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## English Department changes courses

■ Humanities, Dramatic Literature will be offered as electives

ALEX REICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

Course description booklets that were recently handed out for the 2006-2007 school year may be raising some eyebrows. As students thumb through the pamphlet used for selecting classes for next year, they may notice some changes. Like always, students of every grade are required to enroll in certain core subjects. However, the list of classes eligible to count as “core” English classes has been narrowed.

Starting next year, and continuing into the following year, Advanced Placement (AP) Humanities will be phased out of the English Department’s roster. This decision was sparked by a College Board audit. The College Board is the organization which coordinates the AP programs and testing. Because there is no AP

Humanities test, students who want to receive college credit must take the Language and Composition, or Literature and Composition test. Therefore, Humanities is not a true College Board approved course. The audit ensures that colleges know that all AP classes that appear on high school transcripts are genuine. Honors humanities will still be available as an elective course.

Like in past years, all freshmen and sophomores are required to take English 1 and English 2, respectively. Yet, in past years, juniors could pick between AP Language and Composition, American Literature, Humanities, or Dramatic Literature. Next year, Humanities and Dramatic Literature will be offered only as electives and will not count toward graduation requirements. Current juniors

who are already in these two classes will be permitted to continue their studies next year with the level two classes.

“What we are doing right now is looking at strands of classes that kids take for graduation requirements. What you do not want to do is create a course where it is too hard to coordinate all the paths that kids have,” said Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development Dean Auriemma. He explained that it was too difficult for teachers to cover all the necessary material for an elective course, and integrate basic skills that must be taught at each grade level.

“We came to this dilemma ‘how do we assess that our students at the 12<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade level have the competency that they need?’ We are trying to assure that any course that a student takes, ...regardless of the course name and regardless of the level, it is going to give them...certain abilities,”

said Auriemma, who was quick to quell any suggestion that the classes in question were ineffective.

“It really has nothing to do with the good or the bad of the course or the good or the bad of the teacher. It is about us wanting to assure that when you apply to college, we can guarantee a minimum level of competency,” he said.

According to English Department Chair Jenny Pepper the adjustments were an attempt “for a more standardized curriculum that focuses on rhetoric. I think we all agreed this is what is best for students. It was a great program when it started, but it is not serving the purposes we need right now,” she said.

The administration agrees that the changes were instituted with students in mind. “We have to be careful to make sure that we provide rigorous paths for students that are not so overwhelming that they feel terrible about themselves, but are not less than you are going need in the real world. That is quite a dilemma for our school,” said Auriemma.

*I think we all agreed this is what is best for students.*

-Jenny Pepper  
English Department Chair

## Auditorium renovation nears completion



Courtesy of Lorneli Johns



Courtesy of Lorneli Johns

**Long time, no seats** “The majority of [the] major work is completed, and we are getting down to the finalization process. We are most concerned with the details. We want the auditorium to be perfect,” said H-F Director of Human Resources David Thieman, commenting on H-F’s Mall auditorium.

## Training Rules contract enforced, athletes suspended from teams

PETAR MANDICH  
NEWS EDITOR

Recent events involving H-F student athletes and underage drinking have brought up questions concerning the Athletic Training Regulations contract after several students were suspended from their sports teams for two weeks as a result of breaking the contract over winter break.

Each year, the H-F Athletic Director’s Office hosts three Training Rules meetings. Student athletes and their parents are required to attend at least one, during which the Athletic Training Regulations contract is outlined. When the meeting is over, both the student athlete and their parents are required to sign the contract. The signed contract is valid for one year.

The Athletic Training Regulations contract was developed for a number of reasons, according to Assistant Athletic Director Jennifer Hankes. “We want students to be aware that when they are outside of H-F, others are going to look up to them, whether they are eighth graders or even fifth graders. When you wear that letterman jacket or sports sweatshirt, you

are representing H-F,” she said.

The Athletic Training Regulations contract was also developed for the safety of students. “We hope that students make good choices. We want them to act appropriately outside of school... to represent H-F and also for their own safety,” said Hankes.

All students in H-F clubs must also sign a Code of Conduct similar to the Athletic Training Regulations contract. However, some students assume that if they are not in a sport, they will not have to suffer the consequences that come with breaking the contract. This is not true, according to Hankes. “While all students in sports or clubs are required to sign the contracts, it is more publicized [when athletes break the contract] because they are usually more in the spotlight at times,”

she said.

The Code of Conduct is also taken just as seriously by those who sign it. “I care more about what I am involved in than drinking or using drugs. This is why I take the Code of Conduct contract very seriously; I do not want to jeopardize my participation in Group Interpretation or Viking Ensemble. Why would I want to join them and put hard work in them just to be kicked out?” said Senior Saagit Scher.

The incidents at H-F have left some athletes suspended from both practice and games for their sport. As a result, many students are now wondering about the Athletic Director’s Office’s process of investigation. “A claim is made from either the local police, an adult, or a student. If the alleged student or students have signed the Athletic Training

Regulations contract or the Code of Conduct contract, we have to go through a process,” said Hankes.

The events have also left students questioning the process by which alleged students are interviewed. According to Hankes, students are never coerced into divulging names or ratting out their friends. They are only asked to tell the truth. “[After an accusation,] we contact the students and ask them about the allegations. There are some students who are completely truthful, and there are other students who are not. However, without proof, we cannot do anything if they do not admit it, even if we think the students are guilty,” she said. She also stressed that anything the students say in a meeting is strictly confidential and will only be shared with other members of the administration and the students’ parents. “We are not here to feed the rumor mill; anything said in a meeting will be kept confidential,” she said.

Hankes recommends that all students simply leave parties where there is alcohol and drug use to avoid any possible problems. “Just get out; it is not worth the risk,” she said.

### Breaking the Code

**First Offense:**  
Two week suspension from sport or club

**Second Offense:**  
Four week suspension from sport or club

**Third Offense:**  
Suspended from all athletic and extra-curricular programs at H-F for one year

Graphic by Joe Mahoney