

Course Descriptions

Burnaby Central

ENGLISH

Burnaby Central's English Department offers a variety of language arts courses to help students understand and appreciate English language and literature. We offer both compulsory courses required for graduation, and elective courses that allow students to deepen their study of literature and writing. All English courses in grades 8-12 are comprised of the same six strands: reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing and representing. As students progress through each level, the course material will become more challenging, but the learning intentions stay the same.

Students will:

- Develop an appreciation for language and literature
- Make sense of literary texts and uncover the understandings that live within them
- Engage in meaningful, purposeful academic discussion
- Think critically, creatively, and reflectively
- Communicate their thinking with clarity and effectiveness
- Participate as responsible citizens in a digital age
- Construct a sense of personal and cultural identity and be respectful of a range of perspectives and world views.

Grade Level	Regular Program	Elective Options
Grade 8	English 8	
Grade 9	English 9	
Grade 10	English 10	
Grade 11	English 11	English Literature 12
Grade 12	Communications 12 English 12 AP English Literature 12	English Literature 12

English 8

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 may include short stories, poetry, drama, novels and non-fiction works. Students will continue to improve in the areas of critical thinking, writing (both academic and creative), research and speaking.

Focused Literary Studies and Spoken Language 10

OR

Focused Literary Studies and Creative Writing 10

The grade 10 English program allows students to choose a topic of study that interests them. Each course is offered as a bundle and is worth four credits. Teachers may choose to teach the topics separately, or weave them together throughout the course.

Focused Literary Studies 10 (2 credits - common to both bundles)

The course allows students to delve more deeply into literature as they explore specific themes, periods, authors, or areas of the world through literary works in a variety of media. Giving students the choice of a range of literary topics allows them to follow their passion and at the same time:

- increase their literacy skills through close reading of appropriately challenging texts
- enhance their development of the English Language Arts curricular competencies, both expressive and receptive
- expand their development as educated global citizens
- develop balance and broaden their understanding of themselves and the world
- develop higher-level thinking and learning skills.

Spoken Language 10 (2 credits)

Spoken language skills are increasingly necessary in everyday, educational, and professional contexts. Spoken Language 10 provides opportunities for students individually and collaboratively to study, create, and use language to produce original pieces in a variety of modes. The course will provide students with opportunities for performance and public speaking. It will appeal to students who enjoy public performance or oral storytelling or who want to gain more experience and skill in this area.

The following are possible areas of focus in Spoken Language 10:

- Performance —spoken word/slam poetry, poetry recitation, oral storytelling, readers’ theatre, radio/podcasts/video posts
- Professional Applications—speech writing/presenting, proposals, interviewing, radio/podcasts/video posts

Creative Writing 10 (2 credits)

Creative Writing 10 is designed for students who have an interest in creative expression through language. The course provides students with in-depth opportunities to become better writers through the exploration of personal and cultural identities, memories, and stories in a wide range of genres. Within a supportive community of writers, students will collaborate and develop their skills through writing and design processes. This course is intentionally grounded in the exploration and application of writing processes, inviting students to express themselves creatively as they experiment with, reflect on, extend, and refine their writing.

The following are possible areas of focus within Creative Writing 10:

- contemporary creative forms such as slam poetry, oratory, rap, drama, song, graphic novels
- creative non-fiction, historical fiction
- poetry, song lyrics
- multimodal creative forms that combine visual, written, and oral texts

ELL Spoken Language and Composition 10 (For English Language Learners Only)

This course is specifically for ELL students who are transitioning out of ELL Level 2 into the regular academic English stream. Students will read a variety of text forms and have the opportunity to build on their communication skills (speaking and writing). They will receive specific English language instruction with an emphasis on understanding correct grammatical structures and improving the clarity and precision of their work.

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 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.

English Literature 12 (Elective)

Literature 12 explores the origins of the greatest literature in English from Beowulf (circa 900) to the end of the 20th century. The course encompasses a range of voices throughout history that have contributed to the development of our English literary heritage. Interest in literature, history and discussion will be nurtured and analytical skills will be enhanced. This course can be taken in grade 11 and is **strongly recommended** for students who are planning to take English 12 Advanced Placement. Although English Literature 12 is a course that is accepted for university entrance, students are also still required to take English 12 or English 12 AP for graduation.

AP (Advanced Placement) English Literature and Composition 12

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

Please note that this course is **different** from the elective English Literature 12. The focus is on prose and poetry written in the 19th-21st centuries. Students in this course are expected to fulfill the expectations for English 12 (including writing the provincial exam), and 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. They 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 as a prerequisite course in order to be better prepared for the AP exam.