



Advanced Placement Courses and Exams:

Seaholm High School participates in many curricular opportunities in the College Board's Advanced Placement program. This program follows a rigorous course curriculum outlined by the College Board, allowing students to earn college credits before even entering their freshman year at the university. The English department offers to its seniors courses in the two English exams: AP Language and Composition and AP Literature and Composition. In effect, students who opt into these courses, after recommendation by their English teachers, follow a college level curriculum. Seniors should choose which course best suits their needs and interests. Some colleges, such as MIT encourage students to take the Language exam since it focuses on writing rather than on literature. Liberal Arts colleges urge students to take the literature exam and gain as much of a foundation in classical literature as possible. At the end of both courses, Seaholm students, along with students across the nation, take a standardized test that includes challenging rhetorical and/or literary analysis. Those students who score a three, four or five may be awarded college credit, or particular English placement from the university they attend. (While most colleges do accept AP credit, students should contact the university directly to verify the policy at that individual school.)



Advanced Placement Vertical Teams

The English teachers have adopted a teaching strategy which the College Board calls Vertical Teams. This strategy includes consistent communication and planning among all grade levels to provide smooth transitions among courses. The goal with this approach is to foster student success at each grade level, which ideally would build to reach success at the AP level for most of our students. While such a goal is ambitious, it is our professional opinion that our students are more capable of achieving their personal best if we work together towards a challenging goal. Indeed, the state standards and benchmarks, designed for all students are compatible with the advanced placement goals and objectives.



Flex Scheduling

86009-86019-86023 Gr. 9 Flexible Scheduling

86010-86020-86024 Gr. 10 (Two periods each)

86011-86021-86025 Gr. 11

86012-86022-86026 Gr. 12

Flex English: Honors credit at 10th, 11th and 12th grades

Flex History: Honors credit at 10th, 11th and 12th grades

Flex Government: Seniors only

Flex Composition: 10th Grade

Flex Speech: Freshmen or others lacking such credit.

Flexible Scheduling is a honors college prep program that combines English and Social Studies in a four-year interdisciplinary curriculum. Flex assumes an excitement in the learning process. Students are encouraged to be active participants in the learning process and are given a wide variety of elective choices within the program and opportunities for leadership. Flex combines grades 9-12 and uses both large group and small group instruction in a three period block of time. Units of study are team planned by the five-member Flex Team. In all four years the skills of reading, writing, and critical thinking are emphasized. The Flex writing program is an integrated four-year program that begins with paragraphs for ninth graders and culminates in a research paper for seniors. Students who remain in the program for all four years earn all the credits in English and social studies needed for graduation. Preparation in both the English Literature and the English Language exams is offered. Besides literature and history, in each year of study, Flex students view the best of world cinema.



Regions of Study:

2009-2010: American Studies: Students study major works of American literature and great themes of American history. Preparation is also given for the Advanced Placement test is American history.

2010-2011: Cultural Perspectives: In this year, students read a variety of literature centered on the theme, "What does it mean to be human?" Also included is a study of anthropology along with case studies in Russian and Middle Eastern cultures.

2011-2012: Western Civilization: In this year students read classic of Western literature and philosophy and study the major periods in European history. Preparation for the Advanced Placement test is in Modern European History is given.

2012-2013: Global Studies: In this year, students study globalization. The emphasis is on non-Western literature while studying the meaning of globalization, its history, and its implication for the future of the United States.

Note: The speech requirement is satisfied in the ninth grade program; the composition requirement is met in the tenth grade year of Flex; the government requirement is met in the twelfth grade year. Students transferring into the program in other grades may satisfy these requirements by making appropriate schedule arrangements with their Flex advisor and counselor.

Prerequisites: None

Grades Taught: 9, 10, 11, 12



English-Grade 9

10262 Introduction to English 9

This course is intended for students who need additional instruction and practice in reading and writing in order to be successful in English 9 Team A and B. Using reading and writing strategies, students in this course will focus on reading comprehension and fluency and clear sentence construction. Weekly vocabulary words will be studied in the context of future readings in the Team course. (Offered Term 1 only.)

Prerequisites: Explore test scores, teacher recommendation only

Grades Taught: 9

10362 English 9 Team - A

10372 English 9 Team - B

The focus in this course is on reading, writing, and thinking skills. A careful study of novels, drama, film, essays, and poetry provide the basis for discussion and critical thinking. Students develop their writing of summary essays and critical analysis essays through a carefully constructed method of instruction. An Advanced Placement Vertical Teams approach will be integrated into the class. A letter will be mailed in the spring to all students concerning a summer reading assignment.

Prerequisites: None

Grades Taught: 9

10373 English 9B Honors

Students who are recommended to the honors program will begin that program during the 2nd trimester in English 9B Honors. This program prepares students for the rigorous demands of our honors program which culminates in the college-level senior AP course.

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation or department chair approval

Grades Taught: 9 only

12002 Speech

(1/2 unit of credit)

The basic course in speech fundamentals is designed to meet the needs of all students in gaining self-confidence and developing the skill of oral communication. Training is given in individual speechmaking, group discussion, beginning debate, oral interpretation, and other related speech activities.

Prerequisites: None

Grades Taught: 9, 10, 11, 12



English-Grade 10

These courses reinforce and strengthen skills covered in the ninth grade and develop skills necessary for upper level language arts courses. They will reinforce expository writing skills and introduce persuasive writing. During the courses, reading will reflect various styles and diverse cultures.



28122 AP European History A

1/2 unit of credit

Beginning approximately with the year 1500, we will become familiar with the significant people, events and developments in thinking that led European nations to their world positions in the mid -1800s. Major topics considered include the Renaissance; the Reformation; increasingly global economies; conflicts between religions, increasingly centralized nations and the Scientific Revolution; battles between classes over ruling a nation; the Enlightenment; and the French Revolution. In depth study of geographic, social, religious, artistic, political, diplomatic, economic, military, intellectual and cultural aspects of Europe's history will be used to further students' learning.

The goals of AP European History are to develop (a) an understanding of some of the principal themes in Modern European History, (b) an ability to analyze historical evidence and historical interpretation, and (c) an ability to express historical understanding in writing. Students will work collaboratively to prepare for the AP European History Exam in May. Students are expected to take the Exam. There will be a summer assignment given the previous spring.

Prerequisites: *Successful completion of AP American History or recommendation of course instructor or the Social Studies Department Chair*

Grades Taught: *11 and 12*



Grade 12

23002 American Government

1/2 unit of credit

American Government is a one-trimester course in which students explore the workings of our national, state and local governments. By examining the Constitution, students gain insight into the principles of federalism, popular sovereignty, limited government, judicial review, separation of powers and checks and balances. Through landmark court rulings, students will examine the Bill of Rights to determine where the line is drawn between the protection of individual liberties and the right of government to restrict these freedoms. Using a variety of teaching strategies and resources, such as primary and secondary readings, audio and visual materials, guest speakers, roleplay, projects, student-led presentations, student-generated assignments, and the Internet, students will analyze and make judgments about the powers and workings of the Congress, the Presidency, the Judicial Branch, the Bureaucracy and extra-governmental institutions such as grassroots organizations, political action committees, interest groups, political parties, and the media. As a result of their understanding of the principles of a democracy, students will be better prepared to function as informed, involved citizens.

Prerequisites: *None*

Grades Taught: *12*

23082 AP U.S. Government A

23092 AP U.S. Government B

1/2 unit of credit each

Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics is a two trimester course in which students explore in depth the workings of our federal government system. Students examine primary sources, such as the Constitution and Federalist papers, to gain insights into our governing documents and the historical and political climate of that time period. By engaging in critical readings from an extensive and varied list of primary and secondary materials, students analyze and draw conclusions about the democratic principles of popular sovereignty, federalism, limited government and personal freedoms, separation of powers, checks and balances, and judicial review. Students also take a closer look at the Congress, the Presidency and the federal courts, and apply critical thinking to their discussions and to their analytical writings about the inter-relationships among the three branches of government. They deal with the connections of our national government to political parties and interest groups, to the media and public opinion, and to state and local governments. The course is designed to fulfill the American government requirement and to prepare students for the AP test given in the spring of each year.

Prerequisite: *Successful completion of an AP course ~ or ~ recommendation from the Social Studies Dept. Chair. A student must take this course for both trimesters to fulfill the government graduation req.*

Grades Taught: *12*



Flexible Scheduling ~ (FLEX)

Gr.9: 86009-86019 Flexible Scheduling

Gr.10: 86010-86020 (2 Periods each/trimester)

Gr.11: 86011-86021 (Trimester)

Gr.12: 86012-86022

FLEX English:

Honors credit at 10th and 12th grades

FLEX History:

Honors credit at 10th 11th and 12th grades

FLEX American Government:

Seniors only

FLEX Composition:

10th Grade

FLEX Speech:

Freshmen, or others lacking such credit

3 units of credit



Flexible Scheduling is an honors college prep program that combines English and Social Studies in a four-year interdisciplinary curriculum. Year one of the cycle (2009-2010) is a full year of American History. Students study the major works of American literature and the great themes of American history. Preparation is also given for the Advanced Placement test in American History. In addition, participation in Flex for three or more years is an excellent preparation for the Advanced Placement exams in English Literature and English Language. The second year of the cycle (2010-2011) is entitled Cultural Perspectives. In this year students read a variety of literature centered on the theme, "What does it mean to be human?" Also included is a study of anthropology along with case studies in Russian and Middle Eastern cultures. The year concludes with a major unit on genocide. The third year of the cycle (2011-2012) is an entire year of Western Civilization. In this year students read the classics of western literature and philosophy and study the major periods in European history from the Ancient Greeks to WWI. Preparation is given for the Advanced Placement test in European History. The fourth year of the cycle (2012-2013) is entitled Global Studies. In this year students study globalization. The emphasis is on non-western literature while studying the meaning of globalization, its history, and its implications for the future of the United States. Completion of the Global year will satisfy the economics requirement.

Flex assumes an excitement in the learning process. Students are encouraged to be active participants and are given a wide variety of elective choices within the program as well as opportunities for leadership. Flex combines grades 9-12 and uses both large group and small group instruction in a three period block of time. Units of study are team planned by the five members of the Flex Team. In all four years the skills of reading, writing, and critical thinking are emphasized. The Flex writing program is an integrated four-year program that begins with paragraphs for ninth graders and culminates in a research paper for seniors. Students who remain in the program for all four years earn all the credits in English and Social Studies needed for graduation.

Note: The speech requirement is satisfied in the ninth grade program; the composition requirement is met in the tenth grade year of Flex; the government requirement is met in the twelfth grade year. Students transferring into the program in other grades may satisfy these requirements by making appropriate scheduling arrangements with their Flex advisor and counselor.

Prerequisites: None
Grades Taught: 9, 10, 11, 12



Rotation Schedule:

- 2009-2010** American History Fulfills graduation requirement for American History
- 2010/2011** Cultural Perspectives Elective Credit in Social Studies
- 2011/2012** Western Civilization Elective Credit in Social Studies
- 2012/2013** Global Studies Fulfills graduation requirement for World History



Social Studies Electives

28132 AP European History B

1/2 unit of credit

This course continues the history of Europe, picking up with the Napoleonic era and continuing through 19th century nations' experiences with reform and repression, their efforts to control increasingly large parts of the world via imperialism and the myriad responses to these efforts: nationalist movements; communism; and World War I. Optimistic and pessimistic currents of arts, sciences and freedoms are revealed in the process. Preparation for the AP European History Exam continues, including training in objective question strategies DBQs, and Free Response Questions.

Prerequisites: AP European History A
Grades Taught: 11 and 12

28133 AP European History C

This course completes the history of Europe to the present day, from the interwar period troubles through World War II and the Cold War and into the various stages of European integration begun in the late 1940's, culminating in today's European Union. Supplemental materials and activities are integrated throughout the course to give students deeper and richer appreciation for topics. Review activities which are designed to help students succeed on the AP Exam, include realistic practice tests and timed essay strategies. The goal is to have students maximize their potential on the Exam but also come away from the year with a lasting accumulation of content and skills for their careers.

Prerequisites: Advanced Placement European History B
Grades Taught: 11 and 12