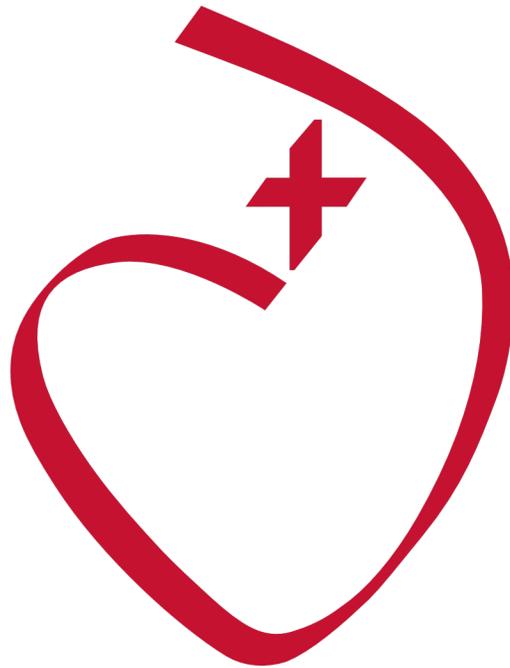


# **Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart**



**Course Description Book  
2026-2027**

## Registration Notes

Duchesne Academy is a college preparatory school. Twenty-six (26) credits are needed for graduation. These credits are so divided:

Department	Graduation Requirement	Department Notes Courses are listed by Department in this book	Page
	Years/credits required		
English	4/4.0	English Literature is required every semester.	4-7
Theology	4/4.0	Theology is required every semester. Plus 45 hours of Community Service over 3 years. Freshmen 10; Sophomores 15; Juniors 20; Seniors 7 day service immersion.	8-10
Social Studies	4/4.0	Social Studies is required including World Cultures, Modern European History, US History, Government.	11-15
Language	2/2.0	Two consecutive years of the same language are required. Both Spanish and French are offered.	16-18
Science/I.T.	4/4.0	Biology, Chemistry and Physics are all required. There are Information Technology Courses that are science credits.	19-21 35-37
Math	4/4.0	Required 4 credits of Math.	22-25
Fine Art	4/2.0	Large selection in Visual Arts, Drama, Music, and Information Technology. Students may take a semester or more each year.	26-31
PE	4/2.0	PE 1, PE 2 with Health are required other options listed under the department. Students take 1 semester per year.	32-34
Informational Technology	.25	Digital Citizenship is required Freshman year.	35-37
Counseling	Non-credit	Required: Freshman Seminar (Fall), Junior Seminar (Spring) and Senior Seminar (Fall)	38
Electives	-	Not required. Many available options.	39-40

A student is required to take the equivalency of six (6) academic credits per year, 3 credits each semester. In general, students may not take courses in excess of eight (8) academic credits per year.

A student may withdraw from a non-required course within the first week of the course, with the written approval of her teacher, parents, and the Principal. She may not withdraw from a course after the first week without incurring a Withdrawal/Failure on her transcript, unless the teacher initiates the withdrawal.

**The school reserves the right to drop a course for which there is insufficient registration.**

The State of Nebraska requires at least 1,080 instructional hours for the school year. All Duchesne students take in excess of that amount.

## **DUAL CREDIT NOTES**

Cooperative credit from Nebraska Wesleyan University. There is a \$225 fee for these courses. (This fee is set by Nebraska Wesleyan University and is subject to change.)

Cooperative credit from Creighton University. There is a \$100 per credit per year fee for these courses could earn up to 8 credits. (This fee is set by Creighton University and is subject to change.)

Cooperative credit from University of Nebraska at Omaha. There is a \$250 fee for these courses. (This fee is set by the University of Nebraska Omaha and is subject to change.)

## **GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP CERTIFICATE**

The Global Citizenship Certificate (GCC) is guided by the global vision of Saint Madeleine Sophie, and embodied in the Sacred Heart Goals. While global education is a hallmark of all Sacred Heart education, those who adhere to the Certificate requirements to deepen and focus their global experiences in high school will be recognized at graduation and on their resume.

Students will come to discover and explore the complexities of the world, historical connections, and current issues: political, environmental, spiritual, and economic. Students must declare this track at the end of their freshmen year, and will remain on this track through graduation, with the successful completion of all requirements.

The GCC track features required courses, field trips within the Omaha area, and an emphasis on service hours in direct contact with refugee groups and other cross-cultural organizations. Students will also engage in a cultural immersion experience which can include domestic or international exchange at schools within the Sacred Heart network, or a virtual exchange with other Sacred Heart students around the world. We are committed to ensuring every student has financial access to these opportunities.

Courses that meet the GCC requirement are indicated in the course description.

# ENGLISH COURSES

In an attempt to serve the college-bound student, the English Department has designed four regular courses, three accelerated Honors English courses and an AP course. The development of a graduating senior with a deep respect for intellectual values - an educated young woman who can demonstrate competence in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking, and critical thinking - forms the focus of all English course activities.

## SUMMER READING

Each student should complete **all** required "summer readings" prior to the first day of class.

**All-school summer reading:** One Step Forward by Marcie Flinchum Atkins

### **English summer reading:**

Grade 9 – A Snake Falls to Earth by Darcie Little Badger

Grade 9 Honors – A Snake Falls to Earth by Darcie Little Badger

Grade 10 – Hope is Our Only Wing by Rutendo Tavengerwei

Grade 10 Honors - Hope is Our Only Wing by Rutendo Tavengerwei and Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

Grade 11 - Catcher in The Rye by J. D. Salinger

Grade 11 Honors – Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger and Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

Grade 12 – A Thousand Ships by Natalie Haynes

Grade 12 A.P. Literature – A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving

## FRESHMAN LITERATURE

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

(Grade 9) Freshman Literature serves as the introduction to the English courses at Duchesne; it is intended to prepare ninth graders for the demands of reading, writing, and thinking encountered in subsequent courses. Students read and respond to a variety of texts written by authors from around the world and participate in discussions to support understanding. The foundations of formal academic writing will be emphasized and developed throughout the year, helping students develop effective habits in writing as a process. Finally, students begin a four-year sequential vocabulary program, *Wordly Wise*. Literature will leave the class thinking more critically and writing more clearly about what they have read.

## FRESHMAN LITERATURE HONORS

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

This course will feature fast-paced reading, challenging texts, a high-frequency of formal writing exercises, and elevated expectations for students to be independently responsible for their own understanding of the literature so that they come to each class ready to participate in meaningful discussions. Throughout the year, students respond to a variety of literature through discussions, assessments, and compositions. Finally, students begin a four-year sequential vocabulary program, *Wordly Wise*. The desired outcome of this class is to have students elevate their analytical skills in reading, discussing, and writing about literature.

**Placement in this course is determined by performance on the entrance exam.**

## **SOPHOMORE LITERATURE**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

(Grade 10) Sophomore Literature aims to increase students' confidence, interest, and stamina in reading and writing while also further developing students' critical thinking and communication skills. The literature units in this course expose students to a range of genres and authors while staying rooted in these essential questions: What are the qualities of a fulfilling life? How do relationships impact people? What are the benefits and challenges of living in community? Students engage with the literature they read through close reading tasks, classroom discussion, writing, and creative projects. Composition study equips students to enhance their multi-paragraph essays through a recursive writing process. Literary analysis and research are important dimensions of advanced composition and students exercise these skills with each literary work throughout the year. *Wordly Wise 10* continues the sequential vocabulary program. The desired outcome in Sophomore Literature is a student who thinks critically and reflectively about her reading, writing, and communication.

## **SOPHOMORE LITERATURE HONORS**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

(Grade 10) Sophomore Literature Honors features rigorous reading, frequent formal writing exercises, and high expectations for students to take ownership of their engagement with the literature we read. The literature units in this course expose students to a range of genres and authors while staying rooted in these essential questions: What are the qualities of a fulfilling life? How do relationships impact people? What are the benefits and challenges of living in community? Students engage with the literature they read through analytical tasks, classroom discussion, formal writing, assessments, and creative projects. Composition study challenges students to enhance their multi-paragraph essays, emphasizing the importance of developing self-directed processes for pre-writing and revising. Literary analysis and research are important dimensions of advanced composition and students exercise these skills with each literary work throughout the year. *Wordly Wise 10* continues the sequential vocabulary program. The desired outcome in Honors Sophomore Literature is a student who continually challenges herself to think critically and reflectively about her reading, writing, and communication.

## **AMERICAN LITERATURE**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

(Grade 11) American Literature is designed to develop student's critical reading and thinking, as well as their ability to communicate effectively through writing, speaking, and listening. Students will practice close reading on a variety of American texts, from Nathaniel Hawthorne to Sandra Cisneros, and produce numerous pieces of writing. These texts will provide a survey of American literature throughout the history of our country and delve into major literary eras, including Romanticism, Transcendentalism, Realism, Naturalism, Modernism and Postmodernism. In addition to studying authors and literary pieces from each era, students will be able to explain how these texts relate to literary era characteristics and historical context, while deepening their understanding of literary structure, style, themes, and devices. This course will also encourage a love of reading and cultivating a habit of reading for enjoyment through a Silent Sustained Reading program. *Wordly Wise 11* will continue our sequential vocabulary program.

## **AMERICAN LITERATURE HONORS**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

(Grade 11) American Literature Honors is designed to develop student's critical reading and thinking, as well as their ability to communicate effectively through writing, speaking, and listening. Students will practice close reading on a variety of American texts, from Anne Bradstreet to J.D. Salinger and produce numerous pieces of writing. American Literature Honors requires additional reading, writing, and further analysis of literary works covered in American Literature (English III), including additional material by John Steinbeck, Willa Cather, Kate Chopin, Mark Twain, and Zora Neale Hurston. A number of poetry genres will be covered and students will read and discuss American plays written by Eugene O'Neill, Lillian Hellman, Tennessee Williams, and Arthur Miller. Work with the vocabulary series continues with *Wordly Wise Book 11*.

## **SENIOR LITERATURE**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

(Grade 12) This course is designed to develop critical thinking, writing, speaking, and listening skills while examining a wide array of important texts in world literature. The course ranges from classical texts, such as *Hamlet*, to such contemporary work as Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner* and Toni Morrison's *Sula*. These diverse texts will bring a depth and breadth to the students' literary experience by exploring contemporary and universal themes through multiple major genres. The student will write numerous essays and continue to build on critical thinking, reading, and writing skills in relation to the works covered. They will continue to expand their understanding of literary structure, style, themes, and devices. *Wordly Wise 12* will continue our sequential vocabulary program and compositions will follow MLA style guidelines.

This course satisfies the requirement for the Global Citizenship Certificate.

## **AP LITERATURE**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

(Grade 12) AP Literature has three main objectives: (1) to improve the student's analytical writing, (2) to improve the student's analysis of various literary genres, and (3) to acquaint the student with various types of criticism. This course is designed to engage students in the careful reading and critical analysis of works from various genres and periods, concentrating on works of recognized literary merit. Reading in this course is both wide and deep. The students will read deliberately and thoroughly, taking time to understand a work's complexity, to absorb its richness of meaning, and to analyze how that meaning is embodied in literary form. In addition to understanding a work's literary artistry, students will consider the social and historical values it reflects. Writing is essential. Essays will focus on the critical analysis of a work and will include expository, analytical, and argumentative pieces. The goal is to increase the students' ability to explain clearly, cogently, and even eloquently what they understand about literary works and why they interpret them as they do. While it is not mandatory that students take the AP Literature and Composition exam, the course will be taught to prepare students for it; the level of work and the expectations of student are firmly at the AP level. *Wordly Wise 12* completes our four-year sequential vocabulary series.

## **PLACEMENT CRITERIA FOR HONORS AND AP LITERATURE**

These courses are designed for students who not only fulfill the grade requirements but also demonstrate a clear passion for reading, discussing, and writing about literature. Students who enroll in these courses should be willing and able to independently understand what they

have read, thoughtfully discuss their reading in class, and write eloquently about what they have read and discussed. Placement in a regular literature course does not preclude students from earning placement in an honors or AP course the next year, nor does placement in an honors course guarantee placement in future honors or AP courses.

Requirements for Honors and AP Classes:

1. Students in regular classes must have at least 94% averages in each quarter of their current course to be elevated to an honors or AP course.
2. Students in honors classes must have at least 92% averages in each quarter of their current course to move on to the next honors or AP course.

# THEOLOGY COURSES

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE SCRIPTURES**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

The objective content of this freshman course is an overview of how God has been revealed through salvation history and how this revelation is shared with humanity through the Hebrew Scriptures and Christian Testament. In the first semester, students study the Pentateuch, Israel as a nation, the prophets and Israel's hope for a messiah as the central stories of Judaism. The second semester focuses on Jesus as the long-awaited messiah, the Gospels, the Pauline epistles and the continuity of Scripture. We strive to understand what the stories meant to the original audience, as well as what they mean to the modern reader and believer. This course begins with an introduction to Sacred Heart education.

The subjective content of this course includes opportunities for students to draw parallels between our life experiences and those of the people of the Hebrew Scriptures, to reflect on the teachings of Jesus as a challenge for all of us as Christians to direct our lives in response to the Gospel, and to gain a deeper appreciation for the beliefs, moral vision, spirituality and scholarship of the Catholic Church.

## **THE PASCHAL MYSTERY: CHRIST'S MISSION OF SALVATION 1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

This one-semester fall sophomore course leads the students toward a deeper understanding of our need for redemption and how Jesus fulfills God's promise of redemption. This course explores how, through his suffering, death, Resurrection, and Ascension, Jesus makes our redemption possible. This course also addresses how we continually experience the Paschal Mystery in our lives and the liturgy of the Church.

We will read three books in this course highlighting these Paschal Mystery themes. These books include C.S. Lewis' *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* (focuses on the New Testament), and the memoir *Night* by Elie Wiesel (focuses on the challenges and suffering of believers today). Students will connect these novels and themes to scripture references and the Paschal Mystery. These novels are provided for free on the student's iPads via the Sora app.

## **THE CHURCH: CHRIST IN THE WORLD TODAY**

**1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

This one-semester spring sophomore course leads the students toward a deeper understanding of the Church as the means to encounter the living Jesus. The course explores the origin, the human and divine elements, and the ongoing mission of the Church. Additionally, the students will explore the Church's ongoing efforts to gather all into the People of God through the ecumenical movement and inter-religious dialogue.

Students will reflect on their role in the Church and Christ's invitation to participate actively in and contribute to the life of the Church. Within the course, we will highlight the Society of the Sacred Heart, other women of faith, and Saints.

## **SACRAMENTS**

**1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

This fall semester junior course introduces students to a Catholic understanding of the Sacraments. We begin with the basic, yet profound, question, “What is a Sacrament?” We then proceed to an individual study of each Sacrament. During this study, students complete several initiatives in each unit. First, we seek to understand how each Sacrament is rooted in the saving work of Jesus as recorded in Scripture. Second, we explore how the Early Christian Communities celebrated the Sacraments. Third, we study the historical development of each Sacrament. Fourth, we examine how contemporary Catholics celebrate the Sacraments. Finally, we discuss contemporary issues surrounding the Sacraments, especially in regards to social justice, interdisciplinary dialogue, ecumenical dialogue, and interreligious dialogue. Throughout the entire course, students are asked to reflect upon how the Sacraments invite us into deeper relationships with Christ and commission us to share His love with others.

## **WORLD RELIGIONS: CATHOLIC DIALOGUE DE**

**1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

Dual Enrollment available through Nebraska Wesleyan University

Based on the U. S. Catholic Bishops’ Conference Curriculum (Elective E) and the Vatican Council II document *Nostra Aetate*, this course explores the values, and practices at the heart of world’s religions. Throughout the semester we approach the world’s traditions with empathy as we strive to “understand the religions and spiritual traditions of the world.” (Goal 1, Criterion 4)

We explore how various cultures approach life’s mysteries by examining their structures for communal and individual transcendent experiences. We respect what each religious tradition says about itself while comparing the key ideas and beliefs of major religious traditions through the lens of Roman Catholic inter-religious dialogue and the Society of the Sacred Heart’s global outreach.

This course is available as dual enrollment through Nebraska Wesleyan University. The optional cost of receiving the dual enrollment credit will be approximately \$285 for three credit hours.

This course satisfies the requirement for the Global Citizenship Certificate.

## **CHRISTIAN MORALITY**

**1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

This course introduces students to a Catholic understanding of Christian Morality. We begin by asking simple, yet profound questions: “What is the good life? What makes one happy?” The course will consider different gifts and guides within Catholicism/Christianity that can help one live a Christian moral life and experience happiness. Throughout this course, students will examine a variety of areas of life and issues in contemporary society. Contemporary male and female leaders within Catholicism, including Mother Teresa, Rose Thering, Oscar Romero, Jean Donovan, Dorothy Day, Joseph Bernardin, Dorothy Stang, and Helen Prejean will serve as concrete and accessible examples of living a Christian moral life. In addition, students will utilize Interdisciplinary, Ecumenical, and Interreligious Dialogue when examining how to live a Christian moral life. Throughout the course, each student will reflect upon the beliefs, values, and people whom she has found most meaningful throughout the semester in shaping her own personal morality.

## **CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING (CST) DE**

**1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

Dual Enrollment available through Nebraska Wesleyan University

This senior-level course focuses on the Catholic Social Teaching curriculum from the United States Catholic Bishops' Curriculum (Elective C) with strong emphasis on embodying The Sacred Heart Way as introduced by the Society of the Sacred Heart. After being introduced to Catholic Social Teaching in the Christian Morality class, we will build on students' understanding of the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching, as articulated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Students will participate in the Senior Service Immersion Experience to analyze and increase awareness of past and current social issues in the local, national, and global arenas. Upon returning to the classroom, students will complete a Service Project, relating their service experience to the themes of Catholic Social Teaching. Students will present these projects in class and to underclassmen as part of the Service Day Reflection. The hope and goal of this course is to expose and discuss social justice issues in ways that help us realize our own roles and responsibilities as members of the local and global community by developing a relationship with God, experiencing the Christian call of discipleship, and living out the social teachings of the Catholic Church.

## **THEOLOGY ELECTIVES:**

### **INDIGENOUS HISTORY AND SPIRITUALITY**

**1 Semester (0.25 Credit)**

This elective will meet on two days of the week. This course explores the rich and diverse history, cultures, and spiritual traditions of Native North American people as well as global Indigenous communities. Through an interdisciplinary approach combining Anthropology and Theology, students will study the impact of colonization, displacement, resistance, and cultural revitalization movements on and within Indigenous communities, while also gaining an understanding of Indigenous worldviews, spiritual perspectives, and religious ceremonies. Topics may include tribal sovereignty, oral traditions, the common Indigenous theme of spiritual connection between humans, land, and nature, religious systems and identities across cultures, and the modern resurgence of Indigenous cultural, linguistic, and spiritual identities. Students will engage with a variety of resources including historical texts, contemporary writings, and guest speakers who can offer first-hand accounts to foster a deeper appreciation of Native American and global Indigenous heritage and spirituality, and its ongoing significance today.

This course satisfies the requirement for the Global Citizenship Certificate.

### **UBUNTU**

**1 Semester (0.25 Credit)**

The principle of ubuntu originated in Africa and can loosely translated as "I am because we are". Archbishop Desmond Tutu popularized this concept globally, teaching on the interconnectedness of all humanity while living, preaching, and demonstrating reconciliation, compassion, and generosity. Ubuntu is the beautiful mixture of Goals 3 and 4. We will explore and live out ubuntu through learning and teaching some of life's most basic skills. Setting technology aside and instead focusing on what, or who, is in front of us we will learn to appreciate what we can do and grow in humility as we teach it to others (our preschool students). Topics will include things in the following areas: automotive, gardening, baking/cooking, sewing, communication and basic home care.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES COURSES**

### **WORLD CULTURES**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

World Cultures is a required Freshman level survey course that focuses on area studies with units on Africa, East Asia, South Asia, Southwest Asia, and Latin America. This course will stress both the history and the culture of the areas studied, with special emphasis on modern history and current issues in the region. In addition, each region's location and physical features will be mastered by the end of the school year. World Cultures is designed to eliminate student bias toward non-Western cultures and encourage student appreciation to the richness found in the world's diversity.

This course satisfies the requirement for the Global Citizenship Certificate.

### **WORLD CULTURES HONORS**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

The honors level World Cultures will challenge students with additional reading, critical analyses of primary sources and responding to Document Based Questions (DBQs). World Cultures is a required Freshman level survey course that focuses on area students with units on Africa, East Asia, South Asia, Southwest Asia and Latin America. This course will stress the geography, history and culture of the areas studied. Honors World Cultures is designed to eliminate student bias toward non-Western cultures and to encourage student appreciation of the richness found in the world's diversity. Students are invited into the course by the History Department.

This course satisfies the requirement for the Global Citizenship Certificate.

### **MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

Modern European History is a Sophomore survey course that focuses upon several historical trends. Students will look at European social, cultural, and political thought as it developed in the Greco-Roman era and its revival during the Renaissance period. Students get a glimpse of imperialism in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries that led to European world dominance. Students discover absolutism in the 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> centuries and the enlightenment movement toward more just societies in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, as well as democratic revolutions in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The course also covers the importance of nationalism and unification as it leads Europe into World War I, the rise of totalitarian governments in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and their consequences including the Holocaust, World War II and its aftermath. While learning the content of European History, students will be learning to write about history from historical documents.

This course satisfies the requirement for the Global Citizenship Certificate.

### **AP MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

AP European History is offered as an alternative for Sophomore students who have excelled in their previous history course. The course content is similar to the Modern European History with a focus on intellectual and cultural history, political and diplomatic history, as well as social and economic history. The AP course requires a serious commitment to personal study outside of class. This intense study is designed to prepare students for the AP European History Exam while they are learning European history. Thus, students in AP European History Course should expect to read and research more as well as write and revise more than in the standard Modern European History course. Students are invited into the course by

the History Department. At the end of sophomore year, students may elect to take the AP Exam, although it is not required.

This course satisfies the requirement for the Global Citizenship Certificate.

## **U.S. HISTORY**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

U.S. History is a Junior level course that enables students to better understand our nation's development and issues that affect its citizens today, students will survey major events from the pre-colonial to modern era. U.S. History first semester topics include the Age of Exploration and Colonization of the North American continent to the Civil War and Reconstruction (American History before 1877). The second semester will begin with the Gilded Age-Twentieth Century American History (After 1877).

## **AP U.S. HISTORY DE**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

Dual Enrollment available through Nebraska Wesleyan University.

This Junior level course follows the same scope and sequence as U.S. History, but it is taught at the university level. The students are eligible to receive university credits through Nebraska Wesleyan University. Students may earn up to 8 university credits. (US History before 1877- the equivalent of 4 credits and US History after 1877-the equivalent of 4 credits). Therefore, the course requires more extensive outside reading, additional writing and more in-depth analysis of events and policies. Students are invited into the course by the History Department. At the end of junior year, students may elect to take the AP Exam, although it is not required.

## **U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

**1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

This Senior level fall semester course which includes units on the principles and history of the Constitution of the United States, the functions of the national government, and the philosophy of governance. **SENIORS** are required to take Government or AP Government.

## **AP U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

**1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

This Senior level fall semester course follows the same agenda for senior year, but it is taught at the AP/university level. Therefore, the course requires more extensive outside reading, additional writing, and more in-depth analysis of events and policies. Students are invited into the course by the History Department. At the end of senior year, students may elect to take the AP Exam, although it is not required. **SENIORS** are required to take Government or AP Government.

## **PLACEMENT CRITERIA FOR HONORS AND AP COURSES:**

Advanced Placement and Honor's Courses are designed for students who have a clear passion for thinking critically about history, be willing and able to work independently and make thoughtful contributions in the classroom. Placement in a regular social studies course does not preclude students from earning placement in an honors or AP course the next year, nor does placement in an honors or AP course guarantee placement in future honors or AP courses.

The following are factors that will be taken into consideration by the Social Studies department in placing students in Honors and AP courses:

Placement in Honor's World Cultures will be based on placement exam scores as well as academic performance in the student's previous school.

AP European History,-AP U.S. History and AP Government Placement in Social Studies:

- During their freshman year, students will be recommended for the AP European History class if they receive a grade of 94% or better in each of the previous three quarters of World Cultures and meet the other criteria below.
- For sophomore and junior year, students in regular classes must have a 94% to be considered for the AP course at the next level.
- Students already in AP level courses will be recommended to continue in the next AP Course based on their performance in their current class.
- Students with a grade lower than 85% in Honor's World Cultures will be required to meet with the teacher to discuss placement.
- Student with a grade lower than 80% in AP European or AP US History will be required to meet with their instructor to discuss placement for the next year.
- Other criteria to be considered for AP placement in Social Studies:
  - Quality of written work (critical thinking and writing skills)
  - Study and work habits (patterns of incomplete and late assignments)
  - Attendance
  - Number of AP courses the student plans to take the following year.

**To fulfill the History/Social Studies graduation credit requirement all students must complete a class with a major research paper. The following Honors courses listed below will fulfill that requirement:**

AP African American Studies – Full year (offered in the 2026-2027)

The Cold War and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Honors – 1 Semester (offered in the 2026-2027)

Durham Museum Internship Honors (application required) – 1 Semester

Economics & Global Issues Honors – 1 Semester (offered in the 2027-2028)

## **AP AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES**

**2 Semesters (1.0 credit)**

This course offers an introduction to the important historical, political, and cultural issues concerning people of African descent in the United States. Students will examine the historical and cultural experiences of African Americans from the beginning of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade to the emerging of the Black Lives Matter movement. Emphasis will be placed on developing an understanding of the role of protest and resistance in African American history. Through readings, videos, documentaries, and discussion, the course will illustrate the multiple ways in which African Americans have participated in the development of the United States. AP African American Studies is offered every other year and will be offered 2026-2027.

## **THE COLD WAR AND THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY HONORS**

**1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

From the end of World War II to the early 1990s the United States, the Soviet Union, and the People's Republic of China were involved in a conflict that was not waged through direct military engagement, but rather by ideological disputes, opposing economic and political philosophies, and peripheral "proxy wars." Although the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, the USSR dissolved in 1991, and China has become an increasingly market-driven society, the events of the last decade, and predictions for the rest of the century have led modern geopolitical observers to ask: did the Cold War really end? If it did, what is its legacy? If it did not really "end," what aspects of the conflict persist today? Are we entering a new Cold War? In the first part of this course, we will study the history of the Cold War going back to the early twentieth century, focusing on key events and themes of the conflict (the Russian and Chinese revolutions, the Space Race, the Vietnam War, espionage, the "opening" of China). We will then relate these events and themes to more recent developments (globalization, China's challenge to the "postwar order," the Russia-Ukraine conflict, political movements in Latin America) and assess the legacy and ongoing repercussions of the modern world's longest-lasting ideological conflict.

Aside from history and politics, we will explore the cultural aspects surrounding the Cold War, including music, art, and literature. This course may be taken as a required Honors History/Social Studies credit with a research paper. This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.

This course is offered every other year and will be offered in 2026-2027.

This course satisfies the requirement for the Global Citizenship Certificate.

## **ECONOMICS AND GLOBAL ISSUES HONORS**

**1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

In this course we will explore how concepts such as scarcity, demand and supply, the factors of production, and markets explain key historical and current events in an economic context. We will consider questions such as: Why and how was money created? What is capitalism, and how did it emerge and develop? How has "globalization" changed the world? How has "deindustrialization" changed the United States? How has the rise of China as a superpower affected the global economy? We will look at these and other questions and related topics from a variety of perspectives and using a wide range of sources. We will also, through case studies of different events, relate economic developments to changes in society, using examples from literature and popular cultural media such as magazines, film, and television. This course may be taken as a required Honors History/Social Studies credit with a research paper. This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.

This course is offered every other year and will be offered in 2027-2028.

This course satisfies the requirement for the Global Citizenship Certificate.

## **DURHAM MUSEUM INTERNSHIP PROGRAM HONORS**

**1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

This program, which involves an application process and counts for graduation credit, offers juniors and seniors who are accepted an opportunity to explore the behind-the-scenes operations of Omaha's Durham Museum. Students will work with Durham's extensive collections, photo archiving, conducting research and possibly assisting with curating new exhibits. Students will also meet with Durham staff members from different departments to learn about how they all work together to operate the museum and make it successful. Students will intern at Durham two double blocks per week. Students may fulfill their

graduation requirement by completing an additional project based on their research with the cooperating teacher at Duchesne.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES ELECTIVES:**

### **CHILD DEVELOPMENT HONORS DE**

**1 Semester (0.50 Credit)**

This dual enrollment course is available as an elective to seniors. An introduction to the defining elements of scientific methodology with emphasis on the theories and concepts necessary for a teacher's or parent's understanding of child and adolescent development. Clock hours will be required of K-12 classroom aiding in conjunction with EDU 211. Creighton University Dual Enrollment.

### **THE LESSONS OF THE HOLOCAUST**

**1 Semester (0.25 Credit)**

This quarter credit, semester-long, seminar style course for juniors and seniors will include readings, reflections and discussion on the history of the Holocaust and the lessons it offers. Topics include: Anti-Semitism, the rise of Nazi Germany and fascism, and an examination of the progression of the Holocaust toward what the Nazi government called the "Final Solution" to the Jewish Problem. Background reading, primary sources and film will be used to learn more about the Holocaust. The class will meet on one double block and one single block day a week.

This course satisfies the requirement for the Global Citizenship Certificate.

### **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**1 Semester (0.25 Credit)**

In this quarter credit, semester long course students will discuss how the United States balances their priorities at home with their involvement in international affairs. Students will examine key points the U.S. foreign policy and explore how U.S. continues to balance domestic needs with international interests and concerns using various foreign policy tools. Students will discuss the merits of foreign policy ideologies such as isolationism, internationalism, and selective engagement and apply them to foreign policy topics. Foreign policy topics might include global trade, international conflict, migration, energy and climate change, terrorism, global health, or nuclear proliferation. This class meets twice a week on one single block day and one double block day.

This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.

This course satisfies the requirement for the Global Citizenship Certificate.

### **ART HISTORY**

**1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

This course will cover the history of art and architecture, mainly but not solely within the Western tradition, from antiquity through the early twentieth century. Students will learn about works of art in their formal and functional roles and in their historical and cultural contexts. We will explore relevant literature and music associated with several artistic movements. Students will have the opportunity to study an artistic period or theme; an individual artist; or series of artists in-depth in a final project. This course does not count as an Art course. This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.

This course satisfies the requirement for the Global Citizenship Certificate.

# INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE COURSES

## WORLD LANGUAGES

Two consecutive years of one language are required at Duchesne. French and Spanish are the two languages offered. During ninth grade, students choose which language they would like to pursue. Students may opt to take four years of either language at Duchesne. In-depth study of one or more languages brings the rewards of mastering a language and culture different from one's own.

### FRENCH I

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

French I is a beginning course designed for students with little to no French. Students develop fluency by focusing on form and meaning. Students work on the four basic language skills (listening, reading, writing, and speaking). Comprehensible Input methods are used to facilitate communication in French and comprehension of the vocabulary and structures introduced in class. Students begin to identify patterns in the language and hone their pronunciation skills. Videos, books, in class readings and songs focus on cultural aspects of French-speaking cultures, in addition to building vocabulary and listening comprehension skills.

This course satisfies the requirement for the Global Citizenship Certificate.

### FRENCH II

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

(Prerequisite: a "C-" in French I and recommendation.)

This course continues to build on the skills in French I using a communicative approach to language learning. Comprehensible Input methods are used to increase communication and comprehension of the vocabulary and structures learned in class. Students continue to hone their pronunciation in French II through listening, class participation in French, reading of short articles and writing about themselves. Videos, books, in class reading and songs focus on cultural aspects of French-speaking cultures, in addition to building vocabulary and listening comprehension skills.

This course satisfies the requirement for the Global Citizenship Certificate.

### FRENCH III

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

(Prerequisite: a "B-" in French II and recommendation.)

This course expands on the student's foundation in French by substantially enlarging vocabulary and by acquiring additional verb tenses and knowledge of French grammar. French III emphasizes reading comprehension, higher level writing, and class discussions using former and new vocabulary and verb structures. Oral presentations and assessments on various topics offer the opportunity to gain fluency. A variety of videos, books and songs focus on cultural aspects of French-speaking cultures, in addition to building listening comprehension and pronunciation skills.

This course satisfies the requirement for the Global Citizenship Certificate.

### FRENCH IV-V

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

(Prerequisite: a "B-" in French III and recommendation.) French IV-V is a combined class with a two-year, alternating curriculum. The course requires a total commitment for speaking the

language during class, and students are expected to interact and discuss in French. To expand their knowledge of language registers, literature, and contemporary culture, students read and listen to a variety of selections. Films and other media form the basis for part of the curriculum. Grammar and composition are increasingly important. Although this is not an AP course, Level V students in particular are encouraged to consider taking the AP French Language Exam, and the structure and focus of that exam will inform the curriculum. This course satisfies the requirement for the Global Citizenship Certificate.

### **SPANISH I**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

Spanish I, a beginning course for students who have had little or no Spanish, develops fluency by focusing on form and meaning. Students work on the four basic language skills (listening, reading, writing, and speaking) and on learning strategies to facilitate acquisition of a second language. Students will develop skills that allow them to understand and produce basic structures in oral and written activities while being introduced to cultural aspects of everyday life in Spanish speaking countries. Students are expected to participate orally in class and complete all homework assignments. This course satisfies the requirement for the Global Citizenship Certificate.

### **SPANISH II**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

(Prerequisite: a "C" average or better for semester II of Spanish I and teacher recommendation; for students new to Duchesne, a 75 percent on the placement test.) Spanish II continues the focus on form and meaning. Students improve communication skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing; materials continue to be presented in context. Cultural and social aspects will be expanded. Students are expected to participate orally in class and complete all homework assignments. This course satisfies the requirement for the Global Citizenship Certificate.

### **SPANISH FOR HERITAGE SPEAKERS: LEVELS 1&2**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

(Placement to be determined by principal and department chair.) This course is designed for students whose family speaks Spanish at home. The focus will be on developing written and reading proficiency, formal vs. informal registers and academically accepted grammatical patterns. Successful completion of two years of this course would prepare student to enter into Spanish 4. *Minimum of 10 students enrolled for class to be offered* This course satisfies the requirement for the Global Citizenship Certificate.

### **INTERMEDIATE SPANISH**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

(Prerequisite of "C-" average or better in Spanish II and recommendation.) This course combines the grammar and vocabulary from Spanish I and II and strengthens students' abilities in Spanish. This course prepares the student to successfully enter and complete Spanish 3 at Duchesne. Students are expected to participate in all reading, writing, listening and speaking activities and to complete all homework. *Minimum of 10 students enrolled for class to be offered.*

This course satisfies the requirement for the Global Citizenship Certificate.

### **SPANISH III**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

(Prerequisite: a "B" average or better in Spanish II and recommendation.) Students will

continue to develop oral and written skills. The course includes a comprehensive review of pedagogical grammar, intensive work on vocabulary building through the reading of authentic materials, listening comprehension through videos, writing and speaking. The course also fosters the appreciation and understanding of cultural differences through analysis of a variety of authentic materials.

This course satisfies the requirement for the Global Citizenship Certificate.

### **SPANISH IV HONORS D.E. (DUAL ENROLLMENT)**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

#### Dual Enrollment

(Prerequisite: a "B" average or better in Spanish III and recommendation.) This course is a continuation of Spanish III and expands the students' understanding and expression in the language. As students progress through this course they will refine and grow their speaking, writing, reading and listening skills through the use of a variety of texts, audio/video resources and class discussions.

Class will be conducted almost entirely in Spanish and students will be expected to communicate in the target language. More complex grammar structures will be introduced at this level and students will be asked to reflect upon, interpret and react to social and economic issues and current events in Spanish. Dual Enrollment Credit available through Nebraska Wesleyan University.

This course satisfies the requirement for the Global Citizenship Certificate.

### **ADVANCED SPANISH**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

(Prerequisite of "C-" average or better in Spanish III and recommendation.) This course combines the grammar and vocabulary from Spanish I, II and III strengthens students' abilities in Spanish. This course prepares the student to successfully enter and complete Spanish 4 at Duchesne. Students are expected to participate in all reading, writing, listening and speaking activities and to complete all homework. *Minimum of 10 students enrolled for class to be offered.*

This course satisfies the requirement for the Global Citizenship Certificate.

### **AP SPANISH**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

(Prerequisite: a "B+" average or better in Spanish IV and recommendation.) This is an AP course that explores the culture, history, and current events of Spanish-speaking countries. A variety of authentic sources and media such as articles, movies, and a novel are used in this class. The focus is on extensive reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students must have a total commitment to the target language for success at this advanced level. The students are expected to interact, read, write, and discuss everything in Spanish.

This course satisfies the requirement for the Global Citizenship Certificate.

## SCIENCE COURSES

The science graduation requirement is 4 credits of Science or Information Technology. All students are required to take Biology, Chemistry and Physics; individual waivers will be considered in consultation with the principal, department chair, and college counselor.

### **BIOLOGY AND BIOLOGY HONORS**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

These courses offer a comprehensive treatment of the field of biology while focusing on key ideas identified in the National Science Education Standards. These standards propose that biology curricula be organized around fundamental concepts in the areas of cell biology, genetics, ecology, diversity and change.

The placement of students in Biology Honors is coordinated with reading scores on the entrance exam and math placements.

### **CHEMISTRY AND CHEMISTRY HONORS**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

These courses are devoted to the experimental development of chemical principles and their applications. The fundamental topics of study include; measurement, properties of matter, atomic theory, the periodic table, chemical bonding, molecular structure, reactions, the mole, thermochemistry, states of matter, solutions, kinetics, equilibrium, acids/bases, and nuclear chemistry.

The prerequisite for Chemistry is Biology OR Biology Honors.

The prerequisite for Chemistry Honors is an 85 each semester in Biology Honors OR a 93 each semester in Biology and an 85 in their current Math course each semester OR department approval.

### **AP CHEMISTRY**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

This course is designed to cover the topics in a first-year general chemistry course at the college level. This curriculum is organized around six big ideas that can be accessed on the AP Central AP Chemistry webpage. Upon successful completion of this course, the student could obtain college credit from the A.P. exam with a score determined by each college. This course might be cancelled if there are not enough students enrolled.

Prerequisites:

The student must be a junior or senior. If she is a junior, she must have successfully completed either Chemistry with a 96 average each semester or Chemistry Honors with a 91 average each semester. If she is a senior, she must have successfully completed either Physics Honors with a 91 average each semester or AP Physics with an 85 average each semester or an 87 in Biomedical Physiology OR department approval.

### **PHYSICS AND PHYSICS HONORS**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

This course is devoted to the scientific study of the world in terms of interactions of matter and energy. Students will use science as a process of obtaining knowledge based on observable evidence. Through experimentation and mathematical analysis students will study

the following topics: mechanics (motion, forces, energy, momentum), waves (light, sound, optics), electricity and magnetism. Physics and Physics Honors are algebra-based courses.

The prerequisite for Physics is Chemistry or Chemistry Honors.

The prerequisite for Physics Honors is successful completion of Chemistry Honors with an 85 average each semester OR a 93 average each semester in Chemistry and an 85 in their current Math course each semester OR department approval.

### **AP PHYSICS DUAL ENROLLMENT**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

This course is devoted to the scientific study of the world in terms of interaction of matter and energy. Students will use science as a process of obtaining knowledge based on observable evidence. Through experimentation and mathematical analysis students will study the following topics: kinematics, dynamics, concepts of matter and energy, electricity and magnetism, geometric optics, waves, rotational motion and modern physics. AP Physics is an Algebra based course that moves at a very fast pace. It is also offered as a dual enrollment course with UNO. There is a fee of \$250 for 3 credit hours. This course might be cancelled if there are not enough students enrolled.

Prerequisites: The student must be a junior or senior and have completed Pre-Calculus OR take Pre-Calculus concurrently. Juniors must have a 91 each semester in Chemistry Honors OR have department approval. Seniors must have a 94 in Physics and have a 90 on the semester 1 final OR a 92 in Physics Honors and have a 90 on the semester 1 final OR an 87 in AP Chemistry OR an 87 in Biomedical Physiology each semester OR department approval.

### **TOPICS IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND EARTH SCIENCE**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

This course involves viewing Earth's environment in a holistic fashion. Emphasis is placed on understanding how humans impact and are in turn impacted by geologic, biologic, atmospheric, and astronomical processes. Course topics include sustainable development and the availability and use of natural resources, principles of ecology, biogeochemical cycles, climate and climate change, soils and food supply, energy systems, waste generation and management, pollution, and catastrophic natural processes. The course will provide students with the knowledge and tools to evaluate their world in terms of environmental ethics, environmental justice, and sustainability. This course is only offered to seniors. This course satisfies the requirement for the Global Citizenship Certificate.

### **BIOMEDICAL PHYSIOLOGY HONORS DUAL ENROLLMENT**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

The focus of this full year course integrates biomedical principles into anatomy and physiology concepts. This course includes a comprehensive overview of the structure and function of the human body and the technologies used to study it. This includes a review of biochemical principles, an overview of the cellular basis of life, and a study of the four basic tissue types. Each system of the body will be discussed as well as disease and dysfunction of structure and function. Cutting edge health technologies in genetics, immunology, pharmacology, and other emerging disciplines will be explored as students approach each anatomical system. Dual Enrollment is offered through UNO at a cost of \$250 for 4 credit

hours. This course is offered to seniors with no prerequisite or juniors with Department approval.  
This course satisfies the requirement for the Global Citizenship Certificate.

**\*Note: See Technology Department Courses for additional Science credit courses.**

# MATHEMATICS COURSES

It is the concern of the Mathematics Department that our students:

1. Know and understand mathematical processes, facts and principles;
2. Understand the logical structure of mathematics and the nature of proof;
3. Perform computations with understanding, accuracy and efficiency;
4. Have the ability to solve verbal problems;
5. Develop attitudes and appreciation which stem from, and which lead to, greater curiosity, initiative, confidence and interests;
6. Develop proper methods of studying mathematics and communicating mathematically;
7. Develop study habits essential for independent and group work;
8. And develop the ability to use and apply technology in appropriate ways.

To facilitate reaching these goals, each student is required to satisfactorily complete four years of mathematics including: Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry and PreCollege Algebra or Precalculus (or where appropriate, a more advanced sequence of courses). When courses are ability grouped, the members of the Mathematics Department will place each student in the appropriate course dependent upon their assessment of her performance in entrance or standardized examinations, and/or prior performance in mathematics courses.

Patterns of excessive absences will be considered in making honors placements. All placements will be made with due consideration for the needs of the student.

## **CALCULATOR REQUIREMENTS:**

Freshman will provided with a graphing calculator. All other students will be required to have a TI-84 Plus or a Numworks graphing calculator is required in all math classes.

## **ALGEBRA I**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

Algebra I reviews the basic terminology, notation, concepts, skills and applications of arithmetic. Building on operations with positive and negative numbers and zero, Algebra 1 presents properties of polynomials and rational numbers and applies them to the solution of linear and quadratic equations and to inequalities in one and two variables. Graphing is included at appropriate points and verbal problems are integrated with each appropriate points and verbal problems are integrated with topic area.

## **ALGEBRA I HONORS**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

Prerequisite: Department Placement

This course is a faster paced Algebra 1 class. It covers all the topics of Algebra I, while going more in depth with some of them. Freshmen in this class will either have a background in Algebra or may have taken Pre-Algebra and scored well on the Math Placement Exam.

## **ALGEBRA II**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

Prerequisites: Algebra 1 and department placement

Algebra 2 reviews basic terminology, notation, skills in operations with positive and negative numbers and zero, the solutions to polynomial equations and inequalities in one and two variables, verbal problems, and graphing of linear, quadratic and other functions. This class

introduces and develops the complex number system, its properties and operations. The class also addresses the concepts of relations and functions, logarithmic and exponential functions. Also covered in this class are conic sections, probability and trigonometry.

### **ALGEBRA II HONORS**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

Prerequisite: satisfactory work in Algebra and department placement.

This course includes study of linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions, including domain, range, and intercepts. Translations of functions, solving linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic equations will be explored. Right triangle trigonometry and basic analytic trigonometry are developed. Units on conic sections, sequences, series, probability, and an introduction to matrices will also be covered. Emphasis is on solving problems both algebraically and graphically, including developing application-based problem solving skills.

### **GEOMETRY**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

Prerequisite: Algebra I, and Algebra II or Algebra II Honors

Geometry stresses the logical development of analytic and synthetic thought processes, reinforcing the logical steps in thinking required for Algebra I. Proof and inquiry methods of reasoning are emphasized throughout the year. The course includes the study of the properties of both two-and three-dimensional figures including the study of area, volume, and figures as located in the coordinate plane and in space. Transformations and symmetries are studied as they relate to art. Emphasis is given to congruent, similar and right triangles and to circles. Algebraic applications are related to all topics. Computer software is used as a dynamic tool for exploring various topics.

### **GEOMETRY HONORS**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

Prerequisite: Algebra II Honors or Algebra I/Algebra II successfully completed or superior performance on the Algebra Challenge Test or department placement

Geometry stresses the logical development of analytic and synthetic thought processes, reinforcing the logical steps in thinking required for Algebra I. Proof and inquiry methods of reasoning are emphasized throughout the year. The course includes the study of the properties of both two-and three-dimensional figures including the study of area, volume, and figures as located in the coordinate plane and in space. Transformations and symmetries are studied as they relate to art. Emphasis is given to congruent, similar and right triangles and to circles. Algebraic applications are related to all topics. Computer software is used as a dynamic tool for exploring various topics.

This honors course includes all the topics listed for Geometry with additional requirements involving more in-depth treatment of topics in both assignment work and testing.

### **PRECALCULUS**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

Prerequisites: satisfactory work in Algebra II, Geometry and department placement.

Precalculus includes detailed work with polynomial, trigonometric, and logarithmic functions. The course also includes study of basic statistics topics, including probability and data manipulation. Emphasis is on graphing to visualize concepts.

## **PRECALCULUS HONORS**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

Prerequisites: satisfactory work in Algebra II Honors or in Geometry/Geometry Honors and department placement.

This course provides students with the skills and concepts necessary for the study of AP Calculus through an introductory Calculus unit, as well as its conceptual development of circular, trigonometric and inverse functions, and varied problem-solving skills for right, oblique and obtuse triangles. Precalculus Honors includes detailed work with polynomial, trigonometric, exponential, and logarithmic functions and probability and matrices. Emphasis is on technology, real-life applications and problem solving.

## **AP PRECALCULUS**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

Prerequisites: satisfactory work in Geometry or Geometry Honors and Department Placement.

Adapted from the College Board Description of the Course:

AP Precalculus centers on functions modeling dynamic phenomena, to better prepare students for college level calculus and provide grounding for other mathematics and science courses. In this course, students study a broad spectrum of function types that are foundational for careers in mathematics, physics, biology, health sciences, business, social science, and data science. With each function type, students develop and validate function models based on the characteristics of a bivariate data set, characteristics of covarying quantities and their relative rates of change, or set of characteristics such as zeros, asymptotes, and extrema. Additionally, students also learn that every model is subject to assumptions and limitations related to context. As a result of examining functions from many perspectives, students develop a conceptual understanding not only of specific function types but also of function in general.

Students will be expected to complete extensive work over the summer to prepare for this course. In addition, all students in this course will be required to take the Advanced Placement Precalculus Exam in May.

## **AP CALCULUS BC DUAL ENROLLMENT**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of Pre-calculus or Pre-calculus Honors and department placement.

This course includes the study of differentiation and integration of a variety of functions. Integration techniques, infinite series and differential equations will also be investigated. Students will explore these concepts numerically, graphically and analytically and use them for applications in a variety of fields from economics to physics.

Upon successful completion of the course, the student can obtain credit from Creighton University and/or the Advanced Placement exam. Dual enrollment fee is \$400 per semester for Creighton credit and registration at the beginning of each semester. Students must comply with Creighton policies for registration or withdrawal. If the student elects to take the AP exam, there is also a fee.

## **CALCULUS III HONORS**

**2 Semesters (0.5 Credit)**

Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of AP Calculus BC and department placement.

This course continues the students' study of calculus concepts. Students will explore these concepts numerically, graphically and analytically and use them for applications in a variety of

fields from economics to physics. This class is taken in conjunction with Applied Engineering Honors Math Focus.

### **APPLIED ENGINEERING HONORS MATH FOCUS**

**2 Semesters (0.5 Credit)**

Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of AP Calculus BC and department placement.

In this yearlong course, students will explore CAD software and the engineering design process and concepts with the guidance of an engineering mentor. Students will work collaboratively with a team to identify a problem that they see in their community and create an innovative solution for the problem identified utilizing their STEM skills throughout. For this class, there is a required competition in April sponsored by SAME (Society of Military Engineers) where students will present their project to a panel of engineers. This class is taken in conjunction with Calculus 3 and will meet on one double block day a week to discuss and collaborate with their team. It will require significant independent work and research outside of class time. This is a full year and counts as a math credit.

### **AP STATISTICS**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of Algebra 2 Honors and instructor permission.

This course includes the exploration and analysis of data, scatterplots & linear regression, probability, sampling, hypothesis testing, and statistical inference. Students will explore these concepts from the textbook, but will also conduct their own study, gathering and analyzing their data. The student will use her calculator extensively, and also have some exposure to Microsoft Excel and other statistical software. Students will study statistics and its application to various fields, such as political science, medicine and economics.

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will have the preparation needed to take the Advanced Placement Statistics examination. If the student elects to take the AP exam, there is an additional a fee.

# COURSES IN THE ARTS

## VISUAL ARTS

### ART FOUNDATIONS

**1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

Art Foundations provides for individual research based upon seeing, investigating artists' ideas, and working with materials. Content and projects are varied and are intended to shift students to a particular way of seeing. Studio experiences will sensitize students to art media and tools, and to shape, line, space, hue, value, chroma, texture, and their organization in space.

### INTERIOR DESIGN

**1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

(Prerequisite: Art Foundations) This course enables students to explore their creativity and to develop skills in applying the elements and principles of design to interior spaces. Integrated projects allow students to consider design (architecture and construction), function of space, furniture styles, surface treatments, and lighting. Students will be introduced to Computer-aided Design and Drafting software (AutoCAD), building materials, architectural design history, and local building codes. Field trips to view professionally designed spaces may be utilized.

### ADVANCED INTERIOR DESIGN

**1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

(Prerequisite: Interior Design) This course allows for further exploration in elements and principles of design in interior spaces. Project direction will be the responsibility of the student and should focus on in-depth investigation of materials, processes, and ideas relating to interior design. Students may also choose to explore the AutoCAD program beyond what is covered in the Interior Design course.

### TWO-DIMENSIONAL ART

**1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

(Prerequisite: Art Foundations) Students will explore the elements and principles of art and their function in two-dimensional design. Studio work will provide students the opportunity to apply these fundamentals in a creative process to promote experimentation, problem solving, and self-expression. Media work may include - drawing, painting, and printmaking.

### ADVANCED TWO-DIMENSIONAL ART

**1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

(Prerequisite: 2D Art) This course allows for further exploration in two-dimensional design and techniques. Project direction will be the responsibility of the student and should focus on an in-depth investigation of materials, processes, and ideas. Media work may expand beyond techniques covered in 2D Art.

### THREE-DIMENSIONAL ART

**1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

(Prerequisite: Art Foundations) Students will explore the elements and principles of art and their function in three-dimensional design. Studio work will provide students the opportunity to apply these fundamentals in a creative process to promote experimentation, problem solving, and self-expression. Media may include, but not be limited to – clay, casting, relief work, and sculpture in the round.

**ADVANCED THREE-DIMENSIONAL ART****1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

(Prerequisite: 3D Art) Students will utilize hand-building and throwing techniques to create a variety of functional and decorative projects in clay. Studio work will also provide students the opportunity to work on the potters wheel. Students will also create one non-clay project based on personal interests.

**ADVANCED RESEARCH in 2D or 3D ART****1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

(Prerequisite: 2D and Advanced 2D or 3D and Advanced 3D plus teacher's approval) This course is designed for highly motivated students who are seriously interested in the study of art who cannot take the AP Studio offering. This course offering allows for further investigation into each studio offering (Two Dimensional or Three Dimensional) beyond the course catalog. The advanced research class will meet during a regular 2D or 3D class but the student will be working on projects independent from the regular class. The student will create her own syllabus, or project list, and present to the instructor during the first week of the semester. The final project will be a portfolio of multiple art pieces from the agreed upon project list and written statements.

**AP STUDIO ART****2 Semester (1.0 Credit)**

(Prerequisite: Art Foundations, studio art course in chosen studio area: 2D Art or 3D Art, and teacher's approval) This course is designed for highly motivated students who are seriously interested in the study of art. The AP Studio class is a year-long course designed as the equivalent of a one-semester, introductory college course. Students create a portfolio of work (in one of the two AP Studio areas: 2D Art and Design or 3D Art and Design) as well as proof of sustained investigation through practice, experimentation, and revision (sketchbook, photographed work, artistic critique). The AP Studio class may/may not meet during a regular 2D or 3D class based on enrollment, but the student will be working independent from the regular class. The student will create her own syllabus, or plan of action, and present to the instructor during the first week of the semester. The "final project" will be an art portfolio and written statements based on the AP requirements for selected content area. AP portfolio submissions will take place in early May.

**FILM PHOTOGRAPHY I****1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

(Prerequisite: Art Foundations) Students will explore the elements and principles of art and their function in photography. The students will investigate camera elements, techniques, black and white printing processes, photographic expression, and conceptual aesthetics. Group critiques complement darkroom and field work. Students must have access to a 35mm, SLR (Single Lens Reflex) camera and will provide their own film and photography paper.

**FILM PHOTOGRAPHY II****1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

(Prerequisite: Film Photography I) This course allows for exploration of photographic expression - advanced darkroom techniques, graphic film, non-silver processes. The students will create with subtraction from or addition to a continuous tone negative, resulting

in a working art print. Students must have access to a 35 mm, SLR (single Lens Reflex) camera and will provide their own film and photography paper.

### **FILM PHOTOGRAPHY III**

**1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

(Prerequisite: Film Photography I and Film Photography II) This course allows for further exploration of photographic expression – building on prior knowledge from the previous two film photography classes to develop and create a unique portfolio, worked on by the student for the entire semester. Students must have access to a DSLR (Digital Single Lens Reflex) camera.

### **DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY I**

**1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

(Prerequisite: Art Foundations) Students will explore the elements and principles of art and their function in digital imaging as applied to photography. In this course students will use the digital camera and some of the computer software application, Adobe Photoshop, to create artistic images. Students must have access to a DSLR (Digital Single Lens Reflex) camera.

### **DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY II**

**1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

(Prerequisite: Digital Photography I) This course allows for exploration of digital photographic expression using Photoshop techniques. Furthers the study of aesthetic and technical theories and techniques of digital photography. Emphasizes the development of a related body of work demonstrating the student's personal photographic vision. Explores advanced digital camera and image editing software techniques. Students must have access to a DSLR (Digital Single Lens Reflex) camera.

### **DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY III**

**1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

(Prerequisite: Digital Photography I and Digital Photography II) This course allows for further exploration of digital photographic expression using Photoshop techniques. Furthers the study of aesthetic and technical theories and techniques of digital photography. Emphasizes the development of a related body of work demonstrating the student's personal photographic vision. Explores advanced digital camera and image editing software techniques. Students must have access to a DSLR (Digital Single Lens Reflex) camera.

## **MUSIC**

### **DUCHESNE CHOIR**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

Duchesne Choir welcomes all freshmen through seniors who want to discover the joy of singing in a large, supportive ensemble. No previous experience is needed, just enthusiasm and willingness to learn. Students will explore music of very style while building strong vocal technique, confidence, and musicianship. Choir members perform in concerts and district music contests and enjoy a wide range of enrichment opportunities, including community events, masterclasses with professional musicians, and music-related field trips. Duchesne Choir offers fun and creative outlet that helps students grow as artists and performers.

### **SELECT CHOIR (Audition Required)**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

Select Choir is an advanced ensemble for juniors and seniors (sophomores with a superior audition will be considered) who are ready to take their vocal skills to the next level.

Enrollment is by audition and instructor permission. Students will sing a high level of choral repertoire in a variety of styles while developing strong musicianship, music reading skills, choral tone, blend, and intonation. Select Choir members participate in concerts and district music contests and benefit from exceptional opportunities such as community performances, masterclasses with professional musicians, and music related field trips. This ensemble is ideal for students seeking a challenging, rewarding, and inspiring musical experience.

## **BAND**

**2 Semesters (0.5 Credit)**

Band is open to all freshmen through seniors who play a concert band instrument including guitar and piano. This dynamic ensemble builds foundational skills such as tone production, instrumental proficiency, and music reading while exploring a wide range of musical styles. Students perform in concerts and district music contests and enjoy opportunities including community events, masterclasses with professional musicians, and music related field trips. Band meets twice a week before school and offers a vibrant, collaborative environment where students grow as musicians and performers.

## **STRING ENSEMBLE**

**2 Semesters (0.5 Credit)**

String Ensemble welcomes freshmen through seniors who play a string instrument including guitar and piano. Students will strengthen tone production, instrumental technique, and music reading skills while performing music in a variety of styles. Strings students will participate in concerts and district music contests and enjoy opportunities including community events, masterclasses with professional musicians, and music related field trips. The ensemble meets twice a week before school and offers a vibrant, collaborative environment where students grow as musicians and performers.

## **JAZZ BAND**

**2 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

Prerequisite: Students must also be enrolled in Band or String Ensemble.

Jazz Band is an exciting ensemble for students in grades 9-12 who want to dive into the world of jazz performance. The class explores challenging repertoire in styles such as swing, Latin, funk, and blues while building skills in improvisation, jazz theory, tone production, and ensemble playing. Students perform in concerts and district music contests and enjoy opportunities including community events, masterclasses with professional musicians, and music related field trips. Because of the advanced musicianship and commitment required, students must be enrolled in Band or String Ensemble. Jazz Band offers a thrilling, fast paced musical experience that celebrates one of America's most influential art forms. This class will meet once a week before school.

## **WORLD DRUMMING**

**1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

World Drumming is a semester long course for students in grades 10-12 who want to explore the exciting world of global percussion. No music background is required. Students will study rhythmic traditions from Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean while learning the history and cultural significance of each instrument. In addition to hands on percussion work, the class introduces basic music theory, performance standards, composition techniques and listening/analysis skills. World Drumming offers an energetic, immersive musical experience unlike anything else in the curriculum.

This course satisfies the requirement for the Global Citizenship Certificate.

## **SONGWRITING**

**1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

Prerequisite: Ability to play basic chords and rhythms on guitar, bass, piano, drums, or similar rock band instrument. Students without experience may speak with Mrs. Margraf or Mr. Hazel about possible participation.

Songwriting gives students the chance to step into the world of modern music creation.

Throughout the semester, students will write an original solo song, exploring different styles structures, and songwriting techniques. They will then collaborate in groups to learn rehearsal strategies, co-writing skills, and performance techniques. The class includes a visit to a professional recording studio where students will record their original work. Along the way, they will study songwriting theory from famous artists, perform at community events, and gain insight into an industry where women are often discouraged from participating. Students leave the course empowered with the skills and confidence to continue writing, performing, and even forming their own bands.

This course satisfies the requirement for the Global Citizenship Certificate.

## **DRAMA**

### **INTRODUCTION TO SPEECH**

**1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

This course focuses on the individual event categories of area speech contests. Students will develop contest pieces in four or more of the following categories throughout the year: oral interpretation of dramatic literature, oral interpretation of poetry, humorous interpretation of prose literature, original oratory, informative speaking, persuasive speaking, extemporaneous speaking, speaking to entertain, and impromptu speaking. Students will also be involved in either duet acting (two students) or oral interpretation of drama (three or more students). Students will compete in at least three speech contests through the course of a semester.

### **INTRODUCTION TO THEATER ART**

**1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

This one semester course will focus on the different artistic elements that make up a theatrical performance; the performer, director, and the designers. The course may include workshops in the acting, scene construction, lighting or sound.

### **SCENE SHOP**

**1 Semester (0.25 Credit)**

This is a zero hour class with an additional 25 hours completed during an agreed upon time based on the fall/spring production schedule. Students will need to complete at least 20 hours + training towards the construction of theatrical sets for the semester production before opening night with an additional 5 hours before the end of the semester. This class can be taken both semesters for any student interested in working on the fall and spring productions.

### **STAGE LIGHTING**

**1 Semester (0.25 Credit)**

In this zero hour class students must attend rehearsals and performances for the school production + training hours during an agreed upon time. Students in Stage Lighting will be introduced to the basics tenets of light design for a theatrical production. Instruction will take place in a workshop setting. The workshops will be offered after school. Students will gain hands-on experience hanging, aiming and focusing various lighting instruments. They will also program and run the lightboard for a theatrical production. Students will need to commit

to attending the necessary rehearsals and performances for each theatre production to receive credit. This class can be taken both semesters for any students interested in working on the fall and spring productions.

### **THEATER SOUND DESIGN & PRODUCTION**

**1 Semester (0.25 Credit)**

In this zero-hour class students must attend rehearsals and performances for the school production + training hours during an agreed upon time. Students will learn how to analyze a script and create the necessary soundscape for it. This will include creating and using sound effects for a play and choosing music to enhance the play's narrative. Instruction will take place in a workshop setting. Workshops in sound will be offered after school. Students will need to commit to attending the necessary rehearsals and performances for each theatre production to receive credit. The class can be taken both semesters for any students interested in working on the fall and spring productions.

### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

#### **EXPLORING INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES**

**1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

(No Prerequisite) This is a semester Fine Arts course offered in the spring semester in which students will explore the use of Design Thinking through individual and team projects. Exploring Innovative Technologies introduces highly motivated students to Design Thinking, project based learning, and independent inquiry. This course focuses on elements that contribute to creativity and innovation in individuals. Students will participate in modules designed to introduce them to various technologies in the D.R.E.A.M. lab. The goal of each project should cumulate in a tangible product for the community to experience. Once familiar with the tools, students will design two larger projects following the design process. A proposal phase will require students to research and design their product and a final production phase will require students to create their product. This course is open to 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders.

This class is a Fine Art credit.

This course satisfies the requirement for the Global Citizenship Certificate.

**Students must take at least 1 credit (two classes) of the graduation requirement (2 credits) from the above list of courses.**

**Note: There are courses listed in the Technology Courses section and Creative Writing that can be taken for a Fine Art Credit. Students may use these cross listed courses for one credit of the fine art requirement.**

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION COURSES

The physical education requirement at Duchesne may be fulfilled by completing four semesters of general physical education/health classes. Physical education is required during all four years at Duchesne with each course being a semester long. The physical education/health program emphasizes healthy lifetime sports and also provides an aerobic dimension to its content.

All Freshmen are required to take Freshman PE/Digital Citizenship.

All Sophomores are required to take Sophomore Health. They must also choose between Foundations for PE or Intro to Strength and Conditioning.

All Juniors and Seniors may choose between Intro to Strength and Conditioning, Intermediate Strength and Conditioning, Independent Study Strength and Conditioning, Strength and Conditioning, Lifetime Activities, or Team Games. All Juniors and Seniors also have the opportunity to participate in our Certified R.A.D Basic Physical Defense Class.

### **FRESHMAN PE**

**1 Semester (0.25 Credit)**

This course will introduce students to the foundations of physical fitness and equip them with the knowledge and skills necessary to lead an active and healthy lifestyle. Students will participate in a variety of physical activities (e.g. aerobics, individual and team sports). Students in Freshman PE will also complete the American Red Cross CPR course. This course meets two days a week.

### **FOUNDATIONS FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND FITNESS**

**1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

This Sophomore level course will introduce students to the foundations of physical fitness and equip them with the knowledge and skills necessary to lead an active and healthy lifestyle. Students will participate in a variety of physical activities (e.g. aerobics, individual and team sports). Students in this class will meet 2 days a week.

### **INTRODUCTION TO STRENGTH & CONDITIONING**

**1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

This Sophomore level course is designed for the beginning weight training student. It includes proper lifting techniques, spotting methods, weight room safety, and workout routines. Students in this class will meet 2 days a week for an entire semester.

### **SOPHOMORE HEALTH**

Rooted in the Five Goals of the Sacred Heart

Sophomore Health is a semester long course in PE 2 that supports students in developing lifelong habits for physical, emotional, social, and spiritual well-being. Inspired by the Five Goals of the Sacred Heart, the course encourages students to view health as a holistic experience that shapes who they are and how they live within their communities. Students engage in evidence-based learning, reflective practice, skill building, and meaningful conversation about topics such as mental health, stress management, relationships, communication, decision-making and personal wellness. The course culminates in a reflection project where students assess their personal growth in relation to one or more of the Five Goals and consider how their learning will influence their future choices and aspirations.

students will learn about a variety of topics affecting the emotional and physical health and wellness of young women today through short lectures, group activities and discussion. Topics include stress management, communication, drug and alcohol abuse, relationships, body image, eating disorders and mental health disorders. Students are encouraged to make connections between these general topics and their personal experience. This class is taught by the personal counselor and will meet one double block a week for an entire semester. This class is part of the PE curriculum for Sophomores.

### **TEAM GAMES**

**1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

This Junior/Senior level course is designed to teach a variety of rules, skills, fundamentals, and strategies in multiple team activities. The content will promote a healthy, active lifestyle while emphasizing safety, sportsmanship, and teamwork. Students in this class will meet 3 days a week for an entire semester.

### **LIFETIME ACTIVITIES**

**1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

This Junior/Senior level course includes basic skills, knowledge and strategies of lifetime activities that contribute to a healthy, active adult lifestyle. Students will participate in a variety of lone, duo, and group lifetime activities. Students in this class will meet 3 days a week for an entire semester.

### **STRENGTH & CONDITIONING**

**1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

This Junior/Senior level course is designed for the intermediate to advanced weight training athlete. It builds on the introduction to Strength and Conditioning with a focus on a weight training routine to compliment your athletic season. Students in this class will meet 3 days a week for an entire semester.

### **ZERO HOUR STRENGTH & CONDITIONING**

**1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

This Junior/Senior level course is designed for the intermediate to advanced weight training athlete. It builds on the introduction to Strength and Conditioning with a focus on a weight training routine to compliment your athletic season. Students in this class will meet every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning from 7:30-8:40am for an entire semester. Seniors will have the priority for getting accepted into this class followed closely by Juniors that took Introduction Strength & Conditioning their sophomore year.

### **Senior Waiver from ½ PE Credit**

Seniors only may have a ½ credit of PE waived IF:

- 1 ½ credits of PE are completed by the end of junior year, including freshman PE/Dance and sophomore PE/Health, and
- They have participated on a Duchesne-sponsored, NSAA-recognized for each of their freshman, sophomore and junior years. Eligible teams include
  - Basketball
  - Cheer
  - Cross Country

Dance  
Golf  
Soccer  
Softball  
Swimming and Diving  
Tennis  
Track and Field  
Volleyball

-LaCrosse and Archery may also be considered by the principal with an affidavit of participation from the coach to the equivalent of 3 full seasons practice and competitions.

### **R.A.D. BASIC PHYSICAL DEFENSE**

This Junior/Senior level class is designed to empower women through self-defense. While this is not a Martial Arts course, each student will develop her knowledge, skills and abilities through lecture, discussion, and physical resistive strategies. Students will develop the awareness that they can rely upon themselves to be safe. They will gain an understanding of appropriate decisions to make for their safety. They will also gain the self-realization that they have the physical power to make a difference. R.A.D. is offered by many community police departments, colleges, and universities throughout the United States and Canada. All R.A.D. classes are facilitated by certified R.A.D. Instructors supported by a network of dedicated professionals who honor one another's students through a unique Lifetime Return and Practice Policy. This class will meet for 1 double block class period on a Wednesday or a Thursday. Each class will only meet for 8 weeks during a semester. We highly recommend that every student participates in this class before graduating from Duchesne.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COURSES

### **DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP**

**1 Semester (0.25 Credit)**

This semester-long course will empower students to develop the skills required to navigate our digital world safely and with confidence. Digital Citizenship covers topics such as managing digital information and communications, online research, reliability of sources and bias, managing personal digital footprints, Artificial Intelligence, cybersecurity and computer programming, and the impact of computing on society. This class is a ¼ IT credit and will meet once a week, usually scheduled the day PE does not meet.

This course satisfies the requirement for the Global Citizenship Certificate.

### **PROGRAMMING IN PYTHON**

**2 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

(No Prerequisite) Python is an introductory-level course for students with varying levels of programming and computer science experience, from those who are new to programming to those who have been part of a coding club or taken a computer science class. In this course, you will learn problem-solving strategies, and the foundations of computer science. This course will prepare you for continuing your studies in computer science (for example, by taking AP Computer Science A and AP Computer Science Principles), but it will also teach you how to think like a computer scientist and solve real-world problems. This course is taught using Python and is open to 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th graders. This class is a half credit Science course.

### **AP COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

(No Prerequisite) AP Computer Science Principles offers a multidisciplinary approach to teaching the underlying principles of computation. The course will introduce students to the creative aspects of programming, abstractions, algorithms, large data sets, the Internet, cyber security concerns, and computing impacts. AP Computer Science Principles will give students the opportunity to use technology to address real-world problems and build relevant solutions. Together, these aspects of the course make up a rigorous and rich curriculum that aims to broaden participation in computer science. This course is open to 10<sup>th</sup>, 11th and 12th graders. This class is a Full Credit Science course and will meet regularly.

### **AP COMPUTER SCIENCE A**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

(Prerequisite: Successful completion of Programming in Python and/or Computer Science Principles OR instructor permission.)

AP Computer Science A is a year-long course designed to help students master the basics of Java and equip them to successfully pass the AP Computer Science A Exam at the end of the school year. The course introduces fundamental topics that include problem solving, design strategies and methodologies, organization of data (data structures), approaches to processing data (algorithms), analysis of potential solutions, and the ethical and social implications of computing. This course is equivalent to a first-semester, college-level course in computer science. This course is open to 11th and 12th graders. This class is a Full Credit Science course and will meet regularly.

### **EXPLORING INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES**

**1 Semesters (0.5 Credit)**

(No Prerequisite) This is a semester Fine Arts course offered in the spring semester in which students will explore the use of Design Thinking through individual and team projects.

Exploring Innovative Technologies introduces highly motivated students to Design Thinking, project based learning, and independent inquiry. This course focuses on elements that contribute to creativity and innovation in individuals. Students will participate in modules designed to introduce them to various technologies in the D.R.E.A.M. lab. The goal of each project should cumulate in a tangible product for the community to experience. Once familiar with the tools, students will design two larger projects following the design process. A proposal phase will require students to research and design their product and a final production phase will require students to create their product. This course is open to 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders.

This class is a Fine Art credit.

This course satisfies the requirement for the Global Citizenship Certificate.

### **DESIGN AND INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES I** **2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

(No Prerequisite) This is a one-year course in which students will explore the use of Design Thinking through individual and team projects. Design and Innovative Technologies introduces highly motivated students to Design Thinking, project based learning, and independent inquiry in STEAM related careers (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math). This course focuses on elements that contribute to creativity and innovation in individuals and groups within organizations. During the first semester, students will participate in modules designed to introduce them to various technologies in the D.R.E.A.M lab. The goal of each project should culminate in a tangible product for the community to use or experience. Second semester, students will complete a project for a community partner that they have chosen. STEAM Academy will structure student work into three phases. A proposal phase will require students to research and define the problem that their project will solve, a prototype phase will require students to research and design their product, and a final production phase will require students to create their product. This course is open to 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders.

This class is either Science credit or Fine Art credit to be determined at the beginning of the school year.

This course satisfies the requirement for the Global Citizenship Certificate.

### **DESIGN AND INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES II** **2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

(Prerequisite: Design and Innovative Technologies I or Exploring Innovative Technologies)

This is a one-year course in which students will expand the use of Design Thinking through individual and community projects. Design and Innovative Technologies II continues to expose students to Design Thinking, project based learning, and independent inquiry in STEAM related careers (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) as well as requires them to enter local expos and competitions to display their talents. The course is designed for highly motivated students pursuing STEAM related careers. This class is either Science credit or Fine Art credit to be determined at the beginning of the school year.

This course satisfies the requirement for the Global Citizenship Certificate.

### **ADVANCED INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES** **2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

(Prerequisite: Design and Innovative Technologies I & II) This is a one-year Senior course in which students will continue the use of Design Thinking through individual and community projects. Advanced Design and Innovative Technologies continues to expose students to

Design Thinking, problem based learning, and independent inquiry in STEAM related careers (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) as well as requires them to enter a local expo or competition to display their talents. The course is designed for 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Senior Design and Innovative Technology students who are highly motivated students pursuing STEAM related vocations. This class is either Science credit or Fine Art credit to be determined at the beginning of the school year.

This course satisfies the requirement for the Global Citizenship Certificate.

### **APPLIED ENGINEERING HONORS**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

In this course, students will explore CAD software and the engineering design process and concepts with the guidance of an engineering mentor. Students will work collaboratively with a team to identify a problem that they see in their community and create an innovative solution for the problem identified utilizing their STEM skills throughout. For this class, there are two required competitions in March/April. One is a group competition sponsored by SAME (Society of Military Engineers) where students will present their project to a panel of engineers. The second is an individual competition sponsored by MSEF (Metro Science and Engineering Fair) where students will present their individual engineering project science fair style. This class is open to seniors and will meet on two double block days a week to discuss progress and collaborate with their team. It will require significant independent work and research outside of class time. This class is a full year and counts as a for a full credit in science.

This course satisfies the requirement for the Global Citizenship Certificate.

### **BEGINNING ROBOTICS**

**2 Semesters (0.5 Credit)**

This course is an introduction to robotics using VEX robotics. It is meant for students with limited experience with Robotics or those transitioning from VEX IQ to VEX VRC. Students will build a basic square robot and learn introductory programming of the robot. Some independent work outside of the class time will be expected. Students will have the option to compete in competitions toward the end of the first semester and throughout the second semester. This course will meet twice a week and is open to 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th graders. This class is a quarter Science credit per semester and will meet during the school day.

This course satisfies the requirement for the Global Citizenship Certificate with an additional project.

### **ADVANCED/COMPETITIVE ROBOTICS**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

(Instructor Permission) This course is intended for students who have some experience with competitive robotics and want to be part of a competitive team attending multiple FIRST tournaments throughout the year. Students will work together in teams to design, build, and program a robot based on the current FIRST Tech Challenge robotics game. Independent work outside of the class time will be expected as teams prepare for competitions. This course will meet three times a week (one single block and two double blocks) and is open to 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th graders. This class is a half Science credit per semester and will meet during the school day.

This course satisfies the requirement for the Global Citizenship Certificate with an additional project.

## **COUNSELING**

### **9th GRADE SEMINAR**

The objective of this one day per week first quarter seminar is to provide freshmen with skills to help them have a successful transition to high school and to familiarize them with some important aspects of Duchesne. Study strategies such as organizational skills, time management and test preparation will be discussed.

### **11th GRADE SEMINAR**

This seminar will introduce the preliminary steps in the college search and application process. Goals of this seminar include helping students define what they want in a college education, establishing a standardized testing plan, and preparing a resume. Each step of the college application will be explained and discussed. Students will use their Naviance Student accounts to search for college matches and scholarships. This class will meet during third quarter in small groups. Course materials and assignments will be posted via the on-line course. All juniors are responsible for completing the course requirements. The college counselor also meets individually with each student during fourth quarter to discuss and assist with her college plans.

### **12th GRADE SEMINAR**

This class is taught first semester of senior year and is intended to be a working seminar to help seniors manage and write their college applications. The college counselor will explain the many areas of the college application process, including creating a prospective college list, understanding financial aid, requesting recommendations, applying for scholarships, and personal finance topics. Detailed information will be posted via the on-line course. Students are responsible for completing the course requirements and tracking their applications on their Naviance Student accounts. Extensive individual counseling is offered to each student. Parents are welcome to meet with the college counselor through appointment.

## ELECTIVES

### **ACADEMIC DECATHLON**

**2 Semesters (0.5 Credit)**

This course follows curriculum which changes yearly based on the topic chosen by the United States Academic Decathlon group. Students learn about a topic and will then compete against other schools in seven different subject areas (language and literature, social science, art, music, science, mathematics, and economics) at the regional level. If a team qualifies for state level competition, interview, speech, and essay components are added. Students should be aware that there are up to two Saturday scrimmage matches held first semester and the regional and state competition held in January and February, respectively, and attendance at these is required. This class will meet at zero hour, three times per week, up until the state competition, held in February. After, the class will meet twice a week. Instead of a textbook, there will be a \$50 fee per student for the purchase of study materials. All students will earn an elective quarter credit for this class for first semester. Students who make the competition team will also earn an elective quarter credit second semester.

### **CREATIVE WRITING**

**2 Semesters (0.5 Credit)**

Creative Writing introduces developing writers to all aspects of the writing process and aids in the growth of their craft. Students explore the major writing genres of fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry. They will cultivate the eye of the writer through examining contemporary writers utilizing all the foundations of the writing craft, including point of view, characterization, imagery, and many more. Then they will practice growing in these craft foundations in their own writing. Modeled on a university-level writing course, Creative Writing students engage in a writing workshop process, which involves sharing their own work and participating in the feedback process. Finally, students participate in the production, selection and submission process for Duchesne Academy literary magazine, as well as aid in the production and selection process for the literary magazine. Through Creative Writing, students will explore and grow as writers in both knowledge and skill. This class is a quarter credit per semester and may be taken as a fine art credit.

### **PERSONAL FINANCE**

**1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

Prerequisite: Junior or Senior

This course is open to juniors and seniors. This course is intended to give students an overview of skills needed to become financially independent as adults. Students will learn about financial concepts in personal finance including but not limited to: personal banking, debits vs. credits, personal budgets, insurance, payroll & wages, types of investments. The class will include guest speakers on some of these various topics. Students in this class help run and work in the school snack bar.

### **BUSINESS & ACCOUNTING**

**1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

Prerequisite: Junior or Senior

This course is open to juniors and seniors. This course is intended to give students an overview of the business world. Students will learn about financial concepts and business customs and practices. The course will introduce students to many concepts, including but not limited to: common business vocabulary, insurance, balance sheets, income statements, break-even analysis, inventory, marketing, and entrepreneurship. The class will include guest

speakers on some of these various topics. Students in this class help run and work in the school snack bar.

## **MANAGEMENT**

**1 Semester (0.5 Credit)**

(Can take this course both semesters) (Prerequisite: Personal Finance AND Business & Accounting classes listed above **AND instructor approval**)

This course is open to seniors who have completed the previous two Financial Literacy courses. This class is intended to let the student continue her studies in Business. The students will be required to take an online class on a business subject that interests them through the Metro Community College (possible extra cost for this). They have several courses from which to choose. Students in this course will also serve as managers in the Snack Bar at Duchesne. They will be responsible for inventory management and ordering supplies, accounting and analysis, and being team leaders for the students in the other Financial Literacy classes.

## **JOURNALISM**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

This elective course is designed to give students first-hand experience in producing several monthly editions of the school-newspaper, and opportunities to explore other forms of news media. Students will learn how to write in the style of the different articles found in the news media (news, editorials, and features), learn the tenants of the ethics of journalism, and produce newsworthy articles to include in several print editions of *The Bird Post*. Students will develop skills in time management, organization, group dynamics, and decision making. Credit is awarded based on the quality of work, consistency of participation, and continued support of their peers.

## **YEARBOOK**

**2 Semesters (1.0 Credit)**

This course is designed to give students hands on experience with every facet of publishing a high school yearbook. Students will learn the fundamentals of journalism for yearbook, including writing, art and layout design, photography, group dynamics, desktop publishing, organizational skills and evaluating the needs of a given audience while creating the Duchesne yearbook for the current school year. Students must possess basic computer skills and a digital camera is helpful, but not required.

## **HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES ELECTIVES (COURSE DESCRIPTIONS ON PAGE 15)**

## **THEOLOGY ELECTIVE (COURSE DESCRIPTIONS ON PAGE 10)**