

COVENANT DAY SCHOOL

FRESHMEN COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Updated 1/2021

LANGUAGE & LITERATURE – COLLEGE PREPARATORY

All of the general areas in English – literature, composition, vocabulary, and grammar – are studied in College Preparatory Language & Literature. Genres of literature that are studied include short stories, poetry, drama, novels, and nonfiction. Students will learn the building blocks of academic writing as they read, discuss, and comprehend these genres of literature. As the school year progresses, students will be expected to incorporate their increasing knowledge of punctuation, literary vocabulary, and grammatical sentence and logical paragraph structure into their writing of formal, academic essays. All reading and writing include Christian perspective and application, using the Bible as the standard for absolute truth.

Prerequisite: None

Credits: 1.0 GPA scale: 4.0

LANGUAGE & LITERATURE – HONORS

All general areas in English – literature, composition, vocabulary, and grammar – are covered in Honors Language & Literature. Genres of literature that are studied include short stories, poetry, drama, novels, and nonfiction. Students will learn the building blocks of academic writing as they read, discuss, and comprehend these genres of literature. As the school year progresses, students will be expected to incorporate their increasing knowledge of punctuation, literary vocabulary, and grammatical sentence and logical paragraph structure into their writing of formal, academic essays. All reading and writing include Christian perspective and application, using the Bible as the standard for absolute truth. The honors section of this course differs from that of the college preparatory course in the expectations, intensity, and depth of study. Students will read additional books and complete more complex writing assignments. It is expected that students' thoughts and writing will show advanced skills of analysis and expression. Their work will be evaluated accordingly.

Prerequisite: "B" average or higher in 8th grade English & teacher approval

Credits: 1.0 GPA scale: 4.5

ALGEBRA I – COLLEGE PREPARATORY

CP Algebra I is a transitional math course which develops the student's ability to think in abstract terms. The course begins with a review of previous material and then develops a greater understanding of concepts and skills such as simplifying algebraic expressions, solving linear, quadratic, rational, and radical equations, graphing linear equations, solving inequalities, solving systems of linear equations, factoring quadratic and polynomial expressions, and working with relations and functions. These concepts are then formulated so that the student may be able to interpret their significance considering knowledge from other disciplines. Being able to think in abstract terms also helps convince the student of the need to understand God and His created reality, and to use that understanding in exercising his dominion over the created world in which he lives. The student successful in College Preparatory Algebra I will have the foundation to continue with other high school math courses.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Pre-Algebra

Credits: 1.0 GPA scale: 4.0

GEOMETRY – COLLEGE PREPARATORY

Geometry is a branch of mathematics that is easily witnessed in God's creation and in the world around us. Examination of His creation for the intricacies of nature to the expanses of the universe reveals the evidence of number, form and shape, order, symmetry, harmony, and accuracy. In CP Geometry, students will develop an appreciation and understanding of the works of God as they learn the underlying principles of geometry. Students' critical thinking skills will be greatly enhanced by introducing geometric concepts and studying practical applications. Emphasis will be on the mastery of the basic concepts while incorporating Algebra I skills to solve problems. This course will adequately prepare these students for Algebra II and help continue to form the foundation for more advanced courses.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I

Credits: 1.0 GPA scale: 4.0

GEOMETRY – HONORS

Geometry is a branch of mathematics that is easily witnessed in God's creation and in the world around us. Examination of His creation for the intricacies of nature to the expanses of the universe reveals the evidence of number, form and shape, order, symmetry, harmony, and accuracy. In this course, students will develop an appreciation and understanding of the works of God as they learn the underlying principles of geometry. Students' critical thinking skills will be greatly enhanced by introducing geometric concepts and studying practical applications. Emphasis will be on the mastery of the basic concepts while incorporating Algebra I skills to solve problems. The honors section of this course includes similar content as College Preparatory Geometry, however, students in the honors class will have more of an emphasis on two-column proofs. This includes critical thinking and articulating appropriate postulates/theorems to justify each step of formal proofs. Students will also be responsible for more independent study as well as individual and group investigations than students in the College Preparatory class. The topics will be discussed in greater depth and the pace of the class is faster. Honors Geometry will prepare these students for the more rigorous Algebra II Honors class and other advanced math courses.

Prerequisite: "B" average or higher in Algebra I and teacher approval

Credits: 1.0 GPA scale: 4.5

BIOLOGY – COLLEGE PREPARATORY

The College Preparatory Biology course at Covenant Day School is designed to serve as a broad introduction into the fascinating field of biological science. Our CP Biology course provides a learning experience marked by a firm commitment to both the doctrines of Jesus Christ and scientific rigor. Students are therefore invited to join the adventure of discovering God's special and general revelation while exploring units on cells, genetics, human anatomy and physiology, evolution, taxonomy, and ecology. Within these six units, students will explore the biological themes of matter and energy, equilibrium and change, patterns and order, structure and function, simple and complex systems, evolution, scale, and proportion. Both the

units and the themes will be explored with the skills and practices of critical thinking, data analysis, mathematical reasoning, building models, the scientific method, laboratory skills, class lectures, activities, and open discussions. The combination of course units, biological themes, scientific skills and practices, and a Christ-centered perspective will guide the students through a dynamic year of exploring and discovering biological science.

Prerequisite: None

Credits: 1.0 GPA scale: 4.0

BIOLOGY – HONORS

The Honors Biology I (H-Biology I) course at Covenant Day School is designed to serve as an in-depth introduction into the fascinating field of biological science. Our H-Biology I course is dedicated to providing a learning experience marked by a firm commitment to both scientific rigor and the doctrines of Jesus Christ. Students are therefore invited to join the adventure of discovering God's special and general revelation while exploring units on cells, genetics, human anatomy and physiology, evolution, taxonomy, and ecology. Within these six units, students will explore the biological themes of matter and energy, equilibrium and change, patterns and order, structure and function, simple and complex systems, evolution, scale, and proportion. Both the units and the themes will be explored with the skills and practices of critical thinking, data analysis, mathematical reasoning, building models, the scientific method, laboratory skills, class lectures, activities, and open discussions. Although the overall flow and content of the H-Biology I course is identical to that of the CP-Biology course, the H-Biology I course pushes students to gain a deeper understanding of biology through a comprehensive increase in the academic expectations of assignments and tests.

Prerequisite: "B" average or higher in 8th grade science & teacher approval

Credits: 1.0 GPA scale: 4.5

WORLD HISTORY – COLLEGE PREPARATORY

The aim of this course is to provide students with an understanding of the events of world history within the context of a Biblical worldview. The text presents a chronological narrative of world history from the Renaissance to modern history. Students are taught to view history as the evidence of God's sovereignty at work in the lives of men to bring about His plan. Emphasis is placed on studying how worldviews affect the manner in which he lives and themes that form the patterns of civilization. Another major goal is to develop social studies skills: reading for understanding, effective note-taking and study techniques, evaluating primary sources, and writing effective essays. The scope of this course is broad which allows students to take a step back and view the big picture, and the aim of this course is to encourage students to think critically and biblically about the events of history.

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 1.0 GPA scale: 4.0

WORLD HISTORY – HONORS

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Prerequisite: "B" average or higher in 8th grade history & teacher approval

Credits: 1.0 GPA scale: 4.5

BIBLE: OLD TESTAMENT

Old Testament Survey is a two-semester course designed to familiarize students with the redemptive story of God that unfolds across the 39 books of the Old Testament. Students will study the story of the Old Testament within the overarching framework of creation, fall, and redemption. Emphasis will be given to major unifying themes of the Bible, particularly the kingdom of God and the covenant of grace, and how these themes are fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Students will practice interpreting Old Testament passages considering literary, historical, and theological perspectives. Students will learn to contemplate and communicate what the Old Testament reveals about God's character and purposes, as well as humanity's place in God's heart and His plan. The chief objective of this course is not only for students to develop a greater knowledge of the Old Testament, but for them to come to a greater and more personal understanding of its Author.

Prerequisite: None. This is a required course for all freshmen.

Credits: 1.0 GPA scale: 4.0

FRENCH I

The text *Discovering French Nouveau! Bleu* is part of a carefully articulated three-level sequence of French instruction. Each level has its own special focus which builds in a spiraling progression across levels. The first level, *Bleu*, teaches basic communication with learned phrases, simple questions and answers, simple descriptions of people and things, simple narrations in the present tense (with an introduction to past narration), as well as simple explanations as to why something is done. Themes such as greeting and meeting people, time and weather, family and friends, food and restaurants, money and shopping, school and education, daily activities, getting around a city, describing oneself, home and furnishings, possessions and their description, sports, fitness, daily routines, medical and dental care, clothing and personal appearance, leisure activities, music and entertainment, vacation and travel, and transportation are introduced.

With the school's Christian mission in mind, familiar Bible passages, including the annual school verse, are presented in French as an introduction to theological vocabulary and as a reminder that the Word was sent to all people. Critical thinking from a Biblical worldview is encouraged, particularly in the area of cultural comparisons.

Prerequisite: None

Credits: 1.0 GPA scale: 4.0

LATIN II

In Latin II, students will consolidate skills learned in Latin I and will continue to acquire and develop reading and grammar skills using the *Cambridge Latin Course*. Instruction continues around the narrative of the daily lives of Romans to integrate additional cultural, historical, and geographical material into the Latin readings. These become more complex, utilizing all conjugations, participles, as well as subordinate clauses. Students may also read authentic Latin texts, both secular and theological. The study of Latin lends itself to a discussion of how the historical and geographical context of the Roman Empire affected the development of the Christian church. Latin students will have the opportunity to take the National Latin Exam, a nationally given exam, and medals and certificates are awarded for high scores in each level. In April, students attend the North Carolina Junior Classical League Convention, where they can compete in a variety of contests, including essay writing, graphic arts, and oral Latin competitions.

Prerequisite: "B" average in Latin I (or in 8th Grade Latin at CDS) and teacher approval

Credits: 1.0 GPA scale: 4.0

SPANISH I

The purpose of the Spanish I option at Covenant Day School is to provide a classroom experience that combines reading, writing, and speaking the language with elements of the Hispanic culture. The text, *Senderos, Nivel I*, is designed to provide both oral and written communication with vocabulary and grammar. Each chapter includes vocabulary coordinated with one or more grammar objectives. Students are encouraged to use new vocabulary in both previously learned and unfamiliar grammatical contexts, thus creating a spiral curriculum. Class time focuses on practicing listening comprehension and oral communication as well as reading comprehension and written exercises. Much of the class is conducted in Spanish, but grammatical concepts are taught in English. With the school's Christian mission in mind, some familiar Bible passages will be read and memorized in Spanish as an introduction to theological vocabulary and relevant topics in a unit to serve as a reminder that the Word was sent to all people.

Prerequisite: None

Credits: 1.0 GPA scale: 4.0

SPANISH II

The purpose of the Spanish 2 course at Covenant Day School is to provide a classroom experience that combines reading, writing, and speaking the language with elements of the Hispanic culture. The text, *Senderos, Nivel II*, is designed to build upon and enhance the vocabulary and grammatical concepts that were learned in Spanish I by providing both oral and written communication. This book, with its basic subjects and experiences that occur in everyday life, provides a context to which students relate. Each chapter includes vocabulary coordinated with one or more grammar objectives. Students are encouraged to use new vocabulary in both previously learned and unfamiliar grammatical contexts, thus creating a spiral curriculum. Class time includes listening comprehension, reading comprehension, and both oral and written exercises. Most of the class is conducted in Spanish, but grammatical concepts are taught in English. As we seek to better understand another language and culture, we broaden our understanding of the God who made all of us in His image. Learning another language provides us with increased opportunities for service and affords us a wider sphere of influence in contributing to the building up of the kingdom of God.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish I and teacher approval; recommended "B" or higher

Credits: 1.0 GPA scale: 4.0

9th Grade Elective Options (Updated 1/2021)

(Electives are one credit courses and 4.0 GPA value unless specified otherwise)

Courses noted with an "" meet the fine arts requirement for graduation.*

ACADEMIC COACHING – Academic Coaching is a service that is offered to lower, middle and high school students at CDS. The goal is to provide test-taking strategies, study skills, time management techniques and organizational help for students. It will also include "light tutoring." This is a 1:1 program which will be individualized toward a student's specific learning style, strengths, and weaknesses. There is a fee in addition to tuition for participation in this program. Session quantity varies with the grade and schedule of the student. Academic Coaching takes place during a required additional study hall. Space is limited. For more information, please contact Caron Lye in Academic Resources at clye@covenantday.org.

***ART I** – This course is designed to introduce the beginning artist to various techniques of creating artworks and exploring how God's beauty is reflected in our world every day, and in the history of artmaking. The basic elements of design, composition, and color-theory are introduced. Artworks are produced through drawing, painting, mixed-media, ceramics, and printmaking.

***CREATIVE WRITING** – The Creative Writing elective will give students the opportunity to develop their voice and hone their writing skills. Students will read, interpret, and analyze several poems, short stories, and essays by a variety of authors in order to gain an understanding of assorted literary elements and techniques. Students will also be given ample class time to create their own literary pieces in varying genres including poetry, personal narrative, and short story. The class will be discussion-based and will rely heavily on peer review, so students are always expected to be fully engaged and be able and willing to give and receive constructive feedback. This elective is open to students grades 9-12. (Pass/Fail semester course – ½ credit)

***CHOIR** – Students will develop vocal technique and learn to read music through sight-singing in a fun, creative atmosphere. The choir performs a varied repertoire including classical, pop, jazz, and multicultural pieces. The choir performs at various events on and off campus, including a Christmas and Spring concert. Members of this group are eligible to audition for NC Honors Chorus. No previous choir experience required.

***DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY** – This course will be an introduction to basic digital photography. Students need to have a camera with the ability to shoot in manual, their own 32 GB SD card, and a computer compatible with Adobe Creative Suite 6 or higher (CS6 is provided by the school for the year). In this class, students will learn the basics of how to use their cameras, the functions of the camera (ISO, aperture, shutter speed), composition, and storytelling. They will view work by famous photographers as well as up and coming photographers, and they will learn about different ways to create captivating imagery.

***INTRODUCTION TO JOURNALISM** – This course promotes the development of a skill set needed so that students can navigate and contribute to the world of news. Topics include an exploration of the role of the media and the communications industry in society, the development of the technical skills related to journalistic writing and interviewing, and the understanding of ethical and legal issues related to the field. Students are expected to have a strong work ethic to create excellent content that reflects a Christian worldview. Students will learn to define media and the functions of journalism/newsworthiness. They will also practice newswriting, interviewing, photojournalism, opinion writing and feature writing, while learning about the 1st Amendment and other important legal cases. Students will also learn the elements and principles of design as related to journalism and gain valuable 21st century skills in modern day journalism. Some of their writing may be chosen to be included in the school yearbook. (Pass/Fail semester course – ½ credit)

INTRODUCTORY CONCEPTS IN ENGINEERING – The purpose of this course is to learn how to effectively problem solve through project-based learning activities involving engineering, design, and technology, and to make a positive impact within our local and global communities. Students will experience real life situations, scenarios, and processes through a biblical worldview lens. Students and mentors will seek to honor God and further the kingdom as they work together to formulate and execute problem solving solutions. As a branch of our Restoration and Sustainability program, this class will explore ways to design, build, test, program, and problem solve through various methodologies including but not limited to: architecture and engineering workshops, apple applications, and designing and programming autonomous robots. Students will be actively involved in projects assisting the Restore525 and ContainIt teams. Additionally, students will be given the opportunity to meet and/or work alongside architects, engineers, and project managers. Throughout this course, students will cultivate life skills including planning, brainstorming, creative problem-solving, research and technical skills, collaboration, and teamwork.

Prerequisite: Students are selected to participate in this course based on project ideas. The student ideally will be self-motivated as well as interested in expanding their technical skills involved with programming Arduinos, 3D Printers, and CNC controlled machinery. The class size is limited, and student selection will be influenced by each applicant's responses to the [Engineering Project Ideas application](#). Application may be found on the Guidance page on the CDS website. Application must be submitted by February 21st. If you have any questions, please see Mrs. Willing vwilling@covenantday.org. (Pass/Fail)

STRENGTH AND FITNESS TRAINING - Students will learn in theory and practice the fundamentals of strength and fitness training. All students will learn push/pull movements: squat, bench press, deadlift and row. Returning students will continue to train the basic lifts as well as begin power techniques for athletic performance. (Pass/Fail)

STUDENT ASSISTANT – Students will be assigned to a faculty member, staff member, administration member, or department to aide in daily tasks and/or special projects. Students will receive one credit for this service. Please indicate on your course selection form if you have a request for a particular assignment or department. (Pass/Fail)

STUDY HALL – This will be an independent study hall for students to complete work at school. Students will be required to sign and uphold a study hall contract. *No credit will be earned for study hall.*

***SYMPHONIC BAND** – This course is designed for instrumentalists who have had prior performance experience. Music fundamentals and performance techniques are emphasized and applied through ensemble performance. Large and small ensembles will also be used to enhance cooperative learning skills and musicianship. Traditional and popular band literature will be used to increase music understanding and technicality. Medium-easy to moderately difficult band literature of various styles is performed at two (2) required evening concerts and at least one (one) festival performance. Students will study basic music theory expanding their knowledge of scales of various modes, rhythms, and harmonic function.

Prerequisite: Band director approval is needed if you have not been involved in band at CDS before.

***THEATRE I** – This is a beginning course in Theatre for which no previous experience is required. The objective of this course is to provide students with a comfortable and well-rounded sense of God’s relational design for them as performers, so they can begin to enhance their relation to other student actors/classmates, and to their environment. At the same time, students will develop skills of perception, awareness, and appreciation, for the craft of theatre as an art form and as a learning process. Students will also be immersed in theatre history, learning stage layouts and acting techniques used in Ancient Roman/Greek times, as well as the Medieval time era. They will perform in a one-act play during the spring semester. For those who are interested in technical aspects alone, the curriculum will be adjusted accordingly.

***VIDEOGRAPHY** – Students will learn basic videography and editing skills as they produce three short films. While learning the mechanics of a digital camera, students will also learn how to properly frame a shot, conduct interviews, apply current trends in editing, and how to tell a story through film. Equipment is provided by the school, and there is no prior experience needed to take the class (Pass/Fail semester course – ½ credit)

***WORSHIP LEADERSHIP** – This course is designed not only to teach and encourage the qualities of a good Christian leader, but also to apply them through responsibilities in chapel planning and involvement. Students will plan, rehearse, and execute the weekly high school chapel service. This dynamic program uses onstage technology coupled with conventional instruments to provide a one-of-a-kind learning experience. Students should demonstrate proficiency in one of the following areas prior to taking this course: acoustic or electric guitar, bass, piano, violin, drums, or male/female lead vocals.

Prerequisite: Students are required to complete an in-person audition and must receive approval from the instructor before enrolling.

YEARBOOK – Students in yearbook will publish the school yearbook as they learn real-world applications such as InDesign and PhotoShop in a team atmosphere. Students are required to complete an application and submit a writing sample to Mrs. Rego in the high school by the end of February. Despite being an elective, working outside of class will be necessary and mandatory, and grades reflect the fulfillment of these expectations. In return, staff members gain valuable 21st century skills in modern day journalism as they practice working as a team.

Prerequisite: Students are required to complete an online application (save to your own documents) and submit application and writing sample via email to Mrs. Rego in the high school by the end of February. reggo@covenantday.org Yearbook application document may be found on the Guidance page on the CDS website.

CDS High School Graduation Requirements:

A student must accumulate the following Carnegie Units (CUs) to graduate from Covenant Day School: 25 credits (CUs) - 4 units of Math, 4 units of Language Arts, 3 units of Social Studies, 3 units of Science, Bible (must be enrolled in a Bible course each year at CDS), 1 unit of Fine Art, 1 unit of PE or 2 seasons of a CDS sports team, ½ unit of Health, 5 elective units. Note: Admission to most colleges requires a minimum of 2 years of the same world language.

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