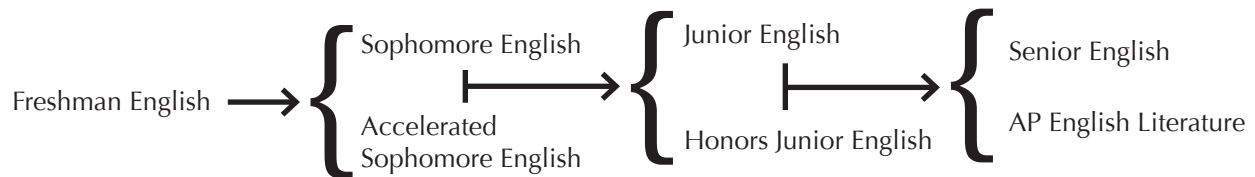


# ENGLISH

P I O N E E R  
H I G H  
S C H O O L

## RECOMMENDED COURSE SEQUENCES



### PLAN 3: Preparation for Humanities Majors and Highly Selective Four-Year College

Students who plan to attend a competitive college, no matter what major they intend to declare, should prepare themselves with a rigorous sequence of English courses. The most selective colleges, such as Stanford and Berkeley, expect students to demonstrate excellence in the most challenging English courses available at their high school. In English classes students develop the critical thinking and oral and written communication skills that every academic program and career demand. Students with a love of literature, writing, and discussion, and those considering a major in English, philosophy, languages, or the social sciences, should follow a course sequence that culminates in AP English Literature.

Freshman English  
Accelerated Sophomore English  
Honors Junior English  
AP English Literature

### PLAN 2: Preparation for College

The best predictor of a student's success in college is his or her preparation in English. Students who plan to attend college should take the most challenging sequence they can manage.

Freshman English  
Sophomore English or Acc Sophomore English  
Junior English or Honors Junior English  
Senior English or AP English Literature

### PLAN 1: San Jose Unified School District Minimal Graduation Requirements

All students must complete four years of English.

Freshman English  
Sophomore English  
Junior English  
Senior English

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## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**Freshman English** students study vocabulary, grammar, writing, and literature. There are no advanced or accelerated sections. In this foundational course, students establish the basic structure of expository composition and also explore forms of creative writing. They study poetry, short stories, novels, and drama. All students independently read at least two books of their choice each semester in addition to the core course texts, which include *Of Mice and Men*, *The House on Mango Street*, *The Odyssey*, and *Romeo and Juliet*. Freshman English introduces students to literary analysis and the requirements of college-level writing.

**Sophomore English** students build on the foundations of their first year with continued attention to vocabulary and grammar, and they write longer expository essays. The course literature includes short stories, poetry, plays and novels from among *Catcher in the Rye*, *Animal Farm*, *Lord of the Flies*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Night*, and *Twelfth Night*.

**Accelerated Sophomore English** covers the same material in greater depth and requires more sophisticated writing and reading assignments.

**Junior English**, a survey of American literature, invites students to reflect on their personal identity and dreams through the lens of American masterworks. Students continue to expand their vocabulary and refine their analytical and creative writing skills, with an added emphasis on reflective writing in preparation for college applications. Course literature includes short stories, poetry, and several novels and plays from among *The Scarlet Letter*, *The Crucible*, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *The Great Gatsby*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *The Awakening*, *Bless Me, Ultima*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Our Town*, *Raisin in the Sun*, and *Death of a Salesman*. Students also prepare for the CSU Early Assessment Program expository essay.

**Honors Junior English** provides a survey of the historical evolution of American literature from the Puritan era to the present. Students continue to study vocabulary and writing. They read most of the works from the list above and are required to produce sophisticated analytical writing.

**Senior English** students study vocabulary and writing, and they turn their attention to career-related writing, such as college application essays, résumés, and cover letters. They also read short stories, poetry, and the novels *The Things They Carried*, *Ellen Foster*, and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*.

**AP English Literature** is a college-level course in literary analysis. Examples of course novels and plays include *Brave New World*, *1984*, *Slaughterhouse-Five*, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Crime and Punishment*, *Heart of Darkness*, *Hamlet* and selections from the greatest poetry written in English.

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## ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**Journalism** students learn all aspects of newspaper publishing, including writing and editing stories, photography, typesetting, and web-based publishing. Students produce Pioneer's newspaper, *The Pony Express*, which is distributed to all students and mailed home to parents. (*Prerequisite: sophomore standing*)

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## DEPARTMENT FACULTY 2011-2012

**Ms. Michelle Bowman**,  
Northeastern, Simmons (MA / M.Ed)  
Freshman English, Honors Jr English, AP English Lit

**Ms. Jennifer Clem**, Univ of Massachusetts-Amherst  
Soph English, Junior English, ERWC

**Ms. Karen Fahrner**, San Jose State  
Junior English

**Mr. Jason Goldman-Hall**, CSU Chico  
Soph English, Senior English, Yearbook

**Ms. Kathryn Lewis**, UC Santa Barbara  
Freshman English, Journalism

**Ms. Janelle Marker**, UC Berkeley  
Freshman Enrichment, Jr English, Honors Jr English

**Ms. Lyndsey McKenzie**, Univ of Southern California  
Soph Enrichment, Acc Soph English, Senior English

**Ms. Terry Montelibano**, UC Santa Cruz  
Soph English, Senior English

**Ms. Nadya Peck**, Moscow Pedagogical College  
for Foreign Languages  
Freshman English, ESL

**Mr. Scott Peterson** (dept chair), Stanford  
Freshman English, Honors Jr English, AP English Lit

**Ms. Kathleen Quint**, CSU Northridge  
Soph English, Acc Soph English

**Ms. Beth Stafford**, CSU Chico  
Freshman English, Acc Soph English