



DE SMET JESUIT

ACADEMIC CURRICULUM GUIDE

2026-2027

TABLE OF CONTENTS

High School	3
Graduation Requirements.....	3
4 CREDITS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	4
1 CREDIT OF FINE ARTS	5
4 CREDITS OF MATHEMATICS.....	7
1 CREDIT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH	7
3 CREDITS OF SCIENCE.....	8
3 CREDITS OF SOCIAL STUDIES	9
5.5 CREDITS OF THEOLOGY & SERVICE PROJECTS	10
2 CREDITS OF WORLD LANGUAGES.....	11
Academic Programming Progression Overview	12
Academic Programming by Class Year	12
Freshman Year	12
Sophomore Year	13
Junior Year	13
Senior Year	13
Curriculum and Study Hall Guidelines.....	14
Options for College Credit Courses	14
SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY 1818 ADVANCED COLLEGE CREDIT (ACC) PROGRAM.....	14
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS (UMSL) ADVANCED CREDIT PROGRAM (ACP)	15
ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) PROGRAM.....	16
SLU 1818 ACC, UMSL ACP, & AP COLLEGE CREDIT COURSES	17
Courses to Consider for Career Pathways.....	18
Course Descriptions.....	22
English Department	22
Fine Arts Department.....	26
Physical Education and Health Department.....	33
Mathematics Department.....	36
Science Department	41
Social Studies Department.....	46
Theology Department.....	52
Freshman Service Project	55
Sophomore Service Project	55
Junior Service Project	55
Senior Service Project.....	56
The Insignis Capstone Reflection	56
Retreats.....	56
Freshman Pilgrim Retreat	56
Sophomore AMDG Retreat.....	57
Junior Kairos Retreat.....	57
Senior Retreat Options.....	57
World Languages Department	58

Mentored Study Path Option	64
Online Course Option	65
Ignatian Global Scholars Certificate Program.....	66

Middle School..... 68

English Department.....	68
Fine Arts Department.....	70
Math Department.....	72
PE Department.....	74
Science Department	75
Social Studies Department.....	77
Theology Department.....	78
World Languages Department.....	79

High School

Graduation Requirements

De Smet prepares students for college and life beyond through a comprehensive program of academic, spiritual, and character formation. To qualify for graduation, students must satisfactorily complete each of the requirements listed below.

1. **ACADEMIC PROGRAM:** *In order to fulfill De Smet Jesuit High School's graduation requirements, a student must earn 27 academic credits plus complete service projects and an Insignis project equaling 1 credit. The requirement will be 27.5 academic credits beginning with the class of 2028. The specific credits for each department are listed below.*
2. **ANNUAL RETREATS:** *De Smet offers a variety of retreats for students to attend. All students must attend a Kairos retreat as a junior or senior in order to graduate. Beginning with the class of 2029, all students will also be required to attend the Pilgrim Retreat as freshmen, the AMDG Retreat as sophomores, and the Deep Dive Retreat as seniors. [Information about these retreats can be found on our website.](#) More details can be found [HERE](#)*
3. **SOPHOMORE CONVERSATIONS:** *Rooted in De Smet's "Graduate at Graduation" vision, these one-on-one meetings between each sophomore, his parents or guardian, and a faculty member build upon retreat reflections, guiding students in evaluating their personal, academic, and spiritual growth. From these conversations, students will set meaningful goals for the years ahead.*
4. [SENIOR PROJECTS and SENIOR INSIGNIS PROJECT details HERE](#)
5. **ACADEMIC STANDING:** *Each student must remain in good academic and disciplinary standing throughout his time at De Smet.*

4 CREDITS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
Honors English I	Honors English 2	AP/ACC Honors English 3: Language & Composition	AP/ACC Honors English 4: Literature
~ or	~ or	~ or	~or
English I	English 2	English 3	English 4: Greek and British Literature and one of the following electives: English 4: ACC The Art of Storytelling English 4: Literature and Sport English 4: Creative Writing

I CREDIT OF FINE ARTS

Fine Art Category	9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
Vocal Art	De Smet Chorus (9)	De Smet Chorus Advanced Chorus	Advanced Chorus	Advanced Chorus
Theatrical Art	Acting & Improv	Theatre Tech & Design Advanced Acting/Directing	Theatre Tech & Design Advanced Acting/Directing	Theatre Tech & Design Advanced Acting/Directing
Instrumental Art	Beginning Instrumental Music – Brass Beginning Instrumental Music – Woodwind Concert Band	Concert Band	Concert Band Honors Jazz Combo	Concert Band Honors Jazz Combo
Visual Art	Exploring Studio Art	Introduction to Sculpture Experimental Mixed Media	Introduction to Sculpture Experimental Mixed Media Digital Graphic Design Advanced Studio Arts Advanced 3D Design	Introduction to Sculpture Experimental Mixed Media Digital Graphic Design Advanced Studio Arts Advanced 3D Design
Studio Art			Introduction to Music Production Music Production	Introduction to Music Production Music Production

Fine Art Category	9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
Media & Communications		Newswriting # Yearbook # Digital Media and Digital Storytelling #	Newswriting # Yearbook # Digital Media and Digital Storytelling #	Newswriting # Yearbook # Digital Media and Digital Storytelling #
Electives (Courses listed below do not fulfill core FA requirement):				
	Introduction to Media Introductory Newswriting	Introductory Newswriting		

A full year course awarding ½ credit of Fine Arts and ½ credit of an elective credit.

4 CREDITS OF MATHEMATICS

9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
Algebra I ~ or Algebra I ~ or Honors Algebra I ~ or Honors Algebra 2/Trig	Geometry ~ or Honors Geometry	Algebra 2/ Trigonometry ~ or Algebra 2/ Trigonometry ~ or Honors Algebra 2/ Trigonometry ~ or AP Honors PreCalculus	College Algebra & Statistics ~ or Statistics ~ or Pre-Calculus ~ or Calculus ~ or AP/ACC Honors Calculus ~ or AP Honors Statistics
Electives (Courses listed below do not fulfill core Math requirement):			
Honors Computational Thinking and Programming	Honors Computational Thinking and Programming	AP Honors Introduction to Computer Science ~ or ACP Computer Applications	AP Honors Introduction to Computer Science ~ or ACP Computer Applications

I CREDIT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH

9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
Phys Ed & Health I ~ or Beginning Weight Training and Health I	Physical Ed 2 ~ or Intermediate Weight Training	Intermediate Weight Training ~ or Advanced Weight Training ~ or Lifetime Activities	Intermediate Weight Training ~ or Advanced Weight Training ~ or Lifetime Activities

3 CREDITS OF SCIENCE

9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
Physics 9 ~ or Honors Biology ~ or	Chemistry ~ or Honors Chemistry	Biology (offered beginning with class of 2029) ~ or Anatomy Physiology ~ or Conceptual Physics (class of 2028 only) ~ or Physics (class of 2028 only) ~ or AP Honors Physics I ~ or AP Honors Biology	Biology (offered beginning with class of 2029) ~ or Anatomy Physiology ~ or AP Honors Physics I ~ or AP Honors Biology ~ or AP Honors Chemistry ~ or AP Hon Physics C Mechanics
Electives (Courses listed below do not fulfill core Science requirement):			
Introduction to Competition Robotics	Introduction to Competition Robotics ~ or Advanced Competition Robotics	Introduction to Competition Robotics ~ or Advanced Competition Robotics ~ or Digital Electronics	Advanced Competition Robotics ~ or 3D Design and 3D Printing ~ or Digital Electronics

*All students are required to take 3 years of a lab science.

3 CREDITS OF SOCIAL STUDIES

9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
Human & Cultural Geography	World Studies ~ or AP Honors World History - Modern	United States History ~ or AP/ACC Honors American History	American Government ~ or AP Honors American Government
Electives (Courses listed below do not fulfill core Math requirement):			
	The Art of Influence	Psychology (Jr) ~ or Business & Economic Principles ~ or Advanced Business Strategies ~ or Personal Finance ~ or Introduction to Entrepreneurship ~ or AI: Foundation and Ethics ~ or The Art of Influence ~ or Foundations in Law and Justice ~ or Advanced Law: Advocacy, Trial, and Procedure	Psychology (Sr) ~ or AP/ACP Honors Psychology ~ or African-American Studies ~ or ACC Honors Modern European History ~ or Business & Economic Principles ~ or Advanced Business Strategies ~ or Personal Finance ~ or Introduction to Entrepreneurship ~ or AI: Foundation and Ethics ~ or The Art of Influence ~ or Foundations in Law and Justice ~ or Advanced Law: Advocacy, Trial, and Procedure

5.5 CREDITS OF THEOLOGY & SERVICE PROJECTS

9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
Catholicism and The Jesuits ~ and Sacraments and Scripture	Scripture ~ and Morality	Catholic Social Teaching ~ and Ecclesiology	Contemporary Discipleship ~ and Christ & Faith ~ or Ignatian Vision ~ or ACC Questions in Theology
Electives (Courses listed below do not fulfill core Theology requirement):			
		Inclusion Program Peer Mentor	Inclusion Program Peer Mentor
Service Hours			
Freshman Service Project (10 hours)	Sophomore Service Project (25 hours)	Junior Service Project	Senior Service Project (50 hours) ~ and Insignis Capstone Reflection

2 CREDITS OF WORLD LANGUAGES

9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
Chinese I	ACP Chinese II	ACP Honors Chinese 3	ACP Honors Chinese 4
Latin I	Latin 2	ACC Honors Latin 3	ACC Honors Latin 4
Spanish I	Spanish 2	Spanish 3 ~ or ACC Honors Spanish 3	Spanish 4 ~or ACC Honors Spanish 4 ~ or AP Honors Spanish 5 Language & Culture (through APEX)
Electives (Courses listed below do not fulfill core World Language requirement):			
	The Ignatian Global Citizen	The Ignatian Global Citizen	The Ignatian Global Citizen

Academic Programming Progression Overview

[\(return to Table of Contents\)](#)

Freshman		Sophomore		Junior		Senior	
Theology		Theology		Theology		Theology	
English		English		English		English	
Math		Math		Math		Math	
Science		Science		Science		Elective (often a 4 th year of Science)	
Social Studies	Possible Elective	Social Studies		Social Studies		Social Studies	Elective
PE/Health	Fine Art	Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective
World Language		World Language		Elective (often World Language)	Elective (often World Language)	Elective (often World Language)	Elective (often World Language)

Academic Programming by Class Year

Freshman Year		
	Fall	Spring
1	Catholicism & The Jesuits	Sacraments & Scripture
2	English 1 or Honors English 1	
3	Math (Algebra 1, Algebra 1, Honors Algebra 1, or Honors Algebra 2/Trig)	
4	Physics (9) or Honors Biology	
5	World Language (Year 1 - Chinese, Latin, or Spanish)	
6	Human & Cultural Geography either semester	
	PE/Health or Beginning Weights/Health either semester	
7	Fine Art	Fine Art or Elective (Intro to Media, Intro to Newswriting, Honors Computational Thinking & Programming, Intro to Robotics Systems)
8	Study Hall	Study Hall
	Freshmen Service Requirement: 10 hours of service	

Sophomore Year		
	Fall	Spring
1	Scripture	Morality
2	English 2 or Honors English 2	
3	Math (Geometry or Honors Geometry)	
4	Chemistry or Honors Chemistry	
5	World Language (Year 2 - Chinese, Latin, or Spanish)	
6	World Studies or AP Honors World History	
7	Elective (Fine Art, PE, Science, Social Studies, Science, or Ignatian Global Scholars)	Elective (Fine Art, PE, Science, Social Studies, Science, or Ignatian Global Scholars)
8	Study Hall	Study Hall
	Sophomore Service Requirement: 25 hours of service	

Junior Year		
	Fall	Spring
1	Catholic Social Teacher	Ecclesiology
2	English 3 or AP/ACC Honors English 3: Language & Composition	
3	Math (Algebra 2/Trigonometry, Honors Algebra 2/Trigonometry, AP Honors PreCalculus)	
4	Science (Biology, Anatomy Physiology, AP Honors Physics I, AP Honors Biology, Conceptual Physics*, or Physics*)	
5	US History or AP/ACC Honors US History	
6	Elective (often Year 3 of a World Language)	
7	Elective (Fine Art, PE, Science, Social Studies, Science, or Ignatian Global Scholars)	Elective (Fine Art, PE, Science, Social Studies, Science, or Ignatian Global Scholars)
8	Study Hall	Study Hall
	Junior Service Requirement: Junior Projects	

*Conceptual Physics and Physics during Junior year is only offered to the class of 2028 as we have transitioned to a Physics first curriculum

Senior Year		
	Fall	Spring
1	Contemporary Discipleship (CODI)	Christ & Faith or Ignatian Vision or ACC Questions in Theology
2	AP/ACC Honors English 4: Literature (S1) or English 4: European Literature	AP/ACC Honors English 4: Literature (S2) or English 4: ACC The Art of Storytelling, English 4: Literature and Sport, or English 4: Creative Writing
3	Math (College Algebra & Stats, Statistics, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, AP/ACC Honors Calculus, or AP Honors Statistics)	
4	Elective (often Year 4 of Science: Biology, Anatomy Physiology, AP Honors Physics I, or AP Honors Biology)	
5	American Gov or AP American Gov either semester Elective (Fine Art, PE, Science, Social Studies, Science) either semester	
6	Elective (often Year 4 of a World Language)	
7	Elective (Fine Art, PE, Science, Social Studies, Science, or Ignatian Global Scholars)	Elective (Fine Art, PE, Science, Social Studies, Science)
8	Study Hall	Study Hall
	Senior Service Requirement: 50 hours of service	

Curriculum and Study Hall Guidelines

[\(return to Table of Contents\)](#)

In our modified block schedule, students typically take seven classes and one study hall each semester. Students cannot take less than one study hall and cannot take more than two study halls in a semester.

De Smet Jesuit High School requires a total of 27 academic credits for graduation. If a student takes seven classes each semester they would have a total of 28 credits, so students have the option of taking two additional study halls at any time during their 8 semesters of high school. Students that take summer courses can earn academic credits and choose to have additional study halls during the school year.

Students cannot exceed two study halls in any semester. Beginning with the class of 2028 students will be required to earn 27.5 academic credits for graduation.

Options for College Credit Courses

[\(return to Table of Contents\)](#)

College credit courses offered to De Smet Jesuit High School students are designed to challenge students to accelerate their learning and to complement their solid, academic repertoire. Such courses can have value for students who will be attending colleges or universities where they are accepted.

Students can earn college credit at De Smet Jesuit High School in three ways: (a) through Saint Louis University-sponsored classes at De Smet Jesuit (known as the 1818 Advanced College Credit Program), (b) through UMSL's Advanced Credit Program (ACP) courses at De Smet Jesuit, or (c) through Advanced Placement courses and exams approved by the College Board and administered at De Smet Jesuit.

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY 1818 ADVANCED COLLEGE CREDIT (ACC) PROGRAM

De Smet Jesuit High School offers students the opportunity to earn college credit through Saint Louis University's 1818 Advanced College Credit Program. Students at De Smet Jesuit earn college credits by taking courses at De Smet Jesuit that are approved for college credit by Saint Louis University ([courses listed here](#)). As a result, credits earned by De Smet Jesuit students who take such classes are accepted at many colleges and universities. Saint Louis University provides more information about these colleges and universities at the following link: [Transfer Credits : SLU - Saint Louis University](#).

Students register for the 1818 Advanced College Credit Program in August and in January. Registration takes place at De Smet Jesuit with guidance from our faculty and administration. Because colleges and universities have semester courses that students register with SLU for each semester, our students who take year-long courses in a given

subject must register each semester as if they were taking two separate courses. All 1818 ACC classes are taught at De Smet Jesuit by De Smet Jesuit faculty members who serve as university adjunct instructors. Students who register for 1818 ACC classes are entitled to access and use of the libraries of Saint Louis University.

Through this program, a student may take a maximum of three 1818 classes per semester, and he must have an unweighted GPA of 2.5 for seniors or 3.0 for sophomores and juniors to register. There is a fee of \$75 per credit hour (most courses are 3 credit hours) for a total of \$225 per course each semester. Billing is done through Saint Louis University directly to the student. Finally, Saint Louis University allows up to 30 credit hours of 1818, essentially the equivalent of five year-long high school courses, and the equivalent of a full year of college. Saint Louis University provides more information about their 1818 Advanced College Credit Program at this link: <https://www.slu.edu/1818/index.php>.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS (UMSL) ADVANCED CREDIT PROGRAM (ACP)

De Smet Jesuit High School also offers students the opportunity to earn college credit through UMSL's Advanced Credit Program (ACP). Students at De Smet Jesuit earn college credits by taking courses at De Smet Jesuit that are approved for college credit through UMSL. Credits earned by De Smet Jesuit students who take such classes are accepted at many colleges and universities.

[Courses offered at De Smet as part of UMSL's Advanced Credit Program can be found here.](#) Students register for the ACP in August and in January. Registration takes place at De Smet Jesuit with guidance from our faculty and administration. All ACP classes are taught at De Smet Jesuit by De Smet Jesuit faculty members who serve as university adjunct instructors. Students who register for ACP classes are entitled to access and use of the libraries of UMSL.

Through this program, a student may take a maximum of three classes per semester, and he must have an unweighted GPA of 2.5 for seniors or 3.0 for sophomores and juniors to register. There is a fee of \$72 per credit hour (most courses are 3 credit hours) for a total of \$216 per course. Billing is done through UMSL directly to the student. UMSL provides more information about their Advanced Credit Program at this link:

<http://www.umsl.edu/continuinged/acp/>.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) PROGRAM

De Smet Jesuit High School offers students the opportunity to earn college credit through Advanced Placement, offered through the College Board. Advanced Placement college credit is obtained after students take a De Smet Jesuit AP course and pass a national AP exam, given in May of each year. Scores of 3, 4, or 5 are recognized at most colleges and universities, which means students who score a 3, 4, or 5 can earn college credit; however, the values of scoring on the AP tests vary from university to university. [AP courses offered at De Smet Jesuit High School are listed here](#). Primarily, juniors and seniors take AP courses and exams, but sophomores may take our AP World History course and the national AP exam in World History. There is a \$99 fee for each exam. The College Board provides more information about the Advanced Placement program at this link: <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/>.

SLU 1818 ACC, UMSL ACP, & AP COLLEGE CREDIT COURSES

Class	SLU 1818 ACC	UMSL ACP	SLCC	AP	Comments
English					
AP/ACC Honors English 3: Language	X			X	AP exam required
AP/ACC Honors English 4: Literature	X			X	AP exam optional
ACC The Art of Storytelling	I Semester				
World Languages					
SLCC Honors Chinese 3			X		
SLCC Honors Chinese 4			X		
ACC Honors Latin 3	2 nd Semester				
ACC Honors Latin 4	X				AP exam optional
ACC Honors Spanish 3	2 nd Semester				
ACC Honors Spanish 4	X				
AP Honors Spanish 5				X	AP exam optional
Mathematics					
ACP Computer Applications		X			
AP/ACC Honors Calculus	X			X	AP exam optional
AP Introduction to Computer Science				X	AP exam optional
AP Statistics				X	AP exam optional
AP PreCalculus				X	AP exam optional
Science					
AP Honors Biology				X	AP exam optional
AP Honors Chemistry				X	AP exam optional
AP Environmental Science				X	AP exam optional
AP Honors Physics I				X	AP exam optional
AP Honors Physics C Mechanics				X	AP exam optional
Social Studies					
ACC Honors Modern European History	I semester				AP exam optional
AP Honors American Government				X	AP exam optional
AP/ACP Honors Psychology		X		X	AP exam optional
AP/ACC Honors American (US) History	X			X	AP exam required
AP Honors World History				X	AP exam required
Theology					
ACC Questions in Theology	I Semester				

Courses to Consider for Career Pathways

[\(return to Table of Contents\)](#)

The curriculum outlined in these pages is the primary way we form our students. There are, of course, many wonderful extracurricular opportunities but it is our academic curriculum that binds us as Spartans forever. It is the daily experience that each one of our students has during his four years here. As such, we treat each component of this curriculum with respect knowing that it all contributes to the formation of the graduate at graduation as a man who is open to growth, intellectually competent, religious, loving, and committed to doing justice.

There are certain components of the curriculum that are required for students to graduate. We also recognize that students have unique interests. What follows below are some career pathways and the courses we have identified that align with those pathways. There are many ways to reach one's goals and these courses are not required to achieve your goal. They are merely presented as guideposts for you to review and consider when building your schedule.

Department	Business, Management, Technology	STEM	Health & Human Services
English	All English courses apply	All English courses apply	All English courses apply
FA	Introductory Newswriting Newswriting Introduction to Media Digital Graphic Design Digital Media and Digital Storytelling Yearbook	Digital Graphic Design Digital Media and Digital Storytelling Introduction to Music Production Music Production Exploring Studio Art Advanced Studio Arts Introduction to Sculpture Advanced 3D Design Experimental Mixed Media	
Math	College Algebra Statistics or AP Stats Pre-Calc, Calc, AP Calc, or AP Stats	College Algebra Statistics or AP Stats Pre-Calc, Calc, AP Calc, or AP Stats AP Computer Science	College Algebra Statistics or AP Stats Pre-Calc, Calc, AP Calc, or AP Stats AP Computer Science

Department	Business, Management, Technology	STEM	Health & Human Services
Science	All Science Courses apply	AP Honors Physics C Mechanics AP Physics AP Chem Digital Electronics Intro to Competition Robotics Advanced Competition Robotics 3D Design and 3D Printing	AP Environmental Science Anatomy & Physiology AP Biology AP Chemistry AP Physics Intro to Competition Robotics Advanced Competition Robotics
Social Studies	Psychology or AP Psych Personal Finance Business & Economic Principles Advanced Business Strategy Introduction to Entrepreneurship The Art of Influence AI: Foundation and Ethics	Psychology or AP Psych Introduction to Entrepreneurship The Art of Influence AI: Foundation and Ethics	African American Studies Foundations of Law and Justice Personal Finance Business & Economic Principles Psychology or AP Psych Introduction to Entrepreneurship The Art of Influence AI: Foundation and Ethics
Theology	The Ignatian Global Citizen Inclusion Peer Mentor	The Ignatian Global Citizen	The Ignatian Global Citizen Inclusion Peer Mentor
World Language	3+ years of any language	3+ years of any language	3+ years of any language

Department	Natural Resources and Agriculture	Arts and Communications
English	All English courses apply	All English courses apply
FA		Introductory Newswriting Newswriting Introduction to Media Digital Graphic Design Digital Media and Digital Storytelling Yearbook Introduction to Music Production Music Production Acting & Improv Advanced Acting/Directing Theatre Tech & Design Exploring Studio Art Advanced Studio Arts Introduction to Sculpture Advanced 3D Design Experimental Mixed Media
Math	College Algebra Statistics or AP Stats Pre-Calc, Calc, AP Calc, or AP Stats AP Computer Science	
Science	AP Environmental Science AP Biology AP Chemistry AP Physics	

Department	Natural Resources and Agriculture	Arts and Communications
Social Studies	Personal Finance Business & Economic Principles Introduction to Entrepreneurship The Art of Influence AI: Foundation and Ethics	Psychology or AP Psych Introduction to Entrepreneurship The Art of Influence AI: Foundation and Ethics
Theology	The Ignatian Global Citizen	The Ignatian Global Citizen
World Language	3+ years of any language	3+ years of any language



This logo is used throughout the course descriptions to indicate courses that are part of the Ignatian Global Scholars (IGS) curriculum.

Course Descriptions

[\(return to Table of Contents\)](#)

English Department

[\(return to Table of Contents\)](#)

English I (ENG-09000 SI)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Fr

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

This course focuses on an introduction to various genres of literature including novels, drama, poetry, short stories, and essays. Students study the three interwoven areas of grammar, composition, and literature. Students use numerous, varied texts to provide the literary genres that become springboards for their compositions as well as provide vocabulary words, which they can incorporate into their own writing. The first semester is more heavily weighted toward mastery of basic English grammar, while the second semester is geared more toward literature and composition. The English department now uses the online resource NoRedInk to reinforce grammar skills as the department remains dedicated to teaching students to use proper punctuation and to develop strong syntax at both the sentence and paragraph level. The composition curriculum prepares students by year's end to write a logical, analytical, and well organized five-paragraph essay.

Honors English I (ENG-09000H SI)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Fr

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

This freshman English course aims at growth in three areas: grammar, composition, and literature. The students study grammar for a better understanding of basic syntax and sentence structure. Students develop their composition skills by writing unified, coherent paragraphs and longer essays by practicing various methods of sentence and paragraph development. In addition, students read various works of fiction that explore basic literary elements such as plot, character development, point of view, and theme. They also work at building active vocabulary using numerous words selected from the context of the readings.

English 2 (ENG-10000 SI)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): So

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Sophomore English requires students to master the grammatical principles introduced during their freshman year and to practice and refine the fundamentals of prose writing through a logically structured, multi-paragraph essay. Clarity and accuracy of written expression are emphasized, as is vocabulary development. The students also deal with literature on a deeper and more sophisticated level: they learn to define literary types, identify figures of speech, and understand characterization and theme. Students are expected to respond intelligently—in both verbal and written form—in works ranging from Shakespeare to twenty-first century novelists. Students write to develop their individual voices and techniques. A strong emphasis is

placed on logical, structured writing within the multi-paragraph essay.

Honors English 2 (ENG-1000IH SI)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): So

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Sophomore Honors English provides students with an introduction to four major literary forms—short stories, the novel, drama, and poetry—and uses these works to assist students in their reflection on the existential question, “What is the meaning of life?” Students will explore the way authors from a variety of historical periods and nations have responded to this question, considering notions of money, power, family, friendship, love, honor, justice, and faith. The course emphasizes literary analysis and critical thinking through close reading, class discussion, and frequent writing assignments. Grammar is addressed as areas of concern arise in student writing, and vocabulary acquisition is based on words selected from the course readings.

English 3 (ENG-11000 SI)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Jr

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

A chronological study of American literature and an emphasis on writing the argumentative, expository essay provide the two-fold focus for junior English. Students read selections from American fiction and non-fiction and view American film in order to better understand their culture and appreciate their historical background. The writing assignments provide practice in critical and logical thinking and in applying techniques of literary analysis. Research methods leading to the finished research paper as well as work on vocabulary improvement are part of the junior English curriculum.

AP/ACC Honors English Lang (ENG-1100IH SI)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Jr

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

The primary texts in this AP course, both fiction and non-fiction, will lead students through an investigation of American literature and its themes, authors, and culture. Students write in both informal and formal contexts to gain authority with varied rhetorical stances, while continuing to develop their vocabulary and address problems in grammar and style as weaknesses appear in their own writings. An AP course in English Language and Composition prepares students for the AP exam in May, engages students in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of rhetorical contexts, and helps them become skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Consequently, students become aware of the interactions among a writer’s purposes, audience expectations, and subjects. Students will study the rhetorical patterns of organization and various devices used for analysis. This course emphasizes the expository, analytical, and argumentative writing that forms the basis of academic and professional communication, as well as the personal and reflective writing that fosters the development of writing facility in any context.

AP/ACC Honors English Lit (ENG-12005H SI)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Sr

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Students in this class study important works from ancient Greece and from the literature of England. Students study these works in chronological order within the philosophical context of the times in which they

were composed, but also with attention to their timelessness and relevance to today's world. Students read and/or view films of important literary works, discuss them, and write primarily analytical essays on them. Students develop vocabulary in the context of the readings and address problems in grammar and style as they appear in their own writing. Students in the class will prepare for the AP English Literature and Composition exam.

English 4: European Literature (ENG-I2000)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Sr

Credits: 0.5

Length: I Semester



Students of English IV will read important works from Europe. Students study these works within the philosophical context of their time periods, but also with attention to their timelessness and relevance to today's world. Students will also read and view films of important literary works, discuss them, and write primarily analytical essays on them. Creative writing will also make an appearance. Research in its varied forms is part of this class, mostly focusing on literary criticism. Students develop vocabulary in the context of the readings, and address problems in grammar and style as they appear in their own writing.

English 4: ACC The Art of Storytelling (ENG-I2003)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Sr

Credits: 0.5

Length: I Semester

This course will focus on literary analysis of American films through two main approaches: genres and directors. The impact of media and mass communication will also be explored. A historical context will be given for films that range from the 1910s to the present. Directors such as Chaplin, Keaton, Ford, Hitchcock, Welles, Demme, Coppola, Kubrick, Spielberg, Kazan, Peckinpah, Nichols, Tarantino, Redford, Cohen, Stone, Eastwood, Lee, Rosenberg, Robbins, Nolan, Fincher, and Scorsese will be studied, along with western, suspense, satire, war, gangster, comedy, drama, noir and horror genres. The films seen in class will be critiqued in several ways that draw upon various film theories and techniques. Films will be “read”—much the same way a book is read—concentrating on both style and themes.

Students will prepare and give reports to the class on specific films and topics. Students will learn a historical overview, key terms and concepts, how a film is made, and how to give presentations on film. Each student will be responsible for an independent project, PowerPoint presentations, quizzes, tests, written reports, reflections, content/detail quizzes, and a media log.

English 4: Literature and Sport (ENG-I2002)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Sr

Credits: 0.5

Length: I Semester

As an elective for seniors, this course offers the opportunity to take ownership of one's education and to debunk the stereotype of literature as irrelevant to our daily lives. The course will incorporate literature, history, and social and personal psychology to better understand the social phenomenon of sports, the psychological drive of athletes or sportsmen, and the moral challenges that attend athletic or physical challenges and competitions. Throughout the semester, students will consider the following questions: What constitutes sport? Aside from the common understanding of “sports,” what is it about sport that attracts our attention, engenders curiosity, and riles our emotions? What motivates those engaged in such activities? Why are writers like Norman Mailer, Joyce Carol Oates, David Remnick, Ernest Hemingway and others drawn to observe, analyze, and even at times participate in such sporting events? Why is there often a moral tension between the personal ambitions of the athlete/sportsman and the spirit of sportsmanship and

fair play? How is the writer like an athlete in terms of power, elegance, intellect, cleverness, and precision?

English 4: Creative Writing (ENG-I2004)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Sr

Credits: 0.5

Length: 1 Semester

In this course, students explore the art of writer's craft by reading mentor texts and writing original pieces. The class begins with activities that invite students to engage personally with works from a variety of authors before shifting focus to the craft and techniques that make these works effective. Students then apply these techniques in their own creative writing, drawing inspiration from personal experiences or imagination to craft original narratives and poetry. Each piece develops through a process of drafting, reflection, revision, peer feedback, and editing. At the end of each unit, students participate in a one-on-one writing conference with the teacher—led by the student—to discuss specific questions about craft and technique. The students' writings and portfolios will contribute to The Scrivener, De Smet Jesuit's literary magazine.

FineArts Department

[\(return to Table of Contents\)](#)

Beginning Band - Woodwind (FA-09100)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Fr

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Beginning Band – Woodwind is designed for students in grades 6–9 who are learning a woodwind instrument—flute, clarinet, or alto saxophone—for the first time. The course focuses on developing the foundational skills necessary for confident musicianship, including tone production, breath control, finger technique, note and rhythm reading, ensemble awareness, and performance etiquette. Students will learn to interpret musical notation, play in unison and harmony, and develop listening skills through daily rehearsal and performance experiences. Emphasis is placed on consistent practice, teamwork, and the joy of creating music together. No prior musical experience is required.

Beginning Band - Brass (FA-09101)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Fr

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Beginning Band – Brass is designed for students in grades 6–9 who are learning a brass instrument—trumpet, trombone, euphonium, or tuba—for the first time. The course focuses on developing the foundational skills necessary for confident musicianship, including tone production, breath control, finger technique, note and rhythm reading, ensemble awareness, and performance etiquette. Students will learn to interpret musical notation, play in unison and harmony, and develop listening skills through daily rehearsal and performance experiences. Emphasis is placed on consistent practice, teamwork, and the joy of creating music together. No prior musical experience is required.

Concert Band (FA-12108)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Fr, So, Jr, Sr

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Concert Band is an ensemble course designed for woodwind, brass, and percussion students who have developed fundamental skills on their instrument and are ready to perform more advanced literature. Students will continue to strengthen tone quality, music literacy, rhythmic precision, intonation, and expressive musical interpretation through daily rehearsal and public performances. The course emphasizes ensemble balance, blend, and musicianship while exploring a variety of musical styles and historical periods. Students will learn to refine individual practice habits, follow a conductor's cues, and contribute positively to a collaborative musical environment. Participation in concerts and school performances is required as part of the course experience.

Honors Jazz Combo (FA-12109H)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Jr, Sr

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semester

Prerequisite: Concert Band

This advanced group is selected by an audition process and is open to students who have music theory

knowledge and a high level of proficiency on their instruments. Special emphasis will be placed on honing improvisation and sight-reading skills. A continued study of advanced music theory topics will supplement students' ensemble playing. Because this is a performance-based course, students are required to participate in many school functions, community events, and various workshops and festivals sponsored by local high schools and universities.

Introduction to Media (FA-09200)

Elective

Grade Level(s): Fr

Credits: 0.5

Length: 1 Semester

This class provides an introduction to the digital world of communications, including words, pictures, video, and social media. It exposes the students to the world of desmetpress, establishing a clear pathway for yearbook, newspaper or digital media, by setting the framework for the development of 21st century skills such as collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creativity. Students will have the opportunity to learn basic photography and videography skills. They will learn basic publication design and rules of composition. They will also gain a basic understanding of journalistic writing style such as the lead-quote-transition formula.

Introductory Newswriting (FA-I 1201)

Elective

Grade Level(s): Fr, So, Jr

Credits: 0.5

Length: 1 Semester



This class provides an introduction to newspaper writing and production and is available to freshmen, sophomores and juniors. Through frequent efforts on several articles and long-range projects of their own, students sharpen their overall skills as writers and practice the main forms of newspaper writing (news, features, editorials, sports, etc.). At the same time, they will be working in other areas that are part of the production of a newspaper such as interviewing, proofreading and editing, writing headlines and photo captions, designing layouts and learning desktop publishing with Adobe InDesign. Course work includes other issues such as history of journalism, free speech and freedom of the press, honesty, and newspaper ethics. As the writers gain skill, they will publish their work in the school newspaper and try their hand at helping to produce the paper.

Newswriting (FA-I 2201)

Elective

Grade Level(s): So, Jr, Sr

Credits: 0

Length: 2 Semesters



This course is open only to juniors and seniors who have completed the Introductory News Writing class. At this level, News Writing focuses on the actual production of The Mirror, De Smet Jesuit's official student newspaper. While working to improve their skills as writers and journalists, News Writing students will publish The Mirror. In addition to filling editorial roles with various leadership duties, each member of the class will be required to write for every issue of the paper. Longer range projects will also aim to broaden their knowledge of the world of professional journalism beyond De Smet Jesuit.

Yearbook (FA-I 2202)

Elective

Grade Level(s): So, Jr, Sr

Credits: 0

Length: 2 Semesters

This course aims mainly at producing the Spartan Olympiad, De Smet Jesuit's student yearbook. Students work to strengthen their writing skills for articles, headlines, photo captions, and other feature material. Students also gain valuable experience in page and graphic design and computer layout. A high level of personal initiative and reliability is a must. Each class member is responsible for producing his own allotment of pages, plus helping with other efforts, which contribute to the yearbook's completion.

The class meets during a normal class period, and a great deal of the production work must be done on the student's own time after school. Note: At the senior level, it is only open to students with prior yearbook experience. Freshmen are invited to join the staff on a non-credit, extracurricular basis after the first quarter of the school year.

Digital Media and Digital Storytelling (FA-I2204)**Elective****Grade Level(s): So, Jr, Sr****Credits: 0****Length: 2 Semesters**

This course teaches the fundamentals of digital photography and videography and how they relate to 21st century media consumption. Topics covered include operation of 35 mm and video cameras, the exposure triangle, visual composition, storytelling with photos and video, computer editing programs (Adobe Photoshop and Premiere), and media law and ethics. Assignments will be geared toward use in one of the school publications: The Mirror (newspaper), desmetmirror.com (website), Spartan Olympiad (yearbook), and De Smet Student Network-DSN (broadcast). This course will serve as an alternate prerequisite for News Writing and Yearbook.

**Acting & Improv (FA-09300)****Meets Department Core Requirement****Grade Level(s): Fr****Credits: 0.5****Length: 1 Semester**

This course provides students with an exposure to the various forms of acting, improv, and drama, thereby helping the student develop a more creative and flexible approach to solving performance problems and critical thinking. This is a very active class that challenges the imagination of the actor and gives him a chance to explore a variety of experiences on stage. The ensemble will play improv and theater games, and perform scenes in order to communicate better with one another and the community at large. Through a series of exercises, the student will obtain a basic understanding of one of the fundamentals of acting—improvisation. The course is also designed to provide students with an introduction to the theatre and acting in theory and performance. Emphasis will be on the use of imagination, the senses, an introduction to stage movement, and script analysis. Students will perform a monologue and/or scene from a comedic or dramatic script, and attend one live theatre performance at De Smet Jesuit

Advanced Acting/Directing (FA-I2301)**Meets Department Core Requirement****Grade Level(s): So, Jr, Sr****Credits: 0.5****Length: 1 Semester**

This course develops and expands upon the skills developed in Acting & Improv by introducing the student to character techniques, blocking, and an awareness of the actor's and director's point of view. This course is focused on the continued development of acting techniques and introduces students to the art of directing. Students will focus upon the study of acting and will perform three or four scenes and monologues, continue reading plays, and explore theatre history. They will perform detailed analyses of characters and scenes and will then take turns directing one another in the small scenes and monologues with supervision and feedback

from the instructor. Attending live theatre performances and writing play reviews will also be required. Emphasis will be placed on fine-tuning technique with specific attention paid to staging. The use of improvisation as an audition technique will also be used as an in-depth study of the audition process from the perspective of both the actor and the director. There is no prerequisite to enroll in this course.

Theatre Tech & Design (FA-I2302)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): So, Jr, Sr

Credits: 0.5

Length: 1 Semester

Through a combination of hands-on experiences, projects, and demonstrations, students will work directly on practical theatre projects. This includes building scenery, hanging and focusing lighting, setting up sound equipment, as well as practical applications of properties and costumes. In addition to learning how to function in the technical side of performing arts production, students will gain a knowledge of materials and safety awareness; but, moreover, will develop a respect for the areas of theatre which support the performer on stage. Participation as crew members on De Smet theatre productions will be required.

Introduction to Music Production (FA-I2401)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Jr, Sr

Credits: 0.5

Length: 1 Semester

Prerequisite: Teacher approval

This class is open to juniors and seniors who have an interest in studying music production and composing, MIDI sequencing, and music theory. This is an introductory class in which students will learn more about all the following: listening to, analyzing, evaluating, and describing music; reading and notating music; composing and arranging music, and; sequencing music using digital audio workstations (DAW). Students will become familiar with and utilize various programs including Finale (for notation), Ear Master (for ear training), and Soundtrap. Students are provided a free subscription to Soundtrap as part of this class.

Music Production (FA-I2402)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Jr, Sr

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Teacher approval

This class is open to juniors and seniors who have an interest in studying music theory, composition, MIDI sequencing, and music production. Students will learn more about all the following: reading and notating music; listening to, analyzing, evaluating, and describing music; composing and arranging music; sequencing music using digital audio workstations (DAW) and other programs; and mixing, arranging, and producing music using studio software. Students will become familiar with and utilize various programs including Finale (for notation), Ear Master (for ear training), PreSonus One (for recording, mixing and mastering), Soundtrap, and Reason (for studio and audio production). Students are provided a free subscription to Soundtrap as part of this class.

Exploring Studio Art (FA-09500)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Fr

Credits: 0.5

Length: 1 Semester

This entry-level visual arts course provides freshman students with the opportunity to communicate their

ideas effectively through a visual language known as the elements and principles of art and exposes them to the idea of the creative process. In a studio art setting, students will be assigned hands on projects that explore a wide variety of two dimensional mediums (pencil, printmaking, paint, etc.) A brief introduction to three dimensional concepts will be covered as well. In this course, an emphasis will be placed on the building of observation skills, the exploration of new artistic mediums and the understanding that visual problems can be solved through multiple solutions. Students will also respond, analyze, and interpret their works and the works of others through constructive collaborative critiques. All Students will be expected to display artwork in the De Smet Jesuit Annual Student Art Show.

Experimental Mixed Media (FA-I2501)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): So, Jr, Sr

Credits: 0.5

Length: I Semester

This one-semester studio art course for sophomores, juniors and seniors will provide space for students to experiment and create with a variety of art media, tools, applications and subject matter. Students will use combinations of two dimensional techniques, such as painting, printmaking, collage, drawing and design to compose visual artworks that display individuality. Students will learn to work through the creative process as an individual, as well as a team, analyzing and reflecting upon contemporary visual artworks and presenting their work in the De Smet Jesuit Annual Student Art Show.

Introduction to Sculpture (FA-I2502)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): So, Jr, Sr

Credits: 0.5

Length: I Semester

This is a fast paced one-semester introductory course which will expose you to the fundamental principles of 3-D design. Acquiring the necessary skills in 3-D thinking, creative problem solving in a variety of materials such as clay, wood, and wire exposes the student to the exciting world of sculpting. A significant component of this class is to intentionally transform the casual observer or object consumer into a maker and appreciator of the dynamic beauty of 3-D design. The class will consist of 3 major projects along with smaller projects interspersed throughout. All Students will be expected to display artwork in the De Smet Jesuit Annual Student Art Show.

Digital Graphic Design (FA-I2503)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Jr, Sr

Credits: 0.5

Length: I Semester

This digital graphic course is project-based and designed to give students an understanding of visual communication through the principles of basic digital design. Students will learn the theories of graphic design while producing several real-world graphics; such as logos, info-graphs, and package designs. Students will learn how to identify clients' needs and research brand strategies. Digital painting techniques, typography, and simple animation with Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Animate 2023 will be applied. Research, critical thinking, discussion, and formal critiques will help provide students with a solid foundation from which to proceed as they explore technical and problem solving skills reinforced by design principles. All Students will be expected to display artwork in the Annual De Smet Jesuit Student Art Show.

Advanced Studio Arts (FA-I2504)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Jr, Sr

Credits: 0.5

Length: 1 Semester

Prerequisite: Any studio art beyond Exploring Studio Art

The purpose of this advanced studio arts class is for Juniors and Seniors to become more adept at creative thinking centered around their own artistic interests. This course will provide the support and time necessary to produce a series of original art works proposed by the student. Advanced Studio Arts is for individuals who want to further their skills in any traditional or non-traditional 2-D, 3-D and digital studio areas. Students need an interest, some skills in the proposed area, self-motivation, and a willingness to collaborate. All Students will be expected to display artwork in the Annual De Smet Jesuit Student Art Show.

Advanced 3D Design (FA-12505)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Jr, Sr

Credits: 0.5

Length: 1 Semester

Prerequisite: Intro to Sculpture

This course is for students interested in taking 3-D problem-solving and creating to the next level. Students will utilize design skills and a sound physical structure to initiate with multiple solutions to foster individual creativity. Students will be exposed to additional materials and sculpting methods to build upon technical skills, 3-D confidence, and personal preference. If desired, this course is designed to further exploration in Advanced Studio Arts. All Students will be expected to display artwork in the De Smet Jesuit Annual Student Art Show.

De Smet Chorus (9) (FA-09609)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Fr

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

De Smet Chorus is for freshmen and sophomores who have little or no singing experience. Students will further develop their vocal technique and musicianship. It can be preparatory for those who wish to audition for Black Robe, De Smet's select choir. Emphasis will be placed on learning to read music and improving voice range and quality. Students will also have the opportunity to do some drumming and create their own music. A few performances will be planned, including our annual Christmas "tour". No audition is required. The class is graded on attendance, effort, and formative and summative assessments and performances.

De Smet Chorus (FA-10602)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Fr, So

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

De Smet Chorus is for freshmen and sophomores who have little or no singing experience. Students will further develop their vocal technique and musicianship. It can be preparatory for those who wish to audition for Black Robe, De Smet's select choir. Emphasis will be placed on learning to read music and improving voice range and quality. Students will also have the opportunity to do some drumming and create their own music. A few performances will be planned, including our annual Christmas "tour". No audition is required. The class is graded on attendance, effort, and formative and summative assessments and performances.

Advanced Chorus (FA-12601)
Meets Department Core Requirement
Grade Level(s): So, Jr, Sr
Credits: 1
Length: 2 Semesters

The performance of traditional and contemporary three- and four-part music is the goal of this group. The class concentrates on improving the ability to sight-sing, sing with a full and flexible technique, and to be an independent part-singer. Continued improvement of the individual's voice and performance are also stressed. Students who have taken De Smet Choir and wish to advance to this group will need Mr. Sherrock's approval. Any student who has not taken choir at De Smet is required to audition. This group performs frequently. All members are expected to strive as individuals for the excellence of the ensemble. The class is graded on attendance, effort, and individual skill testing. Members of Black Robe Choir can earn extra credit through their participation and performance opportunities. Please contact Mr. Sherrock for more details.

Physical Education and Health Department

[\(return to Table of Contents\)](#)

Phys Ed & Health I (PE-09000)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Fr

Credits: 0.5

Length: I Semester

Approximately nine weeks (one academic quarter) of this course is designed to introduce students to the theory and practices of cardiovascular efficiency, muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility, and muscular power through plyometric training. The students will be pre- and post-tested in each of these areas. The other nine weeks (one academic quarter) of health education will be provided in the following areas: taking responsibility for one's health, stress, stress management, nutrition, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV infection, prevention of injuries from physical activity, and fitness planning

Beginning Weight Training and Health I (PE-09001)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Fr

Credits: 0.5

Length: I Semester

Approximately nine weeks (one academic quarter) of this course are designed to introduce students to the theory and practices of weight training to develop athleticism. The course will focus on introduction to weight training exercises and spotting techniques with program implementation for a solid foundation for future classes. The other nine weeks (one academic quarter) of this course will be focused on the following areas: taking responsibility for one's health, stress, stress management, nutrition, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV infection, prevention of related injuries from physical activity, and fitness planning

Recreational Sports & Games (PE-10002)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): So

Credits: 0.5

Length: I Semester

One Semester course for Sophomore PE that introduces students to a wide range of recreational sports and physical exercise. These sports include: spike ball, bocce ball, bags, running/jogging, pickle ball, ping pong, kickball, whiffle ball, ultimate Frisbee, yoga, chess, checkers, etc. Students will be assessed by dressing out and participating in class activities daily. Student goals are to learn the rules and techniques of various recreational sports while actively participating in sports and exercise, to form friendships, and foster collaboration and teamwork.

Weight Training I (PE-I0003)**Meets Department Core Requirement****Grade Level(s): So****Credits: 0.5****Length: I Semester**

This course is designed to introduce the proper use of weight lifting and conditioning equipment. Special lifting techniques and form will be stressed to expose students to a wide array of exercise methods and techniques in the hopes of developing an adequate understanding and familiarity required for future exercise. This course is designed to be a positive workout-related experience for students, so they may be more inclined to include regular exercise into their daily lives. Additionally, this course is designed to teach students the basic science behind strength training and conditioning for sport. Students will be assessed by dressing out and participating in class activities daily.

Weight Training 2 (PE-I2001)**Meets Department Core Requirement****Grade Level(s): Jr, Sr****Credits: 0.5****Length: I Semester**

This course is a continuation of Weight 1, designed to introduce the proper use of weight lifting and conditioning equipment. Special lifting techniques and form will be stressed to expose students to a wide array of exercise methods and techniques in the hopes of developing an adequate understanding and familiarity required for future exercise. This course is designed to be a positive workout-related experience for students, so they may be more inclined to include regular exercise into their daily lives. Additionally, this course is designed to teach students the basic science behind strength training and conditioning for sport. Students will be assessed by dressing out and participating in class activities daily.

Team Sports (PE-I2002)**Meets Department Core Requirement****Grade Level(s): Jr, Sr****Credits: 0.5****Length: I Semester**

One Semester course for Junior and Senior PE that introduces student to a wide variety of team sports and physical exercise. These sports include: football, soccer, baseball, basketball, ultimate Frisbee, and volleyball. Students will be assessed by passing a written exam on each sport once the unit is completed and by dressing out and participating in class activities daily. Student goals are to learn the rules and techniques of team sports while actively participating in sports and exercise, to form friendships, and foster collaboration and teamwork.

Personal Health & Performance (PE-I2003)**Meets Department Core Requirement****Grade Level(s): Jr, Sr****Credits: 0.5****Length: I Semester*****Only offered during the Summer Term**

Personal Health and Performance is a student-centered physical education course focused on building lifelong habits of wellness through goal-setting, planning, and personal accountability. In this course, students will design and pursue an individualized health or fitness goal based on their own interests, needs, and abilities. Goals may focus on cardiovascular fitness, strength training, flexibility, nutrition, weight management, or overall lifestyle improvement. Students will develop a structured and progressive plan to achieve their goal, outlining specific weekly workouts, nutritional choices, and recovery strategies. Throughout the course, students will actively execute their plan, making thoughtful adjustments in response

to challenges, progress, or changing circumstances. Students will document their daily and weekly efforts through fitness and nutrition logs and reflective journaling, analyzing both successes and obstacles. By the end of the course, students will gain practical skills in goal-setting, planning, and self-monitoring that support long-term physical health, personal growth, and overall well-being.

Mathematics Department

[\(return to Table of Contents\)](#)

Algebra I (MATH-09001 SI)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Fr

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

This course begins with a review of Pre-Algebra. Students will then study the basic properties of numbers and solving of equations. The study of proportional reasoning as well as relations and functions are explored further. Graphing and the analysis of linear relations, functions, and systems will also be studied.

Algebra I (MATH-09002 SI)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Fr

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

This course covers the standard topics of Algebra 1. Expressions are evaluated and equations are solved. Linear functions are represented in multiple ways: as equations, tables, and graphs. Systems of two linear equations are introduced. Operations on polynomials, including factoring and solving for real zeroes, will be studied in depth. Graphing calculator techniques are introduced early and applied throughout the course. Concepts in geometry are integrated throughout the course, including the Pythagorean Theorem, angles, and triangles. The quadratic function is studied along with rational and radical expressions and equations.

Honors Algebra I (MATH-09003H SI)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Fr

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

This course covers the standard topics of Algebra 1 in more depth. Expressions are evaluated and equations are solved. Linear functions are represented in multiple ways: as equations, tables, and graphs. Systems of two linear equations are introduced. Exponential functions are studied, including applications of growth and decay. Operations on polynomials, including factoring and solving for real zeroes, will be studied in depth. Graphing calculator techniques are introduced early and applied throughout the course. Concepts in geometry are integrated throughout the course, including the Pythagorean Theorem, angles, and triangles. The quadratic function is studied along with rational and radical expressions and equations.

Honors Algebra 2/Trig (MATH-09004H SI)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Fr

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

This course concentrates on extending and enhancing the algebra initiated during the student's previous year of Algebra 1, including concepts involving real numbers, linear and quadratic equations, and operations involving polynomials and irrational numbers. New material introduced in this algebra course are complex numbers; conic sections; exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions; identities; circular functions and their inverses; matrices; and sequences and series.

Geometry (MATH-10000)**Meets Department Core Requirement****Grade Level(s): So****Credits: 1****Length: 2 Semesters**

This course is designed to emphasize the study of the properties and applications of common geometric figures in two and three dimensions. This course includes the study of transformations and right triangle trigonometry. Students will use inductive and deductive thinking skills to solve problems and apply those skills to real world applications. The course introduces the writing of proofs to illustrate the properties of geometric figures and other theorems in geometry.

Geometry (MATH-10001 SI)**Meets Department Core Requirement****Grade Level(s): So****Credits: 1****Length: 2 Semesters**

This course is designed to emphasize the study of the properties and applications of common geometric figures in two and three dimensions. This course includes the study of transformations and right triangle trigonometry. Students will use inductive and deductive thinking skills to solve problems and apply those skills to real world applications. The course introduces the writing of proofs to illustrate the properties of geometric figures and other theorems in geometry.

Honors Geometry (MATH-10002H SI)**Meets Department Core Requirement****Grade Level(s): So****Credits: 1****Length: 2 Semesters**

This course is designed to emphasize the study of the properties and applications of common geometric figures in two and three dimensions. This course includes the study of transformations and right triangle trigonometry. Students will use inductive and deductive thinking skills to solve problems and apply those skills to real world applications. The course introduces the writing of proofs to illustrate the properties of geometric figures and other theorems in geometry.

Algebra 2/ Trigonometry (MATH-11000 SI)**Meets Department Core Requirement****Grade Level(s): Jr****Credits: 1****Length: 2 Semesters**

This course extends the concepts of Algebra 1. Systems of equations are explored as well as an exploration of polynomials and their functions. The quadratic and exponential functions are studied along with rational and radical expressions and equations. Graphing calculators and geometry are integrated throughout the program. New material introduced in this course includes numbers; conic sections; exponential, logarithmic functions, and trigonometric functions; circular functions and their inverses; and matrices.

Algebra 2/ Trigonometry (MATH-11001 SI)**Meets Department Core Requirement****Grade Level(s): Jr****Credits: 1****Length: 2 Semesters**

This course continues the students' study of algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and analytic geometry from an advanced point of view. Topics covered include, among others, the following: coordinate geometry, polynomials, inequalities, algebraic functions, logarithmic functions, exponential functions and trigonometric functions, Cartesian coordinates, complex numbers, vectors and determinants, sequences, and series.

Honors Algebra 2/ Trigonometry (MATH-11003H SI)**Meets Department Core Requirement****Grade Level(s): Jr****Credits: 1****Length: 2 Semesters**

This course continues the students' study of algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and analytic geometry from an advanced point of view. Topics covered include, among others, the following: coordinate geometry, polynomials, inequalities, algebraic functions, logarithmic functions, exponential functions, and trigonometric functions, Cartesian coordinates, complex numbers, vectors and determinants, sequences and series.

AP Honors PreCalculus (MATH-11005H)**Meets Department Core Requirement****Grade Level(s): Jr****Credits: 1****Length: 2 Semesters**

This course is for seniors who plan to take the AP/ACC Honors Calculus course. It covers algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and analytic geometry from an advanced point of view. Topics covered include, among others, the following: coordinate geometry, polynomials, inequalities, algebraic functions, logarithmic functions, exponential functions and trigonometric functions, polar and Cartesian coordinates, complex numbers, vectors and determinants, sequences and series, and an introduction to calculus. Students will be able to choose to take the AP PreCalculus exam at the end of the course.

College Algebra & Statistics (MATH-12000 SI)**Meets Department Core Requirement****Grade Level(s): Sr****Credits: 1****Length: 2 Semesters**

In the first semester of this course the students will study functions and their applications. Included in this study will be polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic and radical functions. The second semester of the course will introduce the student to the field of statistics, with a focus on the normal distribution and its applications. Students will then generate and test hypotheses based upon statistics gathered and their distribution.

Statistics (MATH-12001 SI)**Meets Department Core Requirement****Grade Level(s): Sr****Credits: 1****Length: 2 Semesters**

Students enrolled in this course will be introduced to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students will be exposed to four broad conceptual themes: exploring data, sampling and experimentation, anticipating patterns, and statistical inference.

Pre-Calculus (MATH-I2002 SI)**Meets Department Core Requirement****Grade Level(s): Sr****Credits: 1****Length: 2 Semesters**

The course continues the students' study of algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and analytic geometry from an advanced point of view. Topics covered include, among others, the following: coordinate geometry, polynomials, inequalities, algebraic functions, logarithmic functions, exponential functions and trigonometric functions, Cartesian coordinates, complex numbers, vectors and determinants, sequences and series.

Calculus (MATH-I2003 SI)**Meets Department Core Requirement****Grade Level(s): Sr****Credits: 1****Length: 2 Semesters**

College calculus is the quantitative study of continuous change in preparation for advanced work in mathematics, science, or specialized business fields. Topics studied include analytic geometry, limits, continuity, the derivatives, and integrals of various functions with applications. Calculus is then applied to the trigonometric, logarithmic, and exponential functions. The conic sections are also treated in detail. This course covers approximately the first semester of college calculus.

AP/ACC Honors Calculus (MATH-I2004H SI)**Meets Department Core Requirement****Grade Level(s): Sr****Credits: 1****Length: 2 Semesters**

This course is taught at the college level. Functions, limits, continuity, and techniques of differentiation will be studied with applications including maxima and minima of functions, curve sketching, related rates, and rectilinear motion. The course also covers the concept of the integral, techniques of integration, application of the integral, including areas, volume of solids, and work. The differentiation and integration of elementary transcendental functions is explored. The course concludes with improper integrals, L'Hopitals' Rule, infinite sequences, divergent and convergent series, and power series.

AP Honors Statistics (MATH-I2005H)**Meets Department Core Requirement****Grade Level(s): Sr****Credits: 1****Length: 2 Semesters**

This course prepares students to take the Advanced Placement national examination in elementary statistics. It develops an intuitive, non-calculus based understanding with an emphasis on doing statistics. Statistics makes sense of data. It consists of a set of tools that allow us to make inferences in the face of uncertainty. Statistical methods draw from the Gaussian (normal, bell shaped) distribution as well as the binomial and chi-square distributions. We learn about data description concepts, hypothesis testing, probability, discrete and random variables, several inferential techniques, regression, and how to plan and carry out a properly designed statistical analysis.

Honors Computational Thinking and Programming (MATH-10004H)

Elective

Grade Level(s): Fr, So

Credits: 0.5

Length: 1 Semester

This course centers around algorithmic thinking, design, and computer programming. Beginning with the students' current understanding of a computer as a machine, students will deconstruct the computer using a series of abstractions, explore the inner workings, and learn the computer's native language: binary. Students will extend this knowledge to the architecture of the internet. From there, students will learn to think as a computer does by creating algorithms to solve problems. They will apply this skill to varied computer applications and problems of varying degrees of complexity. Finally, students will apply their algorithmic knowledge to a programming language in order to put their skills into a visual medium and see the results of their work in real time. Emphasis is placed on study habits relating to computing best practices, critical thinking, and organization.

ACP Computer Applications (MATH-12102H)

Elective

Grade Level(s): Jr, Sr

Credits: 0.5

Length: 1 Semester

Computer Applications is a one-semester class offered to seniors. The course centers on the computerized transition from raw data to usable information. Students will focus on Microsoft Excel and Access in addition to other Microsoft products to facilitate this transition. They will use their skills in these programs to build to a final capstone in the class: assembling, maintaining, and utilizing a complete business infrastructure including a functional database, website, and order forms. This course is taught to the standards of the Advanced Credit Program from the University of Missouri – St. Louis.

AP Honors Introduction to Computer Science (MATH-12101H SI)

Elective

Grade Level(s): Jr, Sr

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

AP Introduction to Computer Science is a one-year elective class for honors credit and a college prep class for those interested in pursuing a career in computer science or another related field in business technology, information technology, or engineering. This course is offered for college credit as the class is written to College Board standards as an Advanced Placement preparation class. Students will read, write, and debug programs in the Java programming language, learn the basics of algorithm design (both practical and heuristic), and learn to write code within the framework of object-oriented programming.

Science Department

[\(return to Table of Contents\)](#)

Students are required to take three science credits. Biology and chemistry are both required. Three years of a lab science* are recommended.

*Indicates a lab science class.

Physics 9 (SCI-09000 SI)*

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Fr

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Physics 9 introduces freshmen to the foundational principles of physics through hands-on experimentation, mathematical modeling, and engineering applications. The course emphasizes scientific reasoning, problem-solving, and data analysis. Students explore the relationships between force, motion, energy, and matter across eight core units: one- and two-dimensional motion, forces and pressure, work and energy, thermodynamics, waves, optics, and electricity. Through labs, design challenges, and data interpretation, students learn to connect theory to real-world systems—from projectile motion and hydraulic lifts to sound waves and electric circuits.

Honors Biology (SCI-09000H SI)*

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Fr

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

This course gives a systemic approach to the science of biology. Topics covered will be the scientific method, biochemistry, cell structure and function, genetics, molecular biology, evolution, classification, conservation, and ecology. Specific emphases within units will be directed by the interest of the students in the course. A “systemic approach” is based on making connections between concepts and understanding how cellular and molecular mechanisms function in the whole organism, how organisms function together in a community or ecosystem. Application beyond recall and conceptual understanding of the material is emphasized. Laboratory work, which emphasizes investigations of biological principles and application to real-world issues and value-based, informed decision making on bioethical concepts is an integral part of the course.

Chemistry (SCI-10000 SI)*

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): So

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

This course is an introductory chemistry program combining chemical concepts and theories with quantitative problems. The class utilizes problem solving and critical thinking skills while relating chemistry use in other fields and everyday situations. The course introduces students to chemical formulas, the mole, atomic structure, the periodic table, gas laws, acid-base theory, and other general chemistry principles taught in a college course. Inquiry-based laboratory investigations are emphasized.

Honors Chemistry (SCI-I0000H SI)*
Meets Department Core Requirement
Grade Level(s): So

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Honors Biology with a grade of B or above or Biology with a grade of A and approval of biology teacher

This course is an introductory chemistry program combining chemical concepts and theories with quantitative problems requiring a mastery of the subject matter. The class utilizes problem-solving and critical thinking skills while relating chemistry use in other fields and everyday situations. Topics include chemical formulas, the mole, atomic structure, the periodic table, the gas laws, acid-base theory, and other general chemistry principles that would be taught in a college course. The student is also introduced to laboratory techniques and procedures that reinforce the principles taught. This course is recommended for students who have achieved a high level of success in their previous science and math courses.

Conceptual Physics (SCI-I2000 SI)*
Meets Department Core Requirement
Grade Level(s): Jr

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Conceptual physics is an algebra-based course designed to provide students with the fundamentals of physics. The course includes the study of one-dimensional motion, Newton's Laws, energy, momentum, and electric circuits. Hands-on learning labs will be utilized throughout the course. Emphasis will be placed on developing problem-solving skills as applied to principles and concepts covered in physics. While mathematical skills are necessary, there will be greater focus placed on the conceptual knowledge of physics.

Physics (SCI-I2001 SI)*
Meets Department Core Requirement
Grade Level(s): Jr, Sr

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Physics will utilize mathematics and investigative science laboratory activities to explore topics such as one/two-dimensional motion, forces and Newton's Laws, work, energy, momentum, and electric circuits. With emphasis on problem-solving techniques, students must have a solid background in algebra and basic trigonometry. This course places emphasis on understanding concepts through hands-on learning activities and labs. This course will serve as a good background for college courses in physics and physical science.

AP Honors Physics I (SCI-I2001H SI)*
Meets Department Core Requirement
Grade Level(s): Jr, Sr

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Honors Chemistry and Honors Geometry with a grade of B or higher

AP Physics 1 is an algebra-based, college-level physics course that explores topics such as kinematics, forces and translational dynamics, work, energy, power, linear momentum, torque and rotational dynamics, energy and momentum of rotating systems, oscillations, and fluids. Through inquiry-based learning and lab activities, students will develop scientific critical thinking and reasoning skills. The pace of this class will be much quicker and the depth of analysis will be deeper than the other junior-level physics classes. Strong proficiency in trigonometry and Algebra 2 is required.

AP Honors Chemistry (SCI-12002H SI)***Meets Department Core Requirement****Grade Level(s): Sr****Credits: 1****Length: 2 Semesters*****Prerequisite: AP Honors Physics I with a grade of A or above and teacher approval***

The AP Honors Chemistry course is designed to be the equivalent of the general chemistry course usually taken during the first college year. Students will attain a depth of understanding of fundamentals and competence in dealing with chemical problems. The course is designed to contribute to the development of the student's abilities to think clearly and to express their ideas, orally and in writing with clarity and logic. Students who complete this course will be prepared to take the National Advanced Placement Chemistry test in May.

Anatomy & Physiology (SCI-12003 SI)***Meets Department Core Requirement****Grade Level(s): Jr, Sr****Credits: 1****Length: 2 Semesters**

Anatomy & Physiology, designed for students interested in the life sciences, provides a more in-depth study of the various systems of the body and how they function. Study begins at the cellular level and continues through all the body's organ systems. There will be a number of microscope labs, hands on activities and visits to a cadaver lab in the course. Students interested in a basic knowledge of the human body and students pursuing college degrees in health sciences will benefit from the class. The course is highly recommended for students interested in working in healthcare or sports performance.

AP Honors Biology (SCI-12004H SI)***Meets Department Core Requirement****Grade Level(s): Jr, Sr****Credits: 1****Length: 2 Semesters*****Prerequisite: AP Honors Physics or Chemistry with a grade of A or above and teacher approval***

This AP/ACC Biology course is a part of a two-semester Principles of Biology sequence at St. Louis University, and is primarily focused on the core concepts of information flow and storage as well as evolution. Students will learn about the chemical and molecular basis of life, cell structure and function, gene structure, expression and heredity, reproduction, development, and evolution. As they learn concepts in biology, students will practice reasoning scientifically about real-world problems and applications. This course is supported by laboratory activities and formal studies that include experimental approaches used in molecular and cellular biology, genetics, and animal physiology.

Students will learn to use scientific instruments and techniques implemented in these fields. Students will propose and test hypotheses, collect and analyze data, represent data visually, and practice written and oral scientific communication skills. Students may take the AP test after taking this course or they may register for four hours of ACC credit.

AP Hon Physics C Mechanics (SCI-I2006H)*

Elective

Grade Level(s): Sr

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semester

Prerequisite: AP Honors Physics I with a grade of B or above, and taking Calculus or APIACC Calculus concurrently

AP Physics C is a calculus-based, college-level physics course that explores topics such as kinematics, forces and translational dynamics, work, energy, power, linear momentum, torque and rotational dynamics, energy and momentum of rotating systems, and oscillations. Through inquiry-based learning and lab activities, students will develop scientific critical thinking and reasoning skills. Students entering this class need to be highly proficient in mathematics. Students who complete this course will be prepared to take the National Advanced Placement Physics test in May.

AP HONORS ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (SCI-I2007H)*

([Taught through Arrupe Virtual Learning Institute](#))

Elective

Grade Level(s): Sr

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semester

Prerequisite: approval from the Dean of Academics

The goal of the AP Environmental Science course is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them. Labs will be coordinated at De Smet Jesuit. In the spring, students will be eligible to take the AP Environmental Science exam.

Introduction to Competition Robotics (SCI-I1100)

Elective

Grade Level(s): Fr, So, Jr

Credits: 0.5

Length: 1 Semester

Introduction to Competition Robotics will introduce students to all aspects of competitive robotics systems such as electronics, drive train mechanics, motors/gears, wiring, safety, and programming. Content will include introductions to basic concepts of robotic motion, power, and object manipulation as well as a study of how the components and subsystems interrelate to create a working system.

Advanced Competition Robotics (SCI-I2100)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): So, Jr, Sr

Credits: 0.5

Length: 1 Semester

Prerequisite: teacher approval

Advanced Competition Robotics is a semester-long class that meets during the regular school schedule in the fall. Students will design and build a robot that will compete against other teams in the FIRST robotics competition at the FTC level. Students are required to attend the competitions. Students will work in groups to master all the necessary disciplines that are utilized such as electronics, drive train mechanics, motors/gears, wiring, safety, and programming.

3D Design and 3D Printing (SCI-12101)

Elective

Grade Level(s): Jr, Sr

Credits: 0.5

Length: I Semester

Prerequisite: teacher approval

In this course students will study how to use CAD/CAM software to develop 2D and 3D files, as well as different techniques to prepare these design files for printing or machining on a 3D printer or CNC machine. Students will also learn about several different styles of 3D printing technology and other additive manufacturing techniques. This course will also serve as an introduction to engineering, architecture, or product design. Students will use the knowledge and design ability to aid in the completion of engineering design projects during the semester.

Digital Electronics (SCI-12102)

Elective

Grade Level(s): Jr, Sr

Credits: 0.5

Length: I Semester

Prerequisite: teacher approval

Digital electronics surround us. Gaming systems, DVRs, and smart phones are just a few items that students use every day that contain digital circuits. This course provides a foundation for students who are interested in electronics. Students learn about topics such as combinational and sequential logic, logic gates, integrated circuits, and programmable logic devices by designing and building digital electronic devices. Social Studies Department

Three units (six semesters) of credit in social studies are required for graduation. Beginning with the Class of 2026 all American History courses will be taught as a 2-semester class and all students will be required to take a 1-semester American Government or AP American Government class.

Social Studies Department

[\(return to Table of Contents\)](#)

Human & Cultural Geography (SOC-09000)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Fr

Credits: 0.5

Length: 1 Semester

Human geography refers to “the study of interrelationships between people, place, and environment, and how these vary spatially and temporally across and between locations” (Castree, Kitchin, & Rodgers, 2013). Central course topics include: population and health, migration, folk and popular culture, languages, religions, ethnicities, political geography, food and agriculture, development, industry, services and settlements, urban patterns, and resource issues. A systematic exploration of human geography develops the learner’s skills of cultural competency, research, analysis, global citizenship, and digital literacy. As a Jesuit school, students are challenged to view course topics through the Universal Apostolic Preferences of walking with the excluded and caring for our common home. Inquiry-based and problem-based learning are the primary instructional strategies utilized in this course.

World Studies (SOC-10000 SI)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): So

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

World Studies focuses on the development of civilizations and peoples in the following areas of the world: Eurasia, Africa, East Asia, South and Southwest Asia, and the Americas. The course will present and familiarize the student with a basic knowledge of significant and recurring historical themes: power, authority and revolution; religious, philosophical, and ethical systems; culture and cultural interaction; social structures; economics; science and technology; and interaction with the environment.



AP Honors World History - Modern (SOC-10000H SI)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): So

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Prerequisite: A in Human & Cultural Geography and A in English (or B in Honors English)

AP World History: Modern is designed to be the equivalent of an introductory college or university survey of modern world history, with students investigating significant events, individuals, developments, and processes from 1200 CE to the present. Students develop and use the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical connections; and utilizing reasoning about comparison, causation, and continuity and change over time. The course provides six themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: humans and the environment, cultural developments and interactions, governance, economic systems, social interactions and organization, and technology and innovation. This course is designed to prepare each student for the AP World History: Modern Exam. Each student is expected to take the AP World History: Modern Exam as a requirement for this class.



United States History (SOC-11000 SI)

Elective

Grade Level(s): Jr

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

This course begins with the origins of American society beginning with the arrival of European colonists in the new world, the founding of the 13 English colonies, and the American Revolution. The historical narrative continues through the Age of Jackson. The course also examines the foundations of American government, the origins of the American political system, the Constitution, and the foundations of separation of powers. The course then moves to important topics from the nineteenth century with Manifest Destiny, the Industrial Revolution, the growth of the Federal Judiciary, the evolving presidency, the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the Gilded Age. In the early twentieth century, the course explores the Progressive Era and World War I. The focus of this class then moves to a more modern America. Among the many topics covered are the Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War, as well as the corresponding presidencies. The course also examines the workings of the American government in the twentieth century exploring the evolving nature of politics.

AP/ACC Honors American History (SOC-11001H SI)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Jr

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Prerequisite: cumulative GPA of 3.25 and teacher approval

Honors American History is designed to give students a thorough understanding of United States history, requiring students to master historical and analytic skills, including chronological and spatial thinking, historical research, and historical interpretation. The class strives to prepare students to assess historical materials, evaluate relevance and reliability, and deal critically with problems and materials in United States history. The course is equivalent to a full-year introductory college class, thus preparing students for intermediate and advanced college courses. Students have an opportunity to demonstrate content mastery by taking the AP exam in May or participating in the 1818 program through Saint Louis University.

American Government (SOC-12001)
Meets Department Core Requirement
Grade Level(s): Sr
Credits: 0.5
Length: 1 Semester

This one semester course will look at modern ways in which the U.S. Constitution helps us make decisions. It begins by tracing the historical roots of the Constitution from the founding of the nation to the modern- day versions of the three branches of government. Next, we investigate participatory democracy and how we make decisions as voters. Finally, we will investigate the ways in which individuals can influence others in their political decisions.

AP Honors American Government (SOC-12001H)
Meets Department Core Requirement
Grade Level(s): Sr
Credits: 0.5
Length: 1 Semester

Prerequisite: cumulative GPA of 3.25, received a B+ or higher in previous history courses and teacher approval

The AP Comparative Government course is designed to introduce students to a variety of political institutions through examining issues such as citizen participation, governmental organization, the idea of sovereignty and the root of power, public policy, and the ways in which political and economic institutions change. Students will become more familiar with these institutions through examining case studies of Great Britain, Nigeria, Mexico, Iran, China, and Russia.

African-American Studies (SOC-12002)
Elective
Grade Level(s): Sr
Credits: 0.5
Length: 1 Semester



This course dissects the evolution of African American culture through its roots in precolonial West Africa to modern Black America. It examines the emergence of modern African American culture through periods in history. The course focuses on four main units: Africa and Africans, Race, Civil Rights Movement, and Black Nationalism. Students read a range of historical sources, including standard texts, popular literature, primary source documents, and non-fiction texts; they will also use various audio/visual resources. Assessments are primarily in essay form, with some student-led presentations. Students will sit for a final exam at the end of the semester.

ACC Honors Modern European History (SOC-12003H)
Elective
Grade Level(s): Sr
Credits: 0.5
Length: 1 Semester



Prerequisite: cumulative GPA of 3.25, received a B+ or higher in previous history courses and teacher approval

ACC Honors Modern European History focuses on the increasing importance of European affairs and their interactions with the rest of the world. The course will cover the transatlantic encounters, the Protestant and Catholic Reformations, the Scientific Revolution, absolutism, the Enlightenment, the French Revolution, the Industrial Revolution, imperialism, the world wars, totalitarian systems and the new global age.

Business & Economic Principles (SOC-12102)
Elective
Grade Level(s): Jr, Sr
Credits: 0.5
Length: 1 Semester



Principles of Business and Economics provides students with a foundational understanding of how businesses operate

within the broader economic environment. The course explores key concepts such as supply and demand, market structures, production, costs, and the role of government in the economy, while also examining how firms make strategic decisions in competitive markets. Students will learn essential principles of management, marketing, finance, and entrepreneurship, gaining insight into how economic forces shape business performance and global markets. Through real-world examples and case studies, this course equips students with the analytical and decision-making skills necessary for success in business and economic contexts.

Advanced Business Strategy (SOC-12103)

Elective

Grade Level(s): Sr

Credits: 0.5

Length: I Semester

Prerequisite: Business & Economic Principles or Intro to Entrepreneurship

Building on concepts from Principles of Business & Economics and Intro to Entrepreneurship, this course challenges students to think and act like business strategists. Through case studies, industry analysis, and hands-on projects, students explore how companies create, deliver, and sustain value in competitive markets. Moving beyond theory, they gain practical experience in business operations, marketing, and strategy through collaboration with De Smet's student-run and student-owned ventures. Throughout the semester, students examine emerging trends and current events across key industries, connecting classroom strategy to real-world developments while strengthening the critical thinking required to succeed as a future business leader.



Personal Finance (SOC-12105)

Elective

Grade Level(s): Jr, Sr

Credits: 0.5

Length: I Semester

This course is designed to give juniors and seniors a basic understanding of personal financial issues. Topics covered include: budgeting and money management, home and car loans, credit cards, investing, insurance, IRAs, 401(k)s, and other retirement planning tools.

Introduction to Entrepreneurship (SOC-12106)

Elective

Grade Level(s): Jr, Sr

Credits: 0.5

Length: I Semester

This course is an introduction to the business world. Students will learn about most of the major fields of study within business including entrepreneurship, management, human resources, finance, marketing, and operations. The goal is to get students interested in the business world by exposing them to the various fields they could choose to focus on in college.



The Art of Influence (SOC-12107)

Elective

Grade Level(s): So, Jr, Sr

Credits: 0.5

Length: I Semester

Whether pitching a product, an idea, or yourself, the ability to craft and deliver a compelling presentation is a vital life skill. This class will provide students with a foundation for effectively engaging and persuading an audience. Students will learn key storytelling techniques, design principles, and be given ample opportunity to sharpen their own presenting skills. Topics include understanding presentation structure, reviewing design principles, and reviewing case studies. Through hands-on practice, students will build confidence, refine their visual & verbal communication skills, and master the art of delivering clear, persuasive, and professional presentations.



AI: Foundation and Ethics (SOC-12108)**Elective****Grade Level(s): Jr, Sr****Credits: 0.5****Length: 1 Semester**

This course explores the evolving role of AI across industries, examining its current and future impact through real-time case studies, ethical debates, and hands-on experiences. Students will engage with topics such as human bias, data ethics, and responsible AI use in academia especially when thinking is the point of the exercise. Students will also engage in prompt engineering and receive exposure to entry-level AI platforms. Through the case studies, ethical discussions, and experiential learning, students will develop practical AI skills that create an immediate impact—enhancing their academic performance, problem-solving abilities, and future career prospects.

Accounting (SOC-12109)**Elective****Grade Level(s): Sr****Credits: 0.5****Length: 1 Semester**

Prerequisite: Introduction to Business or Business & Economic Principles with a grade of B or better and approval from the Dean of Academics

[This course is taught through the Arrupe Virtual Learning Institute.](#) Students will learn the basic concepts and practices used by accountants to evaluate and manage businesses. This course will cover the concepts of the accounting cycle for business operations including merchandising, inventory, payroll, and the tracking and management of business assets. Student will also be introduced to financial management of departments and manufacturing accounts. Students will also learn the accounting practices for the structuring of partnerships and corporations and how to create and evaluate financial statements.

Psychology (Jr) (SOC-11201)**Elective****Grade Level(s): Jr****Credits: 0.5****Length: 1 Semester**

The primary goal of this course is to introduce the student to the many foundational topics within the discipline of psychology. Topics include adolescence, sex roles, drug-altered states, sleep, sensation, hypnosis, learning, the psychology of the brain, psychological disorders, and intelligence. Along with learning these basic principles and theories of psychology, students will develop the ability to think critically about the relationship between the subject material and their own lives. In doing so, students will be expected to play the role of instructors once throughout the semester, teaching a psychology topic to their peers.

Psychology (Sr) (SOC-12202)**Elective****Grade Level(s): Sr****Credits: 0.5****Length: 1 Semester**

The primary goal of this course is to introduce the student to the many foundational topics within the discipline of psychology. Topics include adolescence, sex roles, drug-altered states, sleep, sensation, hypnosis, learning, the psychology of the brain, psychological disorders, and intelligence. Along with learning these basic principles and theories of psychology, students will develop the ability to think critically about the relationship between the subject material and their own lives. In doing so, students will be expected to play the role of instructors once throughout the semester, teaching a psychology topic to their peers.

AP/ACP Honors Psychology (SOC-12202H S1)**Elective**

Grade Level(s): Sr

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Teacher approval

This course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. The course also examines the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice. Students will be encouraged to take the AP exam.

Foundations in Law and Justice (SOC-12301)

Elective

Grade Level(s): Jr, Sr

Credits: 0.5

Length: 1 Semester

A critical and analytical introduction to foundational concepts in Law, both Civil and Criminal, and Justice. The reading, research and writing assignments provide exposure to and practice in: 1). analytical, critical and logical thinking and 2). applying techniques of legal interpretation, analysis and application leading to debate, persuasive oral and written communication. The focus of this course is an examination of 1). The history of the U.S. legal system, 2). civil and criminal law and procedure, and 3). applications of civil and criminal laws and statutes to concepts of Justice, particularly through a Jesuit lens. The course enables students to develop a foundational knowledge of the U.S. legal system through several perspectives and lenses.

Advanced Law: Advocacy, Trial, and Procedure (SOC-12302)

Elective

Grade Level(s): Jr, Sr

Credits: 0.5

Length: 1 Semester

This advanced course in Law and Justice immerses students in the principles of advocacy, trial procedure, and the mechanics of the U.S. legal system. Through Mock Trial case packets, students will engage in hands-on legal analysis, courtroom simulations, and strategic case preparation, refining their skills in persuasive legal arguments, examining and cross-examining witnesses, and trial procedure in both civil and criminal contexts. Students will deepen their understanding of legal reasoning through reading, research, and writing assignments that emphasize analytical, critical, and logical thinking. The course also explores constitutional law and contemporary legal issues through a Jesuit lens, emphasizing ethical and moral dimensions of justice. By participating in structured debates, oral arguments, and trial simulations, students will enhance their ability to advocate effectively, both in written and spoken forms, preparing them for future studies in law, public policy, or related fields.

Theology Department

[\(return to Table of Contents\)](#)

The Theology Department of De Smet Jesuit High School offers a four-year required curriculum. Specifically, the curriculum consists of the following:

- A seven-semester program of required courses in which the general scope and sequence, overall goals and objectives, student workload, and student evaluation are basically consistent among teachers at each level.
- A one-semester program of electives in the second semester of the senior year in which specific topics are pursued relative to the Catholic and Jesuit tradition of the school, but with expectations and evaluation tailored to the subjects pursued therein.

This curriculum is designed to:

- inform students about the major elements of the Catholic Faith,
- encourage them to interiorize this faith,
- incorporate their faith into their daily lives, and
- encourage the practical habits of personal prayer and reflection.

Teachers strive to present students with reading material, lectures, classroom activities, and student assignments that are:

- faithful to Church teaching as found in the Catechism of the Catholic Church and other key sources of magisterial teaching,
- appropriate to the developmental stages of adolescent faith,
- consistent with the expectations we have of students in a college preparatory academic program, and
- reflective of Jesuit pedagogical philosophy and traditions.

Catholicism and The Jesuits (THEO-09000)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Fr

Credits: 0.5

Length: I Semester

Catholicism & the Jesuits introduces the basic framework for a religious education within the Catholic tradition of De Smet Jesuit High School and to the mystery of Jesus Christ, the living Word of God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. The course focuses on Catholic doctrine, the mystery of the Trinity, the person of Jesus Christ, and then St. Ignatius and the Jesuits. Students begin to develop the skills of reflection, prayer, and Catholic literacy.

Sacraments and Scripture (THEO-09001)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Fr

Credits: 0.5

Length: I Semester

Sacraments & Scripture builds on Catholicism & The Jesuits to engage students in the study of the sacramental nature of religion, the sacramental nature of a community, and provides an introduction to Scripture. Students continue to develop the skills of reflection, prayer, and Catholic literacy, especially through study of the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

Scripture (THEO-10000)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): So

Credits: 0.5

Length: 1 Semester

The Scripture course engages students with scriptural lessons of faith while also examining the authorship, history, themes, and literary forms of the Old and New Testaments. Students learn to engage the scriptural texts critically and reflectively—with an emphasis on Jesus Christ as the ultimate revelation to us from God. Course discussion emphasizes the original context of scripture as well as modern day applications.

Morality (THEO-10001)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): So

Credits: 0.5

Length: 1 Semester

The Morality course seeks to answer the question, “How ought a Christian live the good news of Christ?” Throughout this course, students are challenged to develop critical thinking skills as they examine the foundational principles of moral decision making, human nature, the virtues, and the nature of Christian love, recognizing that only through Christ can they fully live out God’s plans for their lives. Students are to learn the moral concepts and precepts that govern the lives of Christ’s disciples.



Catholic Social Teaching (THEO-11000)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Jr

Credits: 0.5

Length: 1 Semester

The Catholic Social Teaching course extends the skills and principles developed in the Morality course to examine issues surrounding human rights and the responsibilities of the Christian in the public square. The course explores principles of Catholic social teaching and gospel values to help students respond to critical issues of structural injustice such as poverty, marginalization, conflict resolution, destruction of the environment, race and sexism. It encourages students to integrate the experience of the junior service projects with a lived Christian faith, and challenges juniors to articulate how they have encountered Christ in the poor and marginalized of our society.



Ecclesiology (THEO-11001)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Jr

Credits: 0.5

Length: 1 Semester

The Ecclesiology course aims to explore the development of the people of Christ, beginning with the disciples at Pentecost and tracking through the major events and changes which led to the Church as the living Body of Christ today in the 21st Century. Through an engagement with the councils, schisms, and global dynamics which impacted the direction and make-up of the Church and its sacred nature, students will seek to understand the stance of today’s Church and explore her relationship with the denominations, traditions, and other religions of the world.

Contemporary Discipleship (THEO-12000)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Sr

Credits: 0.5

Length: 1 Semester

Contemporary Discipleship not only provides relevant information on the states of life but also addresses the key developmental tasks of adulthood. The key issues—identity, autonomy, love, and relationships—are approached from the Christian perspective and are foundational to any examination of how to understand the vocations of life: how Christ calls us to live the single life, marriage, religious life, and the ordained ministry—to live life for the benefit of

others and the value in considering a vocation in service to the Christian community.

Christ & Faith (THEO-I2001)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Sr

Credits: 0.5

Length: I Semester

Christ & Faith assists students in both developing and taking ownership of their faith and value system. During this course of study, students will focus on belief and faith, virtue and personhood, Ignatian world view, and developing and articulating a personal philosophy.



Ignatian Vision (THEO-I2002)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Sr

Credits: 0.5

Length: I Semester

This course uses Jesuit history and spirituality as a springboard for discussion and reflection on issues facing students as they finish four years of Jesuit education and prepare for their future. During this course, students focus on the life of St. Ignatius, Ignatian prayer and spirituality, the Society of Jesus and Ignatian solidarity, conversion, discernment, indifference, simplicity, and personhood.

ACC Questions in Theology (THEO-I2003)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Sr

Credits: 0.5

Length: I Semester

This course examines historical and autobiographical narrative as a way of getting at the ultimate questions at the heart of theology and religion. In dialogue with Jewish and Christian scripture, as well as classic and contemporary spiritual autobiographies written from within the Christian tradition and beyond, students will wrestle with the nature of faith; existence, and personhood of God; the nature and ends of creation and human life; evil and salvation, and other matters of ultimate concern. Through the medium of narrative, this course aims to stimulate engagement with and reflection on the kinds of questions that matter most to the arc of a human life. Students may earn college credit through SLU.

Inclusion Program Peer Mentor (THEO-I2004)

Elective

Grade Level(s): Jr, Sr

Credits: 0.5

Length: I Semester

The Peer Mentor course is designed for students to serve as a mentor, tutor, and role model both academically and socially for our inclusion students. In the spirit of the De Smet Jesuit High School motto of being men for others, peer mentors will be extending themselves to help our fellow brother who learns differently. Such support fosters growth for each mentee spiritually, academically, and socially in alignment with Ignatian principles. Peer mentors will attend all trainings and meetings with the Director of Inclusive Education prior to and during the semester. Mentor tasks will include communicating with the Director of Inclusive Education regularly via Microsoft Teams and email. Peer mentors will be responsible for communicating with the classroom teacher regarding participation for the day and upcoming assignments. Peer mentors will assist their mentee with logging in and navigating OnCampus, Microsoft Teams, and online resources for class. Peer mentors will help with note taking, providing examples, checking for understanding, redirecting, as well as proctoring modified quizzes and tests. At the culmination of this course, mentors will be expected to prepare and share their experiences in a sequential, reflective essay.



Freshman Service Project

Required

Grade Level(s): Fr

Credits: 0.25

Length: 10 hrs outside of class (noted on transcript)

The Freshman Service Project is a 10-hour requirement that the student completes on and/or off campus. Freshmen begin to learn what it is to be men for others in giving of their time and energy to serve either their local community or the De Smet community. Our service requirements are intended to begin the formation of men who will view service as a lifelong commitment. Students will record the hours using the approved online volunteer app provided to them. Students will also reflect on the purpose of their service and how volunteering has helped the programs with which they worked.

Sophomore Service Project

Required

Grade Level(s): So

Credits: 0.25

Length: 25 hrs outside of class (noted on transcript)

The Sophomore Service Project is a 25-hour requirement that the student completes on and/or off campus. It is a continuation of the formation of lifelong service that our students began as freshmen. Sophomores continue to use their gifts and talents to help with events/programs around the De Smet Jesuit campus or in the greater St. Louis community. Students will continue to record the hours using the approved online volunteer app provided to them when they began their career as a Spartan or by the Sophomore Service Director. They will also reflect on the purpose of their service and how volunteering has helped the programs with which they worked. In addition to the 25 hours of service, the sophomores will also perform service by coordinating and working the Special Olympics event at De Smet Jesuit.

Junior Service Project

Required

Grade Level(s): Jr

Credits: 0.25

Length: Full year (noted on transcript)

As a Jesuit apostolic work, De Smet Jesuit High School shares in the mission of the Society of Jesus: “the service of faith and the promotion of justice.” To this end, the Junior Service Project program is a required experiential community service project outside of De Smet Jesuit, serving the disadvantaged, the elderly, the economically challenged, the sick, and children and adults with special needs. The program takes place every Monday afternoon from September through May. Afternoon classes are dismissed to provide time for this program. Students participate in required weekly peer reflections sessions including journaling as well as complete a major capstone reflection project on the experience.

Senior Service Project

Required

Grade Level(s): Fr

Credits: 0.25

Length: 50 hrs outside of class (noted on transcript)

The Senior Service Project is a 50-hour requirement that the student completes at a location off campus to build upon the experience of the Junior Service Project. The focus of the project is rooted in Catholic Social Teaching, specifically, the preferential option for the poor. Students are to find an organization that works directly with a marginalized community in order to fulfill this requirement. To seek the meaning and purpose of the service work, the senior is to keep a journal in which he logs and reflects upon his experiences and how they have helped others, changed him, and helped to bring about the Kingdom of God. The experience is culminated by a four-page written reflection of the student's four years of service—what he has contributed and where, how he has been affected, and what service means to him going forward.

The Insignis Capstone Reflection

Required

Grade Level(s): Sr

Credits: 0.5

Occurs during the spring semester

To complete the final stage of his journey at De Smet Jesuit, each senior will make an Insignis presentation. This graded presentation is a formal reflection and assessment of his De Smet Jesuit experience. The framework for this personal, individual, unique reflection will be the six elements of the Graduate at Graduation Profile. Before a panel of three, composed of two teachers and a staff member or possibly a member of the Board of Trustees, the senior will articulate his experience at De Smet Jesuit through the lens of the “Grad-at-Grad”—what have his experiences been in relation to each of these characteristics and how has he grown as a result of these experiences. For a school that believes so highly in the value of reflection, the Insignis presentation is a fitting culmination to a student's education at De Smet Jesuit High School. World Languages Department

Retreats

[\(return to Table of Contents\)](#)

Freshman Pilgrim Retreat

Day-long Experience hosted at De Smet Jesuit

Beginning with the Class of 2029, the Freshman Class will participate in a full-day Freshman Retreat hosted at De Smet Jesuit High School. The retreat will be led by Faculty, Companeros and Student Leaders. The day will start in Homerooms at 10:00am and conclude approx. 8:30pm – students will need to **bring their computers**, and will be provided Lunch and Dinner as part of the retreat. The day will be centered around the First Week of the Spiritual Exercises – St. Ignatius's First Principle & Foundation, the call to find ‘God in All Things,’ and the Parable of the Talents from Mt. 25. Students will listen to talks, share in small groups, participate in activities and reflect on their relationships with God and community. The evening normally concludes with a brotherhood-building experience such as full-class attendance at a home Basketball game.

Sophomore AMDG Retreat

24-hour Retreat hosted at Retreat Centers around St. Louis

Beginning with the Class of 2029, the Sophomore Class will participate in a 24-hour, overnight Sophomore Retreat at various retreat centers around St. Louis. The retreat will be led by Faculty and Staff of De Smet Jesuit. The theme of the retreat is the Second Week of the Spiritual Exercises – the call to holiness, deeper engagement with faith and community, and the Call of Simon Peter from Lk. 5. The retreat begins with Mass on Sunday afternoon in the De Smet Jesuit Boian Chapel. Students then board busses to head to their retreat center, where they will listen to talks, share in small groups, participate in activities and reflect on their relationships with God and community. Students will return to De Smet at the end of the school day on Monday, and are available for after school activities that day.

Junior Kairos Retreat

3-day Retreat hosted at Retreat Centers around St. Louis

Each student will have the opportunity to attend a Kairos retreat during the second half of their Junior year or at the beginning of their Senior year. Kairos means “the Lord’s Time” and is a retreat focused on revealing God’s love in the life of the retreatant through the persons and experiences of our days, with a call to put that Love into Action in our own personal ways. It is led by faculty and students who have attended Kairos in the past, and stresses peer ministry and solidarity and God’s love alive in relationship.

Senior Retreat Options

Various Options

Starting with the Class of 2030, in conjunction with attending a Kairos Retreat, a graduating student will be required to participate in one of several retreat or mission-immersion options. These offerings are still being organized as part of the Strategic Planning process and will be made available for students in their Junior or Senior year at De Smet Jesuit.

World Languages Department

[\(return to Table of Contents\)](#)

Chinese I (CHIN-09000 SI)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Fr

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

This course is an introduction to Mandarin Chinese and Chinese culture. Study will include basic language patterns using typical settings such as greetings, family, dates and time, hobbies, visiting friends, lifestyles, and various topics highlighting Chinese culture. Students will learn elementary skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing by using both the Pinyin phonetic system and simplified Chinese characters. Students will be introduced to a baseline of characters that will provide the basis to engage in simple conversations using these characters. Students will also have acquired knowledge of elements of Chinese culture and traditions.

Chinese 2 (CHIN-10000 SI)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): So

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

This course builds upon the skills and knowledge developed in Chinese I, expanding students' ability to comprehend and express themselves in Chinese and building their vocabulary. Students' communicative competence will be expanded through a variety of interactive activities. Students will learn to respond and interact appropriately in real-life situations. Students will refine their speaking and listening skills as well as increase their vocabulary.

SLCC Honors Chinese 3 (CHIN-11000H)

Elective

Grade Level(s): Jr

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Prerequisite: students must earn a B+ or higher in Chinese 2 or teacher approval



Chinese 3 continues to build upon the skills developed in Chinese II. Students will work on learning more complex Chinese syntax and grammatical concepts. The level of communicative competence will be further enhanced, and students will be able to engage in longer and more in-depth dialogues typical in everyday scenarios. Students will progressively transition into more intricate sentence structures while continuing to expand and build on vocabulary and knowledge of grammar.

SLCC Honors Chinese 4 (CHIN-12000H)

Elective

Grade Level(s): Sr

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Prerequisite: students must earn a B+ or higher in Chinese 3 or teacher approval



Chinese 4 continues to build upon Chinese III. Students will work on mastering more advanced Chinese syntax and grammatical concepts. Students will advance to a higher level of communicative competence. They will be able to engage in unplanned dialogues at normal conversation speeds. Students will also be able to read certain passages of authentic material. Students will perform a variety of practical writing tasks such as writing short messages.

Latin I (LAT-09000 SI)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): Fr

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

First year Latin emphasizes basic vocabulary and the grammatical form of nouns and adjectives, the uses of the cases, verbs, and pronouns. There are internet practice activities for additional drills in grammar and vocabulary. Students will translate Latin stories, which tell tales of Roman life, culture and mythology. English words derived from Latin are studied to expand the student's English vocabulary.

Latin 2 (LAT-10000 SI)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): So

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Second year Latin continues focusing on vocabulary and grammar. By the end of the second year, all grammatical constructions usually presented in a beginning two-year program will have been covered, including all verb tenses in the active and passive voice, participles, usage of noun cases, pronouns and special adjectives. Students will progress to translating more difficult stories based on Roman history and daily life. Mythology study continues with students researching and reporting on additional Greek and Roman myths.

ACC Honors Latin 3 (LAT-11000H)

Elective

Grade Level(s): Jr

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Prerequisite: students must earn a B+ or higher in Latin 2 or teacher approval



Third year Latin begins with a review of all nouns, verbs, and verbals covered during the first two years. Students will expand their knowledge of Latin grammar by studying the subjunctive mood and complex intricacies of the Latin language. By the end of the third year, students will have learned the majority of Latin grammar needed to begin study of the Roman authors. Students are now translating Latin authors in slightly edited form. They will read selections from Horace. Students have the option to enroll for one semester (three credits) of college credit through St. Louis University.

ACC Honors Latin 4 (LAT-12000H)

Elective

Grade Level(s): Sr

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Prerequisite: students must earn a B+ or higher in Latin 3 or teacher approval



The traditional fourth year Latin content is prose and poetry of the Golden Age. Students will read selections from Caesar's "De Bello Gallico" and various selections from Cicero's writings. Students will pay special attention to the politics of the late Republic. Students will also read excerpts from Virgil's "Aeneid," and they will investigate and discuss Virgil's portrayal of Dido and Aeneas. Finally, students will read selections from Catullus and Ovid. They will compare lyric poetry to epic poetry and learn to scan poetry in a number of meters. By the end of the year students will have studied a wide range of Latin literature, history, and culture, and they will have learned how to apply Latin roots to new English words. Students have the option to enroll for two semesters (six credits) of college credit through St. Louis University.

Spanish I (SPAN-0900I SI)
Meets Department Core Requirement
Grade Level(s): Fr
Credits: 1
Length: 2 Semesters

Spanish 1 provides an introduction to the language and culture of the contemporary Spanish-speaking world. Lessons are organized to reflect the goals set by the national standards for learning foreign languages. Proficiency is gained in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing, with an overall emphasis on communication skills.

The textbook and ancillary materials use an integrated approach to language learning. The introduction and reinforcement of new material takes place in class and through the textbook publisher's website and Conjuguemos. Evaluation, review, exercises, and activities in the course are designed to span all four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing). Cultural awareness is integrated through textbook readings and chapter DVDs about people and places in Latin America and Spain. By means of oral practice in pairs or groups, the students discuss relevant themes and learn to express themselves in Spanish. The mechanics of reading and writing are acquired through daily written assignments. Proper habits of studying and learning foreign language are acquired through carefully prepared homework and error correction.

Spanish 2 (SPAN-1000I SI)
Meets Department Core Requirement
Grade Level(s): So
Credits: 1
Length: 2 Semesters

Spanish 2 reinforces the language skills taught during Spanish 1 (listening, speaking, reading, writing and culture) while introducing new vocabulary, grammar, and cultural materials. Lessons are organized to reflect the goals set by the national standards for the learning of foreign languages. Practice activities include reading and discussing textbook passages, guided viewing of videos, and enactments of typical situations. Writing assignments allow students to use increasingly complex grammar and new vocabulary while building on previously learned material. Listening comprehension and listening skills are developed through taped exercises, music, and media presentation of native speakers. Cultural awareness is increased through readings, discussions, and comparisons of Spanish language and customs with those of other cultures. The amount of Spanish used to conduct the class is increased as the year progresses. Students are prepared for travel and interaction with native speakers.

Spanish 3 (SPAN-1100I SI)
Elective
Grade Level(s): Jr
Credits: 1
Length: 2 Semesters



Prerequisite: students must earn a C+ or higher in Spanish 2 or teacher approval.

This course is designed for students who have completed the second-year Spanish course with a C+ average and who want to continue the study of Spanish. This course will continue the study of verb tenses and grammar, but will place most emphasis on producing speech, conversations, and interactions in practical, everyday situations. Students will also enhance their reading skills in the target language by way of short stories and news articles. Exposure to various cultural traditions and perspectives of Spanish-speaking countries continues from Spanish 2, but students will now learn to compare and contrast these traditions with their own, as well as talk about them in Spanish. Supplementary materials consist of songs, articles, interactive websites, and films. Students completing this course will not be eligible to take ACC Honors Spanish 4.

ACC Honors Spanish 3 (SPAN-1100IH SI)

Elective

Grade Level(s): Jr

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Prerequisite: students must earn an A in Spanish 2 or teacher approval



Spanish 3 lessons are designed to reflect the national standards set forth by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). The course consists of the study of advanced grammar and composition. There is more emphasis on reading and discussing topics of interest in the target language. Grammar and verb tenses continue to be taught and reviewed throughout the year. Emphasis will be placed on communicative skills: interpersonal, interpretive and presentational. The students will utilize interactive online activities to reinforce previous knowledge learned. In the fall semester, the students can be dually enrolled to obtain advanced college credit through SLU-Beginning Spanish I (SPAN-1010 Spanish for Beginners).

Spanish 4 (SPAN-1200I SI)

Elective

Grade Level(s): Sr

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Prerequisite: students must earn a C+ in Spanish 3 or teacher approval



In this course students will continue the study of grammar involving more complex verb tenses. Emphasis is placed on utilizing these grammar structures in everyday situations. Students will be introduced to more literary works in the Spanish language in addition to learning and discovering the history of the authors and countries from which they were produced. Students will discuss cultural traditions of the Spanish-speaking world and compare and contrast them to their own, as well as learn to develop, present and defend their opinions in Spanish. Students will be assessed using a variety of presentations, projects, role-playing, and written work. Supplementary materials consist of songs, articles, interactive websites, and films.

ACC Honors Spanish 4 (SPAN-1200IH SI)

Elective

Grade Level(s): Sr

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Prerequisite: students must earn a B+ in Honors Spanish 3 and teacher approval



In this course, students will study the culture and civilization of Spain and Latin America through literary works. The students will expand their communication skills following the guidelines set forth by the national standards of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. During the first semester, students continue a review of advanced grammar through exercises in oral skills and reading selections, and internet articles and readings serve as supplementary materials. Students are expected to discuss the content in Spanish. Short compositions in which the students apply advanced structures are frequently assigned. The students also will use the interactive activities, which reinforce learned material. The students may dually enroll to obtain college credit through SLU-Exploring the Hispanic World: Spanish for Beginners (SPAN-1020) and Connecting with the Hispanic World: Intermediate Spanish (SPAN-2010).

APEX - AP Honors Spanish 5 Language & Culture (SPA-I300) (SPAN-I2002H)

Elective

Grade Level(s): Sr

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Prerequisite: students must earn a B+ in Honors Spanish 4 or teacher approval



AP Spanish Language and Culture will be taught online through the APEX Learning Virtual School. A faculty mentor will be provided for students in the online course. Following the College Board curriculum, this course is “designed to provide students with a learning experience equivalent to that of an introductory college course in literature written in Spanish. The course introduces students to the formal study of a representative body of texts from Peninsular Spanish, Latin American, and U.S. Hispanic literature. The course provides opportunities for students to demonstrate their proficiency in Spanish across the three modes of communication (interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational) and the five goal areas (communication, cultures, connections, comparisons, and communities) outlined in the Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century. The overarching aims of the course are to provide students with ongoing and varied opportunities to further develop their proficiencies across the full range of language skills — with special attention to critical reading and analytical writing — and to encourage them to reflect on the many voices and cultures included in a rich and diverse body of literature written in Spanish.”

The Ignatian Global Citizen (IGS-I 1005)

Elective

Grade Level(s): So, Jr, Sr

Credits: 0.5

Length: 1 Semester

Prerequisite: teacher approval



The world in which we live is shrinking, and to be successful one must have an understanding of the world and its many cultures. Who is a global citizen? How do diversity, inclusivity, and cultural norms complement a global citizen? This course will study how other cultures and affinity groups are depicted in society, how we understand one another, and how we can look for techniques to come to a common understanding, even though we may start at different places or hold different perspectives. The course is the anchor for the Ignatian Global Scholars Certificate and serves to find rapport with other global immersion courses, events, intercultural experiences, service and self-reflection. Magis Institute for Inquiry and Innovation

The Magis Institute for Inquiry and Innovation is a program at De Smet Jesuit to focus the school's educational efforts on our strategic goals to empower, innovate with, and embrace our students. The strategic plan recognizes the reality that we are experiencing a paradigm shift in Jesuit secondary education. Technology is allowing students to learn through hands-on, real-world situations on an unprecedented scale. Collaboration and creativity are driving innovation that is changing the face of the workplace. While traditional college preparatory curriculum forms a strong core to build content and skills, we also recognize a need for a peripheral space where ideas can germinate about our future. The Institute is a way of looking at school where student passion and rigor collide. The Magis Institute provides the overarching structure, offering diverse individual centers that reflect student passions and promote the mission of the Society of Jesus. The Institute provides courses of study and programs, always voluntary, for deep learning in a particular area. As the Institute evolves, certificates—such as the Ignatian Global Scholars Certificate detailed at the end of this section—will be awarded to students who complete a particular path in their learning.

Mission and Objectives

The mission of the Magis Institute for Inquiry and Innovation is to inspire and prepare men to transform the world through collaborative, hands-on, real-world, globalized and personalized experiences that embrace empathy, innovation, imagination, and ideation.

The objective of the Institute is to enable students to experience one or more of the following:

- Use technological resources to facilitate creative solutions to solve complex problems.
- Communicate effectively in a variety of media.
- Collaborate effectively with other students and outside experts both locally and globally.
- Develop confidence and resilience through failure.
- Empathize with others and celebrate differences in a multicultural context.
- Integrate the Jesuit mission of the “service of faith and the promotion of justice” into work on innovation and imagination.
- Set individual work in a global context.

Mentored Study Path Option

Elective

Grade Level(s): Jr, Sr

Credits: 0.5

Length: 1 Semester

Students have the opportunity to explore a passion in a number of different modes with a teacher as a mentor or guide. Students may accomplish one of the following possible outcomes:

- Produce a real-world product (e.g., video, graphic design, social media campaign, publication, new business, device, etc.).
- Construct an independent study to delve deep into an interest.
- Present a challenging problem and offer possible solutions.
- Design an individual course for school credit.
- Complete a capstone project.
- Take an online course.
- Complete a project in the community with a collaborative group of students.
- Prototype, tinker, and otherwise develop personal projects outside the classroom setting.

Requirements for Credit Proposals

While any student can participate in the Institute for enrichment, the following requirements must be fulfilled in order to receive course credit.

- Plan for working at least 66 hours of work and journal documenting work completed.
- Achieve at least 5-7 major learning outcomes based on a particular department's course objectives or based on the Graduate at Graduation profile.
- Complete final summative project with scoring rubric based on learning outcomes.
- Receive approval by Assistant Principal for Academics.

Process and Timeline

- Late February - Early March: Students submit project proposals to the Assistant Principal during the time students are selecting courses. The Assistant Principal will give tentative approval by signing the course selection sheet.
- Mid-March: Selection group meets to vet, combine, or refine student project proposals.
- Late March: The Assistant Principal identifies mentors.
- Summer: The Assistant Principal gathers initial resources: academic, human, and technological.
- Fall/spring semester – Students conduct weekly meetings with their mentor and report progress on a regular basis, such as via a bi-weekly blog post.

Online Course Option

Elective

Grade Level(s): Jr, Sr

Credits: 0.5

Length: 1 or 2 Semesters

Online courses are available through the Arrupe Virtual Learning Institute to allow students to take courses not offered at De Smet Jesuit High School. This year three courses are listed in the De Smet Jesuit Academic Curriculum Guide, but other courses can be approved. Typically courses beyond the level of our curriculum can be taken to fulfill graduation requirements (for example, AP BC Calculus as a fourth unit of math). Other courses offered through the AVLI can be as an elective course in a student's schedule.

AVLI course requests require approval from the Assistant Principal for Academics. AVLI courses will be shown on transcripts and used in GPA calculations. There may also be additional AP testing fees.

Please view the online copy of AVLI guidelines and the current AVLI Course Catalog at [Courses | Arrupe Virtual Learning Institute](#). Students should research the content and requirements of these courses before committing to enrollment. Please reference the College Board Advance Placement website for details.

Course Prerequisites

Students must demonstrate strong academic skills in the content area of course requested. PLAN and PSAT scores along with grade point average are factors in determining approval for a AVLI online course. Students should consider how many other honors and AP classes they are enrolling in as well as time commitments for current course load and student activities such as clubs and sports to determine if an online course is manageable.

Caution: managing an online course is different than a traditional classroom course. It does not meet regularly, it has threaded virtual communication, and it is paced to deadlines. Consequently, students taking courses through the AVLI will be required to check in with the online course coordinator once a week to receive course credit.

Ignatian Global Scholars Certificate Program

De Smet Jesuit High School is partnering with and participating in the JSN Ignatian Global Scholars Certificate Pilot Program. This program promotes interconnected learning experiences in the classroom and beyond to help the student become a global citizen.

Global Citizenship: An Ignatian Definition

Global citizens are those who continuously seek to deepen their awareness of their place and responsibility in an increasingly interconnected world, both locally and globally; and those who stand in solidarity with others in the pursuit of a sustainable earth and a more humane world as true companions in the mission of reconciliation and justice.

Student Criteria

Students may enter into this program during their sophomore or junior year. Students earning this distinction and resulting certificate will review program requirements (also available online at [Ignatian Global Scholars - De Smet Jesuit](#)) with their counselor and the Director of Global Education Certificate Program and submit an application for approval. Upon acceptance, students will work with their counselors and the director to track and meet the program requirements by graduation.

Requirements

To earn an Ignatian Global Scholars Certificate from the Jesuit Schools Network, students at De Smet Jesuit High School will complete requirements from the Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm categories of context, experience, reflection, action, and review.

Context (all required):

- Complete the Ignatian Global Citizen Anchor course.
- Complete three years of language study or pass approved exams (e.g., AP or Seal of Biliteracy).
- Participate in different approved global events each year.

Experience (choose one):

- Take part in a sustained lived intercultural experience either via immersion, cultural engagement, or service trip or approved experience such as Model UN or virtual exchanges.
- Have a yearly sustained commitment and involvement with an extracurricular group that focuses on either the pursuit of a sustainable earth, more humane world, or increasing interconnectedness and understanding of other perspectives such as Asia Club, Black Student Union, or Social Justice Club.

Reflection: Complete semester self-reflections and a final reflection project.

Action (choose one):

- Complete a yearly local relationship-building service project that correlates to global citizenship (can be done in conjunction with junior and senior service requirements).
- Complete a final project with a global focus, which should be shared with other community members (can be integrated into senior Insignis project).

Review: Participate in the school's annual program review.

The following courses count towards credit in the Ignatian Global Scholars certificate program. They are designated throughout the curriculum guide with the logo



Department	Course Title
English	English 4: European Literature
Fine Arts	Introductory Newswriting
	Newswriting
	Digital Media and Digital Storytelling
Science	AP Honors Environmental Science (offered through AVLI)
Social Studies	World Studies S1
	AP Honors World History - Modern S1
	African-American Studies
	ACC Honors Modern European History
	Business & Economic Principles
	Advanced Business Strategy
	Introduction to Entrepreneurship
	The Art of Influence
	AI: Foundation and Ethics
Theology	Morality
	Catholic Social Teaching
	Christ & Faith
	Inclusion Program Peer Mentor
World Languages	The Ignatian Global Citizen
	SLCC Honors Chinese 3
	SLCC Honors Chinese 4
	ACC Honors Latin 3
	ACC Honors Latin 4
	Spanish 3 S1
	ACC Honors Spanish 3 S1
	Spanish 4 S1
	ACC Honors Spanish 4 S1
	APEX - AP Honors Spanish 5 Language & Culture (SPA-1300)

Middle School

[\(return to Table of Contents\)](#)

English Department

English 06 (ENG-06000)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): 6th

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Pre-Requisite: N/A

Sixth grade ELA invites students to become stronger readers, writers, and thinkers through a variety of hands-on projects and engaging literature. The year begins with personal narratives and reflections on summer reading, followed by a full research project that teaches students how to gather and present information effectively. Students will read *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, analyze Greek and Roman myths, and compare film adaptations to the original texts. The second semester emphasizes creativity through short stories and poetry, and concludes with a study of *Prisoner B-3087*, exploring themes of identity, resilience, and human rights.

English 07 (ENG-07000)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): 7th

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Pre-Requisite: N/A

Seventh grade students continue developing their reading and writing skills through meaningful literary analysis and real-world connections. After writing personal narratives, they read *Johnny Tremain* alongside their Social Studies unit on the American Revolution, examining both the novel and its film adaptation. In the second semester, students dive into *The Outsiders*, explore character development, and connect fiction to modern issues through research, infographics, and classroom debates. Throughout the year, students practice crafting arguments, presenting research, and collaborating with peers.

English 07H (ENG-07000H)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): 7th

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Pre-Requisite: N/A

Honors 7th grade students deepen their reading, writing, and critical-thinking skills through rigorous literary analysis, discussion-driven learning, and real-world applications. After crafting personal narratives, students will have a unit that coordinates with their Social Studies unit on the American Revolution, analyzing historical context and evaluating the choices made in its film adaptation. In the second semester, students engage in an advanced study of a novel, focusing on complex character development, author's craft, and thematic relevance to contemporary issues. Honors students also participate in an extended dystopian literature unit. Throughout the year, students strengthen their argumentative and research writing, create multimedia projects, and practice high-level academic discussion and collaboration, preparing them for future honors coursework.

English 08 (ENG-08000)**Meets Department Core Requirement****Grade Level(s): 8th****Credits: 1****Length: 2 Semesters****Pre-Requisite: N/A**

Eighth grade ELA focuses on how stories are structured and how they help us understand the world and ourselves. The year begins with analyzing Ender's Game and other short stories, breaking down narrative elements and learning literary techniques like symbolism and imagery. Students write persuasive essays and research social issues they care about, culminating in a multimedia project. The year ends with book clubs and a powerful exploration of Night by Elie Wiesel, fostering discussions around empathy, justice, and the human experience.

English 08H (ENG-08000H)**Meets Department Core Requirement****Grade Level(s): 8th****Credits: 1****Length: 2 Semesters****Pre-Requisite: N/A**

This course deepens students' analytical reading, discussion skills, and writing through advanced study of novels, short stories, and informational texts. Students begin with a novel and short stories to explore narrative structure and literary craft. They complete a range of narrative and argumentative writing assignments and a research project on contemporary issues. During the second semester, students read a novel and have a discussion-centered unit examining justice, empathy, and moral courage through close reading and Socratic seminars. The year concludes with a focused study of a novel culminating in a literary analysis essay that builds students' critical thinking and academic writing skills while encouraging thoughtful reflection on history, humanity, and ethical responsibility.

Fine Arts Department

[\(return to Table of Contents\)](#)

MS Concert Band (FA-08101)

Elective

Grade Level(s): 6th, 7th, 8th

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Pre-Requisite: N/A

This course builds on beginning band by introducing more advanced techniques, repertoire, and theory. Students with at least one year of experience refine their tone, sight-reading, and ensemble performance. With two concerts each year, students gain real-world performance experience while continuing to grow as musicians. Independent practice and self-discipline are key to success in this ensemble.

Exploring Theater (FA-08301)

Elective

Grade Level(s): 6th, 7th, 8th

Credits: 0.5

Length: 1 Semester

Pre-Requisite: N/A

This course invites students into the world of storytelling through acting, improvisation, design, and script work. They learn performance techniques, explore different roles in theatre production, and build confidence presenting in front of others. Students may also participate in school plays, either on stage or behind the scenes. It's a fun, creative class that helps students find their voice and work as part of a team.

Theater 2: Design and Production (FA-08302)

Elective

Grade Level(s): 6th, 7th, 8th

Credits: 0.5

Length: 1 Semester

Pre-Requisite: Exploring Theater

Building on the fundamentals learned in "Exploring Theatre", this course explores the design aspects of theatre. Students will learn the elements of theatrical design including scenery, costumes, sound, lights, and props. In addition to learning how design functions in the world of theatre, students will produce their own designs.

The Music Studio (FA-08401)

Elective

Grade Level(s): 6th, 7th, 8th

Credits: 0.5

Length: 1 Semester

Pre-Requisite: N/A

In Music Studio I, students explore and expand their music-making abilities through singing, rhythm, bucket-drumming, and creating music using a digital audio workstation, Soundtrap. Basic music skills are introduced and practiced, including identifying musical notes and intervals, and identifying and practicing rhythms. Projects include arranging, songwriting, podcasting, and audio design, with opportunities to perform in concerts or join music tours. This course helps students discover their musical talents while learning basic music theory and performance skills. It's a great mix of creative freedom and collaborative music-making.

Music Studio 2 (FA-08402)**Grade Level(s): 6th, 7th, 8th****Credits: 0.5****Length: 1 Semester****Pre-Requisite: N/A**

In Music Studio 2, students will advance their basic music-making abilities by exploring all the sounds we can make with our voices, including the introduction of vocal percussion, also known as beatboxing. There will also be opportunities to arrange and compose more in Soundtrap, and to add live looping and other electronic instruments that allow for spontaneous composition. There will be an emphasis on creating original works, including "covers" of existing songs and, whenever possible, new music based upon the interests and talents of each semester's unique ensemble.

Art I (FA-08501)**Elective****Grade Level(s): 6th, 7th, 8th****Credits: 0.5****Length: 1 Semester****Pre-Requisite: N/A**

Students discover their artistic voice through drawing, painting, sculpture, and mixed media projects. The course focuses on the creative process, encouraging students to take risks, express ideas visually, and solve artistic problems. Along the way, they build foundational art skills and learn to critique both their own work and others'. It's a space for experimentation, growth, and appreciation of the visual arts.

Art 2 (FA-08502)**Elective****Grade Level(s): 6th, 7th, 8th****Credits: 0.5****Length: 1 Semester****Pre-Requisite: Art I**

This visual arts course builds upon the skills developed in Art I and challenges middle school students to explore more complex concepts in drawing, painting, sculpture, mixed media and printmaking. Students will expand their understanding of the elements and principles of art while engaging in hands-on projects that refine their technique, emphasize critical thinking, and encourage creative risk-taking. Students will be formally introduced to the steps of the creative process and will begin applying and identifying those steps during the production of their artwork. Through critical analysis of art and collaborative discussions students will develop a stronger artistic voice and understanding of visual communication. All students will display their artwork in the De Smet Jesuit Student Art Show.

Beginning Band - Woodwind (FA-09100)**Elective****Grade Level(s):****Credits:****Length:****Pre-Requisite: N/A**

Beginning Band – Woodwind is designed for students in grades 6–9 who are learning a woodwind instrument—flute, clarinet, or alto saxophone—for the first time. The course focuses on developing the foundational skills necessary for confident musicianship, including tone production, breath control, finger technique, note and rhythm reading, ensemble awareness, and performance etiquette. Students will learn to interpret musical notation, play in unison and harmony, and develop listening skills through daily rehearsal and performance experiences. Emphasis is placed on consistent practice, teamwork, and the joy of creating music together. No prior musical experience is required.

Beginning Band - Brass (FA-09101)

Elective

Grade Level(s):

Credits:

Length:

Pre-Requisite: N/A

Beginning Band – Brass is designed for students in grades 6–9 who are learning a brass instrument—trumpet, trombone, euphonium, or tuba—for the first time. The course focuses on developing the foundational skills necessary for confident musicianship, including tone production, breath control, finger technique, note and rhythm reading, ensemble awareness, and performance etiquette. Students will learn to interpret musical notation, play in unison and harmony, and develop listening skills through daily rehearsal and performance experiences. Emphasis is placed on consistent practice, teamwork, and the joy of creating music together. No prior musical experience is required.

Math Department

[\(return to Table of Contents\)](#)

Math 06 (MATH-06000)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): 6th

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Pre-Requisite: N/A

This course introduces students to foundational math concepts with an emphasis on real-world application and critical thinking. Topics include ratios, fractions, decimals, expressions, geometry, and data analysis. Each unit is connected to a “Big Idea” and a relevant career, showing students how math is used beyond the classroom. Through hands-on projects and collaborative problem-solving, students build both confidence and competence in math.

Math

Math 07 (MATH-07000)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): 7th

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Pre-Requisite: N/A

In this course, students build on earlier concepts while applying math to real-life situations and professional fields. Topics include proportional reasoning, rational numbers, algebraic expressions, geometry, and statistics. Each unit challenges students to think critically and explain their reasoning while working with peers to solve meaningful problems. Students develop a strong mathematical mindset that prepares them for more advanced coursework.

Prealgebra (MATH-07001H)

Elective

Grade Level(s): 7th

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Pre-Requisite: N/A

Pre-Algebra serves as a bridge between middle school math and high school Algebra I. Students explore topics such as equations, inequalities, functions, ratios, geometry, and probability. Emphasis is placed on understanding the “why” behind mathematical procedures while practicing fluency with calculations. This course builds strong problem-solving habits and prepares students for success in future math classes.

Math 08 (MATH-08000)**Meets Department Core Requirement****Grade Level(s): 8th****Credits: 1****Length: 2 Semesters****Pre-Requisite: N/A**

Eighth grade math challenges students to explore algebraic thinking, geometry, and data analysis at a deeper level. Key topics include linear equations, functions, the Pythagorean Theorem, systems of equations, and statistical relationships. Students learn to solve complex problems using logic, collaboration, and real-world context. This course strengthens both conceptual understanding and practical application in preparation for high school mathematics.

Algebra 8H (MATH-08000H)**Meets Department Core Requirement****Grade Level(s): 8th****Credits: 1****Length: 2 Semesters****Pre-Requisite: N/A**

Algebra focuses on developing students' skills in symbolic reasoning, pattern recognition, and mathematical modeling. Students will work with linear and quadratic functions, systems of equations, polynomials, and inequalities. They learn to apply abstract concepts to real-world problems, building a strong foundation for future courses in math and science. Technology, teamwork, and communication are key components of the learning experience.

PE Department

[\(return to Table of Contents\)](#)

PE 06 (SM) (PE -06000)

Elective

Grade Level(s): 6th

Credits: 0.5

Length: I Semester

Pre-Requisite: N/A

This Physical Education course is designed to support the holistic development of middle school students in alignment with Jesuit educational values. Students will engage in a variety of physical activities that promote fitness, teamwork, and personal responsibility, while also reflecting on their growth in character and spirit.

PE 0708 (SM) (PE -07800)

Elective

Grade Level(s): 7th, 8th

Credits: 0.5

Length: I Semester

Pre-Requisite: N/A

This Physical Education course is designed to support the holistic development of middle school students in alignment with Jesuit educational values. Students will engage in a variety of physical activities that promote fitness, teamwork, and personal responsibility, while also reflecting on their growth in character and spirit.

Science Department

[\(return to Table of Contents\)](#)

Lab Science 06 (SCI-06000)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): 6th

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Pre-Requisite: N/A

This year-long course introduces students to core concepts in life, earth, and physical sciences. Topics include the structure and function of cells, forms of energy and matter, and the impact of humans on the environment. Students engage in hands-on labs, explore real-world questions, and begin to think like scientists. The course builds a strong foundation for future science classes through inquiry, observation, and reflection.

Exploring Robotics (SCI-06781)

Elective

Grade Level(s): 6th, 7th, 8th

Credits: 0.5

Length: 1 Semester

Pre-Requisite: N/A

In this hands-on course, students use LEGO Mindstorm to build and program robots capable of solving real challenges. They work in teams to design solutions, troubleshoot problems, and document their process. Emphasis is placed on communication, collaboration, and perseverance as students prepare for more advanced STEM work. By the end of the course, students will design a fully autonomous robot that completes a complex task.

Exploring Engineering (SCI-06782)

Elective

Grade Level(s): 6th, 7th, 8th

Credits: 0.5

Length: 1 Semester

Pre-Requisite: N/A

Students are introduced to engineering practices used in real-world industries, including 3D modeling, electricity, and the iterative design process. They learn how to manage projects, reflect on their progress, and work effectively in teams. Along the way, they solve problems and design innovative solutions using techniques adopted by professionals in business and engineering. This course emphasizes both creativity and structure in problem-solving.

Integrated Science 07 (SCI-07000)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): 7th

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Pre-Requisite: N/A

Seventh grade science dives deeper into the study of living systems, energy movement, and Earth's resources. Students learn how energy flows through ecosystems, how Earth's surface changes over time, and how humans impact the environment. With a focus on scientific inquiry, students engage in lab investigations, data analysis, and collaborative learning. The course encourages curiosity and connects science to global and local environmental issues.

Honors Integrated Science 07 (SCI-07000H)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): 7th

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Pre-Requisite: N/A

The Honors 7th Grade Integrated Science course is an accelerated, inquiry-driven program designed for students who demonstrate strong interest and aptitude in science. Building on the core 7th-grade curriculum, this course provides a deeper and more rigorous exploration of the fundamental concepts that connect physical, life, and Earth sciences. Students engage in hands-on investigations, engineering design challenges, data analysis, scientific modeling, and collaborative problem-solving as they uncover how matter, energy, organisms, and Earth systems interact. In addition to mastering 7th-grade science curriculum, Honors students will extend their learning into enrichment units including energy and motion, evolution through natural selection and astronomy/space systems.

Integrated Science 08 (SCI-08000)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): 8th

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Pre-Requisite: N/A

This course is organized around five engaging units: Change Over Time, Energy and Motion, Understanding Waves, Humans and Their Place in the Universe, and Introduction to Science. Students explore key concepts like genetics, evolution, forces, and energy through hands-on experiments and real-world applications. Inquiry-based learning and science literacy are at the heart of the curriculum, preparing students for success in high school science. Students also examine how science helps us understand the world—and our place in it.

Social Studies Department

[\(return to Table of Contents\)](#)

Ancient Civilizations (SOC-06000)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): 6th

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Pre-Requisite: N/A

Students explore the beginnings of human society, from prehistory through the rise of ancient empires in regions like Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, and Mesoamerica. Along the way, they study classical civilizations like Greece and Rome and consider how these cultures shaped modern ideas. The second semester shifts focus to global exploration, trade networks, and the cultural exchange that transformed the ancient world. Students learn to think like historians and draw connections between the past and present.

American History (SOC-07000)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): 7th

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Pre-Requisite: N/A

This course traces the roots of American democracy, beginning with early colonization and the founding of the United States. Students study the American Revolution, the Constitution, and the nation's early years. In the spring, the focus shifts to westward expansion, political struggles, and the causes and consequences of the Civil War. Students develop historical thinking skills by analyzing primary sources, timelines, and key events that shaped our country.

Modern World History (SOC-08000)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): 8th

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Pre-Requisite: N/A

Eighth grade history begins with the Reconstruction era and spans through the 20th and early 21st centuries. Students learn about immigration, industrialization, the World Wars, the Cold War, and major social movements. In the second semester, the focus turns to the Civil Rights era, the Vietnam War, and contemporary global issues. Students gain a deeper understanding of how historical events have shaped the modern world and America's role in it.

Theology Department

[\(return to Table of Contents\)](#)

Theology 06 (THEO-06000)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): 6th

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Pre-Requisite: N/A

Students explore what it means to live a life of faith by studying major biblical figures from the Old and New Testaments. The course emphasizes stories of trust, virtue, and sacrifice, showing how people of faith have responded to God's call throughout history. Students also learn about saints and modern-day Christian witnesses, while reflecting on how to live out virtues and the works of mercy. The course helps students see how faith can shape their lives and choices.

Theology 07 (THEO-07000)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): 7th

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Pre-Requisite: N/A

This course guides students in deepening their relationship with God through prayer, worship, and reflection. They explore Church teachings, morality, and how virtue influences both personal and social life. Through the study of liturgy and sacraments, students learn how to live out their faith in everyday situations. The goal is to help students grow in spiritual maturity and develop their own understanding of being a child of God.

Theology 08 (THEO-08000)

Meets Department Core Requirement

Grade Level(s): 8th

Credits: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Pre-Requisite: N/A

World Languages Department

[\(return to Table of Contents\)](#)

*Students who desire to take a full year of language as an 8th grader should enroll in the equivalent 9th grade class housed in the high school.

Chinese I (SM) (CHIN-06780)

Elective

Grade Level(s): 8th

Credits: 0.5

Length: I Semester

Pre-Requisite: N/A

Latin I (SM) (LAT-06780)

Elective

Grade Level(s): 8th

Credits: 0.5

Length: I Semester

Pre-Requisite: N/A

Spanish I (SM) (SPAN-06780)

Elective

Grade Level(s): 8th

Credits: 0.5

Length: I Semester

Pre-Requisite: N/A