

Course Descriptions

United States History 1.0 credit

The United States History course consists of the following content area strands: United States History, Geography, and Humanities. The primary content emphasis for this course pertains to the study of United States history from Reconstruction to the present day. Students will be exposed to the historical, geographic, political, economic, and sociological events which influenced the development of the United States and the resulting impact on world history. So that students can clearly see the relationship between cause and effect in historical events, students should have the opportunity to review those fundamental ideas and events which occurred before the end of Reconstruction.

United States Government 0.500 credit

The American Government course focuses on the principal areas essential to understanding political behavior that is essential for effective citizenship and active involvement in a democratic American society. Student's will focus on the interrelationship between American government and the American economic system, documents that shape our political traditions, including the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the Federalist Papers, functions of the three branches of government at the local, state and national levels including the State constitution, municipal and county government, the evolving role of political parties and interest groups in determining government policy, how rights and responsibilities of citizens in a democratic state have evolved and been interpreted, contemporary political issues, career opportunities available in government services, importance of civic participation in the democratic political process, role of women and diverse cultural groups in the development of our political system.

Economics 0.500 credit

The Economics course provides students with the knowledge and decision-making tools necessary for understanding how society organizes its limited resources to satisfy its wants. Students will gain understanding of choices they must make as producers, consumers, investors, and taxpayers. Students will learn economic reasoning, principles of decision-making in the marketplace, productive resources, scarcity and choices, opportunity costs and trade-offs, economic incentive, interdependence, contemporary and historical economic issues, personal economic skills, role of money, government and financial institutions and labor.

World Geography 1.0 credit

The World Geography course focuses on the principal areas essential to multicultural understanding and use geographical concepts and skills to acquire information and systematically apply decision-making processes to real-life situations. They will acquire an understanding of interrelationships between people and their environment. Students will learn the study of world cultural regions in terms of location, physical characteristics, demographics, historical changes, economic activity and land use.

World History 1.0 credit

The World History course focuses on the principal areas essential to understanding the development of civilizations by examining the past to prepare for their future as participating members of a global community. Students will use knowledge pertaining to history, geography, economics, political processes, religion, ethics, diverse cultures, and humanities to solve problems in academic, civic, social, and employment settings. Students will learn time-space relationships, prehistory, rise of civilization, cultural universals, development of religion and the impact of religious thought, evolution of political systems and philosophies, interactions between science and society, development of nationalism as a global phenomenon, origin and course of economic systems and philosophies, influence of significant historical figures and events and contemporary world affairs.

**AP American Government 1.0

The AP American Government course focuses on students acquiring a critical perspective of politics and government in the United States. They learn general concepts used to interpret American politics and analyze specific case studies. Students also become familiar with the various institutions, groups, beliefs and ideas that constitute the American political perspective. The content should include, but not be limited to, the following: federalism and the separation of powers; development of the Constitution; political process; nature of public opinion; role of political parties and interest groups; major formal and informal institutional arrangement of power; and development of civil liberties and civil rights.

**AP American History 1.0

The AP American History course focuses on students gaining an understanding of the development of the United States within the context of history by examining connections to the past to prepare for the future as participating members of a democratic society. Students use knowledge pertaining to history, geography, economics, political processes, religion, ethics, diverse cultures and humanities to solve problems in academic, civic, social and employment settings.

MathPre-Algebra 1.0 credit

The Pre-Algebra course focuses on the principal areas essential to understanding the introduction of variables, constants, expressions and equations. Students learn fundamental concepts such as integers; linear equations; how to add, subtract, multiply and divide monomials and polynomials; factoring of polynomials and solving of quadratic equations. This course also includes radicals and exponents. Topics which will be discussed are essential to solving equations, simplifying expressions, understanding order of

operations, using properties (field axioms), arithmetic operations with positive and negative numbers, polynomials, factoring, graphing (linear and quadratic equations), working with radicals and expanding arithmetic knowledge.

Algebra I 1.0 credit

The Algebra I course focuses on the principal areas essential to understanding the introduction of variables, constants, expressions and equations. Students learn fundamental concepts such as integers; linear equations; how to add, subtract, multiply and divide monomials and polynomials; factoring of polynomials and solving of quadratic equations. This course also includes radicals and exponents. Topics which will be discussed are essential to solving equations, simplifying expressions, understanding order of operations, using properties (field axioms), arithmetic operations with positive and negative numbers, polynomials, factoring, graphing (linear and quadratic equations), working with radicals and expanding arithmetic knowledge.

Algebra II/Trigonometry 1.0 credit

The Algebra II/Trigonometry course focuses on the principal areas essential to understanding math concepts including linear and quadratic equations, inequalities, relations, functions, radicals, imaginary and complex numbers. Emphasis is placed upon development of math skills through study of exponential and logarithmic functions, probability, statistics and elements of trigonometry. The major component of this course is advanced topics in Algebra. The students continue the study of statistics including probability, distributions, and linear regression. The course integrates geometry, algebra, statistics, discrete mathematics, algebraic and transcendental functions, and problem solving with the use of graphing calculators.

Geometry 1.0 credit

Geometry course focuses on the principal areas essential that deepen the understanding of two and three-dimensional objects and their properties. Deductive and inductive reasoning as well as investigative strategies in drawing conclusions are stressed. Properties and relationships of geometric objects include the study of: (1) points, lines, angles and planes; (2) polygons, with a special focus on quadrilaterals, triangles, right triangles; (3) circles; and (4) polyhedra and other solids. An understanding of proof and logic is developed.

Pre-Calculus 1.0 credit

The Pre-Calculus course is the study of graphic, numeric, and analytical approaches to the study of pre-calculus concepts from college algebra and analytic trigonometry. Topics include the real number system; algebraic, exponential, and logarithmic functions and their inverses; graphing techniques for polynomial, rational and trigonometric functions; complex numbers; theory of equations; trigonometric functions and their inverses with

emphasis on circular functions; trigonometric equations and identities; vectors; partial fractions; polar coordinates; mathematical induction; sequences and series; matrices; and the binomial theorem.

Financial Literacy 1.0 credit

This course is a comprehensive study of personal financial literacy designed for the college-bound and career-oriented student. Students learn how to make informed financial decisions related to budgeting, banking, credit, insurance, taxes, and career exploration. An integral component of the financial literacy curriculum is the application of decision-making skills that enables students to become more responsible consumers for lifetime success.

Statistics 1.00 credit

This course is a practical hands-on approach to the study of statistics and probability. The topics include the use of graphs such as histograms, stem plots, time plots, and scatter plots to display data, using numbers such as median, mean, and standard deviation to describe data, and evaluating data distribution. Students examine relationships using correlations and least square regressions. They calculate the probability of simple and compound events. They learn to estimate with confidence as well as to explore tests of significance, and to evaluate the validity of statistics contained within published reports.

Biology 1.0 credit

The Biology course focuses on the principal areas essential to understanding the exploratory experiences and laboratory and real-life applications in the biological sciences. Students will learn the nature of science, matter, energy, and chemical processes of life, cells: biology, reproduction, and communication, genetics: principles, molecular basis, diversity, and biotechnologies, levels of organization, classification, and taxonomy, structure, function, and reproduction of plants, animals, and microorganisms, behavior of organisms -interdependence of organisms, humans, and the environment, biological selection, adaptations, and changes through time, agricultural, food, and medical technologies and careers. Laboratory investigations, which include the use of scientific research, measurement, laboratory technologies, and safety procedures, are an integral part of this course.

Physical Science 1.0 credit

The Physical Science course focuses on the principal areas essential to understanding the development of concepts of matter, energy, and forces, and their applications through exploratory investigations and activities. Students will learn the unifying concepts and processes of science, structure of atoms, structure and properties of matter, chemical reactions, entropy and conservation of energy interactions of energy and matter, motions

and forces, interactions among science, technology, and society. Laboratory investigations, which include the use of scientific research, measurement, laboratory technologies, and safety procedures, are an integral part of this course.

Earth Science 1.0 credit

The Earth Science course focuses on the principal areas essential to understanding concepts basic to the Earth, its materials, processes, history, and environment in space. Students will learn the nature of science, the universe and the solar system, the developmental cycle of stars, the earth-moon system, space exploration, formation of igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks and identification and classification of rocks and minerals, geological divisions of the earth, formation of land forms and basic mountain types, fundamentals of plate tectonics, formation of rivers and water systems, glaciers, hydrologic cycle, physical oceanography, meteorology, including development of hazardous weather, weather mapping, weather systems, frontal development, and satellite imagery, types of soils and erosion, renewable and nonrenewable energy resources. Laboratory investigations, which include the use of scientific research, measurement, laboratory technologies, and safety procedures, are an integral part of this course.

Environmental Science 1.00 credit

Environmental Science is designed to show thematic connections between a variety of science disciplines including biology, chemistry, and physics. It gives students a coherent and realistic picture of the applications of a variety of scientific concepts as they manifest in our environment. During the course, students will focus on human population growth, natural resources, and ecosystem dynamics. The aim of this course is to increase students knowledge of the environmental challenges of today, while continuing to cultivate scientific critical thinking skills.

Chemistry 1.0 credit

The Chemistry course focuses on the principal areas essential to understanding composition, properties, and changes associated with matter and their applications. Students will experience the nature of science matter: its classification, structure, and changes, atomic theory, the periodic table bonding, chemical formulas, chemical reactions, and balanced equations stoichiometry, reaction rates and equilibrium, acids and bases, oxidation and reduction, behavior of gases, dynamics of energy, and chemistry of life. Laboratory investigations, which include the use of scientific research, measurement, laboratory technologies, and safety procedures, are an integral part of this course.

Physics 1.0 credit

The Physics course focuses on the principal areas essential to understanding concepts, theories, and laws governing the interaction of matter, energy, and forces, and their

applications through exploratory investigations and activities. Students will learn unifying concepts and processes of science, energy, force and motion, dynamics, wave characteristics, conservation of energy and momentum, heat and thermodynamics, electricity, magnetism, interactions among science, technology, and society.

**AP Chemistry 1.0 credit

This course is designed to provide students with a solid foundation equivalent to a first year college level chemistry experience. Students are given the opportunity to be self directed learners by reading an assignment with some understanding of the concepts and theories prior to coming to class. After discussion of the current topics, students work on problem solving and deeper understandings including, using study guides, textbook questions or problems, and AP released exam questions or problems. Emphasis is placed on problem solving and critical thinking skills. Student led problem solving sessions are used to give students additional pathways to understanding chemistry concepts.

This course also provides students opportunities to learn about chemistry through 'hands on' learning experiences in the laboratory. In the laboratory, students work in self-paced through home based laboratory assignments. Students learn to address their hypotheses, carry out experiments, acquire and utilize experimental data, and draw inferences to topics being studied. By working in the laboratory, students develop physical manipulation skills including the use of ordinary equipment (glassware and hardware), measuring equipment (balances, burets, pH meters, ion exchange columns, colorimeters) and microchemistry materials. Students are required to record their observations and experimental data in a personal laboratory notebook.

Art History 1.0 credit

The Art History course focuses on students to developing knowledge of the history and theory of art and the relationship between artist, artwork, and society. Students will research and critique periods, styles, and works of art from early civilizations through the Middle Ages. Emphasis shall be placed on the role of works of art based on subject matter, theme, concept, symbolism, or allegory/metaphor.

Music Appreciation 1.0 credit

The Music Appreciation course is designed to enable students to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to understand and appreciate how music is used in one's personal life as well as in varied cultures, societies, and historical periods. The content should include, but not be limited to, the following: -singing, listening, and playing instruments-music analysis-composition and improvisation-role and influence of music and musicians-connections between music and other subject areas.

French I 1.0 credit

The French I course is to enable students to begin to acquire proficiency in French through a linguistic, communicative, and cultural approach to language learning. Emphasis is placed on the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills and on acquisition of the fundamentals of applied grammar. Cross-cultural understanding is fostered and real-life applications are emphasized throughout the course. The content should include, but not be limited to, the following: -conversational expression of feelings, ideas, and opinions in French -comprehension of spoken and written French -oral and written presentation of information and ideas, in French, to an audience -social interaction patterns within French culture(s) -connections between the French language and culture(s) and other disciplines - communication patterns of languages -French language usage within and beyond the school setting.

French II 1.0 credit

The French II course is to enable students to begin to acquire proficiency in French through a linguistic, communicative, and cultural approach to language learning. Emphasis is placed on the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills and on acquisition of the fundamentals of applied grammar. Cross-cultural understanding is fostered and real-life applications are emphasized throughout the course. The content should include, but not be limited to, the following: -conversational expression of feelings, ideas, and opinions in French -comprehension of spoken and written French -oral and written presentation of information and ideas, in French, to an audience -social interaction patterns within French culture(s) -connections between the French language and culture(s) and other disciplines - communication patterns of languages -French language usage within and beyond the school setting.

French III

In this expanding engagement with French, students deepen their focus on four key skills in foreign language acquisition: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. In addition, students read significant works of literature in French, and respond orally or in writing to these works. The course consists of 180 lesson days formatted in an intuitive calendar view, which can be divided into two 90- day semesters and represents an ideal blend of language learning pedagogy and online learning. As students begin the course, they construct their own Avatar that accumulates “Avatar bucks”—by performing well on course tasks—to use to purchase items (virtual clothing, gadgets, scenery, etc.) at the “Avatar store”. Continuing the pattern and building on what students encountered in the first two years, each week consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, numerous interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, and multimedia cultural presentations covering major French-speaking areas in Europe and the Americas.

Spanish I 1.0 credit

The Spanish I course is to enable students to begin to acquire proficiency in Spanish through a linguistic, communicative, and cultural approach to language learning. Emphasis is placed on the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills and on acquisition of the fundamentals of applied grammar. Cross-cultural understanding is fostered and real-life applications are emphasized throughout the course. The content should include, but not be limited to, the following: conversational expression of feelings, ideas, and opinions in Spanish -comprehension of spoken and written Spanish -oral and written presentation of information and ideas, in Spanish, to an audience -social interaction patterns within Spanish culture(s) -connections between the Spanish language and culture(s) and other disciplines -communication patterns of languages -Spanish language usage within and beyond the school setting.

Spanish II 1.0 credit

The Spanish II course is to enable students to enhance proficiency in Spanish through a linguistic, communicative, and cultural approach to language learning. There is continued emphasis on the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills and on acquisition of the fundamentals of applied grammar. Cross-cultural understanding is fostered and real-life applications are emphasized throughout the course. The content should include, but not be limited to, the following: conversational expression of feelings, ideas, and opinions in Spanish -comprehension of spoken and written Spanish -oral and written presentation of information and ideas, in Spanish, to an audience -social interaction patterns within Spanish culture(s) -connections between the Spanish language and culture(s) and other disciplines -communication patterns of languages -Spanish language usage within and beyond the school setting.

Spanish III 1.0 credit

Spanish 3 focuses on the past, future and compound tenses, vocabulary usage and contextual comprehension is essential. This course builds up on fundamentals learned and master in Spanish I-II. The same emphasis that Spanish I and 2 had in pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, useful phrases and the ability to understand read, write, listen and speak simple Spanish will be continue in this course. Also, this course will continue and further explore the cultural exposure to the wonders found in the Spanish world. Cross-cultural understanding is fostered and real-life applications are emphasized throughout the course. The content should include, but not be limited to, the following: conversational expression of feelings, ideas, and opinions in Spanish -comprehension of spoken and written Spanish -oral and written presentation of information and ideas, in Spanish, to an audience -social interaction patterns within Spanish culture(s) -connections between the

Spanish language and culture(s) and other disciplines -communication patterns of languages -Spanish language usage within and beyond the school setting.

Physical Education 0.50 credit

The purpose of this course is to (a) acquire knowledge of physical fitness concepts (b) understand the influence of lifestyle on health and fitness, and (c) begin to develop an optimal level of fitness. The content should include, but not be limited to, the following:- safety practices- technology applications- assessment of health-related fitness- components of physical fitness- health problems associated with inadequate fitness levels- psychological values of physical fitness, including stress management- evaluation of physical activities in terms of fitness value- fitness program design- biomechanical and physiological principles and their application to maintaining and improving health-related physical fitness- nutrition- consumer issues- benefits derived from participation in physical activity.

Health 0.50 credit

The Health focuses on the principal areas essential to understanding critical life management skills necessary to make sound decisions and take positive actions for healthy and effective living. Students will learn human growth and development through adulthood, positive emotional development, including suicide and violence prevention, communication, interpersonal, and coping skills, responsible decision-making and planning, nutrition and physical activity, tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use and abuse, consumer knowledge, health-related community resources, safety education, including one-rescuer cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), first aid for obstructed airway, and injury prevention, disease prevention and control, including HIV/AIDS and other STDs, family life education, including human sexuality, sexual abstinence, and pregnancy prevention, personal health and individual wellness planning, health advocacy skills.

English 9 Literature and Composition 1.0 credit

The purpose of this course is to provide integrated educational experiences in the language arts strands of reading, writing, listening, viewing, speaking, language, and literature. Focusing on a study of literary genres, the student develops initial understanding of both the structure and the meaning of a work of literature. The student develops initial understanding of the way the form of a work of literature affects the meaning of the work and of the process of interpretation of a text. The student reads thoughtfully and purposefully, constantly checking for understanding of the author's intent and meaning in order to determine a sound interpretation.

English10 Literature and Composition 1.0 credit

The purpose of this course is to provide integrated educational experiences in the language arts strands of reading, writing, listening, viewing, speaking, language, and literature. The course focuses on the principal areas essential to understanding further development in

reading and writing skills and strategies to ensure successful literacy experiences. Students will learn reading strategies to construct meaning various literary, informational, and technical texts, writing process strategies, speaking, listening, and viewing strategies, vocabulary acquisition, impact of language on varied audiences, characteristics of various literary forms, critical and aesthetic response to literature, varied media for basic research.

English 11 Literature and Composition 1.0 credit

The purpose of this course is to provide integrated educational experiences in the language arts strands of reading, writing, listening, viewing, speaking, language, and literature. Focusing on the American Experience, this course focuses on the principal areas essential to understanding through integrated educational experiences in the language arts strands. Emphasis will be on representative American literature, with its varied cultural influences, from the Colonial Period to the present, highlighting the major genres, themes, subjects, and historical influences associated with each literary period. Students will learn reading for meaning through varied texts, elements of literature, analysis of literature from varied literary periods, writing for varied purposes, effective listening, speaking, and viewing strategies, power and impact of language, influence of history, culture, and setting on language, critical and aesthetic response, for research processes.

English 12 Literature and Composition

The purpose of this course is to provide integrated educational experiences in the language arts strands of reading, writing, listening, viewing, speaking, language, and literature. Focusing on British Literature, course focuses on the principal areas essential to understanding through integrated educational experiences in the language arts strands. Emphasis will be on representative literature of various cultures and world literary movements from ancient times to the present, including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama chosen on the basis of relationships to contemporary cultural, social, and literary ideas and concerns. Students will learn reading for meaning through varied texts, elements of literature, analysis of literature from varied cultures and literary periods, writing for varied purposes, effective listening, speaking, and viewing strategies, power and impact of language, influence of history, culture, and setting on language, critical and aesthetic response for research processes.

***Electives**

Introduction to Photography 1.0 credit

The Introduction to Photography course focuses on the history of photography and learning the difference between different types of cameras and film, and the use for each. Students learn to take pictures of a variety of still life, scenery, and people. They also learn basic dark-room techniques and how best to handle certain types of photography.

Introduction to HTML 1.0 credit The Introduction to HTML course focuses on learning basics of how to create a basic web page, using both a word processing program, a web-authoring tool (such as MS Publisher or Front Page), and basic HTML coding. Students learn how to implement their web page to the web through FTP (file transfer protocol) and

to add graphics, forms, tables, links, sound, and movement to their web pages. Students also learn how to make their web pages look aesthetically pleasing in both Netscape and Internet Explorer.

Keyboarding 1.0 credit

The Keyboarding course focuses on providing instruction in basic keyboarding skill mastery, using the touch system. The ability to operate a keyboard efficiently has never been more important than it is now. People who are skilled keyboard operators get better results than unskilled users. The development of good techniques, such as keeping eyes on copy, using correct fingering and proper key stroking is emphasized in the keyboarding course. Students will be able to key dictated letters and words without looking at the keyboard and will gain proficiency in composing at the computer. Near the end of the course, students will be introduced to proper formatting techniques, such letter writing, poem and story formatting, etc.

Basic Auto Repair 1.0 credit

The Basic Auto Repair course focuses on basic auto repair from bumper to bumper, and teaches students how to diagnose and repair basic systems including: brakes, electronics, suspension, electrical and engine performance. Students may use their own cars as a project throughout the summer and learn to use computerized diagnostic equipment as well as how to utilize other online materials relating to the automotive industry.

Career Credit 1.0 credit

This course is designed for students who work and would like to receive course credit. The student has to complete several papers in this course that correlate to academics in the real world. This course requires a signature from the employer and the employer has to agree to assign a portion of the grade form the course. The grade assigned by the employer is calculated in the final course grade along with other grades received in the course.

Social Media 1.0 credit

Students explore emerging social media technologies and processes and study their application in a variety of contemporary settings. Students will learn how to use and author content for such online tools such as blogs, microblogs, collaboration mechanisms, podcasts, RSS-feeds, video, bookmarking, and other emerging web technologies. The course will also study how to use these technologies to monitor conversations on the Internet, engage online communities, identify influencers, and establish thought leadership.

Entrepreneurship 1.00 credit

Entrepreneurship focuses on recognizing a business opportunity, starting a business, operating and maintaining a business. Students will be exposed to the development of

critical thinking, problem solving, and innovation in this course as they will either be the business owner or individuals working in a competitive job market in the future. Integration of accounting, finance, marketing, business management, legal and economic environments will be developed throughout projects in this course. Working to develop a business plan that includes structuring the organization, financing the organization, and managing information, operations, marketing, and human resources will be a focus in the course. Engaging students in the creation and management of a business and the challenges of being a small business owner will be fulfilled in this course. Various forms of technologies will be used to expose students to resources and application of business principles for starting, operating and maintaining a business. Professional communication skills and practices, problem-solving, ethical and legal issues, and the impact of effective presentation skills are enhanced in this course to prepare students to be college and career ready. Employability skills are integrated into activities, tasks, and projects throughout the course standards to demonstrate the skills required by business and industry.

Parenting and Child Development 1.0 credit

This course introduces students to responsible nurturing and basic applications of child development theory. Emphasis is on responsibilities of parents, readiness for parenting, and the influence parents have on children while providing care and guidance. Skills in planning, communication, resource management, and problem solving are reinforced. Work-based learning strategies appropriate for this course include field trips and service learning. FCCLA leadership activities provide the opportunity to apply instructional competencies and workplace readiness skills to authentic experiences. The focus is on children from infancy to age six.

Success in College 1.0 Credit

This course is designed to increase your success in school and work. You are encouraged to see all connections between all your classes and between college and job experiences. This course is designed to help you develop personal qualities such as responsibilities, positive attitude, character, integrity, and civility as well as academic and job skills.

*Elective courses are subject to change as these courses are updated frequently. The electives follow a self pace model and may/may not have teacher assistance. For elective courses that do not have teacher assistance, student will receive help from their student services coordinators, research on the web or learning partner assistance. Students should check with student services to determine if updates have been made to the elective course list or to determine if an elective is no longer being offered.

**AP course are offered based on enrollment. Students should communicate with student services to determine the availability for AP courses. Students enrolled in AP courses are responsible for purchasing textbooks and paying for the AP exam.

*** National High School updates its courses offering on a consistent basis. If you do not see a course listed, please contact NHS as the courses may not be listed but offered on an as needed basis

****All courses (except for electives and PE/Health/Government and Economics) have a first and second semester that equal one credit. Students can elect to take only a semester (0.500) if needed.

Honors Level Courses

Students should speak with student services regarding taking honors level courses to determine all that will be required at this level. Students who enroll in honors level courses are required to keep a GPA of at least a 2.7 and have an above average level of course work pacing. Students in honors levels courses must be enrolled in at least a regular diploma track. There is a very rigorous essay component to honors level courses.