

Course Overview English III AS

Dear Sophomore Student,

We look forward to working with you next year in English III AS to make your experience rewarding, meaningful, academic, and challenging. English III Advanced-standing is Carlmont's junior level honors course that prepares students for the senior level AP English Literature and Composition class. You do receive an extra point on your transcript for this course. This course's focus on skill-builders, reinforcement of California content standards, and significant readings follows the AP College Board's course description of required AP Literature and Composition elements. Students will practice all of the skills, (and read most of the types of literature), covered in depth in AP English Literature and Composition. If a junior earns a strong A or B in English III AS and participates productively, he/she may automatically move on to AP English in 12th grade. To prepare for the senior year AP English Literature exam, juniors will write practice, timed essays in AS III and will learn methods to complete close, analytical readings of significant pieces of literature. (If you want more writing practice before taking the AP English literature test, enroll in AS III. That way, you will have all of junior year and most of senior year to learn how to pass the test before trying.)

The works that students analyze in English AS III require careful, deliberate reading. When teachers ask honors juniors to analyze and to interpret literature in this class, students will practice the skills of: a) making careful observations regarding textual detail, b) establishing connections among observations, c) speaking about these connections with language that is precise and proves familiarity with literary devices, and d) drawing a series of inferences leading to an interpretive conclusion about the work's meaning and importance.

Critical thinking and writing are integral parts of this English III AS course. Since the senior year AP English Literature and Composition exam requires students to compose three full-length essays, this junior honors course will offer many opportunities for writing. Almost all of the writing assignment prompts will require students to focus on critical analysis of literature and to refine abilities to write expository, analytical, and argumentative essays. Critical analysis will make up the bulk of writing in this course, and a moderate number of well-constructed and meaningful creative writing assignments (and activities) definitely will challenge students to perfect their literary artistry. The goal of all of the writing assignments in this class is to improve one's ability to explain clearly and elegantly, with logical organization of essay parts and with effective language. Students will also study elements of style, learn SAT vocabulary and take practice SAT tests, and practice research skills.* If students are eager to read a lot and especially to improve writing and critical-thinking skills, and if students consider themselves to be serious with a desire to participate actively (and to stretch their creative/analytical minds), they should consider enrolling in English III AS.

* Course description taken in part from information at <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com>

English III AS Overview - (A Five Point Honors Class)

If you take AP Language when you are a junior, you will take the AP Language test at the end of your junior year. If you feel like you need additional practice with timed analytical essays, and you still want to take an English AP test, consider taking AS III Literature when you are a junior. AS III is a five point honors class. In class, you will learn many skills that will help you do well on the AP test and the SAT/ACT, and you will have an "extra" year to practice for an AP test. If you take AS III when you are a junior, you may take the AP English Literature exam during senior year.

- Learn how to improve your analytical writing
- Work on how to organize your thoughts
- Learn how to improve your writing of thesis statements
- Write creatively as you compose Socratic scripts and dramatic skits
- Study many literary terms and devices used in literature and mentioned on the SAT test
- Read significant books, poems, articles, etc.
- Study myth references, bible references and references from other significant literary works
- Enjoy poetry - write poetry- read poetry and participate in an in-class "American Poetry Idol" unit
- Work in groups on satirical skits and projects
- Learn how to improve your SAT test-taking skills
- Practice SAT essays and receive feedback on how to improve your essay score
- Study SAT vocabulary
- Choose elective books to read and discuss
- Practice strategies for writing well in timed situations
- Learn to "close read" and to respond meaningfully to passages taken from significant books
- Compose and present a long-term research project on a topic of your choosing

- Lead, and participate in, analytical class discussions about literature
- Earn an extra point on your transcript