

VALOR CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

INFLUENCE THROUGH EXCELLENCE

ENGLISH

The goal of Valor's English curriculum is to create engaged readers, writers, speakers and thinkers. Valor students will respond honestly and intelligently to literature, grasp the exciting and innovative ideas that great writers put forth, learn to analyze and interpret texts, and translate their own ideas into powerful, thoughtful writing.

In the richness of course offerings, Valor's small classes typically conduct a seminar format with an emphasis on writing and discussion. A strong study of the conventions of language including grammar, syntax, mechanics and vocabulary are infused into daily experiences. Literature choices are guided by the Valor English Department's commitment to teach a chronological study of the seminal works of the Western Canon and the history of Western thought.

ENG 110 (112, 114)

English 9

Literature from this course comes from ancient world. Through this course, Freshmen will be introduced to the works which became foundational to all Western thought and culture. Texts include plays and myths from the Greeks and Romans, Homer, Plato, Virgil and more. Students become active readers and develop skills for textual analysis. Students acquire an understanding of the major genres and literary devices which authors use to craft their imaginative visions. This course enables students to experience writing as a process as they experiment with journal writing, and free responses as well as formal essays. This course also spends considerable time with grammar and vocabulary building. (*Single gender classes available 112-SGM, 114-SGF*)

Grade: 9; **Prerequisites:** None; **Term:** Full Year; **Credit:** 1.0

ENG 120

Honors English 9

This course is similar in content to College Preparatory English 9 and, indeed, the two courses share some of the same reading. The amount, pace, and depth of analysis of reading and writing assignments for English 9 Honors is part of what sets it apart. In addition, this course is meant to be a gateway course for future Honors and AP courses.

Grade: 9; **Prerequisites:** Grade of "A" in 8th-grade English; **Term:** Full Year; **Credit:** 1.0

ENG 210

English 10

We move through to the 17th Century in our study of literature this year, looking at works by Dante, Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton, and other influential writers from the Medieval Period and the Renaissance. This course enhances and expands reading and writing skills, moving toward more complex texts and greater emphasis on textual analysis. Students will refine grammatical skills by honing usage of phrases and clauses in written and oral form. Students will expand and develop their vocabulary base and improve written technique and style, with an emphasis on organizing multi-paragraph compositions and using transitional devices.

Grade: 10; **Prerequisites:** English 9; **Term:** Full Year; **Credit:** 1.0

ENG 220

Honors English 10

This course is similar in content to College Preparatory English 10 and, indeed, the two courses share some of the same reading. The amount, pace, and depth of analysis of reading and writing assignments for English 10 Honors is part of what sets it apart. In addition, this course is meant to be a gateway course for future Honors and AP courses.

Grade: 10; **Prerequisites:** Grade of "B" or above in English 9 Honors; grade of "A" in English 9; Teacher Recommendation; **Term:** Full Year; **Credit:** 1.0

ENG 310
English 11

Important ideas from the 18th and 19th Centuries will be explored through seminal authors of this period. Selected works by influential writers such as Pope, Swift, Defoe, and Voltaire represent the 18th Century, the "Age of Reason," while selections from Blake, Wordsworth, Whitman, Austen, Hawthorne, Twain, or others will introduce students to the 19th Century. This course also involves skill development in advanced syntax and grammar. This course is designed to improve students' written, verbal, and research skills. Students develop literary analysis skills, and a depth of logical inquiry, along with a greater sense of style. Special attention is given to advanced grammar, spelling and vocabulary enrichment.

Grade: 11; **Prerequisites:** English 10; **Term:** Full Year; **Credit:** 1.0

ENG 350
English 11 AP Language and Composition

An AP course in English Language and Composition engages students in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Both their writing and their reading should make students aware of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, and subjects as well as the way generic conventions and the resources of language contribute to effectiveness in writing. Advanced critical writing proficiency will be the major focus in terms of accountability as well as learning the skills of rhetoric in general. AP language and composition focuses on reading a variety of both fiction and non-fiction. Non-fiction pieces include works by autobiographers, biographers, diarists, journalists, history writers, critics, political writers, and essayists. In addition to the text and countless printed pieces examined in the classroom, students will be introduced to 18th and 19th century literature and ideas as part of Valor's commitment to educating students in the chronological study of the Western Canon and thought. *The cost for the AP exam is \$86.*

Grade: 11; **Prerequisites:** Grade of "B+" or above in English 10 Honors; Grade of "A" in English 10 CP; In-school, timed writing sample required; Teacher Recommendation; **Term:** Full Year; **Credit:** 1.0

ENG 410
English 12

This course is designed to enhance thinking and communication skills within the framework of The 20th Century. Writers such as Orwell, Frost, Fitzgerald, Hemingway, and Steinbeck will be studied in-depth. A variety of assignments will focus on developing effective writing and speaking and listening skills within a spectrum of genres and historical/philosophical contexts. Students will analyze literature comparing and evaluating views expressed within the texts with Biblical Truth. Throughout the year, students will challenge each other to develop critical thinking skills and will engage in assignments, projects and discussions aimed to develop interpersonal skills and an understanding of the dialogic nature of literary studies.

Grade: 12; **Prerequisites:** English 11; **Term:** Full Year; **Credit:** 1.0

ENG 450
English 12 AP Literature and Composition

This course engages students in careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature (novels, short stories, drama, and poetry). In this advanced literary analysis and writing course, students consider a work's structure, style, and themes, social and historical values reflected and embodied, as well as an author's use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone. The course includes intensive study of representative American and British works in various genres from the sixteenth century to contemporary times plus the translated work of Sophocles, concentrating on works of recognized literary merit. As part of Valor's goal of educating all students in a chronological study of the great works of the Western Canon, this 12th grade course has a significant emphasis on 20th Century authors and ideas. Writing assignments, based upon the literature read, include a variety of responses ranging from writing to understand, writing to explain, and writing to evaluate. *The cost for the AP exam is \$86.*

Grade: 12; **Prerequisites:** Grade of "A" or above in English 11 CP; grade of "A-" or above in AP Language and Composition; In-school, timed writing sample required; Teacher Recommendation; **Term:** Full Year; **Credit:** 1.0