
WEST SHORE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

UPPER SCHOOL ACADEMIC HANDBOOK (COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE)

ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024



REQUIRED COURSES

BIBLE

THE SPIRITUAL LIFE (9th): TWO SEMESTERS

CREDIT: 1.00

The purpose of this class is to examine some of the important topics essential to walking in Christ. The class begins by studying salvation, how God relates to man how man is in the image of God. Subsequent topics include how a believer can successfully battle sin, the importance of a daily walk with Christ, the role of spiritual disciplines (prayer, Bible study, memorization, meditation) in the life of a believer, worship, helping those in need, how to share my faith, and our future glory.

BIBLE DOCTRINE (10th): TWO SEMESTERS

CREDIT: 1.00

This course is a survey of evangelical theology. The basic doctrines of Christianity concerning God's Word, God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, angels and demons, creation, salvation, the church, and God's plan for the future are communicated. Students are prompted to develop a biblically-rooted theology that will serve as a foundation for further study and Christian practice.

WORLDVIEWS (11th/12th): TWO SEMESTERS

CREDIT: 1.00

This course begins with a study of the Christian worldview. From this point, other major worldviews, such as Islam, Buddhism, Mormonism, Hinduism, and more, are examined and evaluated. Emphasis is placed upon developing and applying critical thinking skills and equipping students to understand and communicate the gospel to people who do not share their beliefs.

ENGLISH

WORLD LITERATURE (9th): TWO SEMESTERS

CREDIT: 1.00

Students will read and study various works of literature from around the world developing an understanding of and respect for different cultures and ways of life in order to better understand the world around them. The class will promote learning on a deeper and more meaningful level through engaging with multiple genres of literature. Students will also continue to strengthen grammar, vocabulary, and writing skills in order to improve their written and spoken communication, extending beyond previous literature studies.

AMERICAN LITERATURE (10th / 11th): TWO SEMESTERS

CREDIT: 1.00

Primarily through readings of noted great American novels, this course is designed to introduce students to a wide variety of literature from the period of colonization in America to the mid-20th century. Students will become familiar with the historical and cultural circumstances surrounding each piece of literature, and they will also explore the development and expression of some fundamental ideas (myths and beliefs) that still influence Americans today. In addition to examining the historical and ideological contexts of a range of prose, poetry, and fictional works, students will practice ways of identifying variant themes and rhetorical strategies. Additionally, students will receive instruction in and demonstrate the ability to use proper grammar, specific vocabulary words, and various writing skills. The students will also be able to recognize various

thematic, figurative, poetic, and dramatic devices used in a broad range of literary genres. Students will also learn over 300 vocabulary words and how to use them.

Note: An Honors section is available for this class pending teacher approval.

ENGLISH 12 (12th): TWO SEMESTERS

CREDIT: 1.00

According to author and theologian Shane Hipps, “Christianity is fundamentally a communication event. The religion is predicated on God revealing Himself to humanity.... Any serious study of God is a study of Communication.” In this course, we consider what it means to be a Christian communicator in today’s world. To do so, we will study communication of the past and present, analyzing various forms throughout history (storytelling, art, music, dance, theatre, ceremony, rhetoric, mass media) to the words, symbols, and mediums through which we communicate today (public speaking, mass media, social media, group and organizational communication, relational communication, verbal, nonverbal, intercultural communication, etc). Along with these mediums, we will also study important communicators in Biblical, historical, and contemporary culture to sift through the complexities of communicating in today’s society as we discern how we can be the best communicators of the love of God.

RESEARCH PAPER: NOW INCLUDED IN ENGLISH 12

The Research Paper consists of two parts: The first part is a paper on 3 sections of research and evaluation (1) Autobiography (2) Faith and Philosophy, and (3) Vocation. The 2nd part will be a oral presentation of their work which includes a creative visual aid. The paper provides the student with an opportunity to reflect on their academic journey and reconcile their faith in Christ. Furthermore, the final section allows students to pursue concentrated study in an area of particular significance to their aspirations for their goals after graduation. The project will include an Annotated Bibliography that will trace where students have been academically and spiritually, where they are now, and where they intend to be in the future. As a result, it will document the level of excellence achieved in the academic, technical, and biblical curricula and demonstrate the integration of all these areas into a truly Christ-centered worldview.

Note: Teachers will outline how this course material will be integrated into English 12.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

SPANISH I: TWO SEMESTERS

CREDIT: 1.00

Spanish I is an introductory course of the Spanish language. Students will master the basic phonics and pronunciation of the language. Students will learn how to conjugate the various verb forms in –ar, –er, and –ir endings within the present tenses. The teacher will integrate a balanced focus on listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills throughout all phases of instruction. Students will be required to apply their knowledge through the use of basic grammatical structures and vocabulary. Students will be encouraged to compare and contrast what they learn about Hispanic culture with their own, thereby learning to think critically and progress towards a more mature vision of the world.

SPANISH II: TWO SEMESTERS**CREDIT: 1.00**

Spanish 2 is a course of study that will build upon the grammatical foundations established in Spanish 1. It will emphasize the correct usage of the present, present progressive, preterit, and imperfect tenses. The importance of conjugating verb tenses correctly and forming sentences using correct syntax will be highly stressed. The teacher will integrate a balanced focus on listening, reading, and writing skills throughout all phases of instruction; however, more emphasis will be placed on conversational speaking.

Prerequisite: Spanish I

SPANISH III: TWO SEMESTERS**CREDIT: 1.00**

Spanish 3 students will have the opportunity to perfect and fine tune the Spanish skills learned in Spanish 1 and 2. There is a review of Spanish grammar and syntax as well as the acquisition of more advanced grammatical concepts. Students will be required to apply their knowledge through spoken, written, and listening activities and authentic assessments. Students will develop their writing capabilities as well as continue ear training and conversational Spanish. Several short novels and/or short stories by Hispanic authors will be read.

Prerequisite: Spanish II and teacher approval

SPANISH IV: TWO SEMESTERS**CREDIT: 1.00**

Spanish 4 students will have the opportunity to perfect and fine tune the Spanish skills learned in Spanish 1, 2 and 3. There is a review of Spanish grammar and syntax as well as the acquisition of more advanced grammatical concepts. Students will be required to apply their knowledge through spoken, written, and listening activities and authentic assessments. Spanish 4 students will not only study the important Hispanic influences on the United States, but also study the history and cultural development of Spain, Central America, and the Caribbean countries. Written reports, oral class presentations in the target language, and conversational Spanish will be emphasized. Several short novels and/or short stories by Hispanic authors will be read and discussed.

Prerequisite: Spanish III and teacher approval

HISTORY

WORLD HISTORY I (9th): TWO SEMESTERS**CREDIT: 1.00**

World History I is the first year of a two-year course of study of the world outside the United States. Students will learn to analyze history critically and gain an understanding of the distinctive features of Asian history and geography. Students will learn to read critically, analyze primary sources, and present and defend their viewpoints in both written and oral form.

WORLD HISTORY II (10th): TWO SEMESTERS**CREDIT: 1.00**

World History II is the second year of a two-year course of study of the world outside the United States. Students will learn to analyze history critically and gain an understanding of the distinctive features of African, European, and Latin American history and geography. Students will learn to read critically, analyze primary sources, and present and defend their viewpoints in both written and oral form.

Prerequisite: World History I

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT (11th/ 12th): FIRST SEMESTER**CREDIT: .50**

During this semester course, the student will study the origins, principles, and basic workings of the American political system and government, through the use of lecture, discussion, reading, videos, and group projects. Additional study will focus on biblical principles regarding authority and government and on the United States Constitution itself.

Prerequisite: World History II

20TH CENTURY U.S. HISTORY (11th/12th): SECOND SEMESTER**CREDIT: .50**

During this semester course, the student will study the history of the United States during the twentieth century, through the use of lecture, discussion, reading, videos, and projects. Attention will be given to both domestic and foreign affairs, focusing on those issues and events that shaped American history and solidified the United States as the dominant power of the world at the end of the century.

Prerequisite: World History II

HONORS EUROPEAN HISTORY (11th/12th): TWO SEMESTERS**CREDIT: 1.00**

Honors European History covers the time period from the Renaissance to the current day. The methodology of the course is to combine a broad survey of the basics through reading secondary texts with the dynamics of projects and simulations to explore certain topics in greater depth through the primary sources of the time. Honors European History develops reading comprehension, historical writing in various forms, primary source document analysis, research, map analysis, public speaking, debate, and group dynamics. Only motivated students should apply.

Prerequisite: World History II and teacher approval

WESTERN CIVILIZATION I (12th): FIRST SEMESTER**CREDIT: .50**

Western Civilization (Honors) examines the ideas and general history of the western world, especially the classical ideas of Greece and Rome. Students learn by confronting the great thinkers of history and analyzing the ways in which their ideas have filtered down through the stages of Western History. Emphasis will be on reading and understanding the masters of Western History from the Classical Age whose ideas have endured through the years. Critical thinking will be carefully developed through Socratic dialogue and analytical critiques of the great writers.

Prerequisite: World History II and teacher approval

WESTERN CIVILIZATION II (12th): SECOND SEMESTER**CREDIT: .50**

Western Civilization (Honors) examines the ideas and general history of the western world from the founding of the Middle Ages to the relativism of the post-modern world. Students learn by confronting the great thinkers of history and analyzing the ways in which their ideas have filtered down through the stages of Western History. Emphasis will be on reading and understanding the masters of Western History from every age whose ideas have endured through the years. Critical thinking will be carefully developed through Socratic dialogue and analytical critiques of the great writers.

Prerequisite: World History II and teacher approval

MATHEMATICS

ALGEBRA I: TWO SEMESTERS

CREDIT: 1.00

The student will receive instruction in and demonstrate the ability to perform mathematical functions and problem-solving in the areas of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of integers, rational numbers, irrational numbers, polynomials, factoring polynomials, solving equations and inequalities with complex fractions, absolute value, square roots and quadratics, graphing linear equations and quadratic functions, and solving systems of linear equations.

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra

GEOMETRY: TWO SEMESTERS

CREDIT: 1.00

The student will receive instruction in and demonstrate the ability to perform basic mathematical functions and problem-solving in the areas of geometry. They will learn how to develop formal proofs through the use of theorems, postulates, and inductive and deductive reasoning. They will expand their knowledge of trigonometry, area and volume. This course will introduce the student to constructions, coordinate geometry, transformational geometry, practical applications of geometry, and geometry related art.

Prerequisite: Algebra I

ALGEBRA II: TWO SEMESTERS

CREDIT: 1.00

The student will receive instruction in and demonstrate the ability to perform mathematical functions and problem-solving in areas of graphs, polynomials, factoring, fractional equations, radicals, imaginary numbers, conic sections, logarithms, sequences/series, and trigonometric topics.

Prerequisite: Geometry

Note: Honors available with teacher approval.

HON. PRE-CALCULUS: TWO SEMESTERS

CREDIT: 1.00

Building on the concepts learned in algebra and geometry, the student will apply these skills to more complex mathematical functions and to modeling and solving real-world problems. Problem solving skills will be developed in the area of graphs, polynomials, logarithms, trigonometry, analytic geometry, systems of equations and inequalities, sequences and probability.

Prerequisite: Algebra II and teacher approval

AP CALCULUS AB: TWO SEMESTERS

CREDIT: 1.00

Having a solid grasp of pre-calculus math, the student will learn how to apply the calculus concepts of limits, derivatives and integrals to evaluate real-life situations. Moving outside the study of static situations, we will analyze dynamic situations with curved lines, accelerating objects, changing volumes, and variable forces.

Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus and teacher approval

MUSIC & ART

FOUNDATIONS OF ART: (6X/CYCLE): TWO SEMESTERS

CREDIT: 1.00

This course will lay the groundwork for making an appreciating art. This class will introduce drawing, painting, ceramics, and mixed media. In this class we will explore what it looks like to make and appreciate art through a Christian worldview.

This class is a pre-requisite for all other Art classes. Students must take this class if they have not taken any other Art classes at the High School level before taking any other classes.

ADVANCED 2-D: (6X/CYCLE): TWO SEMESTERS

CREDIT: 1.00

This course will focus on building and strengthening drawing and painting skills. This class expands upon and builds the skills introduced in foundations of art. During the second half of the year there will be opportunity to challenge and strengthen drawing and painting skills through choice based projects.

Prerequisite: Foundations of Art

CERAMICS: (6X/CYCLE): TWO SEMESTERS

CREDIT: 1.00

In this course students will learn hand building and wheel throwing techniques, while also gaining a deeper understanding of the glazing and firing process. Through practice, repetition, and testing students will develop their skills and body of ceramic work. This class can be intense and will require some extra time outside of the class time to develop skills and finish work.

Prerequisite: Foundations of Art

STUDIO HABITS: (6X/CYCLE): TWO SEMESTERS

CREDIT: 1.00

What would you make if you had your own art studio? This class functions on a choice-based model, where students choose the medium and ideas for their projects. In this course students will “pitch” their ideas and create a timeline to complete each project. If you love making art and want to develop your portfolio then this course is a great opportunity for you.

Prerequisite: Foundations of Art

HIGH SCHOOL CHORALE (3X/CYCLE): TWO SEMESTERS

CREDIT: .50

High School Chorale is a performance based vocal ensemble open to students in grades 9 – 12. Students will study a variety of musical repertoire to develop both individual and ensemble skills, while performing together to bring glory to the Lord and encourage others with the truth. Students will discover basic techniques for producing a good choral sound and develop their abilities to physically produce the sounds. Students must be enrolled in chorale to participate in County or District Chorus, with the recommendation of the director.

HIGH SCHOOL SINGERS (3X/CYCLE): TWO SEMESTERS

CREDIT: .50

High School Singers is a high-level, performance-based vocal ensemble, open to students in grades 9 – 12. Students will study a variety of advanced musical repertoire to develop both individual and ensemble skills, while performing together to bring glory to the Lord and encourage others with the truth. This group rehearses before school and will perform at various school and community events. Members of the group must be dedicated and committed to the ensemble, with a serious desire to further their musical studies and abilities.

Note: Students must be enrolled in Choir to participate in this group. An audition and/or instructor approval is required.

JAZZ BAND (2X/CYCLE): TWO SEMESTERS**CREDIT: .25**

Jazz Band is a high-level, performance-based instrumental ensemble, open to students in grades 9 – 12. Students will study a variety of advanced musical repertoire to develop both individual and ensemble skills, while performing together to bring glory to the Lord and encourage others with the truth. This group performs at various school and community events. Members of the group must be dedicated and committed to the ensemble, with a serious desire to further their musical studies and abilities.

Note: Students must be enrolled in Symphonic Band to participate in this group. An audition and/or instructor approval is required.

MUSIC THEORY (6X/CYCLE): FIRST SEMESTER**CREDIT: .50**

Music Theory is a rigorous first semester course designed for students who desire to pursue music as a career, as well as those who desire a deeper study of music for personal enrichment. Topics covered include scales, key signatures, intervals, triads, inversions, musical form, and compositional techniques, each of which gives the student a well-rounded understanding of the building blocks of music.

Note: Students must possess a strong musical background and the ability to fluently read music. Open to students in grades 11 – 12.

MUSIC HISTORY (6X/CYCLE): SECOND SEMESTER**CREDIT: .50**

This second semester course will explore music throughout various time periods while helping students to develop knowledge and a lifelong appreciation of music. Students will acquire comprehensive listening skills and gain historical background to help understand the development of various genres and styles of music. No musical knowledge or pre-requisites are necessary. Open to students in grades 11 – 12.

SYMPHONIC BAND (2X/CYCLE): TWO SEMESTERS**CREDIT: .25**

Symphonic Band is a performance-based ensemble open to students in grades 7 – 12 who play a wind or percussion instrument. Students will study a variety of musical repertoire to develop both individual and ensemble skills. *Students must already possess a basic knowledge of their instrument.* Attendance at all school performances is required. Students must be enrolled in Symphonic Band to participate in County or District Band, with the recommendation of the director.

SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA (2X/CYCLE): TWO SEMESTERS**CREDIT: .25**

Symphonic Orchestra is a performance-based ensemble open to students in grades 7 – 12 who play a stringed instrument (violin, viola, cello, or double bass). Students will study a variety of musical repertoire to develop both individual and ensemble skills. *Students must already possess a basic knowledge of their instrument.* Attendance at all school performances is required. Students must be enrolled in Symphonic Orchestra to participate in County or District Orchestra, with the recommendation of the director.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH

GIRLS PE(1X/CYCLE): TWO SEMESTERS

CREDIT: .25

The objective of this course is to have each student improve in her ability in each sport or activity played and to have them participate in the sports with an attitude that is pleasing to the Lord.

BOYS PE(1X/CYCLE): TWO SEMESTERS

CREDIT: .25

The objective of this course is to have each student improve in his abilities in each sport or activity played and to have them participate in the sports with an attitude that is pleasing to the Lord.

HEALTH/FITNESS(1X/CYCLE): TWO SEMESTERS

CREDIT: .25

Students will receive instruction in how to take care of their body from a Biblical perspective. The course will encourage students to attain and maintain good health habits. This course will be taught once each week during for a single semester. Students may also fulfill this requirement by completing the course online.

SCIENCE

BIOLOGY: TWO SEMESTERS

CREDIT: 1.00

Jesus told his disciples in John 14:6, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." Biology involves the study of that Life. The student will explore and experience the world of living things, the science of biology, through classroom instruction, reading, research, discussions, participation in group and individual projects, using biological experimentation, practicing basic microbiological techniques, and dissecting several specimens. Topics include the Chemistry of Life, Cells, Cellular Energy, Genetics, Modern Biology, Creation and Evolution, and a survey of the Animal Kingdom.

CHEMISTRY: TWO SEMESTERS

CREDIT: 1.00

In Genesis 1:9-10, on the third day, God created the dry land out of the water. In Chemistry, we study the incredible variety of materials He created on that day. The students will receive instruction in the basic principles of the study of matter and the science of chemistry by using reading, experimentation and reporting, researching scientific information, and class activities, including lecture notes, worksheets, and lab work. Topics covered include Atomic Structure, Stoichiometry, Gas Laws, writing formulas and equations, and solutions.

Prerequisite: Biology and Algebra 1

SURVEY OF PHYSICS: TWO SEMESTERS

CREDIT: 1.00

This is a general physics course. It is designed to provide a broad mathematical analysis of the physical laws that govern our universe. Topics include (1) motion and stability, (2) forces and interactions, (3) energy, and (4) waves and applications for technologies for information transfer. Students will also gain a better understanding of how physics can be used to understand everyday phenomena.

Prerequisite: Chemistry and Algebra 2

BIOLOGY II – ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY: TWO SEMESTERS **CREDIT: 1.00**

Biology II Anatomy & Physiology is designed for those students with future educational or career plans that require a strong background in biology; or career plans that may include nursing, physical therapy or other related health sciences. This course is a rigorous and comprehension study of the digestive, excretory, nervous, skeletal, muscular, and circulatory body systems. Major content areas include biochemistry, anatomy and physiology.

Prerequisite: Chemistry

PHYSICS I- MECHANICS: TWO SEMESTERS **CREDIT: 1.00**

Physics I Mechanics focuses on the properties of motion. It is designed for those students planning to continue their education in science related fields. It is assumed these students possess a strong mathematical background and logical thinking skills. Course work is similar to the first semester of a college non-calculus physics course. Topics include: Kinematics, dynamics, forces and momentum. The topics to be covered in depth are statics and dynamics.

Prerequisite: Chemistry, Algebra 2, and teacher approval

ADVANCED TOPICS: TWO SEMESTERS **CREDIT: 1.00**

(Organic Chemistry & Physics II: Electricity & Magnetism): This rigorous course is designed to meet the needs of those students planning a science-based study in college including such areas as medicine, nursing, engineering, physics, biology, dentistry, or chemistry. The course is divided into two sections, Organic Chemistry and Physics II Electricity & Magnetism. During part I, students study organic nomenclature, alkanes, alkenes, alkynes, functional groups, aromatics, polymer chemistry, and organic reactions; similar to the first semester of a college organic chemistry course. During part II, students study electricity, magnetism, and basic circuits; again similar to the second semester of a college non-calculus physics course. Due to its rigorous nature, students need instructor approval prior to taking this course. These students must possess a strong mathematical background, work ethic, and logical thinking skills.

Prerequisite: Chemistry, but can be taken in conjunction with Physics I. Enrollment in/completion of Pre-Calculus and teacher approval.

ELECTIVE COURSES

ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES

ENGINEERING A: FIRST SEMESTER **CREDIT: .50**

Engineering I: Unit 1 – Energy and Manufacturing Technologies, Unit 2 – Construction and Transportation Technologies

This course will utilize hands-on, problem-based activities to introduce fundamental technology concepts, each unit is driven by authentic open-ended problems offering multiple opportunities for students to construct knowledge and develop appropriate skills across the contexts of technology. Each learning unit starts with a Preliminary Challenge and ends with a Primary Challenge. Teams of students will work together to develop a solution to the Primary Challenge as they work together through several learning cycles. This course is designed to help prepare high school students who either plan to go on to community college technical education or university-level engineering programs.

Prerequisite: Enrollment in/completion of Pre-Calculus

ENGINEERING B: SECOND SEMESTER**CREDIT: .50**

Engineering II: Unit 1 – Manufacturing Technologies, Unit 2 – Transportation Technologies
This course will utilize hands-on, problem-based activities to introduce fundamental technology concepts, each unit is driven by authentic open-ended problems offering multiple opportunities for students to construct knowledge and develop appropriate skills across the contexts of technology. Each learning unit starts with a Preliminary Challenge and ends with a Primary Challenge. Teams of students will work together to develop a solution to the Primary Challenge as they work together through several learning cycles. This course is designed to help prepare high school students who either plan to go on to community college technical education or university-level engineering programs.

Prerequisite: Enrollment in/completion of Pre-Calculus

TEACHER'S AIDE: EITHER SEMESTER**CREDIT: .25-.50**

This program has been developed to allow our students the opportunity to work with our staff to acquire the knowledge and techniques of being able to succeed in their various positions. The knowledge acquired during this program is then applied in practical situations. Upperclassmen are given priority this program. Requirements include weekly journals, a teacher evaluation, and an essay detailing what the student learned and accomplished during the semester. Admission is granted through an application process.

ROBOTICS (3X/CYCLE): TWO SEMESTERS**CREDIT: .50**

Autodesk's VEX Robotics Curriculum is divided up into twelve primary units and one optional unit. In a flexible format, students learn about engineering and engineering problem solving. They will be given introductions to the VEX Robotics Design System while learning key STEM principles through a process that captures the excitement and engagement of robotics competition. The curriculum is focused on mechatronic principles; as such, prior programming knowledge is NOT required.

YEARBOOK (2X/CYCLE): TWO SEMESTERS**CREDIT: .25**

This is a full-year course designed to work like a business. This course will give students an opportunity to capture the memories of their school year while learning skills that will prepare them for life beyond high school. Students will be required to meet deadlines, manage costs and budgets, sell advertisements, and work independently as well as collectively. Students will learn necessary journalism skills such as interviewing and caption writing. Students will learn page design and layout in addition to acquiring a basic foundation in photography. Considerable time outside of class will be required to prepare the yearbook for publication.

Prerequisite: Teacher approval

10TH GRADE CAREERS (1X/CYCLE): TWO SEMESTERS**CREDIT: .25**

This class will help students build foundational skills for the development of their long-term career goals. This class will discuss how we can discern our God-given gifts and interests to fulfill His calling in life. Significant portions of this class will discuss and help students plan for their future college search, as well as applying for jobs. This class will also help students develop an interest inventory for a potential J-Term internship during their 11th or 12th grade year.

DUAL ENROLLMENT OFFERINGS

Please see the school counselor, Mr. Fickel, for information regarding the dual enrollment opportunities to students at West Shore Christian Academy.