English 1-Honors (Pre-AP)	English 2 English 2-Honors (Pre-AP)	English 3 English 3-AP Lang & Comp	English 4 - World Literature... Combined with choosing one of the following for semester 2: English 4 – Sports English 4 – Mythology English 4 – Modern Horror English 4 – Holocaust Other Options: AP Literature College Writing 101/English Lit 110 (Dual Credit 6) COMX (communication in the Workplace – Dual Credit 3)
Elective Courses	Newspaper/Journalism Speech & Debate (S1) Creative Writing (S2)	Newspaper/Journalism Speech & Debate (S1) Creative Writing (S2) Yearbook	Newspaper/Journalism Speech & Debate (S1) Creative Writing (S2) Yearbook	Newspaper/Journalism Speech & Debate (S1) Creative Writing (S2) Yearbook Reading the Movies

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

The English Department of Helena High School presents balanced instruction in reading, writing, speaking, and listening to enable students to be proficient readers, writers, and thinkers in today's world. Through the study of contemporary and classic literature, students gain reading comprehension as they study fiction, nonfiction, drama, poetry, and film. The English Department uses the Curriculum Rehab Program, ensuring a wide-range and varied writing intensive learning experience. Students use the writing process--planning, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing. In addition, students develop poise as speakers, communicate effectively in an organized manner, and become discriminate listeners.

Freshman, sophomore, junior and senior English are required. An honors program is offered at each level and provides an opportunity for students with superior skills and interest to study on a more creative and in-depth basis.

Speech & Debate, Yearbook, Reading the Movies, Creative Writing, and Journalism round out the program and provide opportunities for students to sharpen their skills in vocabulary, debate, speaking, and writing.

FRESHMAN YEAR ENGLISH 2 OPTIONS

1100 English 1

Required Grade: 9
Full Year – 1 Credit

This class emphasizes expository and creative writing, vocabulary development, and communications skills. A variety of literature is examined, including short stories, mythology, drama, and poetry. Classroom methods include lectures, audiovisual materials, textbook reading, and discussions. In making the transition from middle school to high school, students learn the importance of the course's evaluative criteria: timely homework completion, class participation, papers, and tests.

1101 English 1 – Honors (Pre-AP)

Elective Grade*: 9
Full Year – 1 Credit

As in the regular English course, the Freshman Honors class stresses writing, reading, discussion, and communication skills. Honors-level instruction focuses on in-depth involvement in diction, syntax, and organization of descriptive and expository paragraph and essay writing. Challenging reading materials are used as the basis for in-depth skill work in expression – both verbal and written.

Prerequisite: Completion of summer reading and related assignments

SOPHOMORE YEAR ENGLISH 2 OPTIONS

1200 English 2

Required Grade: 10
Full Year – 1 Credit

In sophomore English, students engage in the study and analysis of a wide range of increasingly complex fiction and non-fiction texts, including novels, short stories, drama, poetry, speeches, memoirs, and essays. They develop their writing skills through various assignments, including argumentative, synthesis, and research-based compositions. Grammar and punctuation instruction is integrated to enhance writing clarity and precision, while vocabulary lessons align with unit objectives and analytical terminology.

The curriculum is structured around essential questions designed to foster the development of ideas and critical reasoning. Students are provided with numerous opportunities to gather and evaluate information, think critically, solve problems, and articulate their perspectives effectively through discussions and written expression.

1201 English 2 – Honors (Pre-AP)

Elective Grade*: 10
Full Year – 1 Credit

In a more challenging and enriched version of the required course, Honors English II students build on skills developed the preceding year to achieve competence in writing persuasive and expository essays. A variety of pre-writing methods prepare students to respond to literature creatively, analytically, and critically, both in oral and written form.

Students read literature from many genres in the tragic, romantic, comic, and ironic modes. The success of the class rests on mutually inspirational student presentations and projects, a commitment to discussion, and a desire to write.

Prerequisite: Completion of summer reading and related assignments.

JUNIOR YEAR ENGLISH 3 OPTIONS

1300 English 3

Required Grade: 11
Full Year – 1 Credit

Students engage in the study and analysis of a wide range of American Literature from colonial times into the 21st century including short stories, novels, informative text, drama, poetry, speeches and film. Units are structured around essential questions; each is designed to develop and strengthen both analytic and critical thinking skills. Students write a variety of longer expository compositions this year using skills learned in their earlier English classes. Classroom techniques include individual projects, lectures, and discussions. Students are evaluated on daily work, written work, tests and projects.

1306 English 3 AP Language

Elective Grade*: 11 – 12
Full Year – 1 Credit

English III Advanced Placement English Language and Composition is a rigorous and challenging course requiring students to read and write at the college level. Close reading of fiction and nonfiction of American literature enables students to recognize the elements of rhetoric and apply these to their own writing. Students are expected to take the College Board Advanced Placement exam in English Language and Composition in May. A satisfactory grade ensures a quarter or semester course waiver by most colleges. A passing score on the AP test will transfer to the Montana University System as Writ 101.

Prerequisite: Completion of summer reading and related assignments.

SENIOR YEAR ENGLISH 4 CORE OPTIONS

English 4 Core Options

Required Grade: 12
Full Year – 1 Credit

These courses serve to benefit students bound for any post-secondary pursuit: college/university study, the job market, the military, etc. By design, students choose a pair of semester-long courses based on theme and interest. The main objective of all of the course pairings is to help students.

Seniors will register for the following first semester:

1407 English 4 World Literature and Composition

Required Grade: 12
Semester - .5 Credit

Semester one is an exploration of the power of world literature and film, and their treatment of themes related to social injustice, social responsibility, morality, and the development of conscience. In this course, students will read/watch and analyze a variety of thought-provoking, complex literary works, multi-media and films from diverse cultures and historical periods to determine and evaluate universal truths, author's craft, and the importance of each work. Students will compose literary analysis and critical reflections about the literature and films studied in the course and participate in both formal and informal discussions. This course is intended to prepare students for their next level English courses *and life*.

Seniors will choose one of the following for Semester two:

English 4 Options

Required Grade: 12
Semester - .5 Credit

1416 True Crime: This course will examine and explore the roles of the victims as well as the complex issues surrounding the surviving family members of victims. It will also include literature written about the Holocaust during World War II and other conflicts throughout history. Authors may be chosen from the following: Capote, Bugliosi, Grisham, Shakespeare, Doyle, Christie and more.

1418 Modern Horror: This course will explore the evolution of the Gothic and Horror genre in American Literature. Students engage in literature and film adaptations involving the supernatural (authors include Poe, Bradbury, Jackson, Bloch and King).

1414 Mythology: Myths, fables and legends provide insight into the foundations of our contemporary society. Explore a variety of myths from cultures around the world, including Greek/Roman, Norse, Blackfeet and other American tribes, Incan, Persian, Japanese, African, and more.

1413 Sports: The power of competition resonates throughout literature. Using some of the best contemporary American fiction and non-fiction writing about sports (authors like Maclean and Hillenbrand and films like *Concussion*), this course will focus on the impact of sports on individuals and societies.

1456 College Writing 101 **Elective Grade*: 12**
WRIT101 Dual Credit Helena College (3 credits) **Semester – .5 Credit**

Students are able to fulfill a semester of required senior English while earning 3 credits in college composition through Helena College. This semester course is designed to give students experience with the written expression of ideas in expository form. The course emphasizes the development of ideas; the use of research; and the awareness of audience, purpose, structure, and clarity. Students produce practice essays and formal essays in four units: Memoir, Descriptive, Analytic, and Argumentative Research. All students planning to take this class must have earned a C or higher in English 3 AND passed one of these three options: 1) the ACT Writing Exam (given in the spring of the junior year) with a 7 or higher OR 2) an 18 on the ELA section of the ACT OR 3) the Accuplacer Exam given at Helena College.

1458 English Lit 110 **Elective Grade*: 12**
LIT110 Dual Credit Helena College (3 credits) **Semester – .5 Credit**

This is a rigorous college level literature course; students will read college level literature and respond in college level critical analysis. Emphasis is on articulating strong responses to varied texts including poetry, drama and fiction as well as literary criticism and theory. Students successfully completing this dual credit class will earn both .5 English credit for Helena High School and three college credits for Literature 110 that transferable to any Montana public college or university (4-year program).

1459 COMX (Communications in the Workplace) **Elective Grade*: 12**
COMX106 Dual Credit Helena College (3 credits) **Full Year – 1 Credit**

This course prepares students with the communication skills needed to obtain and be successful in a professional position, particularly in vocational and technical fields. Students will study various elements of interpersonal communication in the workplace, including listening, conflict management, decision-making, and customer service. Emphasis on writing as the craft of the critical thinker, involving analysis of audience, context, and purpose, as well as the ability to locate, synthesize, analyze, organize, and present information effectively.

English Electives

1420 Speech and Debate **Elective Grades: 9 – 12**
Semester 1 – .5 Credit

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to the various speaking situations an individual may encounter in his/her lifetime. In addition, this course will focus on debate, in both academic and everyday contexts. Students will learn research skills, effective argumentation, and the ability to evaluate the arguments of others. Students will develop effective advocacy and public speaking skills. This course will be a valuable aid in personal communications and will prepare you for college interviews, job interviews, and work communication.

1435 Reading the Movies **Elective Grades: 12**
Semester – .5 Credit

The course will examine film chronology, genre and directorial style along with some film terminology. Students will view approximately twenty films and will be required to write film critiques, compare and contrast essays, character analysis, persuasive essays and demonstrate in class “live” critiques. This course involves some home viewing and independent research.

*This elective can be used to fulfill the graduation requirement.

1445 Creative Writing

Elective Grades: 9 – 12
Semester 2 – .5 Credit

This course is designed for aspiring writers. Students will develop their writing skills through the genres of short stories, personal narrative, poetry, screenplay, and short fiction. Concepts in action during the course include sharing and individual editing and evaluating, multiple drafting of pieces, conferencing with the instructor, and sharing of finished works. Evaluation is based on day-to-day work and culminates with a collected works portfolio and a public reading final exam. Prerequisite: A serious attitude towards one's writing.

1460 Yearbook

Elective Grades: 10 – 12
Full Year – 1 Credit

Yearbook offers an opportunity for students to incorporate photography, writing, and computer technology to create the school yearbook. Members of the staff are required to attend events outside of school (sports, theater, club meetings, dances, etc.), take pictures, interview students, and write captions and other forms of copy. If you are creative, enjoy attending school events, and can work on a deadline, this is the place for you!

1470 Newspaper/Journalism

Elective Grades: 9 – 12
Semester – .5 Credit

Newspaper/Journalism class is designed to explore many facets of our modern media. Students will learn how to write news stories, opinion pieces, reviews, and profiles. They will learn interviewing, caption-writing, and photojournalism skills. Students will receive one-on-one editing assistance from the teacher advisor, and their work will be published in the student newspaper, The Nugget.

In addition, we will follow current events and analyze source credibility. We will discuss the ethics of journalism and current issues journalists face today. If you are a curious person who enjoys writing and stepping out of your comfort zone, Newspaper/Journalism is the class for you! Please check out our work at <https://thenugget.net> to see if you're interested in joining the team.