

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.

Indigenous Focused Courses (for the Indigenous Focused Graduation Requirement) are offered from grades 10-12. This 4-credit requirement can be completed in either English or Social Studies.

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.

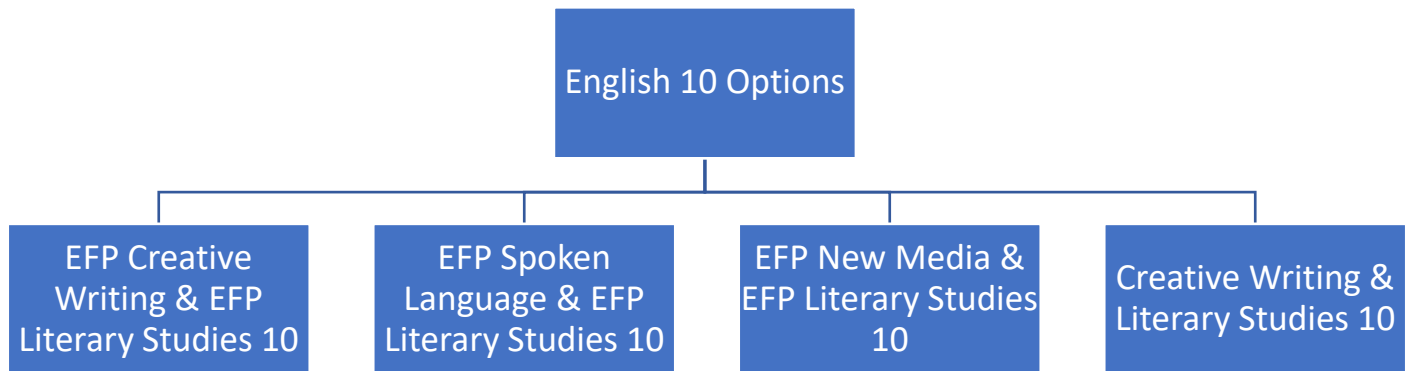
English 9

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. All strands will continue to develop and extend their knowledge and skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing, and representing.

Students have the option of taking English Studies 10 or a variety of English First Peoples 10 options. **All English 10 courses are offered in 2 credit pairings (for 4 credits total).**



Literary Studies 10/EFP Literary Studies 10

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

English First Peoples Writing 10

EFP 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 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

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

Creative Writing 10

Creative Writing 10 is designed for students who have an interest in creative expression through language. The course provides students opportunities to build their writing skills through the exploration of identity, memory, and story in a 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 sampling of writing processes, inviting students to express themselves creatively as they experiment with, reflect on, and practise their writing.

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

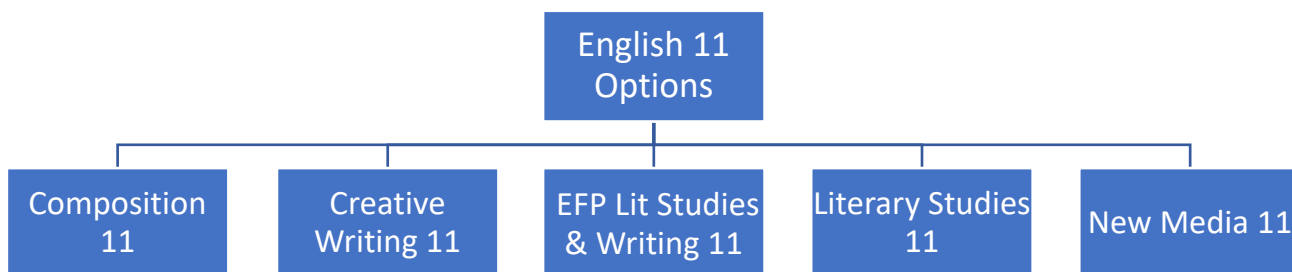
- contemporary creative forms such as slam poetry, oratory, rap, drama, song, graphic novels
- creative non-fiction, historical fiction
- poetry, song lyrics
- multimodal creative forms that combine visual, written, and oral texts

ELL Spoken Language & 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.



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 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

English First Peoples Literary Studies & Writing 11

EFP Literary Studies & 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.

The following are possible areas of study within EFP Literary Studies + Writing 11:

- community focused text – ideas include creating written work that relates to local First Peoples resources and supports community-driven initiatives (e.g., commemorative works, community performances, proposals)
- exploring personal and cultural identities in relation to First Peoples in Canada and elsewhere – ideas include genre-specific, author-specific, or thematic study of First Peoples literature
- exploration of First Peoples themes – ideas include creating multigenerational narratives, contextualizing self in relation to community, and expressing relationship to land, with consideration of issues such as cultural appropriation and inauthenticity
- performance art in relation to First Peoples themes – ideas include creating slam poetry, oratory, rap, drama, song, or multimodal work
- academic, technical, and professional composition – ideas include Indigenous and Western approaches to research and writing for a variety of purposes and audiences
- intersections between First Peoples themes and other social justice issues – ideas include Indigeneity and feminism, Indigeneity and LGBTQ, Indigeneity and inclusion, Indigeneity and environmental sustainability

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

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:

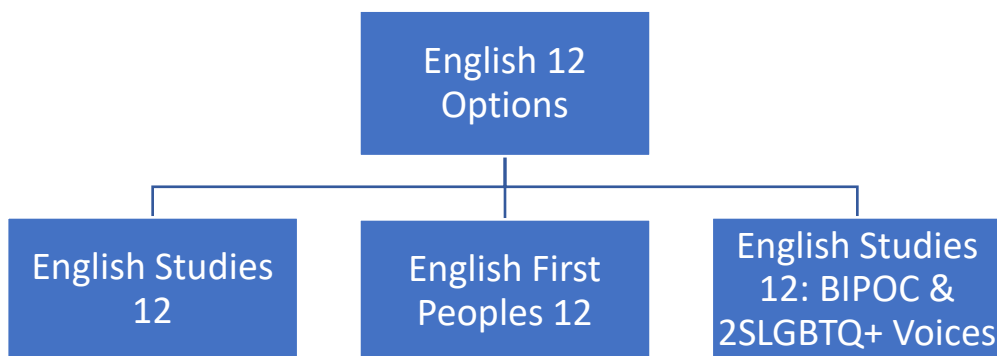
- Media and film studies - e.g. globalization of the media industry, influence of media on users' perceptions, documentaries in the age of digital media
- Journalism and publishing - e.g. changing roles and structures within news organizations, risks/challenges/opportunities associated with professional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

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.