

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:

- Understand First Peoples Principles of Learning, knowing, and storytelling
- 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.

English 8

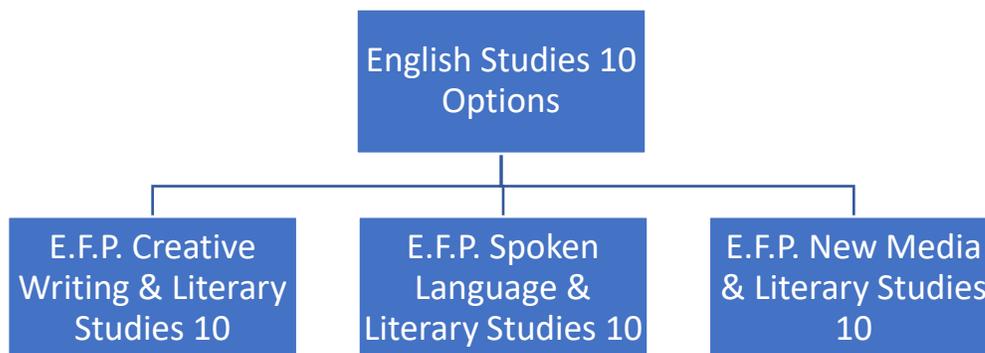
Students will read and study novels, short stories, and poetry. Drama, non-fiction and mythology may also be addressed. Writing will be approached as a process, with students becoming more familiar with the stages of writing as they apply these skills directly to the pieces of literature being studied. 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 (English First Peoples and Literary Studies)

As a proactive approach to reconciliation in education, we are changing our English 10 program to include an essential aspect of the English First Peoples (EFP) curriculum. **All students will have Literary Studies 10 (2 credits) paired with English First Peoples (2 credits): EFP Creative Writing, EFP New Media, or EFP Spoken Language.**



Literary Studies 10

Literary Studies 10 will allow students to explore specific themes, periods, authors, or areas of the world through literary works (fiction and non-fiction) in a variety of media. Students will increase their literary skills through close reading and analysis to become educated global citizens and broaden their understanding of themselves and the world.

Possible areas of focus in Literary Studies 10 are genre-specific studies (poetry, short stories, essays, novels, drama, graphic novels, children’s literature), specific author studies, Canadian literature, First Peoples literature, as well as diverse and inclusive literature (from PoC and the 2SLGBTQ+ Community).

Literary Studies 10 MUST be paired with one of the following:

English First Peoples Creative Writing 10

EFP Creative Writing 10 is designed for students who are interested in writing for a variety of purposes and contexts. This area of choice provides students with opportunities to become better writers through the exploration of personal and cultural identities, memories, stories, and connections to land/place. Within a supportive community, students will work individually and collaboratively to develop their writing skills and create coherent, purposeful, and engaging compositions. This course is grounded in the exploration and application of writing processes, inviting students to express themselves as they experiment with, reflect on, extend, and refine their writing.

The following are possible areas of focus in EFP Writing 10:

- Community-focused text—ideas include creating written work that relates to and/or contributes to local First Peoples communities (e.g., community performances, proposals, technical communications)
- Writing for advocacy—ideas include creating narrative, descriptive, persuasive, and opinion pieces, with attention to audience, purpose, and technique
- Writing for expression—ideas include creating slam poetry, oratory, rap, drama, song, or multimodal work related to First Peoples themes
- Exploration of First Peoples themes—ideas include contextualizing self in relation to community, expressing relationship to land, with consideration of issues such as cultural appropriation and inauthenticity

English First Peoples Spoken Language 10

Spoken Language 10 is designed for students who are interested in studying First Peoples oral traditions and in developing their oral self-expression and communication in a variety of contexts. Within a supportive community, students will work individually and collaboratively to develop their writing skills and create coherent, purposeful, and engaging oral texts for a variety of purposes. This area of choice will provide students with opportunities for performance and public speaking.

The following are possible areas of focus within EFP Spoken Language 10:

- Performance—ideas include spoken word/slam poetry, poetry recitation, oral storytelling, readers' theatre, radio/podcasts/video posts related to First Peoples themes
- Oral tradition—ideas include oratory, local story knowledge, and oral history
- Professional applications—ideas include speech writing/presenting, proposals, interviewing, event facilitation, radio/podcasts/video posts (information items) related to First Peoples themes

English First Peoples New Media 10

EFP New Media 10 is designed for students who are interested in exploring the increasing importance of digital media in communicating and exchanging ideas. This area of choice provides students with opportunities to think about the use of new media and its effects on individuals and on First Peoples communities and cultures. Students will work individually and collaboratively to develop skills needed in an increasingly complex digital world as they demonstrate understanding and communicate ideas through a variety of digital and print media.

The following are possible areas of focus within EFP New Media 10:

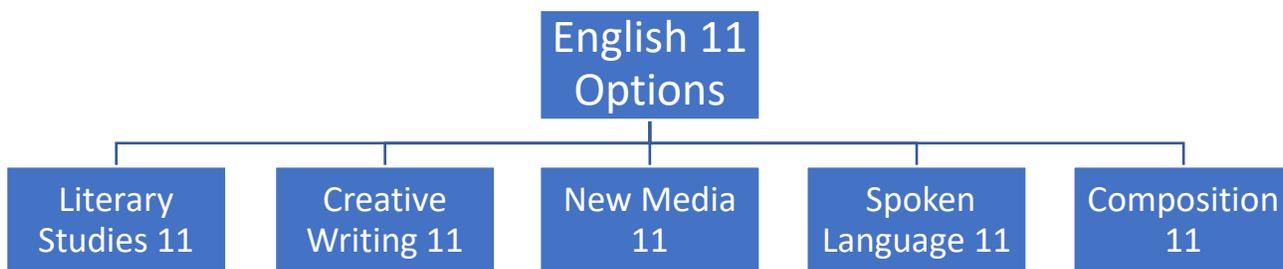
- Media and film studies related to First Peoples themes—ideas include representation of First Peoples in media and documentaries in the age of digital media
- Journalism and publishing related to First Peoples themes—ideas include changing roles and structures within news organizations and how journalism and publishing can support preservation and revitalization of language and culture
- Digital communication related to First Peoples themes—ideas include blogging, writing for the web, writing for social media, gaming, and podcasting

ELL Spoken Language & 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

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.



Literary Studies 11

Literary Studies 11 allows students to delve deeply into literature and 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:

The following are possible areas of focus in Literary Studies 11:

- expand their development as educated global citizens while further developing higher level thinking and learning skills
- specific author studies, themes, and inquiry topics
- develop balance and broaden their understanding of themselves and the world
- genre-specific studies (poetry, short stories, essays, novels, drama, graphic novels, children's literature)
- 2SLGBTQ+ and BIPOC literature, feminist literature, Canadian literature, First Peoples literature

Literary Studies 11: The Story's The Thing - Connecting Classic and Contemporary Literature

How can we use story to make sense of our world and each other? This course allows students to delve deeply into literature and the stories that offer a window into the human condition – our virtues, our vices, and our shared experience. Stories can transform our thinking, allow us to consider alternate points of view, and foster empathy. Students will have the opportunity to explore a variety of short fiction, memoir/nonfiction, novels, film, poetry, and plays and will use the lens of story to make connections between classic and contemporary works. Emphasis will be on texts and authors that explore a range of voices including Indigenous, LGBTQ+, and people of colour to learn how story transcends time, gender, and ethnicity. Students will learn how to write from experience while also studying technical academic and literary analysis writing. This course is highly recommended for those students who are interested in preparing for English Studies 12, English 12 AP, and pursuing studies at the post-secondary level.

The following are possible units of focus within this course:

- Children's Literature
- Canadian and Indigenous Literature
- World Literature
- Specific author studies or studies by era or theme
- Environmental and Global/Social Issues

"All that we are is story. From the moment we are born to the time we continue on our spirit journey, we are involved in the creation of the story of our time here....When we can do that and we take the time to share those stories with each other, we get bigger inside, we see each other, we recognize our kinship – we change the world, one story at a time." -Richard Wagamese

Literary Studies 11: Feminist Literature

This course will concentrate on different forms of literature written by women and about women, but welcomes all. Focus will be on fiction, drama, poetry, and media combining these studies with analysis from a feminist perspective and discussion of intersectionality. Songs, movies, stories, "women rarely get to be the center of attention—rarely do our stories get to matter. When women are involved, they are often sidekicks, the romantic interests, the afterthoughts." Roxane Gay. How do we bring attention to these issues? How does literature serve as a vehicle for change? We will look through history to the present at women who have brought change, raised awareness, and have taken the driver's in texts and media.

Students will focus on learning how to:

- Respectfully exchange ideas and viewpoints from diverse perspectives
- compose texts intentionally designed to shift worldviews or perspectives with power
- respond to written/oral/visual/multimodal texts in personal, creative and critical ways
- insightfully combine genre specific techniques with content to create persuasive communications

Creative Writing 11

This course is designed for students who are interested in developing confidence and refining their writing skills through self-expression for 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, dystopian
- Creative non-fiction - e.g. columns, articles, reporting, interviews, reviews, podcasts
- Memoirs and Narratives from diverse perspectives
- Film analysis/screenwriting and documentary

Creative Writing 11: Comedy Focus

This course is designed for students with an interest in writing who want to understand the fragile art of making complete strangers laugh at words and images. Students will engage with mediums such as stand-up comedy, half-hour sitcoms, personal comedic memoirs, comics, and film. The goal of this class is not necessarily to write hilarious comedy so much as it is to develop a personal writer's voice and deepen our understanding of the techniques used to create humour. Students will also examine the shifting perceptions of what are considered acceptable targets for comedy, as well as the difference between "punching up" and "punching down". Also: It'll be funny, probably.

Creative Writing 11 (Comedy Focus) will include but is not limited to:

- Sitcom writing and the three-act structure
- Comedy as a tool for social justice
- Developing a writer's voice through memoir and journaling
- Parody and satire

Creative Writing 11: Personal Empowerment Through the Written Word

We will use emotions such as sadness, anger, and fear, as fuel for our creative work. You will turn your challenging thoughts into art, empowering the most important relationship in life-the one with yourself! You will be held and supported in a safe, inclusive, but sometimes challenging space. Always, you will be met with care and compassion. Awareness of self, expression of self, personal empowerment, and respect for all will be key pillars in this course.

Art Forms will include but are not limited to:

- free writing, journaling, reflections
- sensory walks
- descriptive reviews
- inquiry based writing
- meditation
- personal stories/memoirs
- poetry as upliftment!

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

Spoken Language 11

This course is designed to support students as they refine, clarify, and adjust their spoken communication through practice and revision. The course provides opportunities for students to, with increasing independence, study, create, write, and present original and authentic pieces for a range of purposes and real-world audiences. They will expand their competencies through processes of drafting, reflecting, and revising to build a body of work that demonstrates expanding breadth, depth, and evidence of spoken language genres for a range of situations. They will develop confidence in their abilities as they consolidate their spoken language skills.

The following are possible areas of focus in Spoken Language 11:

- performance – suggested content/topics include spoken word/slam poetry, poetry recitation, oral storytelling, readers' theatre, radio/podcasts/video posts
- oral tradition – suggested content/topics include oratory, local story knowledge, oral history
- professional applications – suggested content/topics include speech writing/presenting, proposals, interviewing, event facilitation, radio/podcasts/video posts (information items), voice-overs

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:

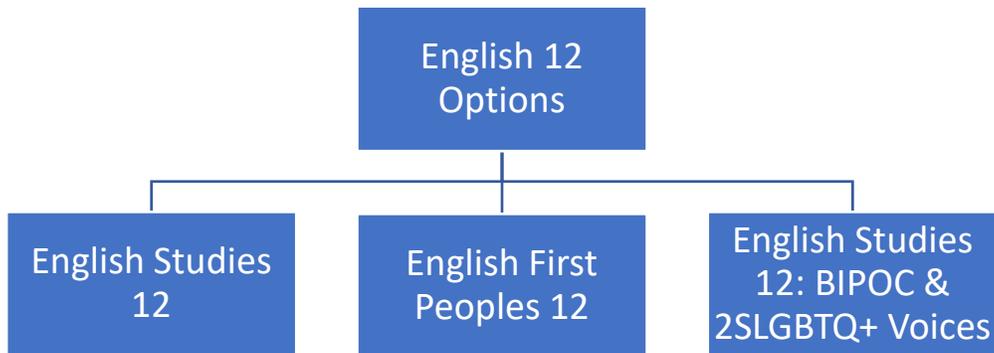
- Narrative, expository, descriptive, persuasive, and opinion pieces
- Planning, drafting, and editing processes
- Writing for specific audiences and specific disciplines
- How to cite sources, consider the credibility of evidence, and evaluate the quality and reliability of the source

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 12

The grade 12 English program allows students to choose a topic of study that interests them. All three of the choices build on and extend students' previous learning experience in English Language Arts courses in grades 8 – 11.



English Studies 12

English Studies 12 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

This course is grounded in the First Peoples Principles of Learning. It is designed for all students, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, 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 Indigenous 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.

English Studies 12: BIPOC and 2SLGBTQ+ Voices

This specialty English 12 course is designed to allow students to explore diverse, intersectional topics in literature while gaining credit for English Studies 12. Through the lens of the First Peoples Principles of Learning and Social Justice, this course will examine specific curriculum for students to explore race, gender identity, and sexual orientation as told by authentic Black, Indigenous, People of Colour, and 2SLGBTQ+ voices through memoirs, short stories and essays, documentaries, podcasts, art, music, and poetry. Students will actively engage in open dialogue about readings/topics to demonstrate empathetic understandings of storytelling. Students will learn how to write from experience while also studying technical academic and literary analysis writing.

Students will have the opportunity to:

- appreciate the importance of self-representation through a variety of texts
- contribute to community and reconciliation by building greater understanding of the knowledge and perspectives of First Peoples
- deepen their understanding of themselves and others in a changing world
- understand the diverse factors that shape identity for BIPOC and queer communities
- expand their understanding of what it means to be an educated global citizen
- explore texts from a variety of sources, in multiple modes, and that reflect diverse personal and world views
- refine their ability to communicate effectively in a variety of contexts and genres

AP English Literature and Composition

*Please note that this course is **different** from the elective *Literary Studies 12*. **Students who take AP English 12 will also receive credit for English Studies 12, a graduation requirement.***

The focus of this course 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 literary assessment) 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 the *Literary Studies 12: English Literature Through the Ages* as an elective in grades 11 or 12 as a prerequisite course in order to be better prepared for the AP exam.

English 12 Elective Courses:

Composition 12: Academic Reading and Writing

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.

Literary Studies 12: English Literature Through the Ages

This **elective course** explores the origins of the greatest literature in English from Beowulf (circa 900) to the end of the 20th 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.