

# 11<sup>th</sup> GRADE HONORS COURSES

## Honors American Literature – English

**Course Description:** The main objectives of 11<sup>th</sup> grade Honors English are to improve writing skills and to improve reading skills. Students will write extensively as well as read various types of American literary selections and primary historical texts. This course will trace the development of American literature beginning with Native American literature and ending with modern literature examining both the historical and social context of each selection. NOTE: Honors classes do get progressively more rigorous at each grade level.

**Course Expectations:** All students will be required to produce research assignments, projects, and several performance tasks in order to receive credit for the course. Outside reading is required, and students will be expected to know the material. Participating in daily class discussions is expected and required.

**Summer Reading: Students will be expected to read the following books prior to the beginning of school. Please visit the RHS website for additional information regarding Summer Reading.** Summer reading: *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald and *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest Gaines.

## AP English Language: Junior Honors English

The 11th grade AP English Language and Composition course aligns to an introductory college-level rhetoric and writing curriculum, which requires students to develop evidence-based analytic and argumentative essays that proceed through several stages or drafts. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Throughout the course, students develop a personal style by making appropriate grammatical choices. Additionally, students read and analyze the rhetorical elements and their effects in non-fiction texts, including graphic images as forms of text, from many disciplines and historical periods.

Reading, interpreting, and writing will all coexist in the AP English Lit course. The ability to construct mature arguments and analysis using a variety of sentences will be the standard. Assignments will focus on the critical analysis of literature and will include informal/formal essays, critical essays based on **close textual analysis** of structure, style (figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone), theme, and social/historical values. Also, speaking and writing along with debate and dialogue about different subjects should further develop a sense of how style, subject, and audience are related.

**Summer Reading: Students will be expected to read the following books prior to the beginning of school. Please visit the RHS website for additional information regarding Summer Reading.** Summer reading: *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald and *Into the Wild* by Jack Krakauer.

## Accelerated Pre-Calculus

This pre-calculus course consists of academic work in advance mathematics and preparation for calculus. The course is intended for superior math students who have completed two years of accelerated math. Course topics are listed below. Graphing calculator technology will be emphasized to enhance and support math in all units of study. Students must be able to use a variety of techniques to solve problems such as graphical, numerical, algebraic, analytic, and verbal. Students are to develop an appreciation of all these methods of representation and understand how they are connected in a given problem. Course topics include: linear equations, geometry, properties of functions, graphs of functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, trigonometric and inverse trigonometric functions, polar coordinates, complex numbers, polar graphs, conic sections, polynomials, and sketching polynomial functions and quotient of polynomials.

## AP US History

AP US History is both a hard and fun course. The course is designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in U.S. History. The class prepares students for post-secondary course work in history by setting standards equivalent to those made by full-year introductory college courses. Students will learn to assess historical materials and their relevance to given interpretive problems, reliability, and importance and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. Students study issues and events relating to both race and environment as a unifying concept throughout the course. The AP U.S. History class will help students develop the skills necessary to arrive at conclusions on the basis of an informed judgment and to present reasons and evidence clearly and persuasively through oral discussions and in essay format. Students will be expected to complete extensive reading assignments and devote time to homework assignments and projects. Time will need to be set aside each night for studying or work. Internet access is also required.

### **AP Macroeconomics**

The purpose of an Advanced Placement course in macroeconomics is to give students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to national income and price determination, economic performance measures, economic growth, and international economics. The course will be largely based on the principal of post hoc logic as it pertains to macroeconomic issues and graph models. This is a college level course with college level expectations and daily work load.

### **Honors Chemistry**

Honors Chemistry is a very challenging class designed to prepare students for future college science courses. This class uses science and math concepts to explain the properties of, and interactions between, matter and energy. In other words, chemistry explores the properties, characteristics, and physical / chemical changes of matter. It is a sequential subject, i.e. each lesson supports the next throughout the semester. As such, it is imperative that honors chemistry students attend class each day, complete homework assignments on time, and ask for help when needed in order to keep up with the material. Since this is a college preparatory class, it is taught as such, including nightly homework to reinforce each lesson, and at least 1 lab per unit where students apply concepts learned in class through experimentation in groups, followed by individual writing of well-structured lab reports. Tutoring is always available for those students seeking assistance, and extensive support material is accessible through the teacher's webpage found on the Ringgold High School website.

### **AP Biology**

Description: AP® Biology is both a hard and fun course. It provides students with an opportunity to develop a conceptual framework for modern biology emphasizing applications of biological knowledge and critical thinking to environmental and social concerns. This is a college-level course and you will be held to high expectations and mature responsibilities just like a college freshman taking Introduction to Biology. Students will be expected to complete extensive reading assignments, develop full-length lab reports, and devote time to homework assignments and projects. Time will need to be set aside each night for studying or work. Internet access is also required.

### **Honors Human Anatomy/ Physiology**

Honors Anatomy is a rigorous upper-level course to be taken by upperclassmen as a 4<sup>th</sup> science credit. The material is geared towards those students wishing to pursue Biological and Healthcare Science academic endeavors in the future. Students must accept that Anatomy will have two very challenging aspects. The first challenge of the Honors Anatomy curriculum is the extensive use of Latin and Greek science vocabulary necessary to correctly communicate about the body in medical terms. The second is the vast range of material that Anatomy and Physiology presents. Students will be expected to learn every body system from Integumentary to Cardiovascular in great detail. The textbook is intended for college level students and is used extensively. Honors Anatomy students must therefore be self-motivated and have a fundamentally sound understanding of Biology.

### **Honors Physics**

By the conclusion of the course, the student is expected to meet the requirements of the Georgia State Standards for Physics. These standards are for the skills and processes needed to complete scientific investigations as well as for physics content. Student grades will include quizzes, tests, lab reports, homework, and projects. Formal lab reports are to be prepared following the standard lab report format distributed in class. A scoring rubric for formal lab reports accompanied this format. Homework will be given some nights and weekends. It is important to complete the homework to master the concepts taught. Every school night the student is to review the daily outcomes presented in class. It is the responsibility of the student to make sure he or she has completed the outcomes each day. The course text is supplied as a reference for the course. If any questions remain concerning the material covered during class, the student is expected to review the appropriate sections of the text to further his or her understanding of the material. If questions remain after reviewing class notes, relevant lab data, and the text, the student should prepare questions to ask at the beginning of the next class to clarify the material.