

OAK GROVE LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR 2022-2023

ART

Art Foundations: Intro to Art

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

An introduction and exploratory course in various mediums and art movements. Units include drawing, painting, mixed media and 3D work. Mediums will include pencil, colored pencil, watercolor, acrylics, clay and other forms of 3D building materials. Students will refine their skills through working in sketchbooks. This course is recommended as your **first** art course.

Introduction to Ceramics

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

An introductory ceramic course that will provide students with insight into the history and application of ceramics as a functional and expressive medium. The course will be divided into hand building and wheel throwing. Each student will get a chance to create on the wheel. 12 students will be accepted into each semester, so each person gets a turn on the wheel.

Ceramics 2

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: Introduction to Ceramics

An advanced Ceramic course that will provide students the opportunity to strengthen their skills in ceramics. The course will be divided into hand building processes, wheel throwing, and artist research. Students will have the opportunity to propose their focus in each of these areas to allow for more creative and customized focus in the art of ceramics.

Intro to Drawing

Grade Level: 10-12

Elective: semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

Students will experience drawing techniques using a variety of media, including pencil and charcoal. Students will work from life and reference images with an emphasis on observation drawing. This course prepares students for painting.

Painting

Grade Level: 10-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None (recommended completion of Intro to Drawing)

Students will put into practice the many techniques of painting. Students will learn about various art history movements and create their own interpretation of the art periods. Students will utilize the mediums acrylic, watercolor, oil and mixed mediums. Students will refine their skills through working in sketchbooks.

Digital Photography & Design

Grade Level: 10-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

Students will become skilled at the technical aspect to taking photos with a digital camera. They will demonstrate an understanding of editing photos. They will become educated in the basics of photographic history and contemporary practice. Students will begin to see the world around them and represent it. Students are encouraged to purchase a digital camera that has manual mode. However, a cellphone with photo capabilities would work. A subscription to Photoshop is optional, but not required.

BUSINESS/CAREER & TECHNICAL

Accounting 1

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

Students will learn the fundamentals of accounting principles that include: terminology, accounting cycle, basic concepts, financial statements, roles of accountants and ethics in accounting. A primary focus on sole proprietorships and partnerships. Simulation packets are integrated into the course.

Accounting II

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: Accounting I

Students will continue learning the fundamental concepts of accounting. The focus in Accounting II shifts to merchandising businesses, payroll and merchandising taxes.

Business Technology Procedures

Grade Level: 9

Required, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

Students in Business Technology and Procedures will analyze productivity throughout the workforce, which imposes on all workers the need for effective and efficient information management, problem solving, and communication tasking. This class provides practical office simulations including information processing systems, job search skills, preparation of business presentations, and other technology procedures.

Entrepreneurship

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

Students will develop skills needed to effectively organize, develop, create and manage their own business. Topics covered include entrepreneurial concepts, characteristics of business organizations, business opportunities, entrepreneurial career examples, and individual career assessment and planning. Students will utilize the Small Business Administration website to create a business plan for their own business. Students will also be given hands on experience in the business world with hours completed in The Grove and Grover Grounds with topics that include customer relations, advertising and marketing, inventory management and day to day operations of a business.

Financial Literacy

Grade Level: 10-12

Required, semester, ½ credit (choose this or Independent Living)

Prerequisite: None

Students will study the impact of financial choices on personal and occupational goals and future earnings potential. Real world topics include checking accounts, budgeting, saving for large purchases, using credit cards, figuring interest and fees, being a responsible consumer, earning power, learning about taxes and paycheck withholding, college costs, mortgages, retirement savings and investments. This course will provide a foundational understanding for making informed personal financial decisions. Students will also create a resume and research job exploration.

Management

Grade Level: 10-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

Students are introduced to the field of management and organizational theory. Topics include: leadership, motivation, planning, teamwork and goal setting. The course will develop a mastery of theory and research findings about organizations and people within the organizations.

Management II

Grade Level 11-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: Management I

Students will continue the study of management functions and theories. Topics include: business organization, personal and management skills, ethics, social responsibility, human resource management, technology and information management, financial decision making, industry analysis, markets and prices and organized labor.

Cooperative Work Experience

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

Cooperative Work Experience provides students with the opportunity to use their regularly scheduled, supervised employment as a source of academic educational credit. The employment must be preceded by, or concurrent with, classroom instruction related to the work experience and consistent with the student's occupational goals. There shall be a training agreement among all partners to the work experience (school, employer, student, and parents/guardians) outlining the expectations of each party. The instructor shall also develop a specific training plan with the employer for each student placed. The training plan shall include provisions for assessment of student progress and for on-site visits by the instructor during the student's placement. A reflective essay will summarize the experience.

*Oak Grove offers limited unpaid employment on campus in both the Oak Grove School Store and the high school main office. Students interested in either of these positions should note store or office on their sign-up sheet.

Cooperative Work Experience – Junior Educators of Tomorrow (JETS)

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit per semester

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed for students interested in teaching as a career. Five periods per week are spent in a classroom observing, working with children, and assisting the classroom teacher by correcting papers, making bulletin boards, locating materials, and performing other classroom duties. In addition to that, the student meets with an advisor to set up completion of other assignments for the course.

CHRISTIAN STUDIES

Christian Studies

Grade Level: 9-12

Required, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

Christian Studies aims to help students develop spiritual practices and ask questions to deepen their faith. This year, we will be talking about new ways to live out our faith and impact God's world by following God's command to love our neighbor.

ENGLISH

Creative Writing 1

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

In this course, students will read a variety of genres of creative writing. Students will analyze writers' techniques in non-fiction, narrative, poetry, and short story writing. Students will also write a variety of creative pieces and use the writing process to create, edit, and finalize their writing. The course requires collaboration and an interest in writing creatively with purpose.

Creative Writing 2

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: Creative Writing 1

In this course, students will expand on their learning from Creative Writing 1. Students will read a variety of creative fiction, non-fiction, poetry and drama and expand their portfolio to include more poetry, expanded short stories, non-fiction essays and editorials, and drama. The course requires collaboration and an interest in writing creatively with purpose.

English 9

Grade Level: 9

Required, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: Middle School English

This course includes basic types of literature, grammar, oral and written composition, listening and speech skills and application.

English 10

Grade Level: 10

Required, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: 9th grade English

This course includes composition and vocabulary skills, as well as wide review of the following literary genres: short story, essay, biography, autobiography, poetry, novel, and drama.

English 11

Grade Level: 11

Required, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: 10th grade English

This course continues instruction in oral and written composition; reference/research papers and techniques; and ideals and ideas expressed in American literature from the Puritan Period to the 20th Century.

English 12

Grade Level: 12

Required, full year, 1 credit
Prerequisite: English 11

Students read and analyze British and world literature from the following genres: short story, essay, novel and drama. Students are required to write several analytical papers and projects.

ENGL 110 College Composition 1

Grade Level: 12

Required, semester, ½ credit this course will fulfill the senior English requirement
Dual Credit: 3 VCSU Credits
Prerequisite: English 11

A course which introduces students to college-level reading, writing, rhetoric, and critical thinking skills.

ENGL 220 Intro to Literature

Grade Level: 12

Required, semester, ½ credit this course will fulfill the senior English requirement
Dual Credit: 3 VCSU Credits
Prerequisite: English 11

A course which introduces students to college-level reading and discussion of representative examples from poetry, drama, and fiction using common literary terminology.

Film Analysis

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit
Prerequisite: None

This course focuses on film analysis and the process of interpreting and critiquing film techniques. We will learn about editing, lighting, sound, score, directing, cinematography, costuming and set design. Students will look for quality use of film techniques used to create the film's meaning or theme. Students will analyze both classic and current film selections.

Novels

Grade Level: 10-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit
Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to introduce students to a variety of classic novels written by great authors and more recent novels by popular modern day authors. The novels will be discussed and analyzed on their own merits, but the students will also explore the novels in relation to their own life experiences. The course is appropriate for students who enjoy reading and discussing literature.

Beginning Debate

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit
Prerequisite: None

Beginning Debate will teach Public Forum Debate, which involves studying and applying the techniques for investigating and debating two sides of contemporary problems. It addresses the formulation of propositions; analyzing and determining issues; gathering supporting material; constructing cases; developing logical reasoning and critical thinking; techniques of rebuttal and refutation; and extemporaneous delivery skills. Students will be encouraged to compete on the Debate team.

FAMILY and CONSUMER SCIENCE**Child Development & Parenting**

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit
Prerequisite: None

The study of human development and family science is a life skill that is usually learned by experience. In this class, we are able to gain that hands-on experience as well as research the psychological impact of parenting styles, why children behave the way they do, and the importance of families.

Cultures & Cuisine

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit
Prerequisite: None

This course will explore cultures in various parts of the world in relation to ethnic foods, food supply, preparation methods and traditions. We discover why we eat what we eat and who we are through a cross-cultural study via food production, preparation, and consumption. This class lets you try a variety of food from all over the world!

Housing & Interior Design

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

This project-based course enables students to explore their creativity in the field of architecture and interior design. The student will learn how to identify architectural styles, choose floor plans and furnishings and coordinate interiors using color and design principles. Other topics include furniture arrangement basics, floor plan evaluations, area planning, and careers.

Independent Living

Grade Level: 10-12

Required, semester, ½ credit (Choose this or Financial Lit)

Prerequisite: None

“Everything you need to know once you leave your mama’s house.” This course includes problem solving and decision making practice in areas such as careers, finance, food and nutrition, clothing, marriage and family, and housing. The student will do several individualized projects for real world applications and to practice living on your own.

Nutrition & Foods Prep

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

The student will analyze individual food and nutrition related health needs and practice basic food preparation techniques to maintain nutritional value and quality of the food. They will practice purchasing procedures to insure quality, budget maintenance, and appropriateness for health needs and menu.

Textiles I

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

An introductory course studying the basics of natural and chemical makeup of textile structures, including examinations of fibers, fabrics, dyes, and finishes. Project design and construction, care and maintenance techniques, basic sewing and terminology, equipment for hand and/or machine sewing, as well as reading and using patterns are some other topics that will be studied in depth. The majority of classroom time, students will be hands-on with project-based learning. Some fabric and sewing equipment is provided by the teacher, but the student can purchase their own if they so choose.

MATHEMATICS**Algebra I**

Grade Level: 8-9

Required, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra or placement test

This course includes number theory, graphs, positive and negative numbers, mathematical sentences, polynomials, linear equations and inequalities with one and two variables, systems of equations, functions.

Geometry

Grade Level: 9-10

Required, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: Algebra I

This course includes an investigation of the properties of points, lines, planes, angles, triangles, circles, spheres and polygons. Other topics include coordinate geometry, inductive and deductive reasoning, and areas and volumes of solids.

Algebra II

Grade Level: 10-11

Required, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Topics in this course may include the number system, polynomials, algebraic functions, exponents and radicals, sets and equations, simultaneous equations and matrices, inequalities, functions and relationships, plus an extension of topics.

AP Calculus

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: Precalculus

This course includes an intensive review of the topics from algebra, trigonometry, and analytic geometry that are necessary for success in calculus. Topics include limits, derivatives, and definite and indefinite integrals. Applications of these topics are included.

AP Statistics

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, full year, 1 credit
Prerequisite: Algebra 2

The AP Statistics course is equivalent to a one-semester, introductory, non-calculus-based college course in statistics. The course introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collection, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. There are four themes in the AP Statistics course: exploring data, sampling and experimentations, anticipation patterns and statistical inference. Students use technology, investigations, problem solving, and writing as they build conceptual understanding.

MATH 104 Finite Mathematics

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit (offered S1)
Dual Credit: 3 VCSU Credits
Prerequisite: Algebra II

An extension of basic algebra to areas that have applications in the economic, behavior, social, and life sciences. Topics include systems of linear equations and inequalities, matrices, linear programming, mathematics of finance, elementary probability and descriptive statistics.

MATH 107 Precalculus

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit (offered S2)
Dual Credit: 3 VCSU Credits
Prerequisite: MATH 104 Finite Mathematics

The study of algebraic functions in preparation for calculus. Topics include equations and inequalities; polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, trigonometric, and inverse trigonometric functions; trigonometric identities and equations; and applications.

MATH 165 Calculus I

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, full year, 1 credit
Dual Credit: 4 VCSU Credits
Prerequisite: Precalculus

The concepts, techniques, and applications of analytic geometry and differential and integral calculus. Topics include limits, continuity, differentiation, Mean Value Theorem, integration, Fundamental Theorem of Calculus, and applications.

MATH 210 Elementary Statistics

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, full year, 1 credit
Dual Credit: 3 VCSU Credits
Prerequisite: Algebra II

An introduction to statistical methods of gathering, presenting and analyzing data. Topics include probability and probability distributions, confidence intervals, hypothesis testing, and linear regression and correlation.

Principles of Engineering

Grade Level: 10-12

Elective, full year, 1 credit
Prerequisite: Algebra II

PLTW (Project Lead the Way) problem-based STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) course using math, science, and engineering for hands-on projects. Students work independently and in teams to solve problems using the engineering design process. Engineering notebooks and 3-D modeling software will be utilized. Class is designed to be very hands-on and will involve introductory computer programming and robotics.

MUSIC**AP Music Theory**

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, full year, 1 credit
Prerequisite: Ability to read and write musical notation; basic performance skills in singing or with an instrument.

The goal of the AP Music Theory course is to help the student pass the AP test by developing the student's ability to recognize, understand, and describe the basic materials and processes of music that are heard and presented in a score. The achievement of this goal may best be approached by initially addressing fundamental aural, analytical, and compositional skills using both listening and written exercises. Building on this foundation, the course will progress to include more creative tasks, such as the harmonization of a melody by selecting appropriate chords, composing a musical bass line to provide two-voice counterpoint, or the realization of a figured-bass reduction.

Chapel Choir

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: Some vocal ability and a willingness to work and be challenged

This course provides for the study of vocal music through group performance. Opportunities for solos are offered but not required. There is an emphasis on breathing, good vocal technique, sight reading, and learning solfege syllables. We sing a broad range of literature with some foreign language and a cappella.

Concert Choir

Grade Level: 11-12*

Elective, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: Placement is by audition only, Chapel Choir or other choral experience preferred. Must display good vocal ability, understanding of musicianship, positive attitude, and willingness to work and be challenged.

This course provides for the advanced study of vocal music through group performance. Opportunities for solos are offered but not required. There is an emphasis on tuning, blending, dynamics, phrasing, and critical listening skills including awareness of the overtone series. We sing primarily a cappella literature, some foreign languages, and strive to perform difficult literature. *Exceptional singers may be chosen as a Freshman or Sophomore.

Music & Praise

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: none

This class is designed to help students discover their musical gifts in the following manners: developing listening skills with ear training; learning what music is made of through the study of music theory; learning how to play instruments like guitar, drums, and piano; working on praise songs and leading chapel services once a week during the school year; and learning how to compose music and write it down for others to enjoy. Previous music experience is not required to succeed in this class.

Symphonic Band

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: At least two years prior experience playing an instrument. (Exceptions may be made on a case by case basis with evaluation from the band director)

This course includes the fundamentals of musicianship, small group and full band performance. Class activities include playing music written for band from a wide range of musical eras, sight reading, terminology study, scales and exercises, and listening to recorded performances. Various public performances will occur during the school year. Composition projects will occur as time allows. Enrollment in band is possible for those with experience with electric bass, string orchestra instruments, piano, or drum set.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION and HEALTH**Physical Education**

Grade Level: 9

Required, ½ credit

This course will fulfill one semester PE requirement

This course includes a combination of activities selected from individual sports, team sports, and fitness activities. Skills will be learned and practiced, as well as strategy and tactical components of each sport and activity. Other skills such as teamwork, positive attitude, and fair play will also be practiced and expected. FitnessGram testing is part of the Oak Grove physical education program.

PE 2

Grade Level: 10-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None (This course will fulfill one semester PE requirement)

This course will focus on sports and activities that can be enjoyed throughout life. The goal of this course is for students to find a variety of activities they enjoy, and will continue to play recreationally after high school, for life-long fitness. May include traveling off campus.

Health

Grade Level: 10

Required, 1 semester, ½ credit

Required for graduation

The goal of this course is for students to understand how to achieve and maintain a high level of health and wellness throughout their lives. Skills that will be learned, practiced, and assessed will be accessing valid health information, analyzing

influences, decision-making, goal-setting, communication, practice health-enhancing behaviors, and advocacy. Content topics include infectious disease, physical health, social health, mental health, community/public health, environmental health, drug use/misuse/abuse, nutrition, sexual health/education, relationships, and stress.

Weight Training

Grade Level: 10-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None (This course will fulfill one semester PE requirement)

The goal of this course is to introduce and motivate students to set goals in the weight room, and show how to achieve them. Each student will be evaluated during the first week of class. After testing, students will be shown the areas they can improve, and the instructor will assist them on how to set goals to achieve them. Throughout the semester, students will be evaluated on how they are improving. Students will also develop a training plan to be used during class and beyond. Each student will leave the course with a basic understanding of the safety, value, and benefits of a proper weight training program.

SCIENCE

Physical Science

Grade Level: 9

Required, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: None

This course is a combination of introductory physics and chemistry. The course includes the study of motion, energy, states of matter, and chemical composition. The course includes laboratory procedures.

Biology

Grade Level: 10

Required, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: Physical Science

Biology is the study of life and the interactions between living organisms. During this course you will learn the different methods scientists use to find answers for questions they have about the concepts of life and life processes. Throughout the year, we will explore many different topics including cell biology, genetics, ecology, and evolution.

BIOL 150

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Dual Credit: 4 VCSU Credits

Prerequisite: Biology

The first semester will earn credit for BIOL 150, focusing on cell biology, genetics, and form and function of body systems.

BIOL 151

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Dual Credit: 4 VCSU Credits

Prerequisite: Biology

The second semester will earn credit for BIOL 151, focusing on evolution, ecology, and the diversity of life. This is a lab-based course.

Chemistry

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: Physical Science or Biology

This course is a study of the composition of substances, their properties, and their interactions.

CHEM 121

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, full year, 1 credit

Dual Credit: 5 VCSU Credits

Prerequisite: Chemistry

The first semester of a two semester sequence covering the study of matter, measurements, atoms, ions, molecules, reactions, chemical calculations, thermochemistry, bonding, molecular geometry, periodicity, gases, intermolecular forces, liquids, solids, kinetics, equilibria, acids and bases, solution chemistry, precipitation, thermodynamics, and electrochemistry. Topics covered are illustrated with descriptive and historical perspectives, as well as applications of chemistry in society. The course includes laboratory.

Anatomy and Physiology

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: Biology

In this course, you will examine the interactions of human body systems as you explore identity, power, movement, protection, and homeostasis in the body. You will build organs and tissues using a skeletal Maniken®. Exploring science in action, you'll also use data acquisition software to monitor body functions such as muscle movement, reflex and voluntary action, and respiration, and you'll take on the roles of biomedical professionals to solve real-world medical cases.

Physics

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: Algebra II

This lab-based course will study numerous physics topics using basic algebra and trigonometry. Topics may include mechanics, fluids, waves, optics, thermodynamics, and electricity and magnetism.

Medical Interventions

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: Biology

This Project Lead the Way course allows students to investigate the variety of interventions involved in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disease as they follow the lives of a fictitious family. Through each scenario the students will be exposed to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) in a project-based, problem-based curriculum that includes interventions related to immunology, surgery, genetics, pharmacology, medical devices, among others. Students will also investigate multiple careers within the medical field. Students will be completing many advanced lab techniques including PCR, gel electrophoresis, protein purification, microarray, and others.

SOCIAL SCIENCES**Civics**

Grade Level: 9

Required (9th grade). Semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

This course is a study of U.S. government and how it plays out as a democracy. It includes the study of the history of the Constitution, all branches and levels of government, rights and responsibilities of citizens, political parties, legislative process, and the election process.

International Relations

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: Civics

This course provides students with an introduction to the relationships that exist among different nations and how our world interacts. We will look at many topics including an examination of the modern nation; the foreign policies of nations; the dynamics of nationalism, ideology, and culture; and the role that international organizations play in our world today. The course may also emphasize contemporary events that we see happening within, and shaping, our daily lives. These contemporary issues could include but are not limited to: oil, terrorism, environmental issues and resources, and religious tensions. More recent historical events, involving international organizations and the impacts of foreign policy, are also studied: Bosnian genocide, Iran Nuclear Agreement, renewed Russian aggression and expansion, etc. Once again, foreign policy between nations is the main focus.

Humanities - Travel

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

Offered alternating years: 2022-2023

Students will study the history, literature, art, and culture of an area. Students are required to take the course if they plan to travel the following summer. However, students are not required to travel if they take the course.

North Dakota Studies

Grade Level: 10-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

North Dakota Studies will allow students to become more familiar with their home state. Lifestyle, employment opportunities, ethnic heritages, historical events, geographic descriptions, geologic elements, sociological phenomena, current events, and political insights common to North Dakota will be studied.

POD 1 Economics

Grade Level: 12

Required, semester ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

Economics is a social science that studies how individuals and societies satisfy their unlimited wants with limited needs. In this course, students will be introduced to the economic way of thinking, including the economic thinking concepts of scarcity, opportunity cost, and the reality that there is “no free lunch”. In the early parts of the semester, students will also survey various economic systems, and various microeconomic concepts, such as, supply, demand, and market structures. In the second half of the semester, students will engage in a study of macroeconomics, including fiscal and monetary policy.

POD 2 Government

Grade Level: 12

Required, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: Civics, US History

This course is designed for students to engage in an in-depth exploration of domestic and foreign policy issues, and current events. Students will discover the core political issues our country faces and work to understand the history and various viewpoints on these controversial topics. While engaging in this process, students will begin to develop their own views on these topics.

Political Science

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

The course approaches the study of politics from a theoretical perspective, including an examination of what the role of government is, the nature of political behavior, political power, and political action. In this semester long course we will analyze, describe, and predict the many political systems, behaviors, and cultures to help you gain a more informed and knowledgeable understanding of how politics work within American society. This class will give you an awareness of the rules and strategies that are used within our political landscape. We will look at the multiple perspectives political scientists use including realism (Machiavelli) and contractualism (Hobbes and Locke), as well as more modern perspectives. Some topics we look at would include how governments gain legitimacy, fascism, different political ideologies, how can you measure freedom, and of course our own political machines in the U.S. that have been developed.

PSYCH 111

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Dual Credit: 3 VCSU Credits

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to provide an introduction to a variety of psychological topics including: the brain, sensation and perception, memory, learning, cognition, personality, social psychology, psychological disorders and therapies. Students will define fundamental psychological terms/concepts, compare/contrast multiple psychological perspectives on a variety of topics and will work in small and large groups to complete tasks and discuss course content. Psychology 111 will also have a semester online offering.

Sociology

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: Civics

This course introduces students to the study of human behavior within society by providing an overview of sociology topics such as social institutions and norms, socialization and social changes, and the relationships among individuals and groups in society. Put simply, we will study how people behave and interact in group settings, and reasoning’s behind the actions that people may take within different groups. In sociology, we will also look at modern issues such as poverty, welfare, crime, the justice system, social classes, and many other contemporary issues that people deal with on a day-to-day basis in both the United States, and the world.

United States History

Grade Level: 11

Required, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: Civics

This United States History course will take students through a thematic study of this nation’s history from the American Revolution to present times. Throughout the year, student will also be introduced to the concept of historical thinking. They will use primary and secondary sources to draw their own conclusions of central historical questions in American history.

Western Civilization

Grade Level: 10

Required, full year 1 credit

Prerequisite: None

This course focuses on the rise and development of Western civilization from ancient times up to the mid 1800's. The topics covered would include, but is not limited to, ancient Greece, the Roman Republic and Empire, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the Enlightenment, and the French Revolution. The goal of this course is to learn about the roots of Western culture, ideals, and history. Recognizing the stages, events, and connections of how Western civilization has developed will also help to better understand our current world, and how it came to be.

WORLD LANGUAGE

Language courses introduce students to the target language and to the process of another language system. Equally important is the introduction to and the appreciation for another culture. The language is approached through the cultural, historical, geographical, literary, and daily life aspect of the people.

Spanish I

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: None

This course lays a foundation for proficiency in the four language skills: understanding, speaking, reading, and writing. Communication and language proficiency are stressed throughout all three levels.

Spanish II

Grade Level: 10-12

Elective, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: Spanish I

This course builds on the foundation of the introductory course, with more complex tasks in the four language skills. There is increased emphasis on cultural awareness.

Spanish III

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: Spanish II

The emphasis continues on progressive levels of competency in the four language skills. Literature and consideration of cultural patterns provide the basis for advanced study. Special attention is given to preparation for the transition to college level courses.

Spanish IV

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: Spanish III

Spanish IV is a full year course with a high emphasis on production skills. Grammatical concepts from Spanish I-III will be applied with a focus on using them while speaking. A wide variety of activities are introduced in order to help students use language in numerous situations while furthering their cultural knowledge. New vocabulary will be taught and old vocabulary will be reviewed.