

Frequently Asked Questions while registering for Roosevelt LA classes

AP versus CIHS

Q: Are colleges more impressed by an Advanced Placement (AP) class or a College-in-the-High-School (CIHS) class?

A: They are equally strong choices accorded the same respect and favor. Admissions Offices value AP classes because content is rigorous, a national board approves the syllabi, and AP scores are standardized. They value CIHS classes, meanwhile, because they are actual college classes, curriculum is created with and supervised by university faculty, and because the University of Washington is a respected institution.

Q: What's the big difference between Advanced Placement in Language and Composition class and a College-in-the-High-School (CIHS) English class?

A: In both, you will write many essays and develop close reading, critical thinking, and argumentation. However, in a CIHS class, you will explore a particular theme in concert with courses at the University of Washington, and in AP LA, you will explore broader themes in American culture and cover skills evaluated in the national AP exam. In AP LA, you will focus on synthesis, rhetorical analysis and argument through largely non-fiction essays on American themes, such as historical foundations, language, gender, and race. In CIHS, if you take Living in Place, you will focus on philosophy and the environment; if you take Ethnic Lit, social justice themes dominate; and if you take Writing in Comp Lit, you will focus on film. To earn college credit in AP, score at least a 3 on the exam. To earn college credit in a CIHS class, pay the UW registration fee (there is no test). You can take either course without registering for the AP exam or UW credit.

Q: Does passing the AP Lang and Comp exam earn me college credit at any college of my choice?

A: Many colleges do count it as credit, but some do not. You must contact the college to make sure.

Q: Do the UW credit and transcript in a CIHS class transfer to any college of my choice?

A: Many colleges [in the state](#) and across the country do honor the earned UW credits. You must contact the college to make sure.

Q. In which year should I take AP LA or CIHS?

A. There are benefits to either year. Junior year, material matches well with US History content and colleges will get to see the whole completed scope of your AP or CIHS year performance. On the other hand, Juniors take heavy course loads in 11th grade, and throwing another college course on top can be intense; taking it in Senior year spreads out that work and engages your activism differently. We have a question for *you*, and we frequently ask it: Why do so many of you take AP LA or CIHS in Junior year? Ideally, these classes and the semester LA options have a working balance between Juniors and Seniors. Not only do you share and grow a community, but Junior year seriousness benefits from

real-world sensibility and nearing-end joy of Seniors, and Juniors crucially leaven 12th grade Senioritis.

Specific course content

Q: What is Ethnic Lit CIHS, and what do you do each semester?

A: This class, also called Margins & Centers, is a social justice course investigating mechanisms of power that repress and exploit members of America's margins. It is very much a discussion based class, but expect a lot of writing and reading -- non-fiction first semester, novels in the second. Writing in the first semester is closely coordinated with the University of Washington's English 131 course; second semester novels and documentaries benefit from close collaboration with others teaching Margins & Centers at UW, Franklin, Eastlake, and Kentlake high schools. In the last couple of years, Fridays have been devoted to student-run discussions around current events, videos, and poems. This is a consciousness raising class to rouse your civic heart, tune your thinking, and prepare you for college level writing.

Q: Is Shakespeare going to make me feel stupid and bored? What do we do in there?

A: No! The class is entirely designed to be accessible and fun. Mostly we read together, playing in groups along the way.

Q: What goes on in the Native American Literature class?

A: A variety of reading, a mix of nonfiction and fiction that touches on both historical and contemporary topics. Socratic Seminars, book quizzes, student presentations, student performances, guests from the Native American community, projects, essays, a trip to the Burke Museum, and other activities. In addition to the focus on Native Americans, we learn about the struggles of Indigenous People around the world.

Q: What goes on in the African American Literature class?

A: A variety of reading, a mix of nonfiction and fiction that touches on both historical and contemporary topics. Socratic Seminars, book quizzes, student presentations, student performances, guests from the African American community, projects, essays, extracurricular visits to cultural events, and other activities.