

# HUMANITIES HONORS COURSES AT IDYLLWILD ARTS ACADEMY



The Humanities Department at Idyllwild Arts Academy offers Honors courses in 10th grade Modern World History and English 10, 11th grade U.S. History and English 11, and 12th grade Government and Economics and English 12.

**Entrance into these classes requires an application and department approval.** Honors level courses are offered for academically-motivated students who want to pursue in-depth study and who are willing and able to spend extra time outside of class working independently. Honors courses are weighted, and grading procedures for these courses reflect the expectation of a higher level of performance. These courses require additional reading and writing assignments. The nightly independent workload for Honors courses may vary between subject areas, but generally will be between 3-5 hours per week of work. Students are expected to manage their time to meet daily, weekly, and long-term deadlines.

## Qualities of a Learner/Basis for Evaluation

- Very strong reading and communication (written and verbal) skills
- Very strong problem solving ability and critical thinking skills
- Very high engagement in the learning process
- Exceptional ability to work independently and with groups
- Excellent performance on classroom assessments as proven by the submittal of a graded academic (not creative) writing sample (as required)
- Required placement test with a high proficiency rating

## Application Process and Placement Timeline

Week of 4/8/24	<b>Returning students</b> receive application information, basis for evaluation, and expectations for Honors courses
4/19/24	<b>Returning student</b> applications due, students sign-up for placement test time
4/22/24 - 5/3/24	<b>Returning students</b> sit for placement tests
Late May / Early June	<b>Returning students</b> notified of Honors placement; Honors summer reading assignments emailed
July 15	Deadline for any <b>new student</b> applications (if there is space available)
July 31	<b>New students</b> notified of Honors placement; Honors summer reading assignments emailed

## New Student Application Process for Humanities Honors Courses

1. Submit a graded **academic** writing sample (research-based, historical, or literary analysis; not creative fiction or poetry) to Erin Latimer at [elatimer@idyllwildarts.org](mailto:elatimer@idyllwildarts.org) (this should be a Google Doc or PDF with teacher comments, rubric, and grade).
2. Once your writing sample has been received, department faculty will contact you to schedule a Zoom placement exam, which will include a timed writing assessment.

## Returning Student Application Process for Humanities Honors Courses

1. Complete [this Google Form](#), on the form you will be asked to do the following:
  - Submit a graded academic writing sample (research-based, historical, or literary analysis; not creative fiction or poetry) to Erin Latimer at [elatimer@idyllwildarts.org](mailto:elatimer@idyllwildarts.org) (this should be a Google Doc or PDF with teacher comments, rubric, and grade).
  - Sign up for a placement test time (sign up process will be communicated to applicants after application deadline).
2. Be prepared to provide grades/comments for current and former humanities coursework for review.
3. You may be asked to interview with a department faculty member to discuss your goals for enrolling in Honors courses.