

Student Honors Application Process for 2017-2018

The Humanities Department at Idyllwild Arts Academy offers honor courses in 10th grade *Modern World History* and *English 2*, 11th grade *U.S. History* and *English 3*, and 12th grade *Government and Economics* and *English 4*. These courses entail a far more rigorous and challenging curriculum than the standard courses at these grade levels. The reading assignments are more complex and provocative, requiring students to invest more time, critical analysis, and creative energy in the study process. These courses also demand that students consistently write and think with increased argumentative sophistication, critical insight, thoughtfulness, and clarity. In short, they not only provide greater depth of subject matter and more interesting opportunities for independent learning, but they also commit the student to a heavier academic workload that sometimes impinges upon a student's devotion to the arts. As you discuss these options with your teachers, college counselor and parents, it is important that you know the requirements for all honors classes:

1. Humanities honors classes have a maximum of 18 students per class.
2. All in-coming applicants must have an academic GPA of 3.8 or higher.
3. All in-coming applicants are required to write in-class essays in a scheduled 60-minute scheduled period during Fall Orientation in August 2017, one for English and one for History if you choose to do both. They will answer one of three questions pertaining to the study of either literature or history.
4. All in-coming applicants must also submit at the time of their scheduled in-class essay one graded writing sample from a previous class. Samples must be accompanied by a type-written self-assessment explaining how the student responded to his or her teacher's comments and criticisms of their work.
5. All in-coming applicants are then evaluated by the entire Humanities faculty regarding their **academic work ethic, class participation, reading and writing skills, and intellectual curiosity.**
6. All honors students are required to read one assigned text for each of the honors English and History courses over the summer break, preceding the start of the new academic year in the Fall. All enrolled Honors students will be informed by email of their Summer 2017 Reading Assignments. **The readings and the accompanying assignment will be due on the first day of classes, Wednesday, 8-30-17.**
7. Remember, you are not considered an applicant until you have submitted these pieces of writing: a) in-class essay; b) one writing sample; and c) self-assessment of teacher criticism.
8. **If you have any questions please contact John Goulding, Humanities Department Chair, at johng@idyllwildarts.org**