

Sanford H. Calhoun High School  
English Department  
2023-2024



“Books are the plane, and the train, and the road. They are the destination, and the journey.”  
- Anna Quindlen, How Reading Changed My Life

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**Scan to access link to Elective Survey:**



## An Overview of AP English Options – Juniors and Seniors

The College Board offers two courses for English, each giving students the opportunity to engage in introductory-level college English curriculum.

AP English Language and Composition	AP Literature and Composition
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Offered to juniors and seniors</b></li><li>• Students read mostly nonfiction (essays, news articles, creative nonfiction texts, speeches)</li><li>• Course focuses on rhetorical analysis of nonfiction texts and the development and revision of well-reasoned written arguments</li><li>• Course goals:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ help students develop “<b>critical literacy</b>” by strengthening basic academic skills such as inquiry, deliberation, argument, reading, writing, listening and speaking</li><li>○ Facilitate “<b>informed citizenship</b>” by cultivating the critical literacy skills students need for lifelong learning.</li></ul></li></ul> <p>Since curricular shifts in English occurred with the demands of the Common Core, the 11<sup>th</sup> grade English course and Regents exam offers an introduction to the AP Language Curriculum.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Offered to seniors</b></li><li>• Students read mostly fiction and poetry</li><li>• Course focuses on reading, analyzing and writing about imaginative literature from various periods.</li></ul> <p>This class is best suited for students who have demonstrated passion for literature and/or who have a strong work ethic and a desire to learn in a challenging environment.</p>

### Addressing questions about AP Language & Comp

**Am I really ready to take this class?** There are no prerequisites for this course. The College Board says, “students who have had experience in rhetorical analysis, argument and synthesis may more easily address the objectives of the course.” Please note that the Common Core curriculum 7-12 addresses these skills.

**What is the course like?** At the heart of the curriculum is the reading of various texts with the goal of facilitating “informed citizenship” and increasing students’ capacity to articulate themselves in writing and speaking and engage in meaningful conversations with others. While writing represents a significant component of the course, the core skill required is the ability to read well. In reading another’s work, students must be able to address four fundamental questions: (1) What is being said? (2) To whom is it being said? (3) How is it being said? And (4) Why is it being said? As students learn how to answer these questions and make meaningful analyses of the writing of others, they learn how to “read like writers and write like readers.”

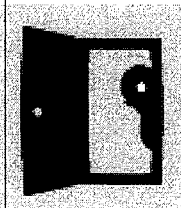
**How does this course prepare me for college?** College professors expect students to be motivated readers, writers, and thinkers. They expect students to be able to craft in argument in writing and speaking, and be able to defend that argument using relevant facts, examples and details. They expect students to write expressively, having developed a sense of voice and style. This class offers college-level practice in these areas.

**Do I have to take the test?** Yes. But the good news is that there is no formal final exam, and scoring a 3 or higher on the test may earn students college credit depending on which school they attend.

# Come "Write" In to...Calhoun English Elective Offerings



\*\*Each elective is a semester .5 credit course unless otherwise stated. English electives can be "mixed and matched," but they are grouped according to topic.



## COLLEGE JOURNALISM

Semester Course

Grades 10, 11, 12 1/2 Unit

This course focuses on developing students' abilities in writing, research and reporting. Students read and evaluate writings of major figures in news articles, features, sports, columns, and editorials. Students will engage in layout and design activities, using programs such as InDesign and Photoshop. This course is offered for college credit to juniors and seniors.

## COLLEGE SOCIAL MEDIA AND BLOGGING

Semester Course

Grades 10, 11, 12 1/2 Unit

This course is designed for students who have an interest in using social media resources as a way to promote a passion, skill, talent, or business plan. Students will experiment with various social media platforms and applications in a safe environment while learning about digital citizenship, media analysis, and laws/ethics. Students will engage in written communication including blog posts, captions, and hashtags, explore visual communication through photographs, product placement, and layout, and hone verbal communication through presentations, speeches, debates, and vlogs. This course is offered for college credit to juniors and seniors.

## CREATIVE WRITING 1

Semester Course

Grades 10, 11, 12 1/2 Unit

This course in creative writing develops students' abilities in self-expression. Students learn to analyze works of literature, to emulate useful techniques and to establish individual styles. Students write frequently and engage in peer evaluation of the creative writing process.

### College Journalism

Do you:

- Like to read the newspaper?
- Like to watch CNN, MSNBC or other news channels?
- Like non-fiction/real life stories?
- Care about current events?
- Have an interest in politics?
- Enjoy defending a position or an argument?
- Write for the *Hoofbeats* or are you planning to become a member of the *Hoofbeats*' staff?
- Want to earn college credit?

### College Social Media and Blogging

- Like to communicate through social media?
- Want to create your own website or social media platform?
- Have a passion, skill, talent, or business idea that you would like to promote?
- Want to earn college credit?

### Creative Writing

Do you:

- Keep a journal?
- Doodle or jot down lines from songs in your notebook?
- Want to experiment with expressing your inner voice in a variety of writing styles?
- Want to stray from a more restricted, traditional, literary paragraph format?
- Write poetry, stories, or songs?
- Contribute to *Pegasus* or are you interested in contributing to the school's literary magazine?
- Want to earn college credit?



## COLLEGE PUBLIC SPEAKING

### Semester Course

#### Grades 10, 11, 12 1/2 Unit

Students enrolled in this course will examine and practice the elements of effective oral communication. Emphasis will be placed on the acquisition of effective speaking skills, using peer evaluation and critiquing as important aspects of the learning process. This course is offered for college credit to juniors and seniors.

## COLLEGE MEDIA

### Semester Course

#### Grades 10, 11, 12 1/2 Unit

This course involves an in-depth study of television, advertising and film. It examines the effects of television on its viewers and helps students to recognize manipulative advertising tactics in both print and non-print media. Students also analyze film in much the same way as they would literature, discussing the director as the artistic creator. Student assignments may include analytical essays, opinion papers, and creative projects. Students are expected to research pertinent topics. This course is offered for college credit to juniors and seniors.

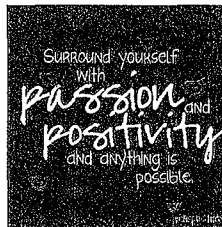
## College Public Speaking

Are you interested in:

- Learning how to speak in public effectively?
- Overcoming fears about speaking to a group?
- Learning how to use video making computer programs such as Windows Movie Maker or Photo Story?
- Creating and then verbally expressing an argument?
- Earning college credit?

## College Media

- Learning how television, art, ads, magazines, and movies express the social climate of a specific time period?
- Learning how film, advertisements, commercials, and news/entertainment shows influence today's society?
- Earning college credit?



**STRANGER FICTION: Heroes and Monsters of the Past, Present, and Future**  
**Semester Course**  
**Grades 10, 11, 12 1/2 Unit**

The course will explore science fiction as a genre that answers the overarching question, "What does it mean to be human?" Course material will include stories of ancient beasts, heroes and gods, aliens, time travel, robots, the supernatural, horror, fantasy, alternative realities and re-animation. By contrasting humans with something beyond the realm of normal human experience, through the use of advanced technology or otherwise, the genre attempts to define the human experience. Literature, films, and television shows are examined through lenses of cultural, national and scientific perspectives. Some concepts of psychology, anthropology, physics, biology, chemistry and earth science are relevantly discussed.

**VOICES FROM THE PAST: A STUDY Year Course**  
**OF GENOCIDE IN HISTORY**  
**1/2 Unit English AND 1/2 Unit Social Studies**  
**Grades 10, 11, 12**

This interdisciplinary course will focus on the Holocaust and other past and present examples of genocide. Students will use literature, first person narratives and historical accounts in order to understand the causes of genocide, the rise of hate crimes and, most importantly, ways to prevent "man's inhumanity to man" now and in the future. Students will develop an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of individuals, organizations and governments. This one-period, yearlong course is a Social Studies and English elective and is open to students in 10th, 11th and 12th grades. This course is also listed under Social Studies.

**Stranger Fiction**

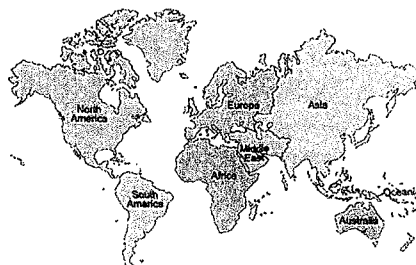
Are you interested in:

- Different genres of literature such as science fiction, horror, and fantasy?
- Modern mythological creatures such as zombies and the "undead"?
- Learning about alternative realities?
- Analyzing literature and film?
- Being exposed to various genres of literature not typically read in high school English courses?

**Voices From the Past**

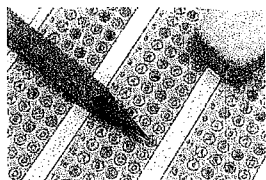
Are you interested in:

- Learning about how historical events impact the future?
- Examining the results of hatred, intolerance, and racism?
- Becoming familiar with the causes of genocide and hate crimes?
- Understanding the roles and responsibilities of individuals, organizations, and government as they relate to "man's inhumanity to man."
- Taking a course that connects directly to English *and* Social Studies?



**SAT/ACT Strategies - English**  
**Semester Course**  
**Grades 10, 11, 12 1/2 Unit**

This course will focus on the verbal skills essential for success on the SAT and ACT exams, with the ultimate goal of preparing students for the rigors of college-level reading and writing expectations. It is also designed to enhance the literacy skills of college-bound students through the development of critical reading, speed reading and time management.



**SAT/ACT Strategies - English**

Do you want to:

- Improve your reading comprehension?
- Increase your vocabulary?
- Strengthen your grammar usage?
- Practice SAT sentence completions, critical reading, improving sentences, and improving paragraphs?
- Learn test taking strategies such as time management and the process of elimination?

**AP Capstone Program**

**AP CAPSTONE** is an innovative diploma program from the College Board that equips students with the independent research, collaborative teamwork, and communication skills necessary for college and beyond. AP Capstone is built on the foundation of two AP Courses offered through the English Department - **AP Seminar** and **AP Research** - and is designed to complement and enhance the in-depth, discipline-specific study experienced in other Advanced Placement courses. The AP Capstone curriculum fosters inquiry, research, collaboration, and writing skills through the intensive investigation of topics from multiple perspectives. Students likely to be successful in this program will demonstrate high levels of self-motivation, an ability to work well with peers, and exemplary time management skills.

AP Seminar is an additional option for English credit in 10th grade. Students who take a two-course sequence for AP Capstone, beginning with AP Seminar in the 10th grade and continuing with AP Research in the 11th grade, are eligible to receive the *AP Seminar and Research Certificate* upon receiving a score of 3 or higher in both classes. Students seeking the *AP Capstone Diploma* will be required to take four additional AP courses of their choosing, in any subject area, and score a 3 or higher on each subsequent exam.

**AP SEMINAR** - AP Seminar is a critical reading and introductory research course that provides sustained practice of investigating issues from multiple perspectives and cultivates student writing abilities so they can craft, communicate and defend evidence-based arguments. Students are empowered to collect and analyze information with accuracy and precision and are assessed through a team project and presentation, an individual written essay and presentation, and a written exam. *Students can take AP Seminar in lieu of English 2 or English 2 Honors.*

- Students are required to complete a summer assignment.

**AP RESEARCH** - In AP Research, students develop the skills and discipline necessary to conduct independent research to produce and defend a scholarly academic thesis. The course is the second in the AP Capstone series that allows students to deeply explore an academic topic, problem, or issue of individual interest, and through this inquiry, students design, plan, and conduct a year-long, research-based investigation with teacher mentoring. The course culminates in an academic thesis paper of approximately 5,000 words and a presentation, performance, or exhibition with an oral defense. *Students will take AP Research as an English elective in 11th grade.*

- Prerequisite: Successful completion of AP Seminar
- Students are required to complete a summer assignment.

## LIU High School Scholars Program

The LIU logo consists of the letters "LIU" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered within a solid black rectangular background.

### Calhoun English Courses:

- College Creative Writing
- College Journalism
- College Social Media and Blogging
- Voices of the Past

The LIU High School Scholars Program offers high school students a unique opportunity to accelerate their college education. Through a wide range of dual-credit courses—applicable toward both the high school diploma and a bachelor's degree—LIU High School Scholars earn college credits while studying in their high school classrooms.

Courses are significantly discounted from on-campus tuition, enabling you to earn credits and get ahead of your college career before even graduating from high school. Courses may be applied to undergraduate degree programs at LIU Post (or transferred to other institutions, as determined by the receiving institution), so LIU Scholars may take fewer courses while at college and graduate up to one year early, resulting in a significant savings of tuition and time.

### Special Benefits

- Earn college credits while studying in high school classrooms
- Get prepared for college-level academic standards
- Receive significant discounts from on-campus tuition
- Personalized family tours and invitations to admissions events

Students who take a minimum of six credits through the LIU High School Scholars program, and maintain a 3.5 GPA in the courses in which they are registered, are eligible to receive a \$5,000 scholarship renewable for four years (total \$20,000), in addition to their financial aid package, not to exceed the cost of tuition. Students who take a minimum of six credits through the LIU High School Scholars program, and maintain a 3.2 GPA in the courses in which they are registered, are eligible to receive a \$2,500 scholarship renewable for four years (total \$10,000), in addition to their financial aid package, not to exceed the cost of tuition.

### Campus Events

LIU Scholars enjoy access to campus resources, amenities, and events.

- Lectures by LIU Post faculty, visiting scholars, and artists
- Dinners, concerts, and homecoming activities
- A day on campus shadowing an LIU Post student

For more information about the LIU High School Scholars Program call 516-299-2211 or send an email to [highschoolsolarsprogram@liu.edu](mailto:highschoolsolarsprogram@liu.edu).

## ***St. John's University College Advantage Program***



***The College Advantage Program*** provides qualified juniors and seniors the opportunity to enroll in college credit bearing courses from the University while concurrently enrolled in high school. Offered during the academic year, the program provides the opportunity to students and parents to reduce future college tuition costs and serves as an assessment of a student's ability to do college level work

### **English:**

**~College Media (Com 1001/Introduction to Mass Communications):** This course involves an in-depth study of television, advertising, and film. It examines the effects of television on its viewers and helps students to recognize the manipulative advertising tactics in both print and non-print media. Students also analyze film in much the same way as they would literature, discussing the director as the artistic creator. Student assignments may include analytical essays, opinion papers, and creative projects. Students are expected to research pertinent topics.  
Evaluation: a final project.

**~College Public Speaking (SPE 1000C/Public Speaking for the College Student):** Students enrolled in this course will examine and practice the elements of effective oral communication. Emphasis will be placed on the acquisition of effective speaking skills, using peer evaluation and critiquing as important aspects of the learning process. Evaluation: a final project.

### **Student Benefits:**

- College Advantage students get a "head start" by earning college credit while still attending high school.
- Courses are offered at a reduced rate (\$325.00 per three-credit course).
- College Advantage students who enroll in St. John's University receive a \$2,000 tuition grant for each of the four years of their graduate study (Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA to retain the grant.).
- Courses are taught during the academic year at participating high school by the school's own faculty.
- College Advantage students are eligible to purchase a laptop computer at a special University discounted rate.
- Students receive complimentary tickets to select Red Storm basketball games.
- Student ticket package for athletic events, both on-campus and at Madison Square Garden are available.
- Access to the University's library resources, as well as special invitations to attend on-campus programs and events are extended.