



St. Mary's Academy

Course Catalog (Updated April 2024)

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How to use this Course Catalog

This course catalog is a collective representation of courses that may be offered at St. Mary's Academy each school year. Included are course descriptions, type of course (college preparatory, Honors, or AP), prerequisites, and the status of their CSU/UC A-G core requirement alignment.

Description of Course Types

College Preparatory Courses

St. Mary's Academy core courses and electives are approved by the University of California (A-G list).

Honors Courses (H)

These classes are demanding and require additional commitment, focus and effort in order to be successful. The standards and expectations are set high and intended to provide students with a challenging experience. Students must be self motivated and prepared for the level of work. Students must sign the AP/Honors Commitment Contract.

Advanced Placement Courses (AP)

AP courses are equivalent to a college-level course in the subject. AP classes require the student to be willing and able to spend a significant amount of outside time on the material and in preparing for AP Exams --a national exam taken in May is required for all AP classes. College credit can be earned for successful marks on the AP Exam. Students must sign the AP/Honors Commitment Contract.

Pass/No Pass Courses (P/NP)

Some courses are listed as Pass/No Pass. These courses do not impact a student's GPA and do not classify as a CSU/UC A-G course.

SMA Academic Graduation Requirements

Graduation Requirements: 240 credits. St. Mary's Academy is a college preparatory school and students are expected to maintain at least a C average (2.0) in all academic subjects: Theology, English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Foreign Language. Students take seven courses per semester and 70) credits each year in attendance are necessary to graduate.

THEOLOGY	40 CREDITS
ENGLISH	40 CREDITS
WORLD LANGUAGE	20 CREDITS

MATHEMATICS	40 CREDITS
SCIENCE (Two semesters of a Biological Science and two semesters of a Physical Science)	20 CREDITS
SOCIAL STUDIES	30 CREDITS
VISUAL/PERFORMING ARTS	10 CREDITS
PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Up to two semesters of PE can be earned through participation in Interscholastic Team Sports for one year)	10 CREDITS
ELECTIVES	40 CREDITS

University of California Requirements

- A minimum of 150 credits in core courses must be met.
- Students planning to apply to competitive Universities should take more than the minimum requirements.
- Eligibility to UC depends on the grade point average in six subject areas combined with SAT or ACT scores.
- A grade of C- or higher is required in (A-G) coursework.
- More information found about A-G coursework found at: www.ucop.edu/agguide/a-g-requirements/index.html

Minimum and Maximum Enrollment

All classes are subject to minimum and maximum enrollment. The school reserves the right to cancel any class due to staffing capabilities or student enrollment numbers.

Faculty Teaching Assignments

Faculty teaching assignments change annually and are based primarily on the school's need for certain course offerings. Students must select courses they wish to take, and not base course selection on a specific teacher or time of day a course may be offered.

Academic Disciplines

Theology

6323 INTRODUCTION TO CATHOLICISM

Semester

Grade 9

Minimum Prerequisites: None.

This course will provide students with an overview of the Catholic faith, including its practices, spirituality, and core teachings. The purpose of this course is to create a solid foundation for all theological learning at St. Mary's Academy and

will focus on the Blessed Trinity, Jesus as the exemplar for humanity, the role of Mary, the Mother of God, and the role of the laity (particularly through a CSJ perspective).

6114 OLD TESTAMENT

Semester

Grade 9

Minimum Prerequisites: None.

The purpose of this course is to give students a general knowledge and appreciation of the Sacred Scriptures. Through their study of the Bible they will come to encounter the living Word of God, Jesus Christ. In the course they will learn about the Bible, authored by God through Inspiration, and its value to people throughout the world. The purpose of this course is to create a solid foundation for a Judeo-Christian understanding of faith, revelation, and tradition. If they have not been taught this earlier, they will learn how to read the Bible and will become familiar with the major sections of the Bible and the books included in each section. The students will pay particular attention to the Gospels, where they may grow to know and love Jesus Christ more personally.

6123 NEW TESTAMENT

Semester

Grade 9

Minimum Prerequisites: None.

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the mystery of Jesus Christ, the living Word of God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. In this course students will understand that Jesus Christ is the ultimate Revelation to us from God. In learning about who He is, the students will also learn who He calls them to be. Through this course of study, students will learn that for all eternity, God has planned for us to share eternal happiness with him, which is accomplished through the redemption Christ won for us. Students will learn that they share in this redemption only in and through Jesus Christ. They will also be introduced to what it means to be a disciple of Christ and what life as a disciple entails. A special focus will be placed on the New Testament, with a continued focus on the skill of exegesis and biblical text analysis.

6393 EMBRACING YOUR SACRED SELF

Semester

Grade 10

Minimum Prerequisites: None.

The purpose of this course is to help students understand who they are in light of who God is. In this course, students will deepen their understanding of what it means to be created in the image and likeness of God and the implications of that for a life of faith. Through study, reflection, and discussion, students will discern their true self in light of who God is and learn how to recognize the false self. In developing a deeper sense of self, students will explore how we are called to work in order to achieve unity of neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God, without distinction. Students will build the skill of using theological reflection to inform their sense of self.

6673 ECCLESIOLOGY

Semester

Grade 10

Minimum Prerequisites: None.

The purpose of this course is to help the students understand that in and through the Church they encounter the living Jesus Christ. They will be introduced to the fact that the Church was founded by Christ through the Apostles and is sustained by him through the Holy Spirit. The students will come to know that the Church is the living Body of Christ today. This Body has both divine and human elements. In this course, students will learn not so much about events in the life of the Church but about the sacred nature of the Church.

6313 SACRAMENTS

Semester

Grade 10

Minimum Prerequisites: None.

The purpose of this course is to help students understand that they can encounter Christ today in a full and real way in and through the sacraments, and especially through the Eucharist. Students will examine each of the sacraments in detail so as to learn how they may encounter Christ throughout life.

0351 AP SEMINAR

Full Year

Grade 10

Minimum Prerequisites: Commitment Contract, GPA of 3.2 or higher, teacher recommendation, PSAT/STAR skill potential, content specific skills assessment.

AP Seminar is a foundational course that engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives. Using an inquiry framework, students practice reading and analyzing articles, research studies, and foundational, literary, and philosophical texts; listening to and viewing speeches, broadcasts, and personal accounts; and experiencing artistic works and performances. Students learn to synthesize information from multiple sources, develop their own perspectives in written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations, both individually and as part of a team. Ultimately, the course aims to equip students with the power to analyze and evaluate information with accuracy and precision in order to craft and communicate evidence-based arguments.

6213 ETHICS AND MORALITY

Semester

Grade 11

Minimum Prerequisites: None.

The purpose of this course is to help students understand that it is only through Christ that they can fully live out God's plans for their lives. Students are to learn the moral concepts and precepts that govern the lives of Christ's disciples. The course serves as an introduction to systematic moral thinking. Special attention is given to conscience and justice. Another focus is respect: for others, creation, and human life.

6223 SOCIAL JUSTICE

Semester

Grade 11

Minimum Prerequisites: None.

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the Church's social teaching. In this course, students are to learn how Christ's concern for others, especially the poor and needy, is present today in the Church's social teaching and mission. Through study, reflection, and research, students will come to a deeper understanding of what it means to serve the dear neighbor without distinction. The course will culminate in a capstone service project in which they will showcase theological research skills as well as synthesize content from both the Ethics and Morality and Social Justice courses.

6263 PASCHAL MYSTERY

Semester

Grade 11

Minimum Prerequisites: None.

Why do good people suffer? What is God's role in our suffering? What happens when we die? How do we die with dignity? How do we grieve? Students will explore, analyze, and integrate the theology and human experience that address these and other questions. Students need to be prepared to read theological texts, to write theological essays, and, most importantly, to think critically. Students will be encouraged to bring their own experiences and opinions into the classroom.

6403 WORLD RELIGIONS

Semester

Grade 12

Minimum Prerequisites: None.

The World Religions course is an introductory survey of religious traditions. Each of the major religions of the world, as well as some representative small-scale, or primal, traditions are explored and studied. Additionally, the religions of ancient Iran, Greece and Rome are presented to provide the background milieu for Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The Goals for the course are 1) to become familiar with the basic teaching, myths, rituals and history of the world's major religions; 2) to appreciate the diversity of religious viewpoints; and 3) to understand how religions contribute to the quality of human life.

6383 CHRISTIAN VOCATIONS

Semester

Grade 12

Minimum Prerequisites: None.

The purpose of this course is to help students to understand the vocations of life: how Christ calls us to live. In this course, students should learn how all vocations are similar and how they differ. The course should be structured around

married life, single life, priestly life, and consecrated life. Students should learn what it means to live life for the benefit of others and the value in considering a vocation in service to the Christian community.

6333 HEALTH CARE ETHICS

Semester

Grade 11

Minimum Prerequisites: Must be a member of the Health Careers Career Path Program

This one semester Health Careers Program course introduces students to the modern history of healthcare ethics and bioethics and allows them to develop an understanding of the many ethical issues facing healthcare providers today through an exploration of medical experimentation, organ donation, reproductive issues, and end of life issues such as euthanasia and life support. Religious and legal perspectives on these issues will also be considered. The course also provides an introductory study of various ethical theories and their general applications. Through the examination and study of healthcare ethical issues and dilemmas, students will gain personal insight and begin formulating opinions and considerations in light of a pluralistic society that values autonomy and justice in its health care systems.

6533 CULTURAL COMPETENCE IN HEALTH CARE

Semester

Grade 11

Minimum Prerequisites: Must be a member of the Health Careers Career Path Program

This one semester Health Careers Program course provides students with an overview of specific cultural characteristics of various cultural and ethnic groups; explores the relationship between language, culture, and health care; identifies health beliefs and health care systems; and identifies specific culturally competent practices. Through case studies, the course covers health care patterns as well as cultural values, beliefs, and behaviors with the aim of expanding awareness related to culturally driven disparities and providing a framework for holistic care that promotes equity in health care systems. In addition, individual and group projects, guest speakers, and outside experiences will be integrated into the course to foster a greater tolerance of patients' health care practices and a greater understanding of patients' needs.

English

0151/0152 LANGUAGE COMPOSITION 1

Full Year

Grade 9

Minimum Prerequisites: None

First year students will learn the basics of literary analysis through the study of different literary genres: poetry, mythology, drama, and the short story. The class reviews the mechanics of writing, grammar, spelling, punctuation, and sentence/paragraph structure, but the main focus is on vocabulary, critical reading, and reading comprehension. The goal of the class is to provide students with a variety of skills to help them better understand and express ideas about what they read in all of their subjects. Although the primary focus of this course centers upon learning the structure of language and the methodology of literary appreciation and analysis, this curriculum also promotes an interdisciplinary approach to reading competence, exposing students to strategies particular to a range of subjects, including the hard

sciences, the social sciences, an array of visual and performing arts, health and physical fitness, as well as cultural and moral perspectives. In addition, students demonstrate their reading proficiency by composing summaries and offering expository responses to both literary and cross-curricular material.

0171/0172 LANGUAGE COMPOSITION 1 HONORS (H)

Full Year

Grade 9

Minimum Prerequisites: Commitment Contract, B in current English class, SMA and HSPT Placement Test, and teacher recommendation.

This course covers all the material in Language Composition 1 but in greater depth, with more reading and composition, including at least one interdisciplinary assignment referring to, or in conjunction with, a class students are taking in another subject.

0381/0382 WORLD LITERATURE

Full Year

Grade 10

Minimum Prerequisites: None

This course is designed to expose students to different modes of literature from around the world. The course follows the curriculum for World History and Geography, and students will read novels, plays, poetry, and non-fiction from ancient civilizations to today. Through frequent writing assignments and oral presentations, students will develop their organizational, communicative, and analytical skills.

0361/0362 WORLD LITERATURE HONORS (H)

Full Year

Grade 10

Minimum Prerequisites: Commitment Contract, GPA of 3.2 or higher, teacher recommendation, PSAT/STAR skill potential

This honors course is designed to expose students to different modes of literature from around the world. The course follows the curriculum for Honors World History and Geography, and students will read novels, plays, poetry and nonfiction from ancient civilizations to today. These major works of literature will be supported by grade level documents intended to illuminate the literature and expose students to reading and analyzing nonfiction and rhetoric. Through frequent writing assignments and oral presentations, students will develop their organizational, communicative, and analytical skills.

0301/0302 AMERICAN LITERATURE

Full Year

Grade 11

Minimum Prerequisites: None.

This course explores the origins of American literature and relates the historical and philosophical trends represented in American literature from the Colonial period to the twentieth century. The class emphasizes critical reading, interpretation, and analysis of poetry, non-fiction, short stories, and novels. Major works include The Scarlet Letter and

The Great Gatsby. The writing component of the course includes critical, creative, and research papers as well as group presentations.

0341/0342 AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE/COMPOSITION (AP)

Full Year

Grade 11

Minimum Prerequisites: Commitment Contract, GPA of 3.2 or higher, teacher recommendation, PSAT/STAR skill potential, content specific skills assessment.

This course studies early, modern and contemporary works of fiction, non-fiction and poetry within the context of historical and philosophical trends of America, including Modernism, The Harlem Renaissance, The Jazz Age, feminist writings, the concept of "The American Dream," and the literature of war. Strong emphasis is placed on written and oral critical analysis, interpretation, and synthesis skills in the AP approach; several critical papers are required. Major works include Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* and the works of Edgar Allan Poe. Students complete at least one interdisciplinary assignment referring to, or in conjunction with, a class students are taking in another subject. This class is designed to prepare students for 12th grade AP English Literature. Emphasis is placed on writing, research, and critical reading skills WITH PREPARATION FOR THE AP EXAM. The student is required to take the AP Language and Composition Exam in May. There will be mandatory supplementary prep classes during lunch or after school.

0411/0412 WOMEN IN LITERATURE

Full Year

Grade 12

Minimum Prerequisites: None.

This course is devoted to exploring the history of women's writing, using texts from the turn of the nineteenth century to the present day, in order to understand the social, historical, and cultural conditions under which women's writing emerged. By way of author case studies, students will delve into how various authors conceive of and represent women's experiences, as they intersect with other identities. Through analysis, writing, note-taking, research, and discussion, students will learn how gender norms, educational systems, and economic structures conspired to yield a history of women's writing that is comparatively much shorter than men's. This course investigates what it means for women to write literature--and what it means, by extension, to write women in literature. Students complete at least one interdisciplinary assignment referring to, or in conjunction with, a class students are taking in another subject.

0471/0472 AP ENGLISH LITERATURE/COMPOSITION (AP)

Full Year

Grade 12

Minimum Prerequisites: Commitment Contract, GPA of 3.2 or higher, teacher recommendation, PSAT/STAR skill potential, content specific skills assessment.

The AP English Literature and Composition course aligns to an introductory college-level literature and writing curriculum. The AP English Literature and Composition course focuses on reading, analyzing, and writing about imaginative literature (fiction, poetry, drama) from various periods. Students engage in close reading and critical analysis

of imaginative literature to deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure. As they read, students consider a work's structure, style, and themes, as well as its use of figurative language, imagery, and symbolism. Writing assignments include expository, analytical, and argumentative essays that require students to analyze and interpret literary works.

0223/0224 CREATIVE WRITING

Full Year

Grade 11/12

Minimum Prerequisites: None.

This course will explore various genres that constitute the practice of Creative Writing by reading different samples of creative works, investigating narrative devices/narratology, and creation of various creative works. As a community of writers, students will create works that engage with the sub-genres within the fold of Creative Writing. Students will have the opportunity to interact with many different forms of creative writing and will have the opportunity to share their work with a community of writers.

By the end of this course students will have a working creative writing portfolio which they can use as material for applications with creative writing programs in college, to submit to journals/online publications for publication, or to revise/adapt as they continue their studies outside of the course (in High School and afterwards).

World Language

4101/4102 SPANISH I

Full Year

Grade 9 - 11

Minimum Prerequisites: None.

A course designed to introduce students to the skills of learning a language. The basic goals are to present: 1) language in an interesting and stimulating context, 2) a realistic overview of various aspects of Hispanic culture, 3) varied exercises that provide both drill and a personalized manipulation of language, 4) a logical learning sequence from spoken to written language and guidance in improvisation and free communication.

4201/4202 SPANISH II

Full Year

Grade 9 - 12

Minimum Prerequisites: For incoming 9th graders, the SMA Spanish Placement Test and Commitment Contract.

A course designed to build on the skills learned in Spanish I. Emphasis is placed on reading comprehension, grammar, pronunciation, writing and oral skills and free communication. Selected culture-related literary excerpts will be read and discussed. A general introduction to Hispanic culture is included.

4301/4302 SPANISH III

Full Year

Grade 9 - 12

Minimum Prerequisites: Commitment Contract, and teacher recommendation.

This course is designed to develop conversational, writing and reading skills as well as providing a more comprehensive study of grammar on an advanced level. The reading selections deal with a variety of cultural topics. Students will read various selections from literature. Oral presentations are required and students work in groups to present creative skits. A more complete study of the structure of the language is included.

4411/4412 SPANISH 4 ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

Full Year

Grade 11 - 12

Minimum Prerequisites: Commitment Contract, GPA of 3.2 or higher, teacher recommendation, PSAT/STAR skill potential, content specific skills assessment.

This course is designed to introduce advanced level students to selected works in the classical and contemporary literature from Spain and Latin America. The students develop their language skills while reading advanced works of literature and authentic documents. They learn to express their ideas orally and in writing. They learn to use literary terms and concepts in the analysis of the content and style of the works that they read. Students actively prepare for the AP language test throughout the year. The student is required to take the AP Spanish Exam in May.

4111/4112 AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE 1

Full Year

Grade 9-12

Minimum Prerequisites: None.

This introductory course in American Sign Language (ASL 01) focuses on developing foundational skills in ASL communication, using the textbook "Signing Naturally" by Cheri Smith. Students will learn the basics of ASL, including fingerspelling, basic vocabulary, sentence structure, and key grammatical features. The course also introduces students to Deaf culture and the rich history of the Deaf community. Through interactive activities, dialogues, and immersive practice, students will build confidence in their ability to communicate in ASL.

Mathematics

1111/1112 ALGEBRA 1

Full Year

Grade 9 – 10

Minimum Prerequisites: SMA and HSPT Placement Test, and teacher or principal recommendation.

Algebra 1 is designed to introduce the student to basic concepts and language of elementary algebra. The course aims to assist the student in acquiring a facility with algebraic properties and techniques.

1121/1122 ALGEBRA 1 HONORS (H)

Full Year

Grade 9

Minimum Prerequisites: SMA and HSPT Placement Test, and teacher or principal recommendation.

Algebra 1 is designed to introduce the student to basic concepts and language of elementary algebra. The course aims to assist the student in acquiring a facility with algebraic properties and techniques. Upon completion of this course students should be able to interpret and write expressions in equivalent forms to solve problems, understand operations and relationships of polynomials in order to solve problems, create equations that describe numbers and/or relationships, understand solving equations as a process of reasoning, and be able to explain that reasoning, and analyze graph functions (linear and quadratic), square root, cube root, symbolically, exponential, logarithmic, and piece-wise defined functions.

1211/1212 GEOMETRY

Full Year

Grade 9 – 12

Minimum Prerequisites: For incoming 9th graders, SMA and HSPT Placement Test, teacher or principal recommendation, and Commitment Contract. For incoming 10th graders: None.

Geometry is designed to acquaint the student with the basic concepts of Euclidean Geometry using the concepts of algebra. The student is helped to acquire facility in using geometric principles and to develop deductive and some inductive reasoning ability. The notion of mathematical proof is introduced.

1221/1222 GEOMETRY HONORS (H)

Full Year

Grade 9 – 12

Minimum Prerequisites: For incoming 9th graders, SMA and HSPT Placement Test, teacher or principal recommendation, and Commitment Contract. For incoming 10th graders, Commitment Contract, GPA of 3.2 or higher, teacher recommendation, PSAT/STAR skill potential.

Geometry Honors is a course dealing with proofs and applications of geometric theorems and concepts of Euclidean Geometry. An emphasis on the concepts and applications of previously developed Algebra 1 will be included.

1301/1302 ALGEBRA 2

Full Year

Grade 10 – 12

Minimum Prerequisites: None.

Algebra 2 is designed so students can study the concepts and skills of algebra in more depth, increasing their understanding of the theory presented in the first-year course. The student will consider more of the theory of the mathematical system and be helped toward a mastery of the concepts and techniques of algebra in the real and complex number system.

1311/1312 ALGEBRA 2 HONORS (H)

Full Year

Grade 10 – 12

Minimum Prerequisites: Commitment Contract, GPA of 3.2 or higher, teacher recommendation, PSAT/STAR skill potential

Algebra 2 Honors is designed for students whose ability in mathematics is strong. The course will cover essentially the same material as Algebra 2, but will do so with greater depth and detail. Additional topics will be included.

1453 PRECALCULUS (H)

Full Year

Grade 11 – 12

Minimum Prerequisites: B- in Algebra 2 Honors or A- in Algebra 2 class, and teacher recommendation.

This course is intended to provide the mathematical background needed for calculus and it assumes that students have prerequisite skills in geometry and algebra. The course integrates graphing technology without losing the underlying mathematics. The concepts that play a central role in calculus are explored from algebraic, graphical and numerical perspectives.

1441/1442 STATISTICS

Full Year

Grade 12

Minimum Prerequisites: Successful completion of Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2 courses.

This discipline is an introduction to the study of probability, interpretation of data, and fundamental statistical problem solving. Mastery of this academic content will provide students with a solid foundation in probability and facility in processing statistical information.

1451/1452 AP CALCULUS AB (AP)

Full Year

Grade 12

Minimum Prerequisites: Commitment Contract, GPA of 3.2 or higher, teacher recommendation, PSAT/STAR skill potential, content specific skills assessment.

This challenging, college equivalent course is for the advanced and highly motivated student and follows the curricula defined by the College Board. It is intended for highly motivated, analytical students with a thorough knowledge of mathematics: algebra, axiomatic and analytic geometry, trigonometry, and elementary functions. It is an intuitive study of Calculus I methods and applications. Calculator with trig functions is required. Students must be well prepared for the difficulty and level of work. Students are required to take the AP Calculus AB Exam in May. There may be mandatory supplementary prep classes during lunch or after school.

1321/1322 FINANCIAL LITERACY

Full Year

Grade 12

Minimum Prerequisites: Successful completion of Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2 courses

The Financial Literacy course is designed to equip students with essential knowledge and skill to make informed and responsible financial decisions throughout their lives. In today's complex economic landscape, understanding personal finance is crucial for achieving financial well-being and security. This course provides a comprehensive overview of key financial concepts, tools, and strategies to empower individuals to manage their money effectively and achieve their financial goals.

Science

2063/2064 PLTW PRINCIPLES OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE

Full Year

Grade 10-12

Minimum Prerequisites: None.

In this introductory course of the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Biomedical Science program, students explore concepts of biology and medicine to determine factors that led to the death of a fictional person. While investigating the case, students examine autopsy reports, investigate medical history, and explore medical treatments that might have prolonged the person's life. The activities and projects introduce students to human physiology, basic biology, medicine, and research processes while allowing them to design their own experiments to solve problems.

2251/2252 BIOLOGY

Full Year

Grade 9 – 12

Minimum Prerequisites: None.

This course provides an introduction to the major topics in modern biology. Special attention is given to areas of cell biology, diversity in plant and animal life, genetics, physiology and evolution theories. Additional efforts are also made to increase students' awareness of bio-ethical and environmental issues. This course will satisfy a laboratory life science requirement.

2211/2212 BIOLOGY HONORS (H)

Full Year

Grade 9 – 12

Minimum Prerequisites: B or higher in Science grade, HSPT Placement Test, and teacher recommendation.

This course provides more in depth to the major topics in modern biology, understanding of scientific aspects of the diversity in animals and plants. The topics include: biochemistry, cellular biology, genetics, physiology, evolution, and many other aspects of animals and plants. Students who enroll in honors biology are required to cover material in more depth. This course will satisfy a laboratory life science requirement.

2331/2332 CHEMISTRY

Full Year

Grade 10 – 12

Minimum Prerequisites: None.

Emphasis is on mathematical problem solving, observation and experimentation following the scientific method. Satisfies a one-year laboratory and physical science requirement.

2321/2322 CHEMISTRY HONORS (H)

Full Year

Grade 10 – 12

Minimum Prerequisites: Commitment Contract, GPA of 3.2 or higher, teacher recommendation, PSAT/STAR skill potential

This year long course is a high school course designed for students with a strong background and interest in science and mathematics who plan to pursue careers in the fields of science. It is a lab-oriented course that explores chemistry concepts such as atomic structure states of matter, chemical reaction, chemical products, energy, stoichiometry, states of matter and intermolecular forces, gases and solutions, chemical equilibrium, reaction rate, oxidation, combustion, Nuclear chemistry, Carbon and organic compounds plus biochemistry. This is an accelerated course that deals with almost all California standards. Satisfies a one-year laboratory and physical science requirement.

2413/2414 PLTW HUMAN BODY SYSTEMS HONORS (H)

Full Year

Grade 11 – 12

Minimum Prerequisites: Successful completion of Biology.

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

2401/2402 PHYSICS

Full Year

Grade 11 – 12

Minimum Prerequisites: None.

This course is an introduction to contemporary physics; emphasis is on different aspects of motion including one, two-dimension plus rational. Forces in one and two-dimension, Gravity and momentum. Energy, work and machines, plus the conservation of energy that leads to different states of matter. Waves, including sound and light. Reflection and mirror and lenses and nuclear physics. Satisfies a one-year laboratory and physical science requirement.

2551/2552 ADVANCED PLACEMENT BIOLOGY (AP)

Full Year

Grade 9 – 12

Minimum Prerequisites: Commitment Contract, GPA of 3.2 or higher, teacher recommendation, PSAT/STAR skill potential, content specific skills assessment.

This is an introductory college-level biology course. Students will cultivate their understanding of biology through inquiry-based investigations as they explore the following topics: evolution, cellular processes – energy and communication, genetics, information transfer, ecology, and interactions. Therefore, AP Biology will give students opportunities for learning through scientific inquiry, development of laboratory skills, and assessment. Additionally, it will provide students with a college-level experience as the course seeks to prepare students to successfully complete the AP Biology exam in May. The student is required to take the AP Biology Exam in May. There will be mandatory supplementary prep classes during lunch or after school.

1451 ADVANCED PLACEMENT COMPUTER SCIENCE (AP)

Full Year

Grade 11 – 12

Minimum Prerequisites: Commitment Contract, GPA of 3.2 or higher, teacher recommendation, PSAT/STAR skill potential, content specific skills assessment.

This course is an introductory college-level computing course that introduces students to the breadth of the field of computer science. Students learn to design and evaluate solutions to apply computer science to solve problems through development. Students also explain how computing innovations and computing systems-including the internet-work, explore their potential impacts, and contribute to a computing culture that is collaborative and ethical.

1641/1642 PLTW PRINCIPLES OF ENGINEERING HONORS (H)

Full Year

Grade 11-12

Minimum Prerequisites: None.

Engineering is the solving of societal problems through the application of mathematics and science. This course will introduce engineering through solving engaging and challenging problems that engage. These problems will highlight important skills for engineers. Students explore a broad range of engineering topics, including mechanisms, the strength of structures and materials, and automation. Through these topics the course will expose students to different types of careers in engineering. In Principles of Engineering (POE), students develop skills in problem solving, research, and design while learning strategies for design process documentation, collaboration, and presentation.

Social Studies

3201/3202 WORLD CIV/GEOGRAPHY

Full Year

Grade 10

Minimum Prerequisites: None.

This course is designed to teach students about the social, economic, and political developments that helped shape the modern world. Focusing on major turning points that shaped the modern world, from the 18th century to the present, students will investigate major events and individuals while developing their own critical thinking, analytical, geography, research, and English skills. Using and learning the difference between primary and secondary resources, students will learn the intricacies of historical thinking and then relate current world issues to past events.

3211/3212 WORLD CIV/GEO HONORS (H)

Full Year

Grade 10

Minimum Prerequisites: B- in previous English Honors or A- in previous English class, and teacher recommendation.

This course is designed to teach students about the social, economic, and political developments that helped shape the modern world. Focusing on major turning points that shaped the modern world, from the 18th century to the present, students will investigate major events and individuals while developing their own critical thinking, analytical, geography, research, and English skills. Using and learning the difference between primary and secondary resources, students will learn the intricacies of historical thinking and then relate current world issues to past events.

3221/3222 ADVANCED PLACEMENT WORLD HISTORY: MODERN (AP)

Full Year

Grade 10

Minimum Prerequisites: Commitment Contract, GPA of 3.2 or higher, teacher recommendation, PSAT/STAR skill potential, content specific skills assessment.

Advanced Placement World History Modern investigates four historical periods from 1200 CE to the present. This is a rigorous, fast-paced, and intensive class. It includes economic, political, and social/cultural aspects of world history and is meant to be the equivalent of an introductory college or university world history course. Students will be asked to analyze and evaluate secondary and primary documents and be able to write about the meaning, significance, and impact of these documents as classwork, homework, and as a routine part of quizzes and exams.

3301/3302 UNITED STATES HISTORY

Full Year

Grade 11

Minimum Prerequisites: None.

The first semester of United States History covers approximately nine chapters. The course is primarily a survey course that begins with the convergence of indigenous and European cultures in the Americas and concludes with FDR's New Deal, the Depression and the eve of the Second World War. The second semester of United States History begins with World War II. The rise of totalitarian regimes, fascism, isolationism vs. neutrality, and the American entrance into the war are all examined. Students examine the changing nature of American society on the home front and the war's effect on both women and minorities. Students evaluate the Holocaust, its causes and its effects both in Europe and the United States. The Cold War is studied as it emerged in Europe, Asia and the Americas; and students are introduced to the policy of Containment. The Civil Rights Movement, Kennedy's New Frontier, Johnson's Great Society, and the Vietnam War are examined within the context of both the Cold War and an era of protest and change. Reading and writing are heavily emphasized in this course.

3331/3332 ADVANCED PLACEMENT UNITED STATES HISTORY (AP)

Full Year

Grade 11

Minimum Prerequisites: Commitment Contract, GPA of 3.2 or higher, teacher recommendation, PSAT/STAR skill potential, content specific skills assessment.

Advanced Placement United States History is a two-semester course that examines the history of the United States of America from approximately 1492 to modern times: from the discovery and settlement of the New World to the very recent past. Through the study of political institutions, social and cultural developments, diplomacy, and economic trends in United States history, students will develop an understanding of some of the major themes in American history as they master factual information and analyze primary and secondary sources. Students will be able to interpret historical scholarship and draw their own conclusions from the evidence presented. Therefore, AP U.S. History will give students the opportunity to further develop skills of critical thinking, writing, and expression. Additionally, it will provide students with a college-level experience as the course seeks to prepare students to successfully complete the AP US History exam in May. The student is required to take the AP US History Exam in May. There will be mandatory supplementary prep classes during lunch or after school.

3403 U.S. GOVERNMENT

Semester

Grade 12

Minimum Prerequisites: None.

In this course students will cover the principles of American government, origins of American democracy, the Constitution, Federalism, the electoral process, and the three branches of government (legislative, judicial, and executive) according to the California History-Social Science Standards for Government and using the Common Core goals for improving Literacy in Social Science and History. The course will address these topics through an in-depth study of primary sources documents and the Constitution. Additionally, students will develop their reading comprehension, writing, and critical thinking skills throughout the assignments and activities completed in class and through the use of online and multimedia resources used throughout the semester. We will engage in discussion, questioning, and examination of the various elements of complex political and social issues relating to course content, but no favoritism or support of any political parties, affiliations, or politicians will be highlighted by the curriculum.

3420 ADVANCED PLACEMENT UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS (AP)

Semester

Grade 12

Minimum Prerequisites: Commitment Contract, GPA of 3.2 or higher, teacher recommendation, PSAT/STAR skill potential, content specific skills assessment.

AP U.S. Government and Politics is an introductory college-level course in U.S. government and politics. Students cultivate their understanding of U.S. government and politics through analysis of data and text-based sources as they explore topics like constitutionalism, liberty and order, civic participation in a representative democracy, competing policy-making interests, and methods of political analysis. Additionally, it will provide students with a college-level experience as the course seeks to prepare students to successfully complete the AP U.S. Government and Politics exam in May. Students are required to take the AP U.S. Government and Politics Exam in May. There will be mandatory supplementary prep classes during lunch or after school. We will engage in discussion, questioning, and examination of the various elements of complex political and social issues relating to course content, but no favoritism or support of any political parties, affiliations, or politicians will be highlighted by the curriculum.

3443 ECONOMICS

Semester

Grade 12

Minimum Prerequisites: None.

Economics is a one-semester course designed to allow students the opportunity to study concepts of basic economics and their applications in real world situations. Students will experience the following topics through reading and writing assignments, hands-on activities, critical thinking exercises, video analysis, and class discussion.

- What is Economics: Evaluating scarcity, opportunity costs, and production possibilities
- Economic Systems: Answering the Three Economic Questions in the free market, centrally planned economies, and modern mixed economies
- American Free Enterprise: benefits, drawbacks, growth and stability, and providing a safety net
- How markets work: Examining the relationships between demand, supply, prices, and various market structures
- Understanding Personal Finance: Learning about how budgeting, banking, investing, and credit and debt work in our daily lives. This may also include presentations from LMU Senior Accounting students throughout the semester.

Visual and Performing Arts

AP STUDIO ART - (5143/5144 2D Design, 5145/5146 3D Design, or 5141/5142 Drawing) (AP)

Full Year

Grade 11 – 12

Minimum Prerequisites: Commitment Contract, B or higher in previous Visual Arts class, Visual Arts teacher recommendation.

Over the course of this year-long class, students with exceptional skill in Drawing, 2D Design, or 3D Design will build a portfolio of twenty works to be submitted to the AP board for review. Students work independently inside and outside the classroom in the media that best displays their artistic vision. Students will create a body of 15 works that explore a sustained investigation. Students will submit digital images and writing to document their inquiry-guided investigation through practice, experimentation, and revision. Additionally, 5 physical works will be created and mailed for review. Summer projects will be assigned prior to the start of the class and sketchbooks are expected as an integral part of the creative process. Fast paced and intense, this class readies students for the rigors of a college level art studio environment including critiques with the teacher and peers.

5231/5232 ACTING

Full Year

Grade 9 – 12

Minimum Prerequisites: None.

Through exercises and improvisation, students learn performance skills and to be relaxed and focused in front of an audience. The focus of the class is to discover solo and group performance skills through the following: improvisation, pantomime, the audition process, scene work, developing a character, and stage movement. Shakespeare and classical texts will be studied in the second semester for entry into the English Speaking Union Festival and DTASC Theatre festival. This class satisfies one year of the Visual and Performing Arts requirement.

5241/5242 ACRYLIC PAINTING

Full Year

Grade 9 – 12

The course introduces the discipline of painting, especially acrylic painting, to the student. The course will emphasize the basic elements of color, as it relates to painting. Various painting techniques will be introduced to the student. Students will also gain the ability to analyze and respond to various works, including their own. Furthermore, the students will begin to develop a more personal approach towards their work, and will learn to analyze and make critical assessments about artworks. Through critiques, students will display the ability to aesthetically value and appreciate works of art, as well as understand the relationship between art, culture, and history. This course will continue, through previous lessons, to require students to apply what they have learned in the class to more difficult work as the year progresses. Furthermore, students will continue their exposure to numerous cultural and historical styles and motifs.

5474 DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY

Full Year

Grade 10 – 12

Minimum Prerequisites: A or B in previous Dance course.

This course helps students learn the intermediate/advanced skills of dance while improving their techniques, poise, self confidence, and creative ability. Through weekly participation in dance instruction, students will develop personal technical goals for improving dance skills, demonstrate a high level of consistency and reliability in performing technical skills, and develop and refine proficient skills to create a variety of dance with unity.

Students will choreograph and dance regularly in class and/or in public performances. Using personal experience, students will perform and discuss movement, motifs, phrases, and dance compositions with particular attention to how meaning was created. They will apply and demonstrate an intermediate level of knowledge about costume, lighting, and music design within a dance production.

They will develop the ability to self-correct in response to suggestions, demonstrate the ability to establish aesthetic criteria and apply it in evaluating their own work and that of others, and demonstrate an understanding of dance in various cultures and historical periods.

1631 PLTW INTRO ENGINEERING DESIGN

Full Year

Grade 9 – 12

Minimum Prerequisites: None.

Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Introduction to Engineering Design (IED) is a high school engineering course in the PLTW Engineering Program. In IED, students explore engineering tools and apply a common approach to the solution of engineering problems, an engineering design process. Utilizing the activity-project-problem-based (APB) teaching and learning pedagogy, students progress from completing structured activities to solving open-ended projects and problems that require them to plan, document, communicate, and develop other professional skills in preparation for the AP exam in May.

5561/5562 INTRO: DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Full Year

Grade 9 – 12

Minimum Prerequisites: None.

Photography is more present than ever in our world today with social media and a camera most often available at our fingertips with new technology developing daily. Most individuals are capable of taking an average photo and looking at a photograph and determining whether or not they "like it". However, trying to then explain why it's a "good" photograph requires disciplined and thoughtful observations, as well as precise and descriptive language, and often serves as a more complex challenge for most people. This beginner's digital photography course will help students understand what makes certain photographs look better than others and how to take photographs above "average". Students will learn and explore the Elements and Principles of Design as they relate to Photography in order to use these tools and new language to create and analyze photographs. Students will also learn about the history of photography and will be introduced to a number of important artists and artworks. Students will also be introduced to careers in the field of photography including: nature photography, commercial photography, fashion photography, sports photography, portraiture and event photography, and photojournalism. By the end of this course, students will have designed and constructed a digital portfolio of their photography, which will showcase their photography assignments and allow them to observe and track their learning.

5554 MULTIMEDIA PRODUCTION

Full Year

Grade 9 – 12

Minimum Prerequisites: None.

Students will produce multimedia productions through visual storytelling, motion graphics, audio production, video production and broadcasting. While producing multimedia projects, students will engage in shooting digital video, narrative principles, concept development, post production, hosting and streaming their own productions. To accomplish these tasks, students will have to learn to operate hardware such as computers, cameras, green screens, audio and lighting equipment. Students will learn to use a variety of industry standard software programs such as but not limited to Storyboard Pro, iMovie, and Final Cut Pro to compose their multimedia projects.

5121/5152 DIGITAL JOURNALISM AND YEARBOOK

Full Year

Grade 11 – 12

Minimum Prerequisites: None.

Digital Journalism and Yearbook is an elective year-long course designed to build upon and utilize 21st century skills to integrate journalism with technology, students will produce a yearbook and a quarterly digital magazine that is a reflection of the diverse student population and the collective memories of the school. Students will expand upon and develop skills to use computer programs to design advanced layouts; to take and edit digital photography; to write and edit copy to journalistic standards; to interview others; and to explore careers in the publishing and journalism fields. Students will simultaneously apply their continued learning of design and journalism to contributions in the school's quarterly digital magazine. To support the expansion of their knowledge base in these areas, students will analyze,

evaluate, and critique the design aesthetic and structure of historic and current professional publications, as well as their impact on history, society, and culture. Each unit is designed to promote the development and appreciation of the artistic medium of digital design and publishing from structural, historical, cultural, and aesthetic perspectives.

5233/5234 THEATRE PRODUCTION

Full Year

Grade 9 – 12

Minimum Prerequisites: None.

This course is an exploration and practical usage of theatre technology and play production. Students will focus on one or more production aspects of theatre. Students undergo the entire rehearsal process as either a performer or a technical support staff applying processes and skills in acting, designing, directing and producing formal public theatre productions. Student actors make acting choices using script analysis, character research, reflection, and revision to create characterizations effectively portraying their role(s) in the play. Student technical staff will design technical elements, i.e. sets, props, costumes, hair and makeup, lighting and sound effects, and provide technical support during the performances. Students complete a production portfolio during the process to document their entire production experience.

5147/5148 AP ART HISTORY (AP)

Full Year

Grade 11 – 12

Minimum Prerequisites: Commitment Contract, GPA of 3.2 or higher, teacher recommendation, PSAT/STAR skill potential, content specific skills assessment.

AP Art History is a course that combines the disciplines of writing, art, and history to analyze and understand the world, through history, by the art created. Students will learn about art from prehistory to contemporary, to fully understand its impacts across culture, time, and space. Additionally, it will provide students with a college-level experience as the course seeks to prepare students to successfully complete the AP Art History Exam. Students are required to take the AP Art History Exam in May. There may be mandatory supplementary prep classes during lunch or after school.

Physical Education

8111/8112 PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Full Year

Grade 9 – 12

Minimum Prerequisites: None

This course introduces the student to movements, skills and fitness tools to enable the student to understand fitness as a lifelong goal. It introduces team and individual sports for competition and recreation. A waiver for physical education credit is possible only if the student becomes a player of a SMA team sport and remains with this sport as an active team player for the duration of its season and formally petitions for a waiver of the physical education requirement. This waiver must remain on file with other academic documents. This policy may apply to student managers, scorekeepers, equipment managers etc. upon the approval of the Coach and Athletic Director.

5471/5472 DANCE

Full Year

Grade 9 – 12

Minimum Prerequisites: None.

In this course students will learn different types of dance technique and vocabulary. Students will be exposed to the elements of Western dance forms (Ballet, Jazz, Modern, Contemporary) and urban dance forms (hip-hop styles). Students will be asked to utilize these various forms and vocabulary in practice through creating and performing in a final performance at the end of the semester.

Pass/No Pass

Study Hall

Full Year

Grade 10 – 12

Minimum Prerequisites: None

Study hall occurs during selected periods and offers students time to complete coursework and prepare for their classes. Students will be required to have a paper-based planner, submit weekly work logs, and complete various study habit development activities. Study hall does not impact a student's GPA and does not count toward CSU/UC A-G requirements.