



Elective Course Catalog

2024-2025

ONE Credit Elective Options:

Career Explorations - This course prepares students to make informed decisions about their future academic and occupational goals. Through direct instruction, interactive skill demonstrations, and practice assignments, students learn how to assess their own skills and interests, explore industry clusters and pathways, and develop plans for career and academic development.

Career Planning and Development - Introducing students to the working world, this course provides the knowledge and insight necessary to compete in today's challenging job market. This relevant and timely course helps students investigate careers as they apply to personal interests and abilities, develop the skills and job search documents needed to enter the workforce, explore the rights of workers and traits of effective employees, and address the importance of professionalism and responsibility as careers change and evolve. This course includes lessons in which students create a self-assessment profile, a cover letter, and a résumé that can be used in their educational or career portfolio.

Critical Reading and Writing - This elective English course is designed to develop critical reading and writing skills while preparing students to meet the demands of college-level work. While students will explore some critical reading skills in fiction, poetry, and drama the focus of this course will be on expository and persuasive texts and the analytical reading skills that are necessary for college success. Students will read a range of short but complex texts, including works by Walt Whitman, Abraham Lincoln, Cesar Chavez, Martin Luther King Jr., Langston Hughes, Julia Alvarez, Edna St. Vincent Millay, and Gary Soto.

Introduction to Communications and Speech - Beginning with an introduction that builds student understanding of the elements, principles, and characteristics of human communication, this course offers a fascinating insight into verbal and nonverbal messages and cultural and gender differences in the areas of listening and responding. Students enrolled in this course will be guided through engaging lectures and interactive activities, exploring themes of self-awareness and perception in communication. The course concludes with units on informative and persuasive speeches, and students are given the opportunity to critique and analyze speeches.

Psychology - This course introduces students to the study of psychology and helps them master fundamental concepts in research, theory, and human behavior. Students analyze human growth,

learning, personality, and behavior from the perspective of major theories within psychology, including the biological, psychosocial, and cognitive perspectives. From a psychological point of view, students investigate the nature of being human as they build a comprehensive understanding of traditional psychological concepts and contemporary perspectives in the field. Course components include an introduction to the history, perspectives, and research of psychology; an understanding of topics such as the biological aspects of psychology, learning, and cognitive development; the stages of human development; aspects of personality and intelligence; the classification and treatment of psychological disorders; and psychological aspects of social interactions.

Sociology - Providing insight into the human dynamics of our diverse society, this is an engaging course that delves into the fundamental concepts of sociology. This interactive course covers cultural diversity and conformity, basic structures of society, individuals and socialization, stages of human development as they relate to sociology, deviance from social norms, social stratification, racial and ethnic interactions, gender roles, family structure, the economic and political aspects of sociology, the sociology of public institutions, and collective human behavior, both historically and in modern times.

Anthropology: Uncovering Human Mysteries - The aim of anthropology is to use a broad approach to gain an understanding of our past, present, and future, and in addition, address the problems humans face in biological, social, and cultural life. This course will explore the evolution, similarity, and diversity of humankind through time. It will look at how we have evolved from a biologically and culturally weak species to one that has the ability to cause catastrophic change. Exciting online video journeys to different areas of the anthropological world are just one of the powerful learning tools utilized in this course. *****Online text-based course.**

Current World Issues - Examining current global issues that impact our world today, this course takes a thematic approach to understanding the development of human systems, human understanding of the world, and human social organization. This course will challenge students to develop geographic skills, including learning to interpret maps, analyze data, and compare theories. Offering interactive content that will grow students' understanding of the development of modern civilization and human systems—from the agricultural revolution to the technological revolution—, this course encourages students to analyze economic trends as well as compare global markets and urban environments.

Google Applications - This course introduces students to the features and functionality of Google Docs, Google Slides, and Google Sheets. Through video instruction, interactive skill demonstrations, and numerous hands-on practice assignments, students learn to develop, edit, and share Google documents for both personal and professional use. By the end of this course, students will have developed basic proficiency in the most common tools and features of the Google applications.

Foundations of Game Design - The possibilities are endless when it comes to video game design! Learn about the history of gaming, software and hardware, troubleshooting, and Internet safety. Tap into your creative abilities and learn the necessary technical skills to design your own gaming platforms and create a plan for a 2D game. Turn your hobby into a future career. *****Online text-based course**

Computer Programming - This course teaches students the foundations of computer science and basic programming with an emphasis on helping students develop logical thinking and problem-solving skills. Students design and implement computer-based solutions to problems using the Python programming language. The course is highly visual, dynamic, and interactive, making it engaging for new coders.

Introduction to Information Technology - This course introduces students to the essential technical and professional skills required in the field of Information Technology (IT). Through hands-on projects and written assignments, students gain an understanding of the operation of computers, computer networks, Internet fundamentals, programming, and computer support. Students also learn about the social impact of technological change and the ethical issues related to technology. Throughout the course, instructional activities emphasize safety, professionalism, accountability, and efficiency for workers within the field of IT.

Cybersecurity - We depend more and more on the technologies we interact with every day, and we put more and more of our personal data out there online. Can all of that data really be kept “secret”? We all need to know more about how to protect our personal information, especially given how much we rely on and use our network devices and media. You’ll learn about the various parts of your computer, how they work together, and how you can manipulate them to keep your data safe. You’ll also dive into the tools, technologies, and methods that will help protect you from an attack and discover the many opportunities in the rapidly growing field of cybersecurity. *****Online text-based course.**

Introduction to Business - In this introductory course, students learn the principles of business using real-world examples—learning what it takes to plan and launch a product or service in today’s fast paced business environment. This course covers an introduction to economics, costs and profit, and different business types. Students are introduced to techniques for managing money, personally and as a business, and taxes and credit; the basics of financing a business; how a business relates to society both locally and globally; how to identify a business opportunity; and techniques for planning, executing, and marketing a business to respond to that opportunity.

Accounting I - Hope to one day own your own business or work in finance? Learn how small business owners keep track of business transactions and analyze their effect upon the financial operations of the business. Computerized accounting is also a component of the course.

Accounting II - Continue your accounting education with a closer study of payroll accounting, depreciation, and departmental and accrual accounting.

Economics - This course invites students to broaden their understanding of how economic concepts apply to their everyday lives—including microeconomic and macroeconomic theory and the characteristics of mixed-market economies, the role of government in a free-enterprise system and the global economy, and personal finance strategies. Throughout the course, students apply critical-thinking skills while making practical economic choices. Students also master literacy skills through rigorous reading and writing activities. Students analyze data displays and write routinely and responsively in tasks and assignments that are based on scenarios, texts, activities, and examples. In more extensive, process-based writing lessons, students write full-length essays in informative and argumentative formats.

Introduction to Health Science - This course introduces students to a variety of healthcare careers, as they develop the basic skills required in all health and medical sciences. In addition to learning the key elements of the U.S. healthcare system, students learn terminology, anatomy and physiology, pathologies, diagnostic and clinical procedures, therapeutic interventions, and the fundamentals of medical emergency care. Throughout the course, instructional activities emphasize safety, professionalism, accountability, and efficiency for workers within the healthcare field.

Forensic Science I: Secrets of the Dead - Fingerprints. Blood spatter. DNA analysis. The world of law enforcement is increasingly making use of the techniques and knowledge from the sciences to better understand the crimes that are committed and to catch those individuals responsible for the crimes. Forensic science applies scientific knowledge to the criminal justice system. This course focuses on some of the techniques and practices used by forensic scientists during a crime scene investigation (CSI). Starting with how clues and data are recorded and preserved, the student will follow evidence trails until the CSI goes to trial, examining how various elements of the crime scene are analyzed and processed. *****Online text based course.**

Spanish I - Students begin their introduction to high school Spanish with fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of an ongoing adventure story, 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 Spanish-speaking areas in Europe and the Americas.

Spanish II - Students continue their introduction to Spanish with fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of an ongoing adventure story, a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, numerous

interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, cultural presentations covering major Spanish-speaking areas in Europe and the Americas, and assessments.

Spanish III - In this expanding engagement with Spanish, 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 Spanish and respond orally or in writing to these works. Continuing the pattern and building on what students encountered in the first two years, each unit 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 Spanish-speaking areas in Europe and the Americas.

Spanish IV - Students expand upon what they learned in levels I, II, and III. This is an Honors level course.

French I - Students begin their introduction to French with fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of an ongoing adventure story, 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 across the globe.

French II - Students continue their introduction to French in this second- year, high school language course with review of fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of an ongoing adventure story, a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, numerous interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, cultural presentations covering major French- speaking areas across the globe, and assessments.

French III - In this expanding engagement with French, students deepen their focus on four key skills in foreign language acquisition: listening comprehension, reading, and writing. In addition, students read significant works of literature in French and respond orally or in writing to these works. Continuing the pattern and building on what students encountered in the first two years, each unit 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.

French IV - Students expand upon what they learned in levels I, II, and III. This is an Honors level course.

German I - Students begin their introduction to German with fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of an ongoing adventure story, 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 German-speaking areas in Europe.

German II - Students continue their introduction to German with this second-year course by covering fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of an ongoing adventure story, 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 German-speaking areas in Europe.

HALF CREDIT Elective Options:

Strategies for Academic Success - Offering a comprehensive analysis of different types of motivation, study habits, and learning styles, this course encourages students to take control of their learning by exploring varying strategies for success. Providing engaging lessons that will help students identify what works best for them individually, this one-semester course covers important study skills, such as strategies for taking high-quality notes, memorization techniques, test-taking strategies, benefits of visual aids, and reading techniques.

Online Learning and Digital Citizenship - This course provides students with a comprehensive introduction to online learning, including how to work independently, stay safe, and develop effective study habits in virtual learning environments. Featuring direct-instruction videos, interactive tasks, authentic projects, and rigorous assessments, the course prepares students for high school by providing in-depth instruction and practice in important study skills such as time management, effective note-taking, test preparation, and collaborating effectively online. By the end of the course, students will understand what it takes to be successful online learners and responsible digital citizens.

Art History - Introducing art within historical, social, geographical, political, and religious contexts for understanding art and architecture through the ages, this course offers students an in-depth overview of art throughout history, with lessons organized by chronological and historical order and world regions. Students enrolled in this course cover topics including early medieval and Romanesque art; art in the

twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth centuries; fifteenth-century art in Europe; sixteenth-century art in Italy; the master artists; High Renaissance and baroque art; world art, which includes the art of Asia, Africa, the Americas, and the Pacific cultures; eighteenth-and nineteenth-century art in Europe and the Americas; and modern art in Europe and the Americas.

Introduction to Art - Covering art appreciation and the beginning of art history, this course encourages students to gain an understanding and appreciation of art in their everyday lives. Presented in an engaging format, this course provides an overview of many introductory themes: the definition of art, the cultural purpose of art, visual elements of art, terminology and principles of design, and two- and three-dimensional media and techniques. Tracing the history of art, high school students enrolled in the course also explore the following time periods and places: prehistoric art, art in ancient civilizations, and world art before 1400.

Creative Photography - Do you enjoy taking pictures and want to learn more about what makes a successful and aesthetically pleasing photo? Creative Photography focuses on aesthetic foundations and photography techniques. You will use your creativity to view and capture a wide variety of subject matter (people, landscapes, objects, etc.) in new ways. Composition, lighting and experimentation will be major areas of focus. The second half of this course will focus on photo editing and manipulation. For this course, you may use whatever digital camera you have available, including smart phones.

Studio Art - In this hands-on class, Studio Art will expose students to the Visual Elements of Art while utilizing a variety of techniques and materials, including drawing, painting, and multimedia art. Students are required to complete one sketchbook assignment per week in addition to other class assignments and projects. Because this is a studio class, students will be required to pick up their art supplies from the ESACA building at the start of the semester or provide their own.

Music Enrichment - Do you love music and the way it makes you feel? In this course, students will learn about many ways in which music of all styles (including your favorites) can enrich our lives, in and out of school. We will explore the basic science behind sound, and how music is used as a tool for expression, communication, connection, and even mindfulness. We will also develop introductory musicianship and technology skills, so that you can get started with using these music tools in creative ways.

Google Mini - This course introduces students to the features and functionality of both Google Docs and Google Slides.

Personal Finance I - This course lays the foundation of understanding the basic financial concepts to the world of money. Students will learn about making financial goals, understanding income, and how

money is spent, from saving money and paying taxes to planning insurance needs. Personal Finance 1 is a much-needed course for every student.

Personal Finance II - This course takes the basics from Personal Finance 1 and builds upon them. Students will learn what every person needs to know about loans, leasing vs. buying cars, contracts, the benefits and dangers of credit, protecting your credit, debt management, identity theft, home buying vs. renting, to ultimately building wealth through investing. *(Students must complete Personal Finance 1 prior to enrolling in Personal Finance II)

SAT Reading Prep - Updated to reflect the 2016 changes to the test, this test preparation course effectively prepares students for the Reading section(s) of the SAT® exam. A diagnostic pretest identifies students' strengths and weaknesses and tailors a personalized study plan for each test-taker.

SAT Writing and Language Prep - SAT Reading Prep - Updated to reflect the 2016 changes to the test, this test preparation course effectively prepares students for the Writing and Language section(s) of the SAT® exam. A diagnostic pretest identifies students' strengths and weaknesses and tailors a personalized study plan for each test-taker.

SAT Math Prep - SAT Reading Prep - Updated to reflect the 2016 changes to the test, this test preparation course effectively prepares students for the Mathematics section(s) of the SAT® exam. A diagnostic pretest identifies students' strengths and weaknesses and tailors a personalized study plan for each test-taker.

Early Childhood Education - Want to have an impact on the most important years of human development? Students will learn how to create fun and educational environments for children, how to keep the environment safe for children, and how to encourage the health and well-being of infants, toddlers, and school-aged children. *****Online text based course.**

Restaurant Management - Have you always dreamed of running your own restaurant? Maybe you want to manage a restaurant for a famous chef. What goes on beyond the dining room in a restaurant can determine whether a restaurant is a wild success or a dismal failure. In Restaurant Management, you'll learn the responsibilities of running a restaurant—from ordering supplies to hiring and firing employees. This course covers the different types of restaurants, managing kitchen and wait staff, food safety and hygiene, customer relations, marketing, using a point-of-sale system, scheduling employees, and dealing with difficult guests. Restaurant Management will prepare you for a steady career, whether you plan to buy a fast food franchise, operate a casual sit-down restaurant, or oversee a fine-dining establishment. *****Online text based course.**

Veterinary Science - The Care of Animals - As animals play an increasingly important role in our lives, scientists have sought to learn more about their health and well-being. Taking a look at the pets that live in our homes, on our farms, and in zoos and wildlife sanctuaries, this course will examine some of the common diseases and treatments for domestic animals. Toxins, parasites, and infectious diseases impact not only the animals around us, but at times we humans as well! Through veterinary medicine and science, the prevention and treatment of diseases and health issues is studied and applied. *****Online text based course.**

Mythology & Folklore: Legendary Tales - Mighty heroes. Angry gods and goddesses. Cunning animals. Since the first people gathered around fires, mythology and folklore has been used as a way to make sense of humankind and our world. Beginning with an overview of mythology and different kinds of folklore, students will journey with ancient heroes as they slay dragons and outwit gods, follow fearless warrior women into battle, and watch as clever monsters outwit those stronger than themselves. They will explore the universality and social significance of myths and folklore, and see how these are still used to shape society today. *****Online text-based course.**

Criminology: Inside the Criminal Mind - In today's world, crime and deviant behavior rank at or near the top of many people's concerns. In this course, we will study the field of Criminology – the study of crime. We will look at possible explanations for crime from the standpoint of psychological, biological and sociological perspectives, explore the categories and social consequences of crime, and investigate how the criminal justice system handles not only criminals, but also their misdeeds. Why do some individuals commit crimes why others do not? What aspects in our culture and society promote crime and deviance? Why are different punishments given for the same crime? What factors... from arrest to punishment...help shape the criminal case process? *****Online text based course.**

Business Law - This course is designed to provide students with knowledge of some of the vital legal concepts that affect commerce and trade after first gaining some familiarity with how laws are created and interpreted. Students are then introduced to the types of businesses that can be created as well as the contractual and liability considerations that can impact a business.

Small Business Entrepreneurship - This half-credit course is designed to provide the skills needed to effectively organize, develop, create, manage, and own a business while exposing students to the challenges, problems, and issues faced by entrepreneurs.