

English Courses

The following contains a description of the course we offer to students at St Marys Senior High. It is intended as a guide to help you select your subjects and you should read it carefully.

Please note:

- The details given represent the way that the course is delivered at St Marys Senior High and may involve different choices from the way other schools might operate the same course.
- Classes can only be formed where sufficient students select the particular course. The fact that a course is listed here is not a commitment to run the course in a particular year.
- The arrangements for particular courses are subject to change for a variety of reasons.
- HSC students may elect to take extension courses which we offer in some courses.

The following outlines English courses of study offered at St Marys Senior High:

English Standard is designed for all students to increase their expertise in English and consolidate their English literacy skills in order to enhance their personal, social, educational and vocational lives. The students learn to respond to and compose a wide variety of texts in a range of situations in order to be effective, creative and confident communicators.

English Advanced is designed for students to undertake the challenge of higher-order thinking to enhance their personal, social, educational and vocational lives. These students apply critical and creative skills in their composition of and response to texts in order to develop their academic achievement through understanding the nature and function of complex texts.

English EAL/D is designed for students from diverse non-English speaking, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander backgrounds as designated by the course entry requirements. The students engage in a variety of language learning experiences to develop and consolidate their use, understanding and appreciation of Standard Australian English to enhance their personal, social, educational and vocational lives. The students learn to respond to and compose a wide variety of texts in a range of situations in order to be effective, creative and confident communicators.

English Extension is designed for students undertaking English Advanced who choose to study at a more intensive level in diverse but specific areas. They enjoy engaging with complex levels of conceptualisation and seek the opportunity to work in increasingly independent ways.

English Standard - Course Details

Units	Type	ATAR	Faculty Teaching This Course
2	Board Developed Course – Examinable at the HSC, marks can be used to count towards an ATAR	A – Counts towards an ATAR with no restrictions	English

What will I be doing in this course?

This course provides students with an opportunity to explore a range of types of texts drawn from prose fiction, drama, poetry, non-fiction, film, media and/or multimedia resources.

The course begins with the focus area *Reading to Write: Transition to English Standard*. In addition, students will study two other focus areas, *Contemporary Possibilities* and *Close Study of Literature*.

Across Stage 6 the selection of texts **must** give students experience of the following:

- texts which are widely regarded as quality literature, including a range of literary texts written about intercultural experiences and the peoples and cultures of Asia
- a range of Australian texts, including texts by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander authors and those that give insights into diverse experiences of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples
- texts with a wide range of cultural, social and gender perspectives
- integrated modes of reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing and representing as appropriate.

The majority of students in NSW will study this course.

What should I be able to do at the end of this course?

Students will have developed:

- Understandings of aspects of meaning from social, cultural, workplace and personal perspectives.
- Skills in composition and response to a wide variety of texts.
- Skills in communication for a range of purposes and audiences
- Skills to be effective communicators to enhance their personal, social and vocational lives.

How will this course help me in the future?

Students who study the Standard course will be equipped for employment, TAFE and tertiary study. This course is NOT suitable for students who wish to study English or related subjects at university.

English Advanced - Course Details

Units	Type	ATAR	Faculty Teaching This Course
2	Board Developed Course – Examinable at the HSC, marks can be used to count towards an ATAR	A – Counts towards an ATAR with no restrictions	English

What will I be doing in this course?

This course provides students who have a particular interest and ability in the subject with challenging learning experiences. Students need to possess competent reading and writing skills and be confident to articulate considered opinions in class discussions.

The course begins with the focus area, *Reading to Write: Transition to English Advanced*. In addition, students will study two other focus areas, *Narratives that Shape our World* and *Critical Study of Literature*.

Across Stage 6 the selection of texts **must** give students experience of the following:

- texts which are widely regarded as quality literature, including a range of literary texts written about intercultural experiences and the peoples and cultures of Asia
- a range of Australian texts, including texts by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander authors and those that give insights into diverse experiences of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples
- texts with a wide range of cultural, social and gender perspectives
- integrated modes of reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing and representing as appropriate.

A study of Shakespearean drama is compulsory in this course in Year 12.

Students who have a strong interest and ability in English should also undertake the Extension course.

What should I be able to do at the end of the course?

Students will have developed:

- Skills in effective communication at different levels of complexity.
- Skills of comprehension and understanding of the effects and purposes of a range of textual forms.
- Skills in independent research, individual and collaborative learning.
- Skills to write coherently in a variety of forms.

How will this course help me in the future?

Students who study the Advanced course will be well equipped for further study of English and related disciplines at tertiary level. Success in this demanding course will be a good indicator of success in a large range of courses at TAFE or university.

English Extension 1 - Course Details			
Units	Type	ATAR	Faculty Teaching This Course
1	Board Developed Course – Examinable at the HSC, marks can be used to count towards an ATAR	A – Counts towards an ATAR with no restrictions	English

What will I be doing in this course?

This is a 1 Unit course which is taken in conjunction with the Advanced course. It may be studied in the Preliminary year only, or may lead to a further 1 unit (Extension Course 1) or 2 units (Extension Course 2/4 Unit) in the HSC year.

Students will study one focus area: *Texts, Culture and Value (including a related research project)*. Students examine a key text from the past and its manifestations in a range of texts from more recent social, cultural and historical contexts to explore how and why texts reflect and challenge cultural values over time.

In addition, students are required to complete an independent related research project which is completed concurrently with the module.

The course will also focus on improving students' analytical skills and developing their ability to write in a variety of academic forms.

This course is ideal for talented English students who love literature and who wish to specialise in English at the Preliminary and HSC levels.

What should I be able to do at the end of the course?

By the end of the course, students will have developed their analytical skills and be able to trace the relationships between a variety of texts. They will have become familiar with the codes and conventions of a variety of textual forms and be able to discuss these conventions in both the written and oral forms. The course will also help to refine students' writing style and develop their ability to write in a sophisticated manner.

How will this course help me in the future?

As the course is analytical in nature, students will develop skills which are highly relevant to all forms of tertiary study. Students wishing to specialise in English or other humanities subjects, at tertiary level will be well prepared by this course.

English EAL/D - Course Details			
Units	Type	ATAR	Faculty Teaching This Course
2	Board Developed Course – Examinable at the HSC, marks can be used to count towards an ATAR	A – Counts towards an ATAR with no restrictions	English

What will I be doing in this course?

Students in this course will study three focus areas, Reading to Write: Transition to English EALD, *Texts and Society* and *Close Study of Text*.

Students learn how the construction of texts relates to purpose and audience. Furthermore, the course will focus on what a text communicates, and how a text communicates its meaning within a particular social and cultural context.

The modes of speaking and listening are integral to the development of language skills for students who are developing in their acquisition of the English language.

This course is available for students who have been educated in a non-English speaking country OR in Australia for less than five years. Students who qualify are strongly advised to study this course.

What should I be able to do at the end of the course?

Students should be able to:

- Express themselves competently at both the sentence and paragraph level of written communication
- Understand how the form of text depends on its purpose and audience
- Appropriately communicate in a variety of forms ranging from informal, personal writing to formal, academic writing as well as a range of oral communication skills
- Access information and share it in small and large groups in various forms of presentations

How will this course help me in the future?

The course contains the foundation of all levels of literacy required in all aspects of further tertiary study and in the workplace.