

St. Therese Digital Academy Course Descriptions

High School Language Arts

English 1

ENGLISH 9 Grade: 9 Credit: 1 Prerequisite: None Students will read a broad spectrum of literature (short story, poetry, drama, novel, nonfiction) with an emphasis on ideas. Students will review the conventions of English grammar and usage for an understanding of the workings of our language. Significant time will be spent on strengthening the students' own writing skills through essays, narratives, letters, and other written work. Students will practice speaking before an audience and will learn to use the library.

Topics in American Literature

TOPICS IN AMERICAN LITERATURE Grade: 10 Credit: 1 Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and/or department approval Students in this full year course will pursue a chronological study of the major American authors, works and literary periods from colonial to modern times, with emphasis on subjects, themes, forms and language which are uniquely or typically American. Students will participate in a range of additional activities designed to enhance their writing, listening and speaking skills.

Creative American Writing

CREATIVE WRITING Grade: 11-12 Credit: 1/2 Prerequisite: English 10 or American Literature Students in this course will develop their aptitude for self-expression while sharpening their writing and editing skills. By performing a series of activities and projects designed to stimulate the creative process, student will explore a variety of forms, including fiction, expository prose, and poetry, with the objective to encourage the development of the writer's authentic voice and style. Selected readings, including models and critical guides, will support the course's writing activities. The final exam for this course is a portfolio assessment.

Early British Literature

Grade: 11-12 Credit: 1/2 Prerequisite: English 10 or American Literature Students in Early British Literature will read a variety of literary selections from British and related literatures, dating generally from the 9th through the mid 18th centuries. Works studied will include, but are not limited to, selections from Beowulf, Everyman, The Canterbury Tales, Morte D'Arthur, as well as works by Wyatt, Spenser, Sidney, Shakespeare, Donne, Milton, Pope and Swift. Students will read for comprehension and interpretation, demonstrating an understanding of the evolution and development of the English language as well as familiarity with thematic and stylistic characteristics of various periods of British writing. Students will practice effective analytical composition in response to literature.

High School Science

Physical Science

Grade: 9 Credit: 1 Prerequisite: None Physical Science is an introductory course with an emphasis on inquiry, data analysis, and application of scientific information. The material covered includes introductory Chemistry and Physics and explores their connection to the physical and natural world around us.

Biology

Grade: 9-10 Credit: 1 Prerequisite: Open to all 10th graders or 9th graders with concurrent enrollment in Honors Geometry or higher math This is an introductory course designed to expose the student to a comprehensive view of Biology. A wide variety of subjects are covered: cell biology; genetics, simple biochemistry, evolution, classification, and a survey of living things. It is the goal of this course to help the student integrate the knowledge of biological theories into their daily lives and prepare for more advanced study in the biological field. This is accomplished through both traditional classroom lecture and lab activities.

AP Biology

Grade: 9-10 Credit: 1 Prerequisite: Open to all 10th graders or 9th graders with concurrent enrollment in Honors Geometry or higher math This is an introductory course designed to expose the student to a comprehensive view of Biology. A wide variety of subjects are covered: cell biology; genetics, simple biochemistry, evolution, classification, and a survey of living things. It is the goal of this course to help the student integrate the knowledge of biological theories into their daily lives and prepare for more advanced study in the biological field. This is accomplished through both traditional classroom lecture and lab activities.

Physics

Grade: 11-12 Credit: 1 Prerequisite: Algebra II, enrollment in Pre-Calculus, teacher recommendation and/or department approval Physics is a broad introduction to classical and some modern physics with an emphasis in critical thinking and problem solving. It is recommended for students who are planning on attending college, and who have a strong interest and aptitude in math and science.

Anatomy and Physiology

Grade: 11-12 Credit: 1 Prerequisite: Biology and Chemistry This course will introduce students to human anatomy and physiology, with emphasis on the systems of the body and how they are interrelated. It is recommended for motivated students who are interested in studying nursing, medicine, or related fields in college. The areas covered will include: medical terminology, chemistry, cell and tissue structure, and the 11 systems of the human body (integumentary, skeletal, muscular, nervous, endocrine, circulatory,

lymphatic, digestive, respiratory, urinary and reproductive). Laboratory work will be required and will include mammalian dissections.

High School Mathematics

Algebra I

Credit: 1 Prerequisite: Recommendation of teacher and/or department approval Algebra I is designed to provide students a firm foundation in the fundamentals. Numerical and algebraic expressions and operations on these expressions are studied. Simple equations will be solved and the techniques of problem solving developed. Linear functions and systems of linear equations will be explored through algebraic and graphical representation. Additional topics will include polynomials, factoring, and quadratic equations. Radical and rational expressions will also be introduced.

Algebra II

Credit: 1 Prerequisite: Algebra I and teacher recommendation and/or department approval in this course each unit of study begins by reviewing appropriate skills learned in Algebra I, reinforcing those skills, and then building upon that foundation. In addition to a more advanced examination of linear and quadratic relations and functions, students are introduced to new topics, including compound inequalities, absolute value and piecewise functions, systems of equations in three variables, irrational and complex numbers, polynomial functions, rational expressions and equations, as well as a brief introduction to probability and statistics. Graphing calculators will be used for problem solving, graphing, and enhancing relationships studied.

Geometry

Credit: 1 The study of geometry develops the concepts and methods of deductive reasoning skills. Students acquire a body of knowledge that includes definitions, postulates and theorems, and are led gradually to formal geometric proof. Topics studied include parallel and perpendicular lines, triangles, polygons, circles, congruency, similarity, and areas of polygons. Students will also be introduced to basic constructions and the areas and volumes of solids.

High School Social Studies

World Studies

Grade: 9 Credit: 1 Prerequisite: None World Studies 9 is an introduction to the geographical, cultural and historical development of the world from prehistory to 1815. In addition to establishing a sound foundation in the heritage of western civilization, the course presents a truly global perspective with its examination of the early civilizations of Asia, Africa and the Americas.

US History

Grade: 11-12 Credit: 1 Prerequisite: World Studies 9 and World Studies 10 Taught either to juniors or seniors, U.S. History is a graduation requirement. Drawing upon the knowledge students have obtained in earlier history courses, the student is introduced to the history of his/ her own country through a chronological and thematic approach. Ultimately, the course prepares the student to have a greater historical understanding of the political, social, cultural, economic and international problems facing contemporary America.

High School World Languages

French I

Grade: All Credit: 1 Prerequisite: None This course is for those who have never had French before or who have had little formal study. The students are introduced to the language and culture of the francophone world through a combination of text, audio and visual materials. A vocabulary base is built to facilitate basic conversations about themes related to an adolescent's life. Students will be exposed to the five tenets of language study: listening comprehension, reading, speaking, writing and cultural literacy.

French II

Grade: All Credit: 1 Prerequisite: French I or exceptional grade on fluency assessment This course continues to develop the four language skills of speaking, writing, listening and reading in French. Students will learn and use a variety of language structures, while building their vocabulary base. Basic grammar will be reviewed and built upon. The study of French culture is integrated throughout the course.

Latin I

Grade: All Credit: 1 Prerequisite: None The first year Latin experience includes a mastery of some basic grammatical concepts with which we will begin to read excerpts from over 2200 years of Latin literature, spanning ancient, medieval, and modern periods. Emphasis this first year is on parts of speech, essential Latin and English grammar, and the elements of and translation of basic sentences. Comprehension and pronunciation will grow by listening to Latin stories as well as the weekly news in Latin. Attention is regularly given to Latin vocabulary and English derivatives.

Spanish I

Grade: All Credit: 1 Prerequisite: None This course introduces students to the language and culture of the Hispanic world through a combination of text, audio and visual materials. A vocabulary base is built

to facilitate basic conversations with the present tense of regular and irregular verbs taught. While class time focuses on listening and speaking, homework develops spelling, writing, and memorization. Grammatical concepts to understand the structure of the language are regularly presented. Students will be active participants in this communication-based course

Spanish II

Grade: All Credit: 1 Prerequisite: Spanish I This course continues to develop the four language skills of speaking, understanding, reading and writing in Spanish. Oral work is emphasized and students are expected to use the language in class to the best of their ability. The course is conducted primarily in Spanish. Students will acquire practical vocabulary and will be able to use it in conversation. The study of Spanish culture is integrated throughout the curriculum. Reading for comprehension and cultural awareness is stressed.

High School Theology

Scriptures and Introduction to Theology

Grade: 9 Credit: 1 Prerequisite: None This class is an overview of Scripture covering major themes, people and events from the Old Testament, the life and teachings of Jesus from the Gospels, and an overview of the early church through Acts of the Apostles and the Epistles. Emphasis is on a contextual reading of Scripture. Themes such as salvation history, covenant, and vocation are developed and critical thinking is encouraged. The course challenges students to apply concepts from Scripture to their lives, to grow in faith, and to acquire an appreciation for Scripture as the Word of God. 722 No

Catholic Faith and Sacraments

Grade: 10 Credit: 1 Prerequisite: Scripture Catholic Faith and Sacraments is designed to help cultivate awareness of the sacraments in order to help students grow in understanding of the faith and in appreciation of the rituals of the Church. The first semester emphasizes the sacraments of initiation. The second semester explores the sacraments of healing and vocation and studies the Christian vision of moral decision making, including the virtues of wise judgment, justice, wholeness, honesty and respect.