

2026-2027 Our Lady of Tepeyac High School Courses

ELECTIVES

Introduction to Philosophy

Grade Level: Juniors & Seniors (11th/12th Grade)

Length: Semester

What is real? How do we know what we know? What makes something right or wrong? And seriously—what is the meaning of life?

If you've ever found yourself asking big questions like these—or wanting to, but not sure where to start—this course is for you. Introduction to Philosophy invites you into the world of deep thinking, logical reasoning, and mind-bending thought experiments.

Over the semester, we'll explore the ideas of famous thinkers, tackle age-old debates, and build your skills in critical thinking, discussion, and argumentation. You'll learn how to ask better questions, form stronger arguments, and see the world through a more thoughtful lens.

Whether you're a natural philosopher or just curious about life's big mysteries, this course will challenge your mind and expand your worldview. Prepare to think deeply, speak boldly, and see ideas in a whole new light.

AP Spanish Literature and Culture

Grade Level: Juniors and Seniors (11th/12th Grade)

Length: Full Year

AP Spanish Literature and Culture is a rigorous, year-long course designed for advanced Spanish students in their junior or senior year. This course immerses students in the rich literary and cultural traditions of the Spanish-speaking world, preparing them for the AP Spanish Literature and Culture Exam and for college-level study.

Students will read, analyze, and discuss a wide range of canonical works from medieval to contemporary periods, including poetry, prose, drama, and essays by authors from Spain, Latin America, and the Hispanic United States. The curriculum emphasizes close reading, literary analysis, and critical interpretation, as well as the exploration of historical, social, and cultural contexts that shape each work.

In addition to literary study, students will engage in thoughtful discussions, presentations, and writing assignments in Spanish, developing advanced proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. The course also encourages students to make connections between texts and contemporary issues, fostering a deeper appreciation for the diversity and complexity of Hispanic cultures.

This course is ideal for students seeking to challenge themselves academically, earn college credit, and deepen their understanding of Spanish-language literature and culture.

Student Media: Yearbook

Grade Level: Juniors & Seniors (11th/12th Grade)

Length: Full Year

Do you have a passion for storytelling, design, photography, or journalism? Publications is the ultimate creative team experience—where students work together to produce the school's yearbook and other campus publications that capture the spirit, energy, and memories of the school year.

In this course, you'll learn the fundamentals of layout design, photo editing, interviewing, writing, and publishing using industry-standard tools. From brainstorming themes to meeting deadlines, you'll gain real-world experience in project management, collaboration, and creative production.

Students take on roles as editors, writers, designers, and photographers—building not only a published product but also a portfolio of skills that apply to media, marketing, communications, and beyond.

If you're ready to make your mark, tell your school's story, and see your work in print, Publications is the class for you.

Creative Writing

Grade Level: Juniors (11th Grade)

Length: Full Year

Do you love stories, poetry, or just the thrill of putting your thoughts into words? Creative Writing is your chance to unleash your imagination, sharpen your voice, and explore the power of language.

In this workshop-style course, you'll experiment with fiction, poetry, memoir, spoken word, and other genres, discovering what inspires you and how to craft writing that connects with others. You'll learn how to develop characters, build vivid settings, create tension, and revise your work like a pro.

Expect to write often, share your work in a supportive space, and grow more confident as a writer and storyteller. Whether you dream of being published or just want to express yourself more clearly, this course will help you find your unique voice—and have fun doing it.

By the end of the semester, you'll leave with a portfolio of original pieces and a deeper appreciation for the art of writing.

STEM: Innovation in Action

Grade Level: Juniors & Seniors (11th/12th Grade)

Length: Semester

Are you curious about how the world works—and how you can help shape its future? In this exciting, hands-on elective, students will dive into the world of STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics through real-world challenges, creative problem-solving, and team-based projects.

You'll explore topics like coding, robotics, engineering design, environmental science, and data analysis—all while developing the critical thinking and collaboration skills that drive innovation. Whether you're building a bridge, programming a robot, or designing a solution to a global issue, this class will challenge your mind and inspire your creativity.

No prior STEM experience is required—just a willingness to explore, experiment, and think outside the box.

If you enjoy asking questions, solving problems, and making things happen, STEM is the place to start turning ideas into reality.

AP Environmental Science

Grade Level: Juniors & Seniors (11th/12th Grade)

Length: Full Year

AP Environmental Science is a yearlong, college-level course that explores how our everyday choices impact the world around us. Students will study topics such as ecosystems, climate change, energy use, pollution, water resources, and sustainability, all through real-world examples that connect directly to their lives.

This course is highly interactive and emphasizes hands-on learning. Students will participate in labs, experiments, field investigations, and projects that allow them to explore environmental issues in practical ways. From testing water quality to analyzing waste and energy use, students will actively investigate the challenges facing our planet and consider realistic solutions.

Current events are woven throughout the course, helping students connect scientific concepts to what they see in the news and in their own communities. Students will build skills in critical thinking, data analysis, and problem-solving while learning how to make informed decisions about environmental issues.

This course prepares students for the AP Exam and is a great fit for those who enjoy science, care about the environment, and want to better understand the world they live in.

Intro to Education

Grade Level: Juniors & Seniors (11th/12th Grade)

Length: Semester

This course offers a hands-on introduction to what it's really like to be a teacher. Students will learn how to plan engaging lessons, design activities, manage a classroom, and assess student learning—skills that teachers use every day.

Throughout the course, students will have opportunities to step into the role of a teacher by planning and leading mini-lessons, working with peers, and reflecting on what works best in the classroom. The course also explores how to create inclusive, supportive environments where all students feel seen, respected, and able to succeed.

Offered in collaboration with DePaul University, this course includes field experiences in local schools and opportunities to attend sessions at DePaul led by experienced educators and faculty. Students who successfully complete the course will earn a certification from DePaul University.

This is a great opportunity for students who are curious about teaching, enjoy working with others, or are interested in making a positive impact in their communities.

Chicago History

Grade Level: Seniors (12th Grade)

Length: Semester

Discover the remarkable story of Chicago—one of the world's most influential and vibrant cities. In this senior-level course, you'll explore the people, pivotal events, and powerful movements that have shaped the Windy City from its earliest days as a trading post to its rise as a center of industry, culture, and innovation.

Dive deep into defining moments such as the Great Chicago Fire, the World's Fair of 1893, the birth of the skyscraper, and the ongoing struggle for civil rights. Examine the city's diverse neighborhoods and the rich mosaic of communities that have built—and continue to shape—Chicago's unique identity.

Through interactive lessons, group projects, analysis of primary sources, and potential field trips, you'll gain a sophisticated understanding of Chicago's past and present. Investigate the city's iconic architecture, legendary leaders, and groundbreaking social movements. By semester's end, you'll not only understand what makes Chicago stand out on the world stage, but you'll also develop a deeper pride and appreciation for the city you call home.

This course is designed to inspire civic pride and a deeper connection to your city as you prepare for graduation and life beyond high school. Discover why Chicago is not just a place on the map, but a city with a story—and spirit—all its own.

AP Comparative Government

Grade Level: Seniors (12th Grade)

Length: Semester

AP Comparative Government and Politics is a yearlong course that gives students the opportunity to explore how governments work around the world. Students will learn about key ideas such as power, leadership, political systems, and how different countries make decisions that impact their citizens.

Throughout the year, students will study and compare several countries, gaining insight into how cultures, economies, and histories shape governments. The course also places a strong emphasis on current events, helping students make connections between what they learn in class and what is happening in the world today.

Through class discussions, projects, and writing, students will build skills in critical thinking, analysis, and communication. This course prepares students for the AP Exam and is a great fit for those interested in global issues, politics, law, or international studies.

Sociology: Understanding Society & Ourselves

Grade Level: Seniors (12th Grade)

Length: Semester

Why do people behave the way they do in groups? How do culture, class, race, gender, and institutions shape our lives and choices? Sociology is the study of society—and this course offers a fascinating look into how human behavior is influenced by the world around us.

In this elective, students will explore key topics such as social norms, inequality, family structures, education, deviance, and social change. Through discussions, case studies, projects, and media analysis, you'll learn to view the world through a sociological lens and better understand the systems and structures that shape everyday life.

Whether you're interested in social justice, human behavior, or just want to understand people better, Sociology offers new ways to think about yourself, your community, and the world.

Come ready to question, analyze, and uncover what really makes society tick.

Fitness & Wellness

Grade Level: Seniors (12th Grade)

Length: Semester

Ready to feel stronger, healthier, and more energized—both inside and out? Fitness & Wellness is more than just a gym class. It's a holistic approach to taking care of your body and mind.

In this course, students will explore the fundamentals of physical fitness, mental well-being, nutrition, and healthy lifestyle habits. Through a mix of workouts, wellness challenges, journaling, and practical lessons, you'll discover how movement, mindfulness, and smart choices contribute to long-term health.

Topics include:

- ✓ Strength, flexibility, and cardiovascular training
- ✓ Stress management and mental health strategies
- ✓ Sleep, hydration, and balanced nutrition
- ✓ Personal goal setting and self-care routines

Whether you're an athlete or just starting your wellness journey, this course offers something for everyone. You'll leave not only feeling better, but with the tools to live better. Let's build lifelong habits for a stronger, more balanced you!

Music Appreciation

Grade Level: Juniors (11th Grade)

Length: Full Year

Discover the world of music in this dynamic, hands-on Music Appreciation class! Throughout the semester, students will journey through the rich history of music, exploring a wide range of styles—from classical masterpieces to modern pop,

jazz, rock, and beyond. We'll dive into the lives and works of influential musicians and artists, understanding how their creativity shaped the sounds we love today.

But this isn't just a class about listening—it's about creating, too! A significant portion of the course is dedicated to digital music production. Students will learn the basics of recording, mixing, and mastering music using Soundtrap, an innovative online platform. Each student will receive their own Soundtrap account, allowing for individual exploration and creativity. You'll have the chance to produce your own tracks, experiment with sound, and collaborate with classmates in a supportive, tech-friendly environment.

Whether you're a seasoned musician or just curious about what makes music tick, this class offers something for everyone. By the end of the semester, you'll not only appreciate music on a deeper level but also have the skills to create and share your own musical projects!

No prior musical experience required—just bring your curiosity and creativity!

Introduction to Art

Grade Level: Freshwomen (9th Grade)

Length: Semester

Introduction to Art is a semester-long, entry-level course designed to welcome freshmen into the world of visual arts. This class provides a broad foundation in artistic concepts, techniques, and creative expression, making it ideal for students of all experience levels.

Students will explore the elements and principles of design—including line, shape, color, texture, value, form, balance, and composition—through hands-on projects and guided exercises. The curriculum introduces a variety of media and artistic processes such as drawing, painting, collage, mixed media, and basic sculpture, allowing students to experiment and discover their unique artistic voices.

No prior art experience is required—just an open mind and a willingness to experiment. Introduction to Art provides a supportive, non-judgmental environment where students can develop foundational skills, creativity, and an appreciation for the visual arts

Art II

Grade Level: Sophomores (10th Grade)

Length: Full Year

Unleash your creativity in this year-long Art class, designed especially for sophomores! Whether you're picking up a paintbrush for the first time or already love to draw, this course offers a welcoming space to explore your artistic side.

You'll learn the basics of visual art through a wide variety of hands-on projects. Experiment with drawing, painting, collage, and more as you discover different materials, techniques, and styles. Along the way, you may even learn about famous artists and art movements to inspire your own creations!

This class is all about learning by doing—expect plenty of projects that let you express yourself and develop your skills. No prior art experience is necessary—just bring your imagination and a willingness to try new things!

Join us for a year of creativity, discovery, and hands-on fun in the art room!

AP Studio Art

Grade Level: Juniors & Seniors (11th/12th Grade)

Length: Full Year

AP Studio Art is a yearlong, college-level course designed for highly motivated students who are serious about developing their artistic voice and technical skill. Enrollment is by invitation and based on a submitted portfolio that demonstrates readiness for advanced, independent work.

In this course, students will engage in sustained investigation through a focused body of work, exploring themes, materials, and processes that reflect their individual interests and perspectives. Emphasis is placed on experimentation, revision, and critical reflection as students refine their ideas and push their creative boundaries.

Students will produce a cohesive portfolio for submission to the College Board, demonstrating both strong technical skill and thoughtful conceptual development. Regular critiques, one-on-one conferences, and exposure to contemporary and historical artists will support students in developing their artistic practice and articulating their work.

This course is ideal for students considering further study in art or design, as well as those seeking a rigorous and meaningful creative challenge.

CORE CLASSES

History

Modern World History

Grade Level: Sophomores (10th Grade)

Length: Full Year

Journey through the story of humanity in this comprehensive, year-long Modern World History course designed for sophomores. The year begins with an exploration of early world history, tracing the origins of humans in Africa, their migration across the globe, and the development of early societies. Students will examine the transition from hunter-gatherer communities to the rise of agriculture during the Neolithic Revolution, which set the stage for the emergence of ancient civilizations in regions such as Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Indus Valley, and China. These early societies introduced foundational advances in writing, architecture, governance, and technology that continue to influence the world today.

Building on this foundation, the course moves into the modern era, covering pivotal events and transformative movements from the Enlightenment to the present. Students will analyze the rise and fall of empires, the impact of industrialization, the causes and consequences of global conflicts like the World Wars, and the ongoing effects of imperialism and decolonization. Special attention is given to the spread of democracy, the challenges of globalization, and the fight for social justice and human rights.

Throughout the year, students will engage with primary sources, participate in group projects, and develop critical thinking skills by connecting past events to contemporary global issues. This course encourages a deeper understanding of how early innovations and historical developments have shaped the modern world.

U.S. History

Grade Level: Juniors (11th Grade)

Length: Full Year

This year-long U.S. History course offers juniors a comprehensive exploration of the American experience—from the earliest Indigenous societies and European settlements through the nation's founding, expansion, and emergence as a modern global power. Students will analyze key events, movements, and figures that have shaped the United States, including the Revolution, Civil War, industrialization, world wars, civil rights, and contemporary issues.

A central component of the course is an in-depth study of the U.S. Constitution and the Illinois State Constitution. Students will examine the origins, structure, and evolution of these foundational documents, exploring the principles of federalism, separation of powers, and individual rights. The course emphasizes the relationship between federal and state

governments, the process of constitutional change, and the impact of constitutional law on American society. Mastery of this content is required for successful completion of the state-mandated Constitution exams.

Throughout the year, students will engage with primary and secondary sources, participate in discussions and group projects, and develop critical thinking and analytical skills. The curriculum also addresses Illinois' required units of study, including the roles of diverse communities, social movements, and key historical documents.

This course provides the knowledge and perspective necessary for informed citizenship and a deeper understanding of the American story.

Science

Biology

Grade Level: Freshwomen (9th Grade)

Length: Full Year

Explore the living world in this comprehensive, year-long Biology course designed for freshmen and sophomores. Students will investigate the fundamental principles of life, from the structure and function of cells to the complexity of entire ecosystems. The curriculum covers essential topics such as genetics, evolution, ecology, human biology, and the diversity of living organisms.

Through engaging laboratory experiments, hands-on activities, and collaborative projects, students will develop scientific inquiry skills and a deeper understanding of how living systems operate and interact. The course emphasizes the scientific method, critical thinking, and real-world applications of biological concepts.

Chemistry

Grade Level: Sophomores & Juniors (10th & 11th Grade)

Length: Full Year

Delve into the building blocks of matter in this engaging, year-long Chemistry course designed for juniors. Students will explore the fundamental concepts that explain how substances interact, combine, and change to form new materials. Key topics include atomic structure, chemical bonding, the periodic table, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, states of matter, solutions, acids and bases, and thermochemistry.

Through laboratory experiments, hands-on activities, and problem-solving exercises, students will develop scientific reasoning and analytical skills. The course emphasizes the scientific method, safety in the lab, and the real-world applications of chemistry in fields such as medicine, environmental science, and industry.

This course provides a strong foundation for advanced science courses and a deeper appreciation of the chemical world.

Anatomy

Grade Level: Seniors (12th Grade)

Length: Full Year

Discover the structure and function of the human body in this comprehensive, year-long Anatomy course designed for seniors. Students will explore all major organ systems—including skeletal, muscular, nervous, cardiovascular, respiratory, digestive, urinary, endocrine, and reproductive systems—while learning how these systems work together to maintain health and homeostasis. The course covers the levels of biological organization, from cells and tissues to organs and systems, and introduces essential anatomical terminology and concepts.

Through engaging lectures, hands-on laboratory activities, dissections, microscopy, and interactive projects, students will develop a deep understanding of human anatomy and physiology. Special emphasis is placed on the relationships between structure and function, the mechanisms of disease, and the body's remarkable ability to adapt and heal. Students

will also build skills in observation, analysis, and scientific communication, preparing them for advanced studies in health sciences or related fields.

Math

0-Hour Algebra I

Grade Level: 8th graders

Length: Full Year

Build a strong foundation in mathematics with this 0-Hour Algebra I course designed for motivated 8th-grade students ready to advance their learning. This course introduces essential algebraic concepts that are critical for success in high school math and future STEM coursework.

Students will explore variables, expressions, equations, inequalities, functions, linear relationships, systems of equations, polynomials, factoring, quadratic equations, and introductory data analysis. Through a blend of direct instruction, collaborative problem-solving, and real-world applications, students will strengthen their ability to think logically, recognize patterns, and approach complex problems with confidence.

Special emphasis is placed on developing mathematical reasoning, clearly communicating solutions, and building the independence needed for success in high school coursework.

Students who successfully complete this course will be placed into Geometry during their freshman year, providing a strong head start in the high school math sequence.

Algebra I

Grade Level: Freshwomen (9th Grade)

Length: Full Year

Build a strong foundation in mathematics with this year-long Algebra I course designed for freshmen. Students will develop essential algebraic skills and concepts that are critical for success in higher-level math and science courses. The curriculum covers variables, expressions, equations, inequalities, functions, linear equations, systems of equations, polynomials, factoring, quadratic equations, and data analysis.

Through a combination of direct instruction, collaborative problem-solving, and real-world applications, students will learn to think logically, analyze patterns, and solve complex problems. Emphasis is placed on developing mathematical reasoning, effective communication of solutions, and confidence in tackling new challenges.

This course prepares students for Geometry, Algebra II, and future STEM opportunities.

Geometry

Grade Level: Freshwomen (who pass the OLT Algebra I Math Assessment) & Sophomores (9th/10th Grade)

Length: Full Year

Explore the world of shapes, space, and logical reasoning in this full-year Geometry course, designed for students who have successfully completed Algebra I. This course introduces students to the foundational concepts of Euclidean geometry, including points, lines, planes, angles, triangles, polygons, circles, and three-dimensional figures.

Students will develop problem-solving and deductive reasoning skills through the study of geometric relationships, proofs, and constructions. The curriculum emphasizes the connections between algebra and geometry, real-world applications, and the use of technology and hands-on activities to deepen understanding.

This course prepares students for advanced mathematics by building a solid foundation in geometric thinking and analytical reasoning.

Algebra II/Trigonometry

Grade Level: Sophomores (who have passed Geometry & Juniors (10th/11th Grade)

Length: Full Year

Advance your mathematical skills with this comprehensive, year-long Algebra II/Trigonometry course designed for juniors. Building on concepts from Algebra I and Geometry, this course deepens students' understanding of algebraic structures while introducing the fundamentals of trigonometry.

Students will explore complex equations and inequalities, functions (including polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic), systems of equations, sequences and series, and data analysis. The trigonometry component covers right triangle relationships, the unit circle, trigonometric functions, identities, and equations.

Emphasis is placed on problem-solving, mathematical reasoning, and real-world applications. Students will use technology and collaborative activities to reinforce learning and prepare for advanced math courses.

PreCalculus

Grade Level: Seniors (12th Grade)

Length: Full Year

Prepare for college-level mathematics with this rigorous, year-long PreCalculus course designed for seniors. This course bridges the gap between Algebra II/Trigonometry and Calculus, providing a comprehensive exploration of advanced mathematical concepts and functions.

Students will deepen their understanding of polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions, as well as explore conic sections, complex numbers, vectors, and parametric equations. The curriculum also introduces sequences and series, limits, and foundational concepts of calculus to ensure readiness for future math courses.

Emphasis is placed on mathematical reasoning, problem-solving, and real-world applications. Students will engage in analytical thinking, use technology to model and solve problems, and develop the skills necessary for success in higher-level mathematics and STEM fields.

Algebra III

Grade Level: Seniors (12th Grade)

Length: Full Year

Algebra III is a year-long course designed for seniors who have successfully completed Algebra II and wish to strengthen their algebraic skills before college or advanced math courses. This course provides an in-depth review and extension of key Algebra II topics, while introducing advanced concepts to prepare students for college placement tests and real-world problem solving.

Students will explore a wide range of mathematical topics, including:

- **Linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions:** Analyze, graph, and solve equations and inequalities, and apply these concepts to model real-world situations.
- **Systems of equations and inequalities:** Solve complex systems in two and three variables, and apply methods such as matrices and determinants.
- **Sequences and series:** Represent and analyze patterns using arithmetic and geometric sequences and series.

- **Trigonometry:** Study trigonometric functions, identities, and equations, and solve problems involving right and oblique triangles.
- **Statistics and probability:** Apply mathematical reasoning to analyze data, interpret results, and solve problems involving probability.

English

English I: Literature, Language & Composition

Grade Level: Freshwomen (9th Grade)

Length: Full Year

English I is a foundational, year-long course designed for freshmen to build essential skills in reading, writing, speaking, and critical thinking. Students will explore a diverse selection of literature, including novels, short stories, poems, and plays from both classic and contemporary authors. Through close reading and discussion, students will analyze literary elements, themes, and the cultural contexts that shape texts.

The course also emphasizes language development and effective communication. Students will practice grammar, vocabulary, and usage to strengthen their command of standard English. Writing instruction focuses on the process of composing clear, well-organized essays and creative pieces, with an emphasis on narrative, expository, and persuasive forms. Research skills and proper citation methods are also introduced.

Throughout the year, students will engage in collaborative projects, presentations, and class discussions to develop confidence in expressing their ideas.

This course lays the groundwork for future success in high school English and helps students become thoughtful, effective communicators and readers.

English II: World Literature

Grade Level: Sophomores (10th Grade)

Length: Full Year

English II: World Literature is a year-long course for sophomores that broadens students' perspectives through the study of literary works from around the globe. Students will read and analyze a diverse selection of novels, short stories, poems, and plays representing different cultures, historical periods, and literary traditions.

Through close reading and thoughtful discussion, students will examine universal themes, cultural identities, and the ways literature reflects and shapes societies. The course emphasizes critical thinking and analytical writing, encouraging students to compare texts, explore global perspectives, and make connections between literature and contemporary issues.

Language and composition skills are further developed through a variety of writing assignments, including analytical essays, creative writing, and research projects. Grammar, vocabulary, and effective communication remain key components, preparing students for advanced English coursework.

This course invites students to become more thoughtful, informed, and globally aware readers, writers, and thinkers.

English III: American Literature

Grade Level: Juniors (11th Grade)

Length: Full Year

English III: American Literature is a year-long course for juniors that explores the rich and diverse literary heritage of the United States. Students will read and analyze a wide range of novels, short stories, poems, plays, and essays by influential American authors from the colonial era to the present day.

Through close reading and discussion, students will examine how American literature reflects and shapes the nation's evolving identity, values, and history. Major themes include the American Dream, freedom and justice, race and identity, and the complexities of cultural change. The course encourages students to connect literary works to historical events, social movements, and contemporary issues.

Writing instruction focuses on analytical and argumentative essays, as well as creative and personal writing. Students will strengthen their skills in literary analysis, research, grammar, and effective communication. Collaborative projects, presentations, and class discussions promote deeper engagement and critical thinking.

English IV: Multicultural Literature

Grade Level: Seniors (12th Grade)

Length: Full Year

English IV: Multicultural Literature is a year-long course for seniors that explores the rich diversity of voices, experiences, and perspectives found in literature from a variety of cultures and communities. Students will read and analyze novels, short stories, poems, plays, essays, and articles by authors representing African American, Asian American, Latinx/Chicana/o, Native/Indigenous, and other historically marginalized groups within the United States and around the world.

Through close reading, discussion, and critical analysis, students will examine how literature reflects and challenges issues such as identity, racism, discrimination, social justice, and cultural heritage. The course invites students to consider how writers use their craft to respond to oppression, celebrate their communities, and advocate for a more equitable society. Each unit centers on different cultures and themes, allowing students to engage with a variety of genres and literary styles.

Writing assignments include analytical essays, creative and reflective pieces, and research projects. Students will develop their skills in literary analysis, argumentation, and effective communication, while also reflecting on their own cultural identities and experiences. Collaborative projects, class discussions, and presentations foster deeper understanding and appreciation for diverse perspectives.

This course is designed to be relevant, engaging, and empowering for seniors as they prepare to enter a diverse and interconnected world.

AP Literature and Composition

Grade Level: Seniors (12th Grade)

Length: Full Year

AP Literature and Composition is a rigorous, college-level course for seniors that challenges students to read, analyze, and interpret a wide range of literary works from various genres, periods, and cultures. Students will engage deeply with novels, plays, poems, and short stories by both classic and contemporary authors, developing advanced skills in literary analysis and critical thinking.

The course emphasizes close reading, thoughtful discussion, and sophisticated writing. Students will learn to identify and interpret literary elements, analyze authorial choices, and construct well-supported arguments in both timed and extended essays. Writing assignments include literary analysis, argumentative essays, and creative responses, all designed to prepare students for the AP exam and college-level English coursework.

In addition to intensive reading and writing, students will participate in class discussions, presentations, and peer reviews to refine their communication skills and deepen their understanding of complex texts. The curriculum aligns with the expectations of the College Board and culminates in the AP Literature and Composition Exam.

This course is ideal for seniors seeking a challenging academic experience and the opportunity to earn college credit through successful completion of the AP exam.

College and Beyond

Grade Level: Seniors (12th Grade)

Length: One Semester (Semester 1)

College and Beyond is a practical, one-semester course required for all seniors, designed to guide students through every step of the transition from high school to college and independent adulthood. This course covers the full spectrum of college preparation, from navigating the application process to building essential life skills for success after graduation.

Students will receive hands-on support with college applications, personal statements, and scholarship essays, as well as guidance on completing the FAFSA and understanding financial aid. The course also addresses how to research colleges, compare options, and make informed decisions about where to apply and enroll.

Beyond applications, students will learn critical skills for thriving in college life, including selecting courses, managing time, budgeting, and understanding campus resources. Practical sessions will cover how to communicate with professors, register for classes, and handle common challenges such as living with roommates, balancing responsibilities, and maintaining well-being.

This course ensures that every senior leaves high school confident, prepared, and ready to succeed in college and beyond.

Academic Success

Grade Level: Freshwomen (9th Grade)

Length: One Semester

Academic Success is a supportive, one-semester course required for all freshmen, designed to help students make a smooth and confident transition into high school. This course equips students with the essential academic, organizational, and personal skills needed to thrive throughout their high school journey.

Students will learn effective strategies for time management, organization, study skills, note-taking, and goal setting. The course also covers how to navigate high school resources, build positive relationships with teachers and peers, and maintain a healthy balance between academics and extracurricular activities.

A key component of Academic Success is the Speech and Communication unit, where students will develop public speaking and presentation skills. Through engaging activities, students will practice speaking in front of groups, organizing their ideas, and building confidence in their ability to communicate clearly and effectively.

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is woven throughout the course, helping students develop self-awareness, manage emotions, build healthy relationships, and make responsible decisions. SEL activities and discussions support students in understanding their feelings, setting personal goals, practicing empathy, and navigating the social challenges of high school. These skills not only enhance academic performance but also contribute to students' overall well-being and readiness for future success.

This course provides the foundation for academic achievement, personal growth, and social-emotional wellness, ensuring every freshman starts high school with the tools and confidence to succeed.

Theology

Theology I: Old and New Testament

Grade Level: Freshwomen (9th Grade)

Length: Full Year

Theology I: Old and New Testament is a foundational, year-long course for freshmen that introduces students to the central texts, themes, and historical contexts of the Bible. Students will explore the major stories, figures, and teachings of

both the Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures) and the New Testament (Christian Scriptures), gaining a deeper understanding of their religious, cultural, and literary significance.

The course begins with an overview of the structure and formation of the Bible, followed by an in-depth study of key Old Testament narratives, including Creation, the Patriarchs and Matriarchs, the Exodus, the Prophets, and the Wisdom literature. In the second semester, students examine the life and teachings of Jesus, the development of the early Christian community, and the major themes of the New Testament.

Throughout the year, students will engage in thoughtful discussion, reflection, and analysis of biblical texts, considering their relevance to faith, ethics, and contemporary life. The course also encourages respect for different interpretations and traditions, fostering an environment of inquiry and understanding.

This course lays the groundwork for further theological study and supports students' spiritual and intellectual growth as they begin their high school journey.

Theology II: Church History and Sacraments

Grade Level: Sophomores (10th Grade)

Length: Full Year

Theology II: Church History and Sacraments is a comprehensive, year-long course for sophomores that explores the development of the Catholic Church and the central role of the sacraments in Christian life. The course is divided into two main areas of focus:

Semester 1: Church History

Students will trace the story of the Church from its founding by Jesus Christ and the Apostles through 2,000 years of history to the present day. Emphasis is placed on understanding how the Church has been guided and sustained by the Holy Spirit, the significance of major events and councils, and the Church's mission and leadership throughout the ages. Students will examine both the divine and human elements of the Church, and learn how it is led and governed by the successors of the Apostles.

Semester 2: Sacraments

In the second semester, students will study the origin, meaning, and significance of the seven sacraments. The course covers how the sacraments serve as privileged encounters with Christ, the role of liturgy, sacramental symbols, and the importance of grace in the life of believers. Students will gain an understanding of each sacrament's biblical roots, development, and necessity in the Christian journey, as well as their impact on the life of the Church and its members. Throughout the year, students will engage in discussion, reflection, and analysis of historical events, Church teachings, and sacramental theology. The course encourages personal growth in faith, appreciation for the Church's tradition, and a deeper understanding of how the sacraments connect believers to the ongoing life of Christ in the world.

This course provides a strong foundation for further theological study and supports students' spiritual and intellectual development as they continue their high school education.

Theology III: Morality and Ethics

Grade Level: Juniors (11th Grade)

Length: Full Year

Theology III: Morality and Ethics is a year-long course for juniors that examines the foundations of Christian moral decision-making and the ethical challenges faced in today's world. Students will explore the principles, teachings, and traditions that guide moral choices within the Catholic faith, while also considering broader ethical perspectives.

The course begins with an introduction to the sources of Christian morality, including Scripture, Church tradition, natural law, conscience, and the teachings of Jesus. Students will learn how to apply these principles to real-life situations, developing skills in moral reasoning, discernment, and ethical analysis.

Throughout the year, students will engage with contemporary moral issues such as social justice, human dignity, sexuality, bioethics, environmental stewardship, and the complexities of modern relationships. Through discussion, case studies, and personal reflection, students are encouraged to form well-reasoned positions, respect differing viewpoints, and understand the impact of their choices on themselves and society.

This course prepares students to navigate complex moral questions with compassion, critical thinking, and a commitment to justice, supporting both their spiritual and personal growth as they approach adulthood.

Theology IV: World Religions

Grade Level: Seniors (12th Grade)

Length: One Semester

Theology IV: World Religions is a one-semester course for seniors that introduces students to the major religious traditions of the world. Through a respectful and comparative approach, students will explore the beliefs, practices, sacred texts, and historical development of religions such as Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and others.

The course emphasizes understanding both the similarities and unique features of each tradition, as well as their influence on culture, society, and global events. Students will examine how different religions address fundamental questions about meaning, morality, suffering, and the divine, and will consider the role of religion in promoting peace, justice, and dialogue in a pluralistic world.

Class activities include readings from primary and secondary sources, group discussions, research projects, and opportunities for personal reflection. The course encourages open-mindedness, empathy, and critical thinking, helping students appreciate the diversity of religious experience and its relevance in today's interconnected world.

This course prepares seniors for life in a diverse and global society, fostering understanding, respect, and thoughtful engagement with the world's religious traditions.

Spanish

Beginner's Spanish

Grade Level: Freshwomen (9th Grade)

Length: Full Year

Beginner's Spanish is a year-long introductory course designed for freshmen with little or no previous experience in Spanish. This course focuses on building a strong foundation in the four key language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will learn essential vocabulary, basic grammar, and common expressions needed for everyday communication.

Through interactive activities, dialogues, cultural projects, and multimedia resources, students will practice speaking and understanding Spanish in real-life situations. The course also introduces students to the diverse cultures, traditions, and histories of Spanish-speaking countries, fostering greater global awareness and appreciation.

Emphasis is placed on active participation, pronunciation, and building confidence in using Spanish both inside and outside the classroom. By the end of the year, students will be able to engage in simple conversations, understand basic written and spoken Spanish, and express themselves on familiar topics.

This course prepares students for further Spanish language learning and helps them become more effective communicators in an increasingly global world.

Intermediate Heritage Spanish

Grade Level: Freshwomen (9th Grade, Native/Heritage Speakers)

Length: Full Year

Intermediate Heritage Spanish is a year-long course designed specifically for freshmen who are native or heritage speakers of Spanish. This course recognizes the unique linguistic and cultural backgrounds of students who have learned Spanish at home or within their communities and aims to build upon their existing skills to achieve greater proficiency and academic confidence.

Students will focus on expanding their reading, writing, listening, and speaking abilities in Spanish, with special attention to distinguishing between colloquial and formal registers. The curriculum emphasizes advanced grammar, vocabulary development, and creative as well as expository writing. Students will also engage in critical reading and analysis of authentic texts, literature, and current events from across the Spanish-speaking world, deepening their understanding of Hispanic/Latino identity, heritage, and cultural diversity.

The course encourages students to explore their own bilingual and bicultural identities, develop pride in their heritage, and build community with other heritage speakers. Instructional techniques are differentiated to meet individual needs, and students will participate in discussions, presentations, and projects that connect language skills to real-world contexts and academic success in both Spanish and English.

This course is ideal for native and heritage Spanish speakers who want to enhance their literacy, communication, and cultural understanding while celebrating and strengthening their bilingual abilities.

Intermediate Spanish

Grade Level: Sophomores (10th Grade, for students completing Beginner's Spanish)

Length: Full Year

Intermediate Spanish is a year-long course designed for sophomores who have successfully completed Beginner's Spanish or its equivalent. This course builds upon foundational language skills, guiding students toward greater proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in Spanish.

Students will expand their vocabulary, deepen their understanding of grammar, and develop the ability to communicate about a wider range of topics and situations. The curriculum emphasizes more complex sentence structures, verb tenses, and conversational skills, enabling students to express opinions, narrate past events, and engage in meaningful dialogues.

Cultural exploration remains a key component, with students examining the customs, traditions, and histories of various Spanish-speaking countries through authentic texts, multimedia resources, and class projects. Interactive activities, role-plays, and group discussions provide ample opportunities for practice and confidence-building.

By the end of the course, students will be able to understand and participate in conversations on familiar topics, read and comprehend intermediate-level texts, and write organized paragraphs and short essays in Spanish.

This course prepares students for advanced Spanish study and helps them become more effective communicators and culturally aware global citizens.

Advanced Spanish

Grade Level: Sophomores (10th Grade, for students who completed Intermediate Heritage Spanish as Freshwomen)

Length: Full Year

Advanced Spanish is a year-long course designed for sophomores who have successfully completed Intermediate Heritage Spanish as freshmen. This course is tailored for heritage speakers seeking to achieve high-level proficiency in academic Spanish, with a focus on advanced language skills, critical analysis, and cultural literacy.

Students will refine their speaking, listening, reading, and writing abilities through the study of sophisticated grammar structures, enriched vocabulary, and complex sentence construction. The curriculum emphasizes academic and professional registers, advanced composition, and literary analysis. Students will read and analyze a variety of authentic texts, including contemporary and classical literature, essays, news articles, and multimedia sources from the Spanish-speaking world.

The course also explores themes of identity, social justice, and cultural diversity, encouraging students to engage thoughtfully with issues affecting Hispanic/Latino communities locally and globally. Students will participate in debates, presentations, research projects, and creative writing assignments that challenge them to use Spanish in nuanced and meaningful ways.

This course prepares heritage speakers for AP Spanish, college-level coursework, and leadership in bilingual and multicultural settings.