

East High Parents and Students:

My name is William Dimon and I am the English Department Chair at Lincoln East High School. One of the most exciting aspects of our department is the sheer quantity of courses we offer: 65 in all. This collection of courses exists due to our department's long-term dedication to capturing student interest by examining diverse subject matter in order to explore literature, improve writing, and engage in critical thinking. Such a large selection can be daunting when parents and students are faced with constructing an eight semester English program. To help make choices, our department has created the following document where we have organized these classes from semester to semester, year to year, into a series of different sequences designed to help with that construction process. We also make suggestions as to what types of classes would meet the needs of your student based on his or her English abilities and expectations.

To make class scheduling predictable, from year to year, we offer our courses in three sets. The first set is simply the "core courses" (9th Grade English, 10th Grade English, Oral Communications, Journalism, Yearbook, Newspaper, American Literature and Composition, English Literature and Composition, Contemporary Literature, American Literature D, English Literature D, Shakespeare, AP Literature/Composition, and AP Language/Composition). These classes are offered every semester of every year, so that students will always have the opportunity to fulfill graduation requirements and build skills semester to semester.

The second set of classes we offer are called "elective courses." These courses are a little more specialized than the core courses. They consist of the standard electives the district offers in every high school (Science Fiction, Woman's Literature, Multicultural Literature, Creative Writing, and Advanced Creative Writing). We differ from the district in that our electives (and most Special Topics courses) are offered every other year as part of a rotation of courses. We have found this rotation to work effectively. With such a large course selection it becomes necessary to stagger the most popular courses every other year, so students can better predict and manage their schedules; therefore, we can better accommodate student choices. An exception is our theatre courses, which are semester-long courses and are offered every year.

Our third set of courses further taps into student interest and encourages scholarly practice within our department. The result is the "Special Topics" courses—a mechanism now adopted by the district. Special topics courses are teacher-generated courses, that once officially presented to the district and approved by UNL, are narrow in focus like elective courses; but where elective courses are topic-based, Special Topics courses are idea-based. Elective courses reflect a broader discipline that is both historical and introductory. Whereas the Special Topics courses further specializes within a subtopic area of discourse. Special Topics courses (Pop Culture, Law and Literature, Sports Literature, Children's Literature, Detective Literature, Banned Books, What's Your Point, Poetry Unplugged, Heroes as Leaders in Literature) will begin with an idea, then explore not just appropriate texts through writing and discussion, but also expand those ideas toward worldly implication. These courses differ from standard elective courses due to their high level of academic focus and expectations, and that during the first three years a Special Topics course life it's offered every year. Each Special Topics class uses its narrow focus to fully analyze the umbrella idea(s) found within the course title. Through specific texts and by means of challenging rhetorical assignments, students are asked to look at the world around them through widely different lenses, then, unpack the resulting implications to create meaning. The result is that we are offering more interesting, dynamic, and cutting edge courses than ever before.

Envisioning an eight-semester high school English experience can be difficult. Questions about “appropriateness of placement,” and “what do we take next” can be frustrating. As a way to help inform choices, East’s English department has envisioned four suggested paths or “sequences” of academic progression based on the skill level and interest of students. These sequences are only suggestions based on what a student can expect from the courses in the sequence. Sequence “A” is designed for students who possess limited reading and writing skills. Our goal with this sequence is to identify where the holes are in students’ English education and work to fill them in, preparing students to pass and then move beyond the minimum English graduation requirements. Sequence “B” is designed for students who have average-level English skills. We understand that not every student is an English scholar, but we stress that every student should leave East High with more than adequate skills in English. Sequence “C” is designed for students with average-level skills but with a high degree of motivation. These are students who enjoy learning and are willing to work hard, but may be less inclined (or interested) in English as in other subjects. Sequence “D” is designed for students with high-level skills and with a high degree of motivation. Our department is well prepared to not only engage highly gifted and talented students, but also to push them to succeed at the highest levels.

Our students have enjoyed quite a bit of success as scholars of English here at East. This is due, in part, to the quality and dedication of instruction, but also to the desire and hard work of all our students. These students understand that to achieve at the next level, whether that be in a career, or within a higher education college, means they must work beyond the graduation exams and the mandated tests, and they must continue to take English classes, from semester to semester--9th grade through 12th grade--in order to apply their skills in writing and critical thinking to works of challenging literature. This means our department strongly suggests all students at East High plan to enroll in at least one to two English courses each semester.

English is a recursive discipline, which means that it needs to be practiced and applied over and over. This needs to be an ongoing process for students, but it’s also a successful process as evidenced by our students’ high achievement score; and indicated by East graduates acceptance rates at distinguished institutions of higher learning.

The East High English department has a long tradition of professional commitment to student learning, as indicated yearly by our district-leading reading/writing and SAT/ACT scores, and by the professional documents exploring ideas of “Intellectual Freedom” and *Finding a Voice* we created and published nationally. We also have a long and strong commitment to professional leadership and excellence in our building, district, and national level conferences; conferences such as the professional academic conferences we attend to present, such as the American Educational Research Association conference in New York City or the Central States Communication Association Conference in Madison, Wisconsin.

On behalf of the East High English Department, I offer our pledge of support and excellence to you and your student. Please contact me if I can answer any other questions about the courses we teach or the potential placement of your student.

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ENGLISH

Mr. William Dimon, Department Chair

SUGGESTED SEQUENCING FOR THE ENGLISH PROGRAM

9th Grade

10th Grade

11th Grade

12th Grade

This is a suggested sequence, but courses after English 10 may be interchanged

Sequence A--For Students with Limited Reading Skills

English 9	English 10	Oral Communication	Journalism
Oral communication	Oral Communication	Creative Writing	Contemporary Literature
Theatre (I)	Theatre (I)	Contemporary Literature	Science Fiction*
Journalism	Adv Theatre (II)		Adv Creative Writing
	Journalism		

Sequence B--For Students with Average-Level Skills

English 9	English 10	Am Literature/Composition	Banned Books*
Oral Communication	Oral Communication	English Literature/Composition	Women's Literature*
Theatre (I)	Adv Theatre (II)	American Lit D (weighted)	Contemporary Lit.*
Journalism	Journalism	Science Fiction*	Creative Writing
	Creative Writing	Pop Culture*	Adv Creative Writing
	Adv. Creative Writing	Sports Literature*	Detective Fiction*
		Law & Literature*	Newspaper
		Poetry Unplugged*	Yearbook
		Banned Books*	Children's Literature*
		Creative Writing	Heroes in Literature*
		Adv Creative Writing	Debate/Adv Debate
			Forensics
			Journalism
			American Lit D (weighted)
			AP Literature/Composition (weighted)

Sequence C--For Students with Average-Level Skills but with a High Degree of Motivation

English 9	English 10D (weighted)	AP Language/Composition (weighted)	AP Language/Composition (weighted)
English 9D	American Lit/Composition	AP Literature/Composition (weighted)	AP Literature/Composition (weighted)
Oral Communication	American Lit D (weighted)	Shakespearean Drama (weighted)	Shakespearean Drama (weighted)
Oral Communication D	English Literature/Comp	American Lit D (weighted)	Banned Books*
Journalism	Eng Lit D/Comp D (weighted)	Eng Lit D/Comp D (weighted)	Yearbook
Theatre (I)	Composition D	Popular Culture	Philosophy*
	Oral Communication	Women's Literature*	What's Your Point?*
	Oral Communication D	Law & Literature*	Detective Fiction*
	Shakespearean Drama (weighted)	Sports Literature*	Composition D
	Adv Theatre (II)	Science Fiction	Forensics*
	Debate	Creative Writing	Debate/Adv Debate*
		Adv Creative Writing	Theatre Production (III)
		Children's Literature	Adv Theatre Production (IV)
		Poetry Unplugged	Technical Theatre
		Detective Fiction*	
		Adv. Theatre (II)	

Sequence D--For Students with High-Level Skills and with a High Degree of Motivation

English 10D for 9 th Graders	Shakespearean Drama (weighted)	AP Language/Composition (weighted)	Yearbook
Oral Communication	American Literature D (weighted)	AP Literature/Composition (weighted)	AP Language/Composition (weighted)
Oral Communication D	American Literature/Composition	Newspaper	AP Literature/Composition (weighted)
Theatre (I)	English Literature/Composition	American Literature, D (weighted)	American Literature, D (weighted)
Forensics	Oral Communication	Shakespearean Drama (weighted)	Shakespearean Drama (weighted)
Journalism	Oral Communication D	Eng Lit D/Comp D (weighted)	What's Your Point?*
	Adv Theatre (II)	Popular Culture*	Popular Culture*
		Banned Books*	Banned Books*
		Law and Literature*	Philosophy*
		Women's Literature*	Adv Theatre Production (IV)
		Science Fiction*	Technical Theatre
		Creative Writing	Forensics*
		Adv. Creative Writing	Debate/Adv Debate*
		Theatre production (III)	
		Composition D	

*These courses will be offered on an alternate year rotation schedule.

ALTERNATE OPTIONS FOR ACCELERATED COURSE SEQUENCE

SEQUENCE I:

English 9	English 10	Literature and/or Comp. Electives	Literature or Comp D courses or Either of the AP Courses**
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SEQUENCE II:

English 9 D	English 10 D (weighted)	Literature or Comp D courses	Literature or Comp D courses or AP Literature /Comp.* (weighted)
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SEQUENCE III:

English 10D for 9 th Graders	American Literature D (weighted) Shakespearean Drama (weighted)	AP Language /Comp.* (wt)	AP Literature/Comp.* (weighted)
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*These courses can be switched since both are available for juniors and seniors.

**Some students may choose to take just one of the AP courses. In that case, depending on student interest, schedule, and abilities, either of the courses can be chosen in the senior year.

***Students who earn A, B or C in the year-long AP Language or Literature/Composition may apply to Nebraska Wesleyan University for three hours of transferable college credit per course.

It is important to remember that literature or writing should be included in each semester's schedule.

The Sequence for Elective Rotation Courses is as Follows (other courses offered every year):

2015-2016	2016-2017
Poetry Unplugged	Popular Culture Literature
Contemporary Literature	Science Fiction
Philosophy	Contemporary Lit
Creative Writing-Offered S1 and S2	Creative Writing-offered S1 and S2
Adv. Creative Writing-offered S2	Adv. Creative Writing-offered S2
Women's Literature	Sports Literature
Detective Fiction	Law and Literature
Heroes in Literature	What's Your Point?
Banned Books	Children's Literature
Holocaust Literature	Oral Communication Debate
Oral Communication Forensics/Competitive Forensics	Debate/Advanced Debate

Course Descriptions for English

COURSE TITLE	G.REQ.	PREREQUISITE	COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS
Reading Elements	Elective	Special Permission or student may be placed.	Practice in word analysis and comprehension. Reading instruction to develop basic fluency and literal and inferential comprehension. Includes preparation for the RGDE. One semester, but may be repeated.
Reading Ideas	Elective	Special Permission/or student may be placed. Reading Elements	Practice in reading comprehension and personal reading strategies. Reading instruction in reading strategies and building vocabulary. Continues to strengthen inferential comprehension and begin to build critical comprehension. Includes preparation for the RGDE. One semester, but may be repeated.
Reading Investigations	Elective	Special Permission/ or student may be placed. Reading Ideas	Direct instruction and guided practice in reading strategies and skills for comprehending extended reading of narrative, informational, technical, academic, and online materials. Reading instruction to improve inferential and critical comprehension in both fiction and non-fiction texts, vocabulary, and research skills. Includes preparation for the RGDE. One semester, but may be repeated.
Reading Advancement	Elective	Special Permission/ or student may be placed. Reading Investigations	Opportunity for reading improvement. May be taken as an alternative to meet the Reading Graduation Demonstration Requirement. Instruction and practice in skills and content required for the graduation demonstration in reading. The ultimate focus moves from development of skills to assessment of skills. A grade of C+ or better and a comprehensive portfolio meets the district requirement in reading, making this a proxy course for the RGDE.
English 9	English	Grade 9	The study of literature, language and writing
English 10D for 9 th Graders (Weighted)	English	Test Scores/Reading Comprehension Stanine of 8 or 9/Teacher Rec.	A combined and accelerated course of English 9D and English 10D. Designed for gifted and/or high achievers who wish to take additional English classes during their four years. Middle School English teacher recommendation is required
English 9D	English	Test Scores	An academically challenging 9 th grade class, which reinforces & builds skills in literature, composition, language study, & higher-level thinking.
English 10	English	Grade 10	Further study in literature, composition, and language
English 10D (Weighted)	English	Test Scores/Teacher Recommendation	Designed for students who continue their studies in Advanced or Advanced Placement English courses.
English 11	English	Grades 11-12 Teacher Recommendation (for WGDE preparation)	Semester-long course designed for students who require additional help in language and composition skills, for students in a pre-Composition sequence for WGDE. This course comes after Writing Essentials but before Composition.
Law and Literature (Offered 2016-2017)	English	Grades 11-12 10 th with teacher or Admin recommendation	Explores legal themes and topics as they occur in literature using a variety of fiction, nonfiction, informational and entertaining works.
Science Fiction (Offered 2016-2017)	English	Grades 11-12 10 th with teacher or	Acquaints students with a variety of fantasy genre, including science fiction of the past, present and future.

Holocaust Literature (Offered 2015-16)	English	Grades 11-12 10 th with teacher or Admin recommendation	Explore issues of intolerance and the history of anti-Semitism through both literary fiction and non-fiction. Class work includes reading, research, writing and oral analysis. As well as the study of historical and contemporary genocide.
Detective Fiction (Offered 2015-16)	English	Grades 11-12 10 th with teacher or Admin recommendation	A critical study of one of the most popular literary forms, designed for armchair detectives. This class will include some known writers, and some not so known.
Contemporary Lit	English	Grades 11-12 10 th with teacher or Admin recommendation	Study of 20 th century literature, including novels, short stories, drama, and poetry.
Sports Literature (Offered 2016-2017)	English	Grades 11-12 10 th with teacher or Admin recommendation	Focuses on using sports literature and sports issues as a springboard for research, critical thinking, and persuasive writing.
Women's Literature (Offered 2015-16)	English	Grades 11-12 10 th with teacher or Admin recommendation	Cross-cultural study of gender lives and gender culture through classic and contemporary novels, short stories, essays, poetry, journals and letters.
Popular Cultural Study (Offered 2016-2017)	English	Grades 11-12 10 th with teacher or Admin recommendation	Provides students with greater media literacy through the study, analysis, and criticism of popular culture.
What's Your Point (Offered 2016-2017)	English	Grades 11-12 10 th with teacher or Admin recommendation	Semester-long course focusing on argumentation and persuasion: the variety of public argument, rhetorical criticism of pop culture genres, trials, propaganda etc. Writing, reading and analysis of various forms of public discourse are emphasized.
Poetry Unplugged (Offered 2015-2016)	English	Grades 11-12 10 th with teacher or Admin recommendation	An in-depth study of poetry from around the world, both reading it and writing it. Poetry is defined as an art form in literature, but also more broadly as song lyrics and other modes of poetic experiences.
Shakespearean Drama (Weighted)	English	Grades 11-12 10 th with teacher or Admin recommendation	Designed for students desiring an in-depth study of Shakespeare both as literature and as drama
Composition	English	Grades 12 Teacher Recommendation (for WGDE preparation)	Semester-long course designed for students who require additional help in language and composition skills, for Seniors in need of passing the WGDE. This course comes after English 11.
Composition D (Offered 2015-16)	English	9-10 English or 10D Eng	A study of the organizational principles and patterns of narration, description, exposition, persuasion and argumentation.
Advanced Composition (Offered 2015-16)	English	9-10 English or 10D Eng	This course stresses study and practice of advanced writing skills, development of writing voices, and identification of writing purpose, audience, and genera. The course focuses on the thinking skills necessary for planning and writing formal research papers, academic papers, mixed genre papers, and multimodal projects. Successful completion of English 9 and 10 to enroll in this course.
Creative Writing (Offered S1 and S2)	English	Grades 10-12	Provides experience in writing that gives students opportunities for free expression of original thought in a variety of forms. Offered S1
Advanced Creative Writing (Offered only S2)	English	Creative Writing, Journalism or Teacher permission	Focus on writing and reading original works that have thoughtful content and display a sense of style. In addition to their own writing assignments, the students are responsible for producing the school's literary magazine. Offered S2
Journalism	English	Grades 9 -12	Designed for students who wish to prepare for yearbook, the web page or newspaper staff
Newspaper	English/Technology	Teacher Permission	Students work cooperatively to publish school newspaper. **Please note: Some colleges may not consider the Newspaper course as part of their English requirements for admission. Please check directly with the college you are applying to.
Yearbook	English Technology.	Teacher Permission	Students work cooperatively to publish school yearbook. Application needed.
Children's Literature (Offered 2016-2017)	English	Grades 11-12 10 th with teacher or Admin recommendation	The study of children's literature through research, analysis and evaluation of various texts: students will explore various categories of texts including folk and fairy tales, boys and girls books, historical fiction, picture books, and the historical aspects of the literature itself.
Heroes as Leaders in Literature (Offered 2015-2016)	English	Grades 11-12 10 th with teacher or Admin recommendation	A study of the actions and deeds of heroes - in sports, music, war - who illustrate timelessness of leadership. Leaders are often ordinary people. These leaders are presented through the study of literature and other texts.
Banned Books (Offered 2015-2016)	English	Grades 11-12 10 th with teacher or Admin recommendation	Provides students with a study of the power of ideas, choice, and responsibility through the study, analysis, and criticism of books and other media that have been challenged in the US and other countries.
Am Literature/Comp	English	English 10	Yearlong course which studies literature of the Americas in combination with writing; designed for college-bound students.
English Lit/Comp	English	English 10	Students may take the course for one semester (either) or the whole year. The semester-long, first half of English Literature/Composition studies literature of Britain and its Commonwealth in combination with writing, though the 17th century. This course is designed for college-bound students. The semester-long, second half of English Literature/Composition studies literature of Britain and its Commonwealth in combination with writing, from the 18th century to the present. This course is designed for college-

			bound students.
Eng Lit D/Comp D (Weighted)	English	Grades 10-12 English 10	Students may take the course for one semester (either) or the whole year. Course that includes an in-depth study and more mature readings from literature of Britain and British Colonies. This is in combination with a more sophisticated study of writing.
American Lit D (Weighted)	English	Grades 10-12 English 10	Semester-long course for students with high-ability and/or high motivation.

Adv Placement Language/ Composition (Weighted)	English	Grades 11-12 English 10	The purpose of Advanced Placement Language and Composition is to prepare students to read and write in a wide-ranging variety of styles and forms pertinent to the college experience. Designed for high achievers or highly motivated students who can manage the rigor of analytical writing and intensive literature study. Students must be a Junior or Senior, and it is recommended that enrollees have successfully completed English 10D, American Literature D, English Literature D, or Shakespeare. Available for 3 college credit hours through Nebraska Wesleyan Honors Academy if student pays tuition and completes both semesters (accumulative) with a minimum C+ Average.
Adv Placement Literature/ Composition (Weighted)	English	Grades 11-12 English 10	Advanced Placement Literature is designed for gifted and high achievers or highly motivated students in English with the ability to handle mature, complex literature and analytical writing. Students must be a Junior or Senior, and/or have successfully taken English 10D, American Literature D, English Literature D, or Shakespeare prior to enrollment. Available for 3 college credit hours through Nebraska Wesleyan Honors Academy if student pays tuition and completes both semesters with an accumulative minimum average of a C+.
Debate (Offered 2016-2017)	Elective	Grades 9-12	Students build self-confidence and develop speaking and argumentation skills through classroom learning in preparation for co-curricular competition.
Advanced Debate (Offered 2016-2017)	Elective	Grades 9-12	Students build self-confidence and develop speaking argumentation skills through classroom learning in preparation for co-curricular competition. This class is recommended for members of the competitive debate team.
Oral Communication	Oral Comm.	Grades 9-12	Designed to teach the necessary skills for effective communication in society, career, and daily life. Students learn about the communication process and building and maintaining relationships with others.
Oral Communication D	Oral Comm.	Grades 9-12	Excellent for building public speaking/communication skills and for more motivated students.
Oral Communication Forensics (Offered 2015-2016)	Oral Comm	Grades 9-12	Special section in which students interested in co-curricular speech competition may earn required Oral Communication credit. This course explores the same units as regular Oral Communication, but focuses on the application of those skills in competitive speech activities. Requires participation in a minimum of two co-curricular speech competitions.
Oral Communication Debate (Offered 2016-2017)	Oral Comm.	Grades 9-12	Special section in which students interested in co-curricular debate competition may earn required Oral Communication credit. This course explores the same units as regular Oral Communication, but focuses on the application of those skills in competitive debate activities. Requires participation in a minimum of two co-curricular debate competitions.
Competitive Forensics (Offered 2015-2016)	Elective	Grades 10-12	Students build self-confidence and develop skills in public speaking and oral interpretation of literature through classroom learning in preparation for co-curricular competition. This class is recommended for members of the competitive speech team.
Philosophy (Offered 2015-16)	Elective	Grade 10-12	This class begins with a discussion of the nature of philosophy with the study of some of the great philosophers of the world. The class begins to explore the complicated process involved in examining profound, ageless questions and how they relate to contemporary life.

DRAMA/THEATRE

Theatre (I)	Fine Arts	Grade 9-12	This will be the first course in a series designed to develop a life-long appreciation for theatre in our students. In this course, students will acquire basic acting and stage techniques, work monologues, be introduced to script analysis techniques, and get a lively introduction to unarmed stage combat.
Advanced Theatre (II)	Fine Arts	Grades 9-12 Theatre (I)	Course will build on skills acquired in Theatre (1) and work to expand and refine those skills. In addition, students will get the chance to do some technical design along with more advanced analysis and stage combat with (blunt-edged!) weapons.
Acting Styles (III)	Fine Arts	Grade 10-12 Adv Theatre (II)	In this course, students will delve deeper into character analysis, period movement and be introduced to directing techniques. We will start looking at specific styles like Stanislavski and Alexander.
Theatre Production (IV)	Fine Arts	Grades 10-12 Acting Styles (III)	In this course students will direct short scenes from plays, work with advanced technical theatre projects and produce a public performance.
Technical Theatre	Appl. Arts Fine Arts	Grades 9-12	Students will learn to work safely with power tools and develop specific skills in all areas of technical theatre. They will also work on school productions in a laboratory setting.