

COMMUNICATION ARTS & TECHNICAL THEATRE

In his office, Edward R. Murrow displayed a statement by Henry David Thoreau which said: "It takes two to speak the truth - one to speak and the other to hear."

This idea represents a common thread in all of the courses listed below. They encompass a wide range of interests and materials, yet they are all centered around a theme of communication. The improvement of your ability to communicate effectively through the written and spoken word is the primary aim of this department.

Course Selection

1. Every student must successfully complete a minimum of eight (8) semesters of Communications Arts for graduation.
2. Students who need special help in the improvement of basic skills in reading, writing or speaking may be required to take Academy courses that are linked with Social Studies.

9th Grade

FALL

English 1 Academy (EES81QA) - This course is designed to strengthen students reading and writing skills through an interdisciplinary study with Social Studies. The following texts are used in this course *Enjoying Global History, Writer's Workshop, Gilgamesh*, and a variety of poems, short stories, and non-fiction texts.

Global Classics 1 (EES81H) - This course is designed as an honors course with more emphasis on critical reading and writing skills. This is achieved through a study of the canonical literature. The following texts are taught in this class *Julius Cesar, Gilgamesh*, and mythology.

Introduction to Literature and Composition 1 (EES81QD) – This course is designed for students to begin developing their reading and writing skills. Myths play an important role in our culture in the world. Students will investigate the mythology of several cultures and discuss their implications on Western culture. Literary elements will be explored through a novel and short works. The course works on strengthening students reading and writing skills through a study of classic mythology. The course focuses primarily on Myths, legends & heroes of Britain, Mid-East, Greece & Rome. The texts for the course are short stories, poetry, *The Odyssey or Oedipus Rex*, and excerpts from other classic texts.

Theater Classics 1* (EES81QF) - This course is designed for screened theater students in their first year of study. It is a combination of reading dramatic works, learning the history of theater, and introduction to acting techniques. There is a strong emphasis on critical reading and writing skills. The textbook for the class is *The Stage and School*.

SPRING

English 2 Academy (EES82QA) - This course is designed to strengthen students reading and writing skills through an interdisciplinary study with Social Studies. The following texts are used in this course *Enjoying Global History, Writer's Workshop*, and a variety of poems, short stories, and non-fiction texts.

Global Classics 2 (EES82H) - This course is designed as an honors course with more emphasis on critical reading and writing skills. This is achieved through a study of the canonical literature. The following texts are taught in this class *Things Fall Apart*, poetry, proverbs, African folk tales and myths, Lit. of Asia & India, and *Nectar in a Sieve*.

Introduction to Literature and Composition 2 (EES82QD) - This course is designed for students to begin developing their reading and writing skills. Through the study of short stories and other works students learn how to analyze literature and do close readings. Students will also learn the basics of descriptive, narrative, argumentative, and expository writing. The texts for the course are short stories, poetry, *Romeo and Juliet* (or another work by Shakespeare) and an independent reading project.

Theater Classics 2* (EES82QF) - This course is designed for screened theater students in their first year of study. It is a combination of reading dramatic works, learning the history of theater, introduction to acting techniques and writing. *Cybourne Park* and *West Side Story* are taught, as well as use of *The Stage and School*.

10th Grade

FALL

Advanced Literacy (EES83QB) - This course is designed to strengthen students reading and writing skills. Students will practice these skills through reading poetry, *Romeo and Juliet*, and assorted short stories.

English 3 Academy (EES83QA) - This course is designed to strengthen students reading and writing skills through an interdisciplinary study with Social Studies. The following texts are used in this course: *Night*, *Animal Farm*, *Macbeth*, *Frankenstein*, and a variety of poems, short stories, and non-fiction texts.

Global Humanities 1 (EES83H) – This course focuses on the Modern World, Development of Realism in literature and the arts, including, Voltaire, Victor Hugo, and John Hersey. Literature of social protest as well as "experimental" tendencies (Ionesco) will be studied. This course confronts the problems of warfare, conformity, and social change in modern society.

Western World Literature 1 (EES83QD) - Students will strengthen their reading skills through an analysis of canonical literature. Students will read *Macbeth*, *Lord of the Flies*, and various other classic works of literature.

Journalism (EES83QH) – This course is designed to give students an understanding of role of news and newspapers and its important in our society. Students will explore how new works, analyze and interpret why certain issues make the news, and write newspaper stories. Students will be exposed to expository and argumentative styles of writing. Students will be reading *The New York Times* on a regular basis and various other texts.

Journalism for Writers Institute* (EES83QHW) – List Course. Students applied to be in the class during the 9th grade.

Holocaust Literature (EES83QN) – This course focuses on literature around the events of the Holocaust. It looks at the representation of the Holocaust through memoirs, film, and poetry. There is also a focus reading and writing skills. Students will read *Night*, *The Pianist*, and an independent reading book of their choosing.

Acting (EES83QP) - Through an analysis of dramatic text, presentations of scenes and monologues, and character and script analysis students will strengthen their acting, reading and writing skills. Various dramatic works are used throughout this course.

SPRING

Advanced Literacy 2 (EES84QB) - This course is designed to strengthen students reading and writing skills. It is a continuation of Advanced Literacy 1. Students will practice these skills through reading *Bodega Dreams*, *Frankenstein*, and assorted short stories.

English Academy 4 (EES84QA) - This course is designed to strengthen students reading and writing skills through an interdisciplinary study with Social Studies. The following texts are used in this course: *Night*, *Animal Farm*, *Macbeth*, *Frankenstein*, and a variety of poems, short stories, and non-fiction texts.

Global Humanities 2 (EES84H) - Taken in Conjunction with Social Studies 10th year students who have a special interest in social studies and literature should take this course. It focuses on the Modern World, Development of Realism in literature and the arts, including, Voltaire, Victor Hugo, and John Hersey. Literature of social protest as well as "experimental" tendencies (Ionesco) will be studied. This course confronts the problems of warfare, conformity, and social change in modern society.

Western World Lit 2 (EES84QD) - This course is a continuation of Western World 1. Students will strengthen their reading skills through an analysis of canonical literature. The second semester focuses on more contemporary texts. *Lord of the Flies*, *Fahrenheit 451*, *A Midsummer's Night Dream*, and *Their Eyes Were Watching God* are taught in this class.

Human Rights Violations Studies (EES84QG) This course is designed as an overview of contemporary Genocides. Students will study the effect of conflict on narrative voice. Students will be exposed to the issues of Cambodia, Rwanda, Darfur, and others. Texts taught are *First They Came for My Father*, excerpts from *What is the What*, excerpts from *We wish to inform you that tomorrow we will be killed with our families*, and various poetry, short stories, and film clips.

Advanced Acting (EES84QP) - Through an analysis of dramatic text, presentations of scene and monologue, performance and audition skills students will strengthen their acting, reading and writing skills. Various dramatic works are used throughout this course. PREREQUISITE: Acting

Art of Writing (EES84QF) – Through a more creative approach to composition students will learn how to write both narrative and narrative non-fiction. Students will read a variety of mentor texts and create their works of literature.

Art of Writing (EES84QFH) – List only. Screened Writers Institute class

11th Grade

FALL

American Themes 1 (EES85QB) – This course will examine American life through its literature. The course studies themes through a variety of novels, dramas, poetry, literary and informational non-fiction as a means to further develop reading and writing skills. Students will also begin preparation for the English Regents. Possible texts for this class are *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, *The Hunger Games*, and *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*.

American Academy (EES85QA) Students will study a cross-curricular program that has a literacy and writing core that integrates both the English Language Arts and Social Studies curricula in this course. The course will focus on the continued development of students' literacy skills by means of a comprehensive and fundamental approach. A thematic study of American Literature in conjunction with the American History unit of lessons will serve to motivate, employ, practice, assess, and reinforce all the literacy skills students need to succeed as readers and writers.

Junior AP English 1* (EES85X) - This course is a study of rhetoric, non-fiction, and the art of persuasion. Students will be expected to write in a variety of modes. There is a heavy focus on close reading and textual analysis. Students will take the English Regents in January and the AP English Language and Composition

exam in May. Students will use *The Language of Composition*, *Everything's an Argument*, and read various works of both fiction and non-fiction.

American Humanities 1 (EES85H) - This is a suggested course for students who wish to continue the scholarship sequence. Throughout the year, the student will approach short stories, essays and novels that relate to various American themes. Students will take the English Regents in January. Works include *The Scarlet Letter*, *The Crucible*, and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

American Literature (EES85QD) - This is a suggested course for students who wish to continue the scholarship sequence. Throughout the year, the student will approach short stories, essays and novels that relate to various American themes and written by American authors.

Psychology in Literature (EES85QP) – This course is a study psychoanalytical literary criticism. The course begins with a background in psychology and then applies that study to short stories, poetry, and full-length texts. Students will focus on close readings and writing through the lens of psychoanalysis. There is also an emphasis on preparation for the English Regents. Possible texts for the class are poems, short stories, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, and *Finding Fish*.

Playwriting (EES85QF) – In this course students will study the aspects of storytelling in a play form. Students will focus on the basics of storytelling to help them generate dramatic ideas and increase their creativity. Students will read exemplars of various dramatic texts and do close readings in order to develop their writing skills. There will also be preparation for English Regents.

New York Literature (EES85QE) – This course focuses on a study of literature that has poured out of New York City. Students will explore what makes this city unique and why it has sparked so much great literature. Students will develop their literary analysis and writing skills as they study this literature. Students will also be preparing for the English Regents. The texts for this class are *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Do the Right Thing*, and short stories.

Poetry (EES85QP) – List Only Course for Writers Institute. Students will read a variety of poems and learn all about the different forms and elements of poetry. Students will then work on their own poetry portfolios.

SPRING

American Themes 2 (EES86QB) - Integrated English (reading, vocabulary development, writing) with focus on American literature. The course also includes a unit of student for Regents Preparation. The following texts are taught *A Raisin the Sun*, *The Ring*, and selected short stories and poems.

American Academy 2 (EES86QA) – Continuation of American Academy 1.

Junior AP English 2 * (EES86X) - This course is a continuation of AP English 1 with an emphasis on the study of rhetoric, non-fiction, and the art of persuasion. This course culminates in the AP English Language and Composition exam Students will continue to use *The Language of Composition*, *Everything's an Argument*, and read *Huckleberry Finn*.

American Humanities 2 (HUS22H) - Taken in Conjunction with American Humanities History. This is a suggested course for students who wish to continue the scholarship sequence. Throughout the year, the student will approach short stories, essays and novels that relate to various American themes. Works include *The Assistant*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Ethan Frome*, and selected modern poems.

American Multicultural Lit (EES86QD) – This course explores themes in the American experience from a multiplicity of cultural viewpoints. There is an emphasis on critical reading and writing skills, including Regents Preparation. Texts include *Joy Luck Club*, *Down these Mean Streets*, *The Namesake*, and *The Kite Runner*.

Advanced Playwriting (EES86QF) – Through a study of dramatic works and playing skills student develop their own original 1-act plays. This course also includes Regents Preparation. PREREQUISITE: Playwriting

Lit. of Youth and Identity (EES86QG) This course explores the psychology of adolescence through literature. There is an emphasis on reading and writing skills with specific Regents Preparation. Texts taught are *The Catcher in the Rye* and *Go Ask Alice*.

Detective and Mystery (EES86QK) This course is an overview of the mystery genre, focusing on major writers and styles. There is an emphasis on reading and writing skills in preparation for the English Regents. Texts taught are *Sherlock Holmes*, *A Devil in a Blue Dress*, and selected short stories.

12th Grade

FALL

Sr AP English 2* (EES88X) - This course studies the art of literature and composition. There is a focus on imaginative literature and various elements, with an emphasis on how to write about literature. This course culminates in the AP English Literature and Composition exam. Texts taught are *Crime and Punishment*, *Hamlet*, and various other works.

Contemporary Literature 1 (EES87QD) – This course explores the line between fiction and non-fiction, reality and fantasy, and truth and lies through the examination of dynamic contemporary works of literature. Students will write both analytical essays and narratives. Texts taught in this class are *Beloved*, *Angela's Ashes*, and a variety of short works.

Women in Literature (EES87QE) – This course explores the roles of women in a patriarchal culture through a variety of literary and film texts. Through the lens of gender studies students will demonstrate their understanding in a series of essays and projects that explore how women create meaning in their own lives. The following texts are options for this course *Bastard out of Carolina*, *The Awakening*, short stories, poetry, and various films.

Memoir & Fiction Writing (EES87QF) - This course focuses on the elements of storytelling. Through a study of short fiction and non-fiction narratives students will be able to hone their narrative writing skills. Students will be expected to write pieces based on their own life, observations, a historical period, and various other models.

African American Literature (EES87QG) – This course focuses on the study of African American literature. Through discussion, literary analysis, and writing students will explore the struggles of this group throughout history and how that affects the writing.

Directing & Script Analysis (EES87QH) – This course will explore how to take apart a script in order to create a director's vision for a show. Students will be required to do research on various topics related to the scripts they are working with. Students will focus not only on reading and writing, but directorial skills such as ensemble building, blocking, and integration of theater vocabulary that is necessary in order to achieve the desired vision for a show. The students will be studying a variety of classic and contemporary scripts throughout the semester.

Literature and Society 1 (EES88QN) – This course focuses on enhancing students reading and writing skills in preparation for college. There is a focus on teaching foundational works of literature. Students read fiction and non-fiction works about social issues. There will also be units and activities that address tasks from the English Regents in preparation for students to re-take the English Regents.

European Lit 1 (EES87QP) –Students study selections from 18th - 20th century European writers. This course focuses on critical reading and writing skills for students who wish to pursue a more difficult level of study. Texts taught are *Gulliver's Travels*, *Wuthering Heights*, *Heart of Darkness*, and *The Metamorphosis*.

SPRING

Sr AP English 2* (EES88X) - This course studies the art of literature and composition. There is a focus on imaginative literature and various elements, with an emphasis on how to write about literature. This course culminates in the AP English Literature and Composition exam. Texts taught are *The Great Gatsby*, *Invisible Man*, poems, and essays.

Contemporary Literature 2 - (EES88QD) – This course studies the uses of narrative voices and point of view in literature. Students will work on critical reading and writing skills that are necessary for success in college. Students are primarily taught the art of memoir and read *Memoirs of a Geisha*, *The Things They Carried*, and *Unwanted*.

Science Fiction & Fact (EES88QF) - Students read classical and modern science-fiction literature. Students also read and discuss contemporary science articles from newspapers and journals. Texts taught are *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep*, *Science Fiction Anthology*, and selected science essays from the NY Times.

Latino Literature (EES88QG) - Novels, stories, and poems by and about Latino/Latina Americans. Students will read *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accent*, *Bodega Dreams*, and various other short works.

Ensemble Theater (EES88QH) - Work on semester-long performance project; performance in Papp with invited audience. Students will read 2-3 plays to build an ensemble.

Literature and Society 2* (EES88QN List Class) – This course focuses on enhancing students reading and writing skills in preparation for college. There is a focus on teaching foundational works of literature. Students read fiction and non-fiction works about social issues. There will also be units and activities that address tasks from the English Regents in preparation for students to re-take the English Regents.

European Lit 2 (EES88QP) – This is a continuation of European Literature 1. Students study selections from 18th - 20th century European writers. This course focuses on critical reading and writing skills for students who wish to pursue a more difficult level of study. Texts taught are *Gulliver's Travels*, *Wuthering Heights*, *Heart of Darkness*, and *The Metamorphosis*.

Electives (Not for Core Credit)

FALL

News Production 1* (EJS21) This course focuses on the writing, editing, and lay out of the school newspaper.

Introduction to Film (EQS11QF) – This course studies a thematic approach to film--students view, discuss and write about a single theme as explored in films.

Yearbook 1 (Snrs)* (EWS21) - This course continues with the process of students writing, editing and designing the school yearbook.

SPRING

News Product 2 * (EJS22) This course focuses on the writing, editing, and lay out of the school newspaper.

Studies in Film (EQS11QG) – This course studies a thematic approach to film--students view, discuss and write about a single theme as explored in films.

Yearbook 2 (Snrs)* (EWS22) - This course continues with the process of students writing, editing and designing the school yearbook.

Musical Theater (CMS11) Study of the Broadway musical; students also perform musical scenes.

Studio Theatre Program - Students are admitted to the Studio Theatre Program through competitive auditions and academic achievement. Over a four year sequential curriculum, students develop knowledge and skills through coursework and participation in a unique community dedicated to acting and dramatic arts. Upon completion of the program, students are prepared to take the New York City Theatre Arts Comprehensive exam and be awarded an arts-endorsed diploma.

9th Grade Sequence

Theatre History & Classics 1
Theatre History & Classics 2
Movement for the Stage 1
Movement for the Stage 1

11th Grade Sequence

Devising Theater
Theatre Research and Criticism
Theater Movement

10th Grade Sequence

Acting Studio
Advanced Acting

12th Grade Sequence

Senior Theater Seminar 1
Senior Theater Seminar 2

EES81QF 9th Grade (Theater Classics 1)- This course is designed for screened theater students in their first year of study. It is a combination of reading dramatic works, learning the history of theater, and introduction to acting techniques. There is a strong emphasis on critical reading and writing skills. The textbook for the class is *The Stage and School*.

EES82QF 9th Grade (Theater Classics 2) - This course is designed for screened theater students in their first year of study. It is a combination of reading dramatic works, learning the history of theater, introduction to acting techniques and writing. *Chybourne Park* and *West Side Story* are taught, as well as use of *The Stage and School*.

CJS21 10th Grade (Acting Studio) - Through the use of exercises, theater vocabulary, and open scenes students will learn the basics of acting. The focus for the class is on the Stanislavski method of acting.

CJS22 10th Grade (Advanced Acting) Analysis of dramatic text; presentations of scene and monologue; performance and audition skills; PREREQUISITE: Acting

CDS21 11th Grade (Devising Theater) - Students will explore the successive phases of creating, rehearsing, and presenting various assigned theater related projects. Students will focus on their collaborative ability, communication skills, imagination, and risk-taking to create their own theater performances.

CQS21 11th Grade (Theater Research & Criticism) Preparation for NYC Comprehensive Theatre Arts Exam; theatre research project.

CQS22 12th Grade (Senior Seminar) Preparation for NYC Comprehensive Theatre Arts Exam; theatre research project; independent studies in theatre.

TECHNICAL THEATRE

TECHNICAL THEATRE SEQUENCE

Concentrations in the following areas are possible: Lighting Design/Stage Lighting, Technical Direction/Production & Stage Management, Costume Design/Costuming and Scene Painting.

Three year sequence: a student is to choose a concentration and spend 3 semesters focused in that subject.

The other 3 semesters are to be chosen from other classes in technical theater (see list).

Five year sequence: a student is to choose a concentration and spend 4 semesters focused in that subject. The other 6 semesters are to be chosen from other classes in technical theater (see list).

Students should consult with the technical theater teachers to choose courses best suited to their interests.

SET PAINTING

Students will paint the sets for Murrow's theatrical productions. Various skills such as stenciling, woodgraining, and marbleizing with latex paint will be taught. Students will learn to grid backdrops and recreate painting elevations to scale. (Elective)

SET CONSTRUCTION

Set preparation for theatrical productions. Students will learn the safe use of shop power tools and how to build from drafted plans. Using standard theatrical carpentry and rigging techniques, students produce the scenery for dramas and musicals in black box and proscenium theaters. These courses demand class participation and regular production responsibilities after school involving varied tasks and experiences backstage. **(List Only. See Mr. Eisenberg)**

STAGE LIGHTING

Students will learn: the theories and mechanics of stage lighting equipment and electricity; how to read and execute stage lighting plans and cue sheets for school productions; the fundamentals of lighting design - supporting the needs of a script through angle, color, and intensity. These courses demand class participation and regular production responsibilities in lighting. Advanced students will design the lighting plots and cue sheets for Murrow drama and musical productions.

COSTUMING

Students will create costumes for Murrow's theatrical productions. Each student will learn a variety of hand stitching skills as well as the use of a sewing machine. No prior sewing skills are required. Students who continue with this class will have the opportunity to assist in the costume designs of the shows as well as actually designing themselves. Selected students will work on the wardrobe crew during the performances. (A passing grade in any intro art is a pre-requisite for this class.

THEATER PRODUCTION (K Band)

This class, which is open to all students, meets after J band on a regular basis to execute the design for Murrow's theatrical productions. Students will learn to build sets and props, and to hang and focus lights. Advanced students will have the opportunity to serve as running crew for Murrow's many productions.