

# 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	N/A
Grade 9	English 9	N/A
Grade 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focused Literary Studies &amp; Creative Writing 10</li> <li>• Focused Literary Studies &amp; Spoken Language 10</li> <li>• Focused Literary Studies &amp; New Media 10</li> <li>• English First Peoples Literary Studies &amp; Writing 10</li> </ul>	N/A
Grade 10 (ELL Students)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focused Literary Studies &amp; Composition (ELL)</li> </ul>	
Grade 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Composition 11</li> <li>• Creative Writing 11</li> <li>• Literary Studies 11</li> <li>• New Media 11</li> <li>• English First Peoples Literary Studies &amp; Writing 11</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ELL: Cultural Empowerment Through Language 11</li> <li>• Literary Studies 12: English Literature Through The Ages</li> <li>• Composition 12: Academic Reading and Writing</li> </ul>
Grade 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English Studies 12</li> <li>• English First Peoples 12</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Composition 12: Academic Reading and Writing</li> </ul> <p>*Note: Grade 12 Electives can also be taken in grade 11.</p>

## **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.

## **English 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 - a required component of each bundle)***

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/oral storytelling or those 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

### ***New Media 10 (2 Credits)***

New Media 10 is a course designed for students who are interested in learning about the changing role of technology in today's society and the increasing importance of digital media in communicating and exchanging ideas. Students will have an opportunity to demonstrate their understanding through a variety of digital and print media.

*The following are possible areas of focus within New Media 10*

- Media and film studies - e.g. globalization of the media industry, influence of media on users' perceptions, documentaries in the age of digital media, the rise of social media
- Journalism and publishing - e.g. citizen journalism, local journalism
- Digital communication - blogging, writing for the web/social media, podcasting

### ***English First Peoples Literary Studies and Writing 10 (4 Credits)***

This course is open to all students who are interested in exploring First People's literature in a variety of contexts, genres, and media. Students will have opportunities to explore personal and cultural identities, histories, memories, stories, and connections to land/place. This course is grounded in the understanding of how texts are historically and culturally constructed, and the exploration and application of writing processes.

*The following are possible areas of focus within EFP Literary Studies and Writing 10:*

- Thematic studies - (e.g. family, humour, connection to the land, resistance, belonging, identity).
- Community focused/locally developed texts
- Specific First Nations, Métis, or Inuit author study
- First People's children's literature and storytelling
- Writing for advocacy and writing for expression

## **ELL Spoken Language and Composition 10 (4 Credits - 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**

The grade 11 English program allows students to choose a topic of study that interests them. All strands will continue to develop and extend their knowledge and skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing, and representing.

## **Composition 11**

This course is designed to support students as they refine, clarify, and adjust their written communication through practice and revision. Students will read and study compositions by other writers and be exposed to a variety of styles as models for the development of their writing. With increasing independence, students will study, create, and write original and authentic pieces for a range of purposes and real-world audiences.

*The following are possible areas of focus within Composition 11:*

- Narrative, expository, descriptive, persuasive, and opinion pieces
- Planning, drafting, and editing processes
- Writing for specific audiences and specific disciplines
- How to cite sources, consider the credibility of evidence, and evaluate the quality and reliability of the source

## **Creative Writing 11**

This course is designed for students who are interested in developing confidence and refining their writing skills through self-expression for a various creative purposes. Students will have in-depth opportunities to explore personal and cultural identities, memories, and stories in a wide range of genres. Within a supportive community, students will collaborate and strengthen their skills through writing and design processes.

*The following are possible areas of focus within Creative Writing 11:*

- Short fiction and poetry - e.g. flash fiction, twitterature, children's literature, sci-fi, drama/script writing, fantasy, suspense
- Creative non-fiction - e.g. columns, articles, reporting, interviews, reviews (fashion/movie), advertising
- Memoir - narrative, film

## **Literary Studies 11**

This course allows students to delve deeply into literature. Students can explore specific themes, periods, authors, or areas of the world through literary works (fiction and non-fiction) 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 and develop higher-level thinking and learning skills
- enhance their development as educated global citizens and broaden their understanding of themselves and the world
- enhance their development of the English Language Arts curricular competencies, both expressive and receptive

*The following are possible areas of focus within Literary Studies 11:*

- Genre-specific studies (poetry, short stories, novels, drama, graphic novels, children's literature)
- Canadian literature and First Peoples texts
- Specific author studies or studies by theme/inquiry, era (e.g. Romantic, Victorian, 20th Century)
- World literature, feminist literature, diasporic literature

## **New Media 11**

This course is designed for students who are interested in learning about the changing role of technology in today's society and the increasing importance of digital media in communicating and exchanging ideas. Students will have an opportunity to demonstrate their understanding through a variety of digital and print media. Compared with New Media 10, New Media 11 features tasks and texts of greater complexity and sophistication. The course will extend the depth and breadth of topics and activities offered in New Media 10.

*The following are possible areas of focus within New Media 11:*

- Media and film studies - e.g. globalization of the media industry, influence of media on users' perceptions, documentaries in the age of digital media
- Journalism and publishing - e.g. changing roles and structures within news organizations, risks/challenges/opportunities associated with professional journalism
- Digital communication - blogging, writing for the web/social media, podcasting

## **English First Peoples Literary Studies and Writing 11**

EFP Literary Studies and Writing 11 is designed for students who are interested in studying First Peoples literature and using writing for self-expression and communication in a variety of contexts. Students delve deeply into First Peoples oral and written literature in a range of media to explore various themes, authors, and topics. This provides a foundation for them to think critically and creatively as they continue to explore, extend, and strengthen their own writing. Within a supportive community, students work individually and collaboratively to explore oral and written literature and create powerful, purposeful compositions. Through the study of literature and the processes of experimenting with, reflecting on, extending, and refining their writing, students:

- extend their capacity to communicate effectively in a variety of contexts
- deepen their understanding of themselves and the world
- expand their understanding of what it means to be educated Canadian and global citizens

*The following are possible areas of focus within EFP Literary Studies and Writing 11:*

- community focused text – ideas include creating written work that relates to local First Peoples resources and supports community-driven initiatives
- exploring personal and cultural identities in relation to First Peoples in Canada and elsewhere
- exploration of First Peoples themes – multigenerational narratives, self in relation to community, relationship to land, and issues such as cultural appropriation
- performance art in relation to First Peoples themes – ideas include creating slam poetry, oratory, rap, drama, song, or multimodal work

## **Cultural Empowerment Through Language 11 (Elective - For ELL Students Only)**

This **elective** course is designed for level 3 and 4 ELL students who want additional support and practice with their literacy skills *beyond* their required English course. The course is designed to build students' skills and confidence in academic tasks across the curriculum and enhance their ability to apply their growing range of strategies. Students will read a variety of text forms and have the opportunity to build on their reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. In addition, students will gain awareness of their own identity and cultural contributions to Canadian culture and society by using more complex vocabulary and sentence forms.

## **English Studies 12**

English Studies 12, **a required course for graduation**, builds on and extends students' previous learning experiences in English Language Arts courses in grades 8-11. It is designed for all students and provides them with opportunities to:

- refine their ability to communicate effectively in a variety of contexts and to achieve their personal and career goals
- think critically and creatively about the uses of language
- explore texts from a variety of sources, in multiple modes, and that reflect diverse worldviews
- deepen their understanding of themselves and others in a changing world
- gain insight into the diverse factors that shape identity
- appreciate the importance of self-representation through text
- contribute to Reconciliation by building greater understanding of the knowledge and perspectives of First Peoples
- expand their understanding of what it means to be educated Canadian and global citizens

## **English First Peoples 12**

English First Peoples 12 **can also be used as a student's required English course for graduation**. The course is grounded in the First Peoples Principles of Learning. It is designed for all students, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, who are interested in delving deeply into First Peoples oral and written literature and visual texts in a range of media. The course focuses on the experiences, values, beliefs, and lived realities of First Peoples as evidenced in various forms of text, including oral story, poetry, song, performance, film, and prose. A key feature of the course is its focus on authentic First Peoples voices (i.e., historical or contemporary texts created by or with First Peoples). In EFP 12, all students:

- examine texts grounded in a diversity of First Peoples cultures, including local First Nations or Métis communities
- extend their capacity to communicate effectively in a variety of contexts
- think critically and creatively about the uses of language
- deepen their understanding of themselves and others in a changing world
- gain insight into the diverse factors that have shaped and continue to shape their own identities
- appreciate the importance of self-representation through authentic First Peoples texts
- contribute to Reconciliation by building greater understanding of the knowledge and perspectives of First Peoples
- expand their understanding of what it means to be educated Canadian and global citizens

While the focus in EFP 12 is primarily on First Peoples voices from British Columbia, students also engage with texts that reflect First Peoples perspectives from elsewhere in Canada and throughout the world.

### **Literary Studies 12: English Literature Through The Ages (Elective)**

This **elective course** explores the origins of the greatest literature in English from Beowulf (circa 900) to the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Students will study the tales of heroes and villains, and poetry and plays that have stood the test of time. 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 is a great introduction for those interested in pursuing a university arts degree, or for those who simply have a love of stories and language. This elective **can also be taken in grade 11** and is **strongly recommended** for students who are planning to take English 12 Advanced Placement.

### **Composition 12: Academic Reading And Writing (Elective)**

This **elective course** is designed for Grade 11 and 12 students who are planning to go directly to university and need to learn how to write university-level term papers for all subject areas. Work in this course will bridge the gap between high school level English and the reading and writing expectations of college and university. Students will read and study exemplary compositions by other writers and be exposed to a variety of styles as models for the development of their writing. There will be a focus on college-style writing, including critical summaries, annotated bibliographies, analytical essays, and research papers. Strategies designed to improve higher-level reading skills will also be taught, as will proper research methods, vocabulary development strategies and many other skills that will help foster success at the post-secondary level.