

The goal of the English Department is to develop the students' abilities to read, write, speak, and think. Emphasis is placed on acquiring skills in writing and reading comprehension, vocabulary, spelling, library use, research methods, grammar, various media, basic genre, and the understanding and appreciation of literature. Students are expected to read and write in every English class. All English courses are designed to prepare students for college.

*\*To take an English honors course it is recommended that students have a cumulative 3.5 GPA in English or receive permission. Students should meet with their current English teacher for more information.*

## **Requirement - Grade 9:**

All required English courses have a summer reading component. Summer reading lists will be made available to students and posted on the school website: [www.cretin-derhamhall.org](http://www.cretin-derhamhall.org).

Values Symposium (year long)

### **VALUES SYMPOSIUM – English**

### **Grade 9 students are pre-registered for this course.**

This ninth grade interdisciplinary course provides all students with a common academic and affective experience as they begin their secondary school education. Based expressly on the CDH values of academics, service, leadership, Catholicity, community, equity, and diversity, this year long course is team taught through the religion, English and social studies departments, and is supported by technology integration. It is our goal that students will learn more effectively by connecting traditionally separate subjects, providing a more natural educational process in preparation for life-long learning. Students will practice basic writing skills including paragraph and essay structure, as well as personal, descriptive and narrative essay styles. Important aspects of this course include the building of relationships among the students and between students and their teachers, developing critical thinking and communication skills and encouraging informed citizenship and active participation in the CDH community.

#### ***Grade 9***

## **Requirement - Grade 10:**

All required English courses have a summer reading component. Summer reading lists will be made available to students and posted on the school website: [www.cretin-derhamhall.org](http://www.cretin-derhamhall.org).

English 10 (year long) OR

English 10 - Honors (year long)

### **ENGLISH 10**

### **Year long**

Each student stands both as a local and global citizen. The tenth grade curriculum creates an opportunity for students to read novels, short stories, poetry and plays, which examine personal journeys amidst different cultures. These areas of study may include Shakespeare, diverse mythological and imaginative pieces, and a variety of other perspectives that will allow students to become acquainted with other peoples and worlds. By year's end, students will see their world with new eyes, appreciating and recognizing what experiences are common to us all.

Students will explore novels, short stories, plays and poetry. There will be a strong emphasis on writing. Students will become proficient at writing comparison, persuasion, and literary and personal analysis essays. Students will continue to enhance their understanding of parts of speech, pronunciation, sentence and paragraph structure, writing process and lively writing habits and skills. This 10th grade course continues the development of communication skills.

#### ***Grade 10***

**ENGLISH 10 – Honors****Year long**

Each student stands both as a local and global citizen. The tenth grade curriculum creates an opportunity for students to read novels, short stories, poetry and plays, which examine personal journeys amidst different cultures. These areas of study may include Shakespeare, diverse mythological and imaginative pieces, and a variety of other perspectives that will allow students to become acquainted with other peoples and worlds. By year’s end, students will see their world with new eyes, appreciating and recognizing what experiences are common to us all. Students will learn to both comprehend what they read and express their insights through accelerated reading and advanced class discussions. There will be a strong emphasis on writing. Students in honors English will write at least two papers per trimester, and will become proficient at writing comparison, persuasion, and literary and personal analysis essays. Students will continue to enhance their understanding of parts of speech, pronunciation, sentence and paragraph structure, writing process and lively writing habits and skills. Students who wish to earn the highest grade are required to independently read one extra assigned novel per trimester.

*\*Grade 10***Requirement - Grade 11:**

All required English courses have a summer reading component. Summer reading lists will be made available to students and posted on the school website: [www.cretin-derhamhall.org](http://www.cretin-derhamhall.org).

United States Literature/Composition (year long) OR  
 United States Literature/Composition – Honors (year long)

**UNITED STATES LITERATURE/COMPOSITION****Year long**

This multi-cultural course introduces U.S. Literature thematically or chronologically from the 1600s to the present. Students read autobiographies, novels, short stories, plays, poetry and essays. The course focuses on the scope and purpose of U.S. writers and their stories. Students develop mastery at writing analysis, comparison, persuasion and personal essay styles, as well as prepare for college entrance essays. Students continue to work on basic writing skills as well as verb tense, subject/verb agreement, and personal voice and style.

*Grade 11***UNITED STATES LITERATURE/COMPOSITION - Honors****Year long**

This multi-cultural course introduces U.S. Literature thematically or chronologically from the 1600s to the present. Students read history, autobiographies, novels, short stories, plays, poetry and essays. To succeed in this course, students should be able to carefully read 30-40 pages per night. Extensive writing is a strong component, including mastery of analysis, comparison, persuasion and personal essay styles, as well as preparation for college entrance essays. Students continue to work on basic writing skills as well as verb tense, subject/verb agreement, and personal voice and style.

*Grade 11***Requirement - Grade 12: Choose One Sequence**

All required English courses have a summer reading component. Summer reading lists will be made available to students and posted on the school website: [www.cretin-derhamhall.org](http://www.cretin-derhamhall.org).

English 12 (year long) OR  
 English 12 – Writing Studio, University of Minnesota CIS Entry Point Program (year long) OR  
 Readings in Literature – Honors (year long) OR  
 Senior Interdisciplinary Symposium - (Spectrum) – Honors (year long)

## **ENGLISH 12**

**Year long**

This year long English course includes relevance, applicability, engagement and action in service as focal points for curricular materials and course work. Students develop and use their higher-level thinking skills as they read, write, speak and serve.

*Reading:* Through the examination of a variety of texts from world writers, students actively comprehend, analyze and synthesize the material using formal, personal and creative approaches.

*Writing:* This course will offer further practice and development of formal, informal, creative and practical writing. Editing and revision as a part of the writing process will also be a heavy focus.

*Speech/Presentation:* Students practice formal and informal public speaking, presenting and interviewing.

*Service:* This course is paired with Senior Seminar Religion to allow for the time needed for service on Thursdays.

English 12 might be offered in a combined class with English 12 – Writing Studio to accommodate student schedules.

**Grade 12**

## **ENGLISH 12 – WRITING STUDIO**

**Year long**

### **UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA COLLEGE IN THE SCHOOLS ENTRY POINT PROGRAM (EPP)**

Online link: <https://cce.umn.edu/writing-studio>

This year long English course will be taught with relevance, applicability, engagement and action in service as focal points for curricular materials and course work. Students will be challenged to further develop and use their higher-level thinking skills as they read, write, speak and serve. With this class, students will be earning four University of Minnesota semester credits through the College in the Schools Entry Point Program of the University of Minnesota.

WRIT 1201 introduces students to general writing strategies encountered at the college level. Through frequent practice and feedback, students learn to see writing as a tool for learning and a vehicle for expression of ideas and informed views. Students also learn a working vocabulary for discussing writing. Typical assignments include informal writing derived from personal experience, response to readings, analysis and evaluation of sources on the web and in print, and formal papers that increasingly make use of sources as well as close reading of texts. The course emphasizes the active practice of writing, from gathering ideas for a paper, through the drafting of papers, to careful editing.

College in the Schools is accredited by the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships. Accreditation guarantees that courses offered through CIS are University of Minnesota courses and CIS students earn University of Minnesota credit. High school students taking U of MN courses through CIS are held to the same academic standards as students on the University campus. High school teachers teaching U of MN courses through CIS are selected, trained, and continuously supported by University faculty.

*The fee in 2016-2017 was \$145.00. The University of Minnesota has not yet determined the fee for the upcoming school year.*

This course is paired with Senior Seminar Religion to allow for the time needed for service on Thursdays. Enrollment to the College in the Schools Entry Point Program of the University of Minnesota may be limited. Students are required to meet the U of MN (EPP) requirements.

**Grade 12**

## **READINGS IN LITERATURE - Honors**

**Year long**

The course concentrates on the close reading of provocative, contemplative, unusual, and classic literature. Students who take this course are expected to have excellent reading and writing skills, and they should anticipate an average of at least one hour of homework each night. This course is paired with sections of the Senior Seminar religion course or Philosophy and Theology to allow for the time needed for service on Thursdays.

For students who wish to take the Advanced Placement English exam in the spring, supplementary study materials are available. Many colleges and universities give credit and/or advanced standing to students who do well on the exam.

St. Mary's University will give credit for Readings in Literature OR Senior Interdisciplinary Symposium, not both.

St. Mary's University has approved Readings in Literature as part of its Program for Advanced College Credit (PACC). Twelfth graders who take Readings in Literature and maintain a "C" average in this class may earn three college credits from St. Mary's which are transferable to approximately sixty other colleges and universities.

***Grade 12***

## **SENIOR INTERDISCIPLINARY SYMPOSIUM (SPECTRUM) - Honors**

**Year long**

Senior Interdisciplinary Symposium is an interdisciplinary course that fulfills the 12<sup>th</sup> grade requirement for credit in English, and religion. The course also fulfills 2 credits for social studies. Students are required to take Economics or Economics-honors and U. S. Government or AP U. S. Government to fulfill the social studies requirement. This course admits approximately forty-five students per section, is taught by three teachers (one from each discipline) and meets for two consecutive class periods.

The three disciplines in the course are integrated in two primary ways. First the course focuses upon themes that are common to the three subject areas. The values of Catholic Social Teaching underlie the selection of literature and guide the approach to each topic. Second, the disciplines are integrated through an emphasis on developing skills: reading, writing, critical thinking and discussion.

Spectrum has a focus on service learning and leadership. When a student registers for Spectrum, he/she agrees to do a year of service at one of the program's designated sites.

***A 3.5 cumulative GPA in English, religion and social studies is strongly recommended for registration for Senior Interdisciplinary Symposium (Spectrum).***

***Students will be encouraged to attend and participate in an overnight retreat. Approximate cost: \$80.00.***

***Limited financial assistance is available to students who cannot otherwise afford to attend the retreat.***

St. Mary's University has approved Spectrum as part of its Program for Advanced College Credit (PACC). Twelfth graders who take Spectrum and maintain a "C" average in this class may earn three college credits from St. Mary's which are transferable to approximately sixty other colleges and universities.

St. Mary's University will give credit for Readings in Literature OR Senior Interdisciplinary Symposium, not both.

***Grade 12***

## **ELECTIVES**

These electives may be taken in addition to the required year long English course for each grade level.

### **COMPOSITION 9 and 10**

#### **Tri I or Tri II or Tri III**

This course is for any 9th or 10th grade student who would like to improve their writing skills. The course will help any student who struggles with writing, but it also is meant to hone the skills of more advanced writers. Students will spend the trimester intensively writing a variety of papers to improve their fundamental writing skills. These papers may include descriptive, narrative, persuasive, compare and contrast, and analytical essays, as well as work from other classes, but they will not be limited to these. Many assignments will be based on the students' practical needs. This course is recommended for all 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders.

*Grades 9, 10*

### **COMPOSITION 11 and 12**

#### **Tri I**

This course is recommended for 11th and 12th grade students interested in improving their writing skills. Students will write a variety of essays: persuasive, literary analysis, contrast/comparison, and personal narrative and college applications.

*Grades 11, 12*

### **CREATIVE WRITING**

#### **Tri II**

Using published pieces of writing as models, students write poems, stories, dramatic scenes, and essays. Student collaboration, evaluation and revision are essential parts of this course.

*Grades 10, 11, 12*

### **ENGLISH TOPICS:**

#### **JOURNALING AND SELF-DISCOVERY**

#### **Tri II**

The most important and the most urgent question all humans have is WHO AM I? The challenging part is trying to come up with an answer. Using writing prompts, discussion, and readings, this class explores the art of journaling and how it aids in self-discovery, better mental and physical health, and stress relief. It includes reading and discussing journal writers like Anaïs Nin, André Gide, Virginia Woolf, Henry Thoreau, and Anne Frank. Practicing daily journaling, and learning other forms of self-discovery, such as meditation, contemplation and yoga, this class validates introspection and the need to answer life's most important question. Ms. Jenny Markert will teach this course.

*Grades 10, 11, 12*

#### **FILM STUDY**

#### **Tri I or Tri III**

Students view films and learn how to critically analyze a film. Evaluation will be through class discussions and papers written on the films studied.

*Grades 10, 11, 12*

#### **INDIVIDUALIZED READING**

#### **Tri II**

This is a course for people who either like to or love to read. With direction from the teacher, students pick from a wide variety of books: fiction (novels, short stories, plays) and non-fiction (historical, political, scientific). The course is designed to foster a love for reading. The main activity of the course is silent reading. Assessment may include the following: reader's journal, short written reflections, and short conferences with the reader about the book(s).

*Grades 10, 11, 12*

**MEDIA STUDIES****Tri III**

Media Studies focuses on the relationship between Americans and their media. This class explores what media are, how our culture creates and is shaped by our media world, how advertising dollars affect media programming, and finally explore the future direction of media. The class may include journaling, analysis, presentation and an independent media project.

***Grades 10, 11, 12***

**SPEECH****Tri I**

Students develop public speaking and communication skills through the study and practice of different areas of speech communication. Organizational preparation is stressed. Some oral interpretation of literature is also included.

***Grades 9, 10, 11, 12***