

Course Descriptions

Burnaby Central

ENGLISH

English 8

All English courses, Grade 8-12, are comprised of the same six strands: reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing and representing. In English 8, students will read and study novels, short stories, and poetry. Drama, non-fiction and mythology may also be addressed. Writing will be approached as a process, with students becoming more familiar with the stages of writing as they apply these skills directly to the pieces of literature being studied. Group discussion and debate will also figure prominently as students learn to critically examine and reflect on their reading and writing.

English 9

This course continues to enhance students' knowledge and appreciation of various genres of literature. Literature to be read includes short stories, poetry, drama, novels and non-fiction works. It also continues to help students improve in the areas of critical thinking, writing (both academic and creative), research and speaking.

English 10

Students in this course are expected to master basic writing skills and literary analysis techniques. Although Grade 10 English is an academic course, it focuses equally on academic and more general skills needed to be successful in a range of activities. Literature to be read includes short stories, poetry, drama, novels and non-fiction works. It is the turning point for some students, as it leads to both the academic English 11 as well as the more practical Communications 11.

English 11

This course continues to develop and extend students' attitudes, knowledge and skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing. Literature to be read includes short stories, poetry, drama, novels and non-fiction works. Literary analysis and critical thinking are main components of this course. Students will be expected to master a number of different essay forms.

Communications 11

This course is intended for students who are not proceeding directly to a university program. The literature focus is on appreciation rather than analysis. Areas of study include short stories, media, novels, and non-fiction works. The writing focus is practical. Speaking, listening and viewing skills are addressed. Discussion and writing about issues significant to young adults are included.

Academic Writing Skills 11 (An “elective” course)

It is designed for Grade 11 and 12 students who need additional time and support to develop and refine their writing skills in order to bring them up to the standards expected in Senior English classes and post-secondary education. This course will assist students to develop their writing skills further in a variety of genres and styles including descriptive, narrative, expository, analytical and creative compositions. Students will also be encouraged to experiment with tone, voice and audience.

English Literature 12 (An “elective” course that can be taken in both grades 11 and 12)

Literature 12 explores the origins of the greatest literature in English, from Beowulf through to Atwood. It showcases heroes, monsters, knights, villains, lovers and losers. You’ll learn about the writers who inspired those who followed them -- after all, Shakespeare didn’t exist in a vacuum! Your interests in literature, history and discussion will be nurtured and your analytical skills will be enhanced. This course is **strongly recommended** for those students who are planning on taking English 12 AP. Although, English Literature 12 is a course that is accepted for university entrance, students are also **still required** to take English 12 for graduation.

Communications 12

(The Provincial Examination, worth 40% of the course, is mandatory)

This course is for students who are not proceeding directly into a university program. It builds upon learning attained in all previous grades. The literature focus is on appreciation rather than analysis. Areas of study include short stories, media, novels, and non-fiction works. The writing focus is practical. Speaking, listening and viewing skills are addressed. Discussion and writing about issues significant to young adults are included.

English 12

(The Provincial Examination, worth 40% of the course, is mandatory)

This course continues to develop and extend students’ attitudes, knowledge and skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing. The main focus is literary analysis with the intention of preparing students who are considering a university level program in the future. Literature to be read includes short stories, poetry, drama, novels and non-fiction works.

AP English Literature 12 (Can be taken in place of English 12)

(The Provincial Examination, worth 40% of the course, is mandatory)

Please note that this course is ***different*** from English Literature 12. Students in this course are expected to not only fulfill the expectations for English 12 (including writing the provincial exam), but will also be given opportunities to go beyond these requirements. Students will be required to evaluate literature at a greater depth, produce higher caliber writing and read at a more challenging pace. Students will have the option of writing the AP exam in May. If a student scores high enough on the exam, they will receive first year post secondary credit for the course (depending on the post secondary institution). Students are **strongly encouraged** to take English Literature 12 (elective) as a prerequisite course in order to be better prepared for the AP exam.

Grade Level	Regular Program	Honours Program
Grade 8	-English 8	
Grade 9	-English 9	
Grade 10	-English 10	
Grade 11	-English 11 or Communications 11 -Academic Writing Skills 11 (elective course)	-English Literature 12 (an elective to be taken in addition to English 11 or English 12 AP)
Grade 12	-English 12 or Communications 12 -English Literature 12 (elective course)	-English 12 Advanced Placement

