
St. Rita High School

Course Description Guide

2015 - 2016

If you would like to speak to someone in Spanish regarding the classes and their descriptions, please call the Main Office and request to speak with one of our Spanish teachers

Si desea hablar con alguien en Espanol sobre las clases y sus descripciones, por favor llame a la officinal principal (773-925-6600) y solicite hablar con uno de nuestros profesores de espanol.

Mission Statement

St. Rita of Cascia High School is a Catholic college preparatory school for young men, rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the tradition of St. Augustine, following the Augustinian philosophy of education.

St. Rita aims to form each student as a whole person: spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, physically, and socially, and to provide its young men with the necessary skills to succeed in college and in life, leading to life-long learning and personal awareness.

Through the Augustinian core values of *Veritas* (truth), *Unitas* (unity), and *Caritas* (love), St. Rita strives to develop a bond between the members of the entire family: Augustinians, faculty, staff, students, parents, and alumni.

In the spirit of our Father, St. Augustine, we will be of one mind and one heart on our way to God.

Vision

St. Rita of Cascia High School is a private Catholic college preparatory school for boys. It operates under the auspices of the Augustinian religious order, and therefore it endorses the Augustinian philosophy of education. As an authorized Catholic school in the Archdiocese of Chicago, St. Rita of Cascia High School endorses the archdiocesan school board stated aim of “creating a Christian educational community where human culture and knowledge, enlightened and enlivened by faith are shared among teachers and students in a spirit of freedom and love.”

Because of its Augustinian roots, St. Rita of Cascia High School especially reflects the following values of Saint Augustine and finds them especially relevant to its unique role:

- a) **Veritas, truth:** “He... is called studious... who studies to hear the open and pure Truth... especially knowledge of God.” (*De Utilitate Credendi*)
- b) **Unitas, unity:** “Before all else... love God and then your fellow man, for this is the purpose of your coming together.” (*The Rule of St. Augustine*)
- c) **Caritas, love:** “You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.” (*The Confessions of St. Augustine*)

St. Rita of Cascia High School’s purpose is to assist each student in the orderly development of his capabilities - intellectual, spiritual, emotional, moral, civic, and physical. Each student should become a mature Christian capable of functioning proficiently in institutions of higher learning and in adult society. The school’s primary consideration is the intellectual development of its students, a value shared with the family, church, and state. Academically, St. Rita of Cascia High School aims at a liberal education that enriches the unique personality of each individual and increases mental adaptability, awareness, sensitivity, and a spirit of inquiry, all aimed with God as a final goal. As an officially certified school in the state of Illinois, St. Rita of Cascia High School recognizes and accepts its role in developing informed and responsible citizens and leaders.

As a private Catholic school and thus an agent of the family and church, St. Rita of Cascia High School integrates the spiritual and moral aspects of life with intellectual development. St. Rita of Cascia High School endeavors to increase awareness of religious and cultural heritage. As part of its Christian ministry, St. Rita of Cascia High School strives for the ideal that it become a strong Catholic community in which faculty, staff, and students give daily witness of Christ’s care and concern.

Graduation Outcomes: St. Rita of Cascia High School

The successful graduate of St. Rita of Cascia High School will embody the Core Values of Veritas, Unitas, and Caritas and be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of what it means to be a Christian in the Catholic and Augustinian traditions.
2. Explore and deepen his relationship with Jesus Christ with the spiritual and intellectual understanding acquired through practical experiences of prayer, reflection, worship, study and service.
3. Live ethically and morally while taking responsibility for his actions.
4. Demonstrate understanding, empathy and appreciation for others.
5. Share his gifts and talents in a spirit of unity, interdependence, dialogue, and collaboration.
6. Cultivate habits of social, emotional, spiritual, intellectual, and physical well being.
7. Demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of differing points of view.
8. Listen, read, write and speak effectively for a variety of purposes.
9. Solve problems through innovation and sustained effort.
10. Conduct research and show evidence of understanding in a variety of forms.
11. Apply objective reasoning and logic in his daily life.
12. Use technology effectively and ethically.
13. Apply and synthesize what he has learned.
14. Think critically about the world.

Academic Requirements for Graduation & Grade Advancement

Students are to complete the following course of studies for graduation:

4 units of Theology

4 units of English

3 units of Math

3 units of Science (must include Biology and Chemistry)

3 units of Social Studies (must include U.S. History and American Government)

2 units of the same World Language

.5 unit of Health

.5 unit of Technology

.5 unit of Speech

.5 unit of Fine Arts

Additional elective units are required to satisfy the minimum number of units needed for graduation, that is, 28 units.

No more than a total of 3 semesters of Physical Education are permitted. In addition, each student must pass a comprehensive examination based on the History and Constitution of the State of Illinois and of the United States.

All students must pass 7 courses each semester (3.5 units per semester, 7 units total) to be promoted to the next grade level. Failures must be remediated in summer school at St. Rita of Cascia High School or a program that is approved by St. Rita of Cascia High School.

Report Cards and Grading

Report cards are made available to parents or guardians at the end of each quarter online; semester report cards are mailed to the student's home. The following grading system is currently used at St. Rita of Cascia High School.

<u>Grades</u>	<u>Grade Points</u>	<u>Honors Classes</u>
A+ 98-99	A+ 4.3	A+ 5.3
A 95-97	A 4.0	A 5.0
A- 93-94	A- 3.7	A- 4.7
B+ 91-92	B+ 3.3	B+ 4.3
B 87-90	B 3.0	B 4.0
B- 85-86	B- 2.7	B- 3.7
C+ 83-84	C+ 2.3	C+ 3.3
C 79-82	C 2.0	C 3.0
C- 77-78	C- 1.7	C- 2.7
D+ 75-76	D+ 1.3	D+ 2.3
D 72-74	D 1.0	D 2.0
D- 70-71	D- 0.7	D- 1.7
		E 1.0
F Failure	F 0	F 0
I Incomplete		
P Pass		

E – Very Poor. This passing grade is used only in Honors courses to indicate that a student has barely fulfilled the minimum requirements of the course.

I – Incomplete can be given only at the first and third quarter for a student who has been absent an excessive number of days because of illness or because final exams have not been taken. Approval of the Principal is needed to use this grade for any student.

Honor Roll

GOLD (FIRST) HONORS are earned by those students who have attained a 4.0 for any one semester period.

SILVER (SECOND) HONORS are earned by those students who have attained a 3.0 for one semester period.

The grade points of students in the Honors classes are given weight value slightly higher than the grade points of students in other courses; therefore, it is quite possible that the grade point average and class standing of students taking the Honors classes will be higher because of the extra work required.

**Augustinian Academy Program
Recommended Course Sequence
Freshman Year**

Semester 1	Semester 2
Theology 1	Theology 1
English 1 Honors	English 1 Honors
Algebra Theory Honors	Algebra Theory Honors
Biology Honors	Biology Honors
World Language 1 (Honors)	World Language 1 (Honors)
Geography Honors	Geography Honors
Computers	Speech

Sophomore Year

Semester 1	Semester 2
Theology 2 Honors	Theology 2 Honors
English 2 Honors	English 2 Honors
Geometry Honors	Geometry Honors
Chemistry Honors	Chemistry Honors
World Language 2 Honors	World Language 2 Honors
AP World History	AP World History
Health	Fine Arts Elective

Junior Year

Semester 1	Semester 2
Theology 3 Honors	Theology 3 Honors
AP English Language and Composition	AP English Language and Composition
Algebra 2 / Trigonometry Honors	Algebra 2 / Trigonometry Honors
Physics Honors	Physics Honors
World Language 3 Honors	World Language 3 Honors
AP US History	AP US History
Elective	Elective

Senior Year

Semester 1	Semester 2
Theology 4 Honors	Theology 4 Honors
AP English Literature and Composition	AP English Literature and Composition
AP Calculus AB	AP Calculus AB
AP Chemistry or AP Biology	AP Chemistry or AP Biology
AP World Language	AP World Language
AP American Government and Politics	AP American Government and Politics
Elective	Elective

Seniors are recommended to take an appropriate number of AP courses relative to personal study time, stress level, extra-curriculars and other commitments.

Mendel Academic Program

Recommended Course Sequence – A student may be recommended for placement in Honors and AP level classes by his current teachers.

Freshman Year

Semester 1	Semester 2
Theology 1	Theology 1
English 1	English 1
Algebra 1	Algebra 1
Biology	Biology
World Language 1	World Language 1
Speech	Physical Education
Geography	Computers

Sophomore Year

Semester 1	Semester 2
Theology 2	Theology 2
English 2	English 2
Geometry	Geometry
Chemistry	Chemistry
World History	World History
World Language 2	World Language 2
Health	Fine Arts Elective

Junior Year

Semester 1	Semester 2
Theology 3	Theology 3
English 3	English 3
Algebra 2	Algebra 2
Science Choice	Science Choice
US History	US History
World Language 3 or Elective	World Language 3 or Elective
Elective	Elective

Senior Year

Semester 1	Semester 2
Theology 4	Theology 4
British Literature	English Elective
American Government	Social Science Elective or any Elective *
World Language 4 or Elective	World Language 4 or Elective
Elective	Elective
Elective	Elective
Elective	Elective

*All students must meet the 6 semester Social Science requirement.

Villanova Program

Recommended Course Sequence – A student may be recommended for placement outside of the Villanova Program by his freshman year teachers.

Freshman Year

Semester 1	Semester 2
Theology 1	Theology 1
English 1	English 1
Algebra 1	Algebra 1
Algebra 1 (double period)	Algebra 1 (double period)
Reading	Reading
Physical Education	Computers
Speech	Resource

Sophomore Year

Semester 1	Semester 2
Theology 2	Theology 2
English 2	English 2
Geometry	Geometry
Geometry (double period)	Physical Education
Biology	Biology
World History	World History
Health	Fine Arts Elective

Junior Year

Semester 1	Semester 2
Theology 3	Theology 3
English 3	English 3
Algebra 2	Algebra 2
Chemistry in the Community	Chemistry in the Community
US History	US History
World Language 1	World Language 1
Elective	Elective

Senior Year

Semester 1	Semester 2
Theology 4	Theology 4
British Literature	English Elective
Environmental Science or Anatomy	Environmental Science or Anatomy
US Government	Social Science Elective
World Language 2	World Language 2
Elective	Elective
Elective	Elective

Advanced Placement Program

The Advanced Placement (AP) program plays an integral role in the curriculum of St. Rita High School. As a college preparatory school, St. Rita offers AP courses as its highest and most challenging academic experiences. These are truly college-level courses, as a result, many colleges and universities offer placement or credit based on students' scores on the AP exams. St. Rita recognizes the advanced nature of these courses with a weighed GPA calculation.

St. Rita offers 16 AP Courses:

1. Biology
2. Calculus AB
3. Chemistry
4. English Language and Composition
5. English Literature and Composition
6. European History
7. French Language and Culture
8. Human Geography
9. Latin
10. Music Theory
11. Psychology
12. Spanish Language
13. Studio Art
14. United States Government and Politics
15. United States History
16. World History

Criteria for assigning college placement or credit may vary from course to course and from college to college. The College Board provides an index of these policies on their website. However, whether or not a student earns college credit for an AP course, the true value of the AP experience lies in the college-level skills and content the student learns. Thus, it is important to note that a student's grade in an AP course reflects his performance in the course itself (exams, essays, labs, assignments, etc.) and is distinct from the AP exam score.

Admission to AP courses at St. Rita is based on teacher recommendations and grades in previous classes.

By enrolling in the AP program, a student acknowledges its rigorous nature and agrees to give his best effort to succeed in it – both in the class and on the AP exam. AP courses at St. Rita are included in the school's overall policy for schedule changes, which can be made only within the first 10 days of class. The principal may approve or may not approve any schedule that includes multiple AP courses in the same year. All students enrolled in an AP course are highly encouraged to take the AP exam.

More information about the AP program is available at <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com>.

Information Provided by the College Board

AP is a rigorous academic program built on the commitment, passion, and hard work of students and educators from both secondary schools and higher education. With more than 30 courses in a wide variety of subject areas, AP provides willing and academically prepared high school students with the opportunity to study and learn at the college level.

Through AP courses, talented and dedicated AP teachers help students develop and apply the skills, abilities, and content knowledge they will need later in college. Each AP course is modeled upon a comparable college course, and college and university faculty play a vital role in ensuring that AP courses align with college-level standards. For example, through the AP Course Audit, AP teachers submit their syllabi for review and approval by college faculty. Only courses using syllabi that meet or exceed the college-level curricular and resource requirements for each AP course are authorized to carry the “AP” label.

AP courses culminate in a suite of college-level assessments developed and scored by college and university faculty as well as experienced AP teachers. AP exams are an essential part of the AP experience, enabling students to demonstrate their mastery of college-level work. Strong performance on AP Exams is rewarded by colleges and universities worldwide. More than 90% of four-year colleges and universities in the United States grant students credit, placement or both on the basis of successful AP Exam scores. But performing well on an AP Exam means more than just the successful completion of a course; it is the gateway to success in college. Research consistently shows that students who score a 3 or higher typically experience greater academic success in college and improved graduation rates than their non-AP student peers.

AP Exam Scores

The Readers’ scores on the free-response questions are combined with the results of the computer-scored multiple-choice questions; the weighted raw scores are summed to give a composite score. The composite score is then converted to a score on AP’s 5-point scale. While colleges and universities are responsible for setting their own credit and placement policies, AP scores signify how qualified students are to receive college credit or placement.

AP Score

- 5 = Extremely well qualified
- 4 = Well qualified
- 3 = Qualified
- 2 = Possibly qualified
- 1 = No recommendation

AP Exam scores of 5 are equivalent to A grades in the corresponding college course. AP Exam scores of 4 are equivalent to grades of A-, B+, and B in college. AP Exam scores of 3 are equivalent to grades of B-, C+, and C in college.

Course Descriptions by Department:

Business: page 14

Computer Technology: pages 14 – 15

English: pages 15 – 20

Fine Arts: pages 20 – 24

Math: pages 24 – 27

Physical education: pages 27 – 28

Resource: pages 28 – 29

Science: pages 30 – 33

Social Science: pages 33 – 38

Theology: pages 38 – 41

World Language: pages 41 – 49

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS BY DEPARTMENT

Business

Department Chair: Mr. Paul Harrington

pharrington@stritahs.com

772 Introduction to Accounting

Elective

Grades 11 & 12, Credit 0.5

This course is meant to be an introduction to accounting and the class will explore the field of accounting in the business world. The student will follow a financial transaction through the journal, ledger, trial balance, income statement, balance sheet and closing entries.

Computer Technology

Department Chair: Mr. Paul Harrington

pharrington@stritahs.com

712 Computers

Freshman Requirement

Grade 9, Credit 0.5

This course is designed to develop integrated skills required for student academic success as well as the completion of personal and business focused projects. Emphasis is on developing critical thinking skills for evaluating technology and web content as well as the creation and editing of multimedia projects using popular programs and applications. Topics include introduction to iPads, understanding digital citizenship, and using productivity applications for word processing, spreadsheets and presentations.

715 Graphic Design

Elective

Grades 11 & 12, Credit 0.5

The course, *Graphic Design*, will incorporate electronic photo editing, graphics, and page design. Students will be instructed in design theory, computer publishing skills, and creative problem solving.

The course will introduce students to computer system developed graphics. The student will learn the hardware and software components for multimedia production. Each student will explore basic computer operations, ergonomics, and file management. The course will explore the use of tools, computer graphics techniques and design layout principles to produce professional graphic designs.

The course will focus on the high-end capabilities of raster photo-editing software as an illustration, design and photo retouching tool. The course software provides students an opportunity to work with the industry standard in graphic design software while developing a wide range of selection and manipulation techniques that can be applied to photos, graphics and videos.

724 Visual Basic

Elective

Grades 11 & 12, Credit 0.5

Introduction to Programming is a one-semester course that will teach students the fundamentals of programming using the Visual Basic development environment. Topics covered will include Visual Basic Objects, Visual Basic Events, Strings, controlling program flow, graphics, and arrays. This class is intended for students who think they might have some interest in technical computer careers.

725 Web Design

Elective

Grades 11 & 12, Credit 0.5

Web Design is a one-semester course that will introduce students to the world of Web Design using Microsoft Front Page editor. Students will learn about practical web site design for personal use, business, and professional discussion forums. Topics will include HTML, graphics, animation, and ActiveX controls.

English

Department Chair: Mr. Tim Baffoe

tbaffoe@stritahs.com

812 English 1

Freshman Requirement

Grade 9, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

The course is divided between the teaching and analyzing of literature, writing and grammar. In literature, the definitions and applications of the literary terms and comprehension of novels, short stories, poetry and drama are studied. Selected outside readings are required along with the major texts. Study skills are reviewed. Strong emphasis is given to paragraph construction, and writing includes several purposes. Supporting detail, thesis statements and topic sentences are stressed. Students work on parts of speech, sentence structure, writing strategies, and they develop a writing portfolio.

819 Speech

Freshman Requirement

Grade 9, Credit 0.5

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

The speech course is designed to teach students to both think clearly and to express themselves effectively before others. Over the course of the semester the student will be introduced to the techniques necessary to enhance his speaking skills, such as the use of body and voice to accent his presentation. Various aspects of interpersonal relating and public speaking will be covered (from oral interpretation of literature, to beginning argumentation skills, to the proclamation of the Word of God in liturgy, to extemporaneous speaking).

The development of good oratory and life skills benefits the student in his future education here at St. Rita, in college, and in his future career by helping him to develop self-confidence through increasing his means of self-expression. This course is intended to provide the student with opportunities to sharpen his public speaking and presentation skills.

815 Reading

Freshman Villanova Program Requirement (for selected students)

Grade 9, Credit 1.0

Reading is designed to improve the basic reading skills of students who perform below accepted standards for grade 9. The class is meant to reinforce the skills used in other content areas. The approach is to reinforce the reading skills of comprehension, vocabulary development, and reading strategies.

925 Resource

Freshman Villanova Program Requirement (for selected students)

Grade 9, Credit 0.5

The resource course is designed to improve student study habits and prepare them to achieve better grades. Over the course of the semester, students will learn proper organizational skills, time management skills, note taking skills. The goal of resource is to keep students on pace to succeed in high school. Thus, resource helps students stay on track academically and gives them the organizational skills for life.

811 English 1 Honors

Fulfills Freshman English 1 Requirement

Grade 9, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Students in Freshman English Honors and Freshman English use the same text. The curriculum of the course is listed in the course description for Freshman English, with additional requirements. The expectations in the honors class are much greater and demand a more mature approach to study. The assignments are more difficult with students going into greater depth in the reading and writing assignments. Additional novels are read and students discuss and interpret the readings with greater maturity and independence.

822 English 2

Sophomore Requirement

Grade 10, Credit 1.0
NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

This English 2 course combines the study of traditional grammar and literature in a one-year course of study. In grammar, students review the parts of speech, capitalization and punctuation, and usage. Techniques in composition are practiced using themes taken from literature, which include short stories and novel study. Selected outside reading is required by each instructor. The students are tested on comprehension of the text as well as deeper literary analysis. In writing, strong emphasis is given to communication of ideas to accomplish a variety of purposes.

821 English 2 Honors

Fulfills Sophomore English 2 Requirement

Grade 10, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Prerequisites:

- *Students must have a B- final average of both semesters combined in English I Honors or at least an A- final average in both semesters combined in English I to be considered for entry into English 2 Honors.*
- *Any student receiving less than a C- final average in either semester of his freshman English course will not be considered for entry into English 2 Honors.*
- *Regardless of semester averages in a student's freshman year, a recommendation that he not move into English 2 Honors by a teacher, counselor, or administrator will be a determining factor.*
- *Any student who receives less than a B- average in either semester of English 2 Honors will not be recommended for entry into AP English Language.*

This course covers the curriculum of English 2, with additional material, in greater depth. The English 2 Honors course combines the study of traditional writing with grammar and literature. Students learn the components and techniques of literature using stories from the literature book as well as required outside reading. In grammar, students review the parts of speech, capitalization and punctuation, and usage. There is a strong emphasis on writing and the students write numerous essays practicing the techniques taught. The three components of writing, literature and grammar are taught in such a way that what the students learn in one area of the course they are able to apply to other areas.

832 English 3

Junior Requirement

Grade 11, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

In the junior year there is a heavy emphasis put upon preparation for the ACT test which will take place in early April. Through their preparation, students will learn proper punctuation skills for sentences as well as word usage skills which will also help them in their writing. There is also an emphasis on American Literature in the junior year. An American Literature textbook will cover a diverse list of American authors. Students will also write papers on various topics chosen by the instructor covering the following areas: literary analysis, persuasion, and research with a heavy emphasis on persuasive writing prior to the ACT to prepare them for the writing section of the test. Each junior will do a research project in the second semester where the students will do a step by step process learning the proper steps to a good research paper. English teachers will work together with the junior History teachers to choose an appropriate topic. Students will also be required to read

one novel per quarter on which they will be tested for content. Discussion of the novels in class may also lend to literary analysis topics for writing.

830 AP English Language and Composition

Fulfills Junior English 3 Requirement

Grade 11, Credit 1.0

College Board Approved

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Prerequisites:

- *Students must have a B- final average of both semesters combined in English II honors or at least an A- final average in both semesters combined in English II to be considered for entry into AP English Language and Composition.*
- *Any student receiving less than a C- final average in either semester of his sophomore English course will not be considered for entry into AP English Language.*
- *Regardless of semester averages in a student's sophomore year, a recommendation that he not move into AP English Language by a teacher, counselor, or administrator will be a determining factor.*
- *Any student who receives less than a B- average in either semester of AP English Language will not be recommended for entry into AP English Literature.*

The AP English Language and Composition course is designed to help students become skilled readers of prose written in a variety of rhetorical contexts and to become skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Both their writing and their reading should make students aware of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, and subjects as well as the way generic conventions and the resources of language contribute to effectiveness in writing.

844 British Literature

Senior Requirement

Grade 12, Credit 0.5

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

British Literature is a one-semester requirement for all seniors. The course focuses on a wide variety of literature from all genres--poetry, short story, essay, drama and novel--as it has evolved in our language through the centuries. The course is a survey, meaning that students will read from a wide array of the best-known and most important British and Irish authors throughout history. Seniors will take this course in either the first or second semester, as assigned.

875 African American Literature

Fulfills Senior English Semester Requirement

Grade 12, Credit 0.5

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

This course explores the literary conventions, themes, and techniques employed by African American authors in a variety of genres such as the short story, drama, poetry, and the essay. Emphasis is placed on the development of Black expression in literature and criticism. Students refine critical thinking, reading and writing skills through literary analysis of a broad range of representative works. We will explore how 18th—21st century texts by African American men and women who write about, respond to, or somehow engage race in their creative

endeavors. Students will not only read these authors and learn of the historical and literary periods in which they were writing and discuss the dominant issues and themes confronting them, but also become more critical and creative readers and writers.

876 Chicago Authors

Fulfills Senior English Semester Requirement

Grade 12, Credit 0.5

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Chicago author Stuart Dybek wrote, “Perhaps more than any other American city, Chicago draws its identity from its writers and in the process imposes its identity upon them as well.” This semester course will examine the authors, themes and characters of the “Chicago Tradition” in literature from the early 20th century until the present. Through a discussion of novels, short stories, poetry and drama the class will discover what issues, themes and concerns may be common to Chicago writers. Other issues that will be discussed include themes of assimilation/segregation, Chicago’s place in American culture, Chicago itself as a character in fiction and finally Chicago authors’ love for the city they depict.

878 The Explorations of Evil in Literature

Fulfills Senior English Semester Requirement

Grade 12, Credit 0.5

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

This one-semester senior elective in English will examine evil through a variety of literary forms. The course will examine what we believe about evil, what we do when we see it, and its origins. We will examine evil in war, the abuse of power, prejudice and other modern social problems. Students will read, discuss, and critique selected films, write short papers and present to the class.

874 Irish/Irish American Literature

Fulfills Senior English Semester Requirement

Grade 12, Credit 0.5

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

This class provides an educational and entertaining reflection on the deep historical and cultural intertwining of America and Ireland through literature of The Emerald Isle and that of its American descendents, and the extent to which our world is shaped by Irish people, culture and heritage. In this class we explore comparative perspectives of the cultural, economic, and political context of being Irish and Irish American. We also seek to provide new perspectives on the interconnections between Ireland and America, in the past, present and future. Based on the readings, we explore some fundamental historical questions, such as how were the Irish Famine, emigration, and economic developments of the 18-20th centuries interconnected, and how did the Irish Diaspora (the massive emigration of Irish to America and other countries around the world) shape the historical and cultural trajectory of America. Finally we explore how American, let alone global, culture is being actively shaped by Irish culture (such as literature, theater, film, music), and the extent to which this is a dynamic process. Drawing upon literature and history, this class will illustrate the different ways we can explore and conceive of the past and present world of Ireland and Irish America. Seeking answers to these questions offers students an opportunity to learn more about Ireland, America, and the connections between these cultures and people.

877 Sports Journalism

Elective (Does NOT fulfill Senior English Semester Requirement)

Grades 11 & 12, Credit 0.5

This course provides students with an overview of sports journalism and enhances students' writing, reporting, interviewing, and editing skills. It focuses on the unique writing and research style of sportswriters while remembering that the fundamentals of journalism still apply. Students will learn how to write game, advance, follow-up, feature and human-interest stories and columns. A study and analysis of the most successful sportswriters will be included. Students will learn about writing for newspapers and magazines from covering a variety of sporting events and stories.

841 AP English Literature and Composition

Fulfills Senior English 4 Requirement

Grade 12, Credit 1.0

College Board Approved

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Prerequisites: Students must have a B- average in both semesters of AP Language and Composition in order to be considered for AP Literature and Composition. Students who have not taken AP Language and Composition in the junior year must have at least an A- average in both semesters of junior English. Additionally, a recommendation from his junior year teacher is recommended but not required.

This course is designed to give the Advanced Placement Student a critical look at Western Literature while featuring the British Writers. The course will be taught on the level of college English. The chief emphasis of the course is on extensive and varied reading, and on the critical analysis of major literary works. However, time will be spent on reviewing the craft of certain literary forms and on developing the techniques of effective expository writing. Students will also be required to examine the historical and the cultural milieu in which specific works were created as well as the personal biographies of the authors. The course will also serve as a thorough preparation for the Advanced Placement Exam.

Fine Arts

Contact: Mr. Brendan Conroy

bconroy@stritahs.com

681 Introduction to Visual Art

Elective

Grades 10, 11 & 12, Credit 0.5

This is a one-semester course designed to give students a beginning level experience in two-dimensional visual art. Students will be instructed in basic art concepts and follow a skill-building curriculum that includes drawing

and design and some painting. Principles and Elements of Design are introduced and stressed on all projects. *This course fulfills the .5 Fine Arts credit requirement for graduation.*

678 Art History

Elective

Grades 10, 11 & 12, Credit: 0.5

Fulfills Fine Arts or Social Studies Requirement

The Art History course is designed to introduce students to the painting, sculpture, and architecture that composes the history of Western art, as well an overview of the key components and artists comprising the rich history of art beyond the European tradition. No prior experience in studio art or art history is required for this course. *This course fulfills the .5 Fine Arts credit requirement for graduation.*

698 Drawing

Elective

Grades 10 (with teacher approval), 11 & 12, Credit 0.5

This is a one semester, regular credit course that explores different approaches to drawing while applying the principles and elements of art in order to develop skills and the creative thought process. A variety of drawing materials and techniques will be explored and students will be expected to develop their technical skills as well as their own style of drawing. A basic understanding & appreciation for the visual arts will be cultivated along with classroom critiques for self- evaluation in a supportive environment.

This course is strongly suggested, but not required, for students who are interested in pursuing enrollment in AP STUDIO ART.

Interested students at the sophomore level will need to present examples of their work to Mrs. Kurnat to opt out of the introductory level course - Introduction to Art.

668 Advanced Drawing

Elective

Grades 10 (with teacher approval), 11 & 12, Credit: 0.5

This is a one semester course for students that have a desire to build on their drawing skills and experiences. A variety of materials and techniques will be explored in a focused approach to increase artistic self confidence and advanced compositional skills. Original work will be an expectation of this course along with maintaining a portfolio to track growth and conserve finished pieces. This course is highly recommended for students interested in taking AP Studio Art.

Advanced Drawing is open to students who have completed the Drawing course or others by recommendation.

It is preferred that students have some visual art experience in preparation for this advanced course.

684 Visual Art Design

Elective

Grades 11 & 12, Credit 0.5

Sophomore admission into the course is based upon permission by Mrs. Kurnat and the successful completion of the Drawing course.

This is a semester course designed for a variety of skill levels. Students will have the opportunity to experience a curriculum that engages all students in visual problem solving, basic art terminology, and challenging two and three dimensional projects. As with all art courses, there is an emphasis on building drawing skills. Art history will be incorporated as it relates to studio projects. Students will maintain a portfolio of their work for use in critiques and assessments. This course is not a signature course (needing departmental approval), but is highly recommended for students considering advancement into AP Studio Art.

640 Digital Photography

Elective

Grades 10, 11 & 12, Credit: 0.5

The Digital Photography course will follow a curriculum that focuses on ways to translate the concepts of traditional 2-dimensional art to the creation of photography. Composition, set up, lighting, equipment, photo-shop enhancements, and themed photography will be explored along with keeping a photo journal of the student's everyday life to draw upon as resources for class projects. Students will take an artistic approach to photography, and begin to see the world around them as more of an opportunity to capture moments with their cameras. Historical references to famous photographers will be explored. *This course fulfills the .5 Fine Arts credit requirement for graduation.*

641 Advanced Digital Photography

Elective

Grades 11 & 12, Credit: 0.5

Prerequisites:

- *Students must have completed the Introduction to Digital Photography course with a grade of C or better. Instructor approval from the Intro course is required in order to enroll in the Advanced Digital Photography course.*
- *Students must provide their own digital SLR camera in order to enroll in the course.*

The Advanced Digital Photography is a 1 semester course that builds upon the principals of design learned in the introductory course; and while the intro course focused on an artistic approach to photography, this advanced course will focus more on the technical aspects of good photography.

650 Theatre Arts

Elective

Grades 10, 11, & 12, Credit 0.5

This elective is a survey of various disciplines within the art of theatre production. The course is designed for students who are interested in learning more about what it takes to produce a play. Students will spend time learning and creating acting pieces, set design, prop design, lighting design, sound design, and playwriting. To complete the course, students will choose one area of study they enjoyed the most and create a final project for display. *This course fulfills the .5 Fine Arts credit requirement for graduation.*

651 Acting

Elective

Grades 10, 11, 12, Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: Successful completion of the Theatre Arts course.

This course builds upon the skills practiced and learned the Theatre Arts course. This course will focus on acting skills and types for students who hold an acting based interest in theatre. Students will look at more in-depth character study as well as practices and rituals that help prepare them for auditions and performances.

671 E-Music (Electronic Music) - Sophomores

673 E-Music (Electronic Music) – Juniors and Seniors

Elective

Grades 10, 11 & 12, Credit 0.5

The E-music course is designed to provide students with basic computer composition techniques and properties. This course will cover the basics of the MIDI lab, advanced music computer skills, sequencing and composition styles. Music Theory, Arranging, and History will be examined and studied to provide students with an understanding of Composition and Form. Students will learn all necessary theory in order to complete every composition or arranging assignment. A musical background is not necessary for success in this class. *This course fulfills the .5 Fine Arts credit requirement for graduation.*

692 Band Honors

Elective

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12, Credit 1.0

The band program consists of two major groups, the marching band and the symphonic band. The students who are enrolled in the class are required to be in both of these groups. There are also smaller ensembles including pep band and two jazz bands. These ensembles are optional for participation. There is a beginning band for students with no instrumental experience. *This course fulfills the .5 Fine Arts credit requirement for graduation.*

688 Jazz Band

Elective

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12, Credit 0.25

The jazz band is a performance based group. Students must be approved by the band director and/or by audition prior to enrolling in this class. The students are given a vast repertoire of music, in various styles, to learn and perform. The jazz band performs at many concerts and events throughout the year.

697 AP Studio Art Drawing

Elective

Grade 12, Credit 1.0

College Board Approved

Prerequisites: Students must have successfully completed an introductory visual arts course with a grade of C or better. In addition, students must be recommended for this course by their current visual arts instructor.

Students that do not meet these requirements can still be enrolled with special consideration from the principal and the visual arts teacher's input on the student's portfolio of work.

This is a full year course designed for the serious art student willing to fully investigate all three areas of the AP Studio Art portfolio. The projects include all drawing and painting mediums and culminates in the submission of a complete portfolio for possible college credit.

Mathematics

Department Chair: Mr. Joe Partacz

jpartacz@stritahs.com

313 and 314 Algebra 1 – Double Period

Fulfills Freshman Villanova Program Requirement (for selected students)

Grade 9, Credit 2.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

This two semester course uses the same book and syllabus as Algebra 1 but allows the students two class periods to cover the subject matter, instead of one. The extra time allows students to master the concepts, and in so doing, develop the basis for success in future math classes. Topics covered are linear equations and inequalities, quadratic equations, rational expressions, and problem solving. Placement in this class is determined by the school administration. **If you are recommended for this class you must register for both 313 and 314 (two class periods).**

312 Algebra 1

Freshman Requirement

Grade 9, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

This two semester course covers the fundamental properties of Algebra and prepares students to be successful in all other math courses. This course provides a background in number operations, solving and graphing of linear equations and inequalities and quadratic equations. Factoring, polynomials, rational and irrational expressions are covered, and problem-solving is central to the study of every topic.

311 Algebra Theory Honors

Fulfills Freshman Algebra 1 Requirement

Grade 9, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

This course is designed for the freshman student with a high proficiency level in mathematics. It is the first of three honor level classes, which will prepare him for AP Calculus in his senior year. It is an intense study of Algebra covering all topics of Algebra 1 and many topics of Algebra 2. These topics will be covered in depth

with emphasis on both procedures and analysis. Topics of factoring, exponents, and trigonometry normally covered in Algebra 2 are also covered. Concepts of Geometry are also used in problems requiring algebraic solutions.

323 and 324 Geometry – Double Period

Sophomore Villanova Program Requirement (for selected students)

Grade 10, Credit 1.5

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

This two semester course uses the same book and syllabus as the regular geometry class but allows the students two class periods to cover the subject matter, instead of one. The double period **(324) is offered during the first semester only** and is meant to give the student a solid foundation on which to build. The extra time allows students to master the concepts, and in so doing, develop the basis for success in the geometry class. **During the second semester you must register for a physical education class (912).** Placement in this class is determined by the school administration. **If you are recommended for this class you must register for 323, 324 and 912 (totaling two class periods).**

322 Geometry

Sophomore Requirement

Grade 10, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

This course emphasizes and integrates logical reasoning and visualization skills. Theorems are studied, and the concept of proof is used to enhance the development of deductive reasoning skills. Triangles, polygons, and circles are explored in terms of characteristics, proportion, similarity, and measurement of parts. Perimeter and area of polygons, circumference and area of circles, and coordinate geometry are included.

321 Geometry Honors

Fulfills Sophomore Geometry Requirement

Grade 10, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

This course is a thorough study of Euclidean geometry. Basic concepts covered will include congruency, similarity, coordinate geometry, circles, polygons, area, surface area, and volume. Throughout the course, students will apply logical reasoning to the study of mathematical proof for theorems while demonstrating an appreciation for the structure and usefulness of geometry. This class continually reinforces the concepts of Algebra as it explores the geometric topics.

332 Algebra 2

Junior Requirement

Grade 11, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

This course continues the algebraic concepts taught in Algebra 1 with a greater working emphasis on reasoning skills. The significant concepts of advanced algebra – solving inequalities, linear equations and systems, polynomials, laws of exponents, quadratic equations and polynomials – are reinforced and expanded upon. Trigonometry is introduced and ACT preparation is included.

331 Algebra 2/Trigonometry Honors

Fulfills Junior Algebra 2 Requirement

Grade 11, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Prerequisite: A student must have completed Algebra Theory Honors as well as Geometry Honors with a minimum of a “C” average.

The Algebra 2/Trigonometry Honors course is designed for students to master the concepts of Algebra and helps to prepare a student take the AP Calculus Honors course. This course takes an extensive look at Algebra topics, such as, an in-depth study of functions, the solving of higher degree polynomial equations and inequalities, the study of logarithms, exponential functions and complex numbers. Students will also master the concepts of Synthetic and Analytic Trigonometry, and trigonometric functions. A minimum average of a “B” is required in both semesters for a student to move on to the AP Calculus course.

344 Integrated Senior Mathematics

Elective

Grade 12, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

This course offers students the opportunity to engage themselves in a variety of math concepts that they can find applicable beyond high school. The course provides a review in key Algebra and Geometry topics, while at the same time it covers many topics found in college entry level Math courses such as Business Math, Discrete Math and Finite Math. The course will present each topic in a real-world application approach. A goal of the course is to answer the question so many students ask, “When would I ever use this in life.”

343 College Algebra/Trigonometry

Elective

Grade 12, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Prerequisite: Minimum of a “C” average in all previous Math classes.

This two-semester course covers standard topics such as: algebraic functions and their graphs, exponential and logarithmic functions, trigonometry and analytical trigonometry, systems of equations and inequalities, matrices, determinants, sequences, series, and probability. The course is intended to offer a fourth year of math for the non-honors college-bound student.

342 Pre-Calculus and Trigonometry

Elective

Grade 12, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Prerequisite: "B" average through Algebra 2.

This course covers all of the math concepts that should be studied in high school and prepares the students to take Calculus in college. Topics include linear and polynomial functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, trigonometry, sequences, and analytic geometry. It is required for the students to have taken Algebra 1, Geometry and Algebra 2.

341 AP Calculus AB

Elective

Grade 12, Credit 1.0

College Board Approved

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Prerequisites: Students must have successfully completed each semester of Algebra II Honors / Trig with at least a B final average in both semesters and have a combined 3.0 average for all mathematics courses. If any student falls beneath the minimum grade or GPA requirement he must be strongly recommended by his Algebra II Honors / Trig teacher and approved by the Chair of the Mathematics Department.

The AP Calculus class studies the two branches of Calculus, differential and integral, and prepares students to take the AP exam. It does so in the following manner: Each topic is presented as a problem not solvable using techniques of algebra, geometry and/or pre-calculus. Then, using definitions, combined with an understanding of the concept of limits, the derivative (during the second semester, the integral) is determined. The rules for finding the derivative (or integral) of each type of function are formulated, and then used as tools to solve problems. Applications, in the form of problems, require analysis, writing of functions that reflect the facts of the problems, and the use of calculus to solve those problems.

Physical Education

Department Chair: Ms. Megan Leider

mleider@stritahs.com

911 Physical Education – Freshmen

912 Physical Education – Sophomores

914 Physical Education Juniors and Seniors

Elective

Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12, Credit 0.5

The Physical Education program at St. Rita is designed to meet the needs, capabilities, and interests of the students, while making the best possible use of the facilities, and our available resources. We provide for all levels of skill: beginning, intermediate and advanced. Grades, in all cases, are Pass/Fail. While physical education courses are taken for credit, grade points are not awarded.

913 Health

Sophomore Requirement

Grade 10, Credit 0.5

This course will provide the knowledge and skills related to health promotion and disease prevention as it applies to daily life. Students will develop the ability to practice health-enhancing behaviors and reduce health risks.

917 Fitness and Nutrition

Elective

Grades 10, 11 & 12, Credit 0.5

This course will help students take charge of their health and lifestyle and examine their overall physical well-being. Students will learn the benefits of managing their health and maximizing the benefits and enjoyment of exercise. Studies have shown that individuals who maintain a regular program of aerobic exercise and physical activity derive significant physical, physiological and psychological benefits. The course includes both classroom work and actual exercise in the gym.

916 Introduction to Sports Medicine

Elective

Grades 10, 11 & 12, Credit 0.5

This course is designed to provide students with an opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills in the following areas: practices and principles of Athletic Training, Sports Medicine-related anatomy and physiology, Injury Recognition, Treatment and Rehabilitation of injuries, First Aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). This course will be a valuable, hands-on approach to learning and is highly recommended for any student that is interested in any career in the health care or sports related fields such as athletic training, coaching, medicine, nursing, or physical therapy.

918 Successful Coaching

Elective

Grades 10, 11 & 12, Credit 0.5

This course is an introduction to the principles of coaching youth and interscholastic athletes which span across all sports. The course will focus on the American Sport Education Programs (ASEP), the philosophy of “Athletes first, winning second”, and how to put these approaches into action. A strong emphasis is given to the principles of teaching, principles of coaching, behavior of coaches, and management skills as pertains to coaching. The course will offer real world coaching examples and students will have the opportunity to put some of the lessons learned into practice.

Resource

Contact: Mr. Wes Benak

wbenak@stritahs.com

939 College Readiness Seminar

Elective

Grade 11, Credit 0.5

Pass / Fail Grade

This course is meant to help students prepare for the ACT – and while doing well on the ACT is a goal of the course it also has merit in and of itself as an academically challenging course that has significance beyond the ACT test. While much of the preparation for doing well on the ACT happens in the classroom on a daily basis, specific and intensive preparation is also helpful for many students. Subject area content and test taking skills and strategies will be learned and/or reviewed. The college planning and application process will be presented and discussed.

930 Independent Study Period

Elective

Grades 11 & 12, Credit: 0.5

Pass / Fail Grade

Any junior or senior carrying a course load that includes 2 or more AP classes simultaneously may apply to take a non-credit Independent Study Period (ISP) for one or both semesters. The student must see his counselor for an application if he is interested in the possibility of an independent study period. The student application will indicate the following:

- The combination of AP, honors and college prep courses the student proposes to take;
- The student's participation in athletics, service and extracurricular activities;
- The student's outside responsibilities (at home, a job, etc.);
- The colleges to which a student is applying;
- The student's academic, attendance and disciplinary track record;
- The student's plan of how he plans to use the time in ISP;
- Current teachers' recommendations regarding his work ethic, maturity and studiousness;
- Dean's approval;
- Counselor approval;
- The student's preference for a first-semester, second-semester or year-long Independent Study;
- Parental approval is mandatory;
- The final decision to enroll a student in an ISP in any case will be made by the Principal or Assistant Principals.

931 Guided Study Period

Elective

Grades 11 & 12, Credit: 0.5

Pass / Fail Grade

If a junior or senior has a challenging course load *for him*, whether or not it includes any honors or AP courses, he may apply through his counselor to take a Guided Study Period (GSP) for one or both semesters. GSP requires greater teacher/counselor oversight than ISP. The student application will indicate the following:

- Responsibilities (e.g., family, job, athletics, service, college applications, co-curriculars) that he feels he can handle better if he is enrolled in GSP;
- A proposed course load that is challenging to him but reasonably manageable with GSP;
- The student's plan of how he plans to use the time in GSP, and the teacher who will work with him and hold him accountable;
- Whether he is taking an AP or honors class;
- Current teachers' recommendations regarding his work ethic, maturity and studiousness;
- Dean's approval;
- Counselor approval;
- The student's preference for a first-semester, second-semester or year-long GSP;
- Parental approval is mandatory;
- The final decision to enroll a student in an ISP in any case will be made by the Principal or Assistant Principals.

Science

Department Chair: Ms. Megan Leider

mleider@stritahs.com

Note: Students may move from a regular level course to an honors level course with the approval of the current science teacher and the department Chair.

412 Biology

Freshman Requirement / Sophomore Villanova Program Requirement (for selected students)

Grades 9 & 10, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

This course is designed to develop a student appreciation and understanding of the basic principles of Biology. The program explores current research and discoveries, while providing an historical perspective for the student. This class offers a broad range of topics from cellular biology to the exploration of the entire ecosystem. It builds a framework based on core concepts and interconnectedness of all living things. Labs include the use of equipment, statistical analysis, and dissections.

411 Biology Honors

Fulfills Freshman Biology Requirement

Grade 9, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

This course provides a comprehensive scope and in-depth coverage of the major topics in biology today. The concepts of cell biology, biochemistry, and genetics are stressed during the first semester. The second semester studies the human body, concentrating primarily upon anatomy and physiology, as well as, the basic principles of ecology. Included is the dissection of representative animal groups.

442 Chemistry

Sophomore Requirement

Grade 10, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

This course is designed as a first year college preparatory chemistry course. The following concepts will be covered in this course: the scientific method, the Periodic Table nomenclature, subatomic particles, stoichiometry, and basics of energy, atomic theories, and phases of matter, acids/bases, and nuclear chemistry. This class will be supplemented with several lab activities, where students will learn chemistry lab fundamentals.

420 Chemistry Honors

Fulfills Sophomore Chemistry Requirement

Grade 10, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Biology Honors and Honors Biology teacher recommendation.

This course is designed as a university oriented course. Topics covered are: atomic theory, nomenclature, mole theory, reactions, stoichiometry, bonding, gases, solids, liquids, solutions, kinetics, acid/base, molecular structure, and oxidation/reduction. Chemistry is learned using mathematics and experimentation. TI-83 Plus calculator is strongly utilized. *Prerequisite: Biology Honors.*

454 Environmental Science

Elective / Fulfills 3rd year Science Requirement

Grades 11 & 12, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

During the first semester of this course students will review scientific process skills (taking observations, designing experiments, graphing data) and measurement (using proper lab techniques, converting metric units, expressing data in scientific notation). Students will be introduced to concepts of environmental science such as ecosystems, interconnectedness, and biodiversity. During the second half of the course, students will explore larger environmental science topics such as global warming, pollution, and sustainability. In addition, students will assume the role of researcher as they investigate an environmental problem of their choosing in their community.

464 Forensic Science

Elective / Fulfills 3rd year Science Requirement

Grades 11 & 12, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Forensic science will increase knowledge of scientific method and scientific technology by studying the field of forensics. This course will present practical studies in how science and technology can be used to solve real-world problems. It will look at how crime can be solved using scientific methods.

462 Human Anatomy

Elective / Fulfills 3rd year Science Requirement

Grades 11 & 12, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

This course will feature a descriptive overview of the human body. The names, locations, and physiology of the systems will be studied as well as the interaction between all systems. This course will also study the mechanisms of disease affecting individual body systems.

432 Physics

Elective / Fulfills 3rd year Science Requirement

Grades 11 & 12, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Prerequisites: Must be taking or have taken Algebra 2 and a "C" average in previous math and science courses.

This course covers classical physics concepts and problem-solving. Included in the course are dimensional analysis, the study of motion, vector applications, application of Newton's laws, energy flow through systems, and thermodynamics. The above material is supplemented with laboratory experience and places an emphasis on logical thought and critical thinking to solve problems.

431 Physics Honors

Elective / Fulfills 3rd year Science Requirement

Grades 11 & 12, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Chemistry Honors and a "C" average in previous math and science courses required; must also be approved by the Department Chair.

The Honors Physics class is structured in a similar manner as the academic physics class, but the class moves at an accelerated pace. Additional topics covered include basic astronomy, biophysics, geophysics, and applications of physics principles in engineering. Additional laboratory time is provided and students are responsible for special presentations and projects throughout the year. *Prerequisites: Chemistry 1 and a "C" average in previous math and science courses required*

410 AP Biology

Elective

Grades 11 & 12, Credit: 1.0

College Board Approved

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Prerequisites: Students must have successfully completed biology and chemistry and have a combined 3.0 average in all science courses. Additionally, students must be recommended by their current science instructor. Students who do not meet these requirements can still enroll with the approval of the AP teacher and at least one administrator (i.e. Assistant Principal or Principal).

This is a college-level biology course for competent and highly motivated students. The aim of the course is to provide the student with the conceptual framework, factual knowledge, and analytical skills necessary to deal critically with the rapidly changing science of biology and to understand the changing role of biology in our society. The course is designed around 8 major themes: science as process, evolution, energy transfer, continuity and change, relationship of structure and function, regulation, interdependence in nature, and science, technology and society.

441 AP Chemistry

Elective

Grade 12, Credit 1.0

College Board Approved

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Prerequisites: Students must have successfully completed biology, chemistry and physics with at least a B average. Recommendation by previous science teacher and Department Chair is required.

This course is designed as a second-year Chemistry course, as preparation for college placement tests in Chemistry. The topics covered are an extension to those covered in Honors Chemistry. Further work is done on oxidation/reduction, electrochemistry, thermodynamics, and equilibrium. This course is presented at a college level and requires a strong background in mathematics and experimentation. TI-83 Plus calculator is required.

Social Science

Department Chair: Mr. Kieran Kellam

kkellam@stritahs.com

513 World Geography

Elective

Grade 9, Credit 0.5

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

This one semester survey course studies both physical and cultural geography for all regions of the world. Students learn how to use and read maps and other geographic representations. Students also learn about the tools and technologies used to acquire, process and report information from a spatial perspective.

510 World Geography Honors

Elective

Grade 9, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

World Geography Honors is a college-preparatory course that will prepare students for future AP courses. In this class students will learn to work as independent learners as well as in groups. At the end of the class students will be able to work independently, form and defend opinions, and write about them. In addition to AP preparations throughout the semester, students will have the opportunity to explore the physical, cultural, and current regions throughout our world with a thematic approach. This course will include lecture, note taking, independent practice, group projects, cooperative learning, student led projects, document based question analysis, and writing assignments. Students will be required to take the primary role in their own learning.

522 World History

Sophomore Requirement / Junior Villanova Program Requirement (for selected students)

Grade 10, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

This World History course is designed to cover civilization from pre-history to the Industrial Revolution. It begins with an examination of the Paleolithic and Neolithic periods, and then progresses to the early civilizations focusing on Egypt, Sumer, Greece, China, Rome, and the Americas. Later it turns its attention to Europe, the Byzantine empire, Africa, Japan and Korea, and the birth and growth of Islam. The goal of this course is to help the student understand and appreciate the importance and impact of the past on the present and consequently on our future. Various themes that are studied include: continuity, change, geography, political and social systems, religion, economics, technology, diversity, impact of individuals, global interaction, art, and literature.

520 AP World History

Fulfills Sophomore World History Requirement

Grade 10, Credit 1.0

College Board Approved

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Prerequisites: A minimum GPA of 3.0 overall is strongly encouraged. Completion of Honors Geography with at least a B average in both semesters is strongly recommended. If any students fall beneath the minimum GPA, they must be strongly recommended by their social science and English teacher from their freshman year.

The goal of the AP World History course is to foster student understanding of the evolution of global processes and contacts, in interaction with different types of human societies. Through a combination of developing selective factual knowledge and appropriate analytical skills, students will develop the skills necessary to meet this goal. The course highlights the nature of changes in international frameworks and their causes and consequences, as well as comparisons among major societies. Students will be exposed to and analyze leading interpretive frameworks in World History. Furthermore, explicit discussion of periodization will provide students an organizing principle to address change and continuity throughout the course. In developing historical skills, the course will focus on student ability to use historical evidence to form historical arguments, use chronological reasoning to understand changes and continuities in world history, compare and contextualize historical developments, and synthesize a wide range of sources to create historical arguments.

532 U.S. History

Junior Requirement

Grade 11, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

The goal of the class is to give the students a clearer understanding of the present by studying our country's major events and discussing how they have shaped our modern world. Areas of study will include the Colonial Period, Revolutionary War, Constitution, War of 1812, Manifest Destiny, Civil War, Reconstruction, the Old West, Progressive Era, World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam Era, and modern day America. Each student will write an interdisciplinary research paper on one of the major topics studied during the course.

530 AP U.S. History

Fulfills U.S. History Junior Requirement

Grade 11, Credit 1.0

College Board Approved

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Prerequisites: A minimum GPA of 3.0 in social science and English courses is quite strongly encouraged. If any students fall beneath the minimum GPA, they must be strongly recommended by their social science and English teacher from their sophomore year.

The AP US History course studies the time period between colonial America and modern US history. The course is taught with a heavy emphasis on the analysis and interpretation of primary sources. Students will develop the skills necessary to formulate well-informed opinion about historical issues and present them both clearly and logically in an essay format. Students will learn to assess historical materials and understand their relevance, their reliability and their importance in the context of the U.S. History. This course prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by a full-year introductory college class. Those students who pass the AP US History exam in May will be eligible to receive college credit.

564 American Government

Senior Requirement

Grade 12, Credit 0.5

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

American Government is a one-semester course. This senior year class examines the foundation and structure of the American system of government. Basic principles of limited government, popular sovereignty, separation of powers, checks and balances, judicial review, and federalism are explored. A number of features of this course are designed to help the student understand how our government works and help the student become an active, participating citizen. The State of Illinois requires that every student pass an Illinois and U.S. Constitution test before graduation from high school.

545 20th Century American War Experience

Elective

Grades 11 & 12, Credit: 0.5

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

This course will explore the evolution of the United States military during the 20th Century. Beginning with the First World War and ending with the first Iraqi War, the student will learn about the changing nature and the role of the military in the republic of the United States. Significant military trends will be identified and the changing role of the President will be examined. Popular attitudes, civilian control, technology, ethics, limited and unlimited war, preparedness and major campaigns will be discussed.

555 African American History

Elective

Grades 11 & 12, Credit: 0.5

NCAA Clearinghouse Approval Pending

This course will place the story of African-Americans at the center of American history and incorporate the study of African states in the making of the Atlantic World. During the course, we will address why African-Americans have remained on the margins of historical writing when they played such a major part in history. The course will focus on the works of a few major African-Americans, including W.E.B. DuBois and Booker T. Washington. Throughout the course, we will focus on addressing the themes of struggle for social justice, finding an identity, progress, and place special focus on African-American contributions to the history of Chicago. The course will place a focus on debate, discussion and research.

552 Chicago History

Elective

Grades 11 & 12, Credit 0.5

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Chicago History is an elective in the Social Studies Department. It is a one-semester course that combines a variety of activities in order to accommodate a variety of students. Students will learn about Chicago's unique culture, economy, architecture, politics, sports and entertainment, major disasters, sports teams and settlement patterns. There are two research projects and an oral report to be completed by each student.

562 Criminal Law

Elective

Grades 10, 11 & 12, Credit 0.5

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Criminal Law is a one-semester course designed to provide students with an understanding of their legal rights and responsibilities as well as general knowledge about crime, criminals, and the criminal justice process. The curriculum includes case studies, mock trials, role-plays, small group exercises, and visual analysis activities. The intent of this course is to create an informed citizenry that appreciates and is willing and able to participate effectively in the legal system.

577 Introduction to Economics

Elective

Grades 11 & 12, Credit 0.5

This course is designed to increase student awareness of how economics influences our daily life. It will give students the tools and knowledge to help make sound economic decisions for yourself and your future. Personal

economic decision making is integrated throughout the course. Subjects studied will include personal budgets, the business world, advertising, the stock market, macroeconomics, government and global trade.

554 Global Issues

Elective

Grades 11 & 12, Credit 0.5

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

This course will include the study of current events and world issues. Students will use the case study method, as well as discussion, to analyze problems both here in the United States and around the world. Not only will the course introduce students to the issues of the world, it would also give them the opportunity to analyze potential solutions to the problems we encounter daily. Students will learn to research effectively, present ideas and materials clearly and reflect upon their own thoughts.

572 Psychology

Elective

Grades 11 & 12, Credit 0.5

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Psychology is an elective in the Social Studies Department. It is a one-semester course. This is a survey course taught just below a college level Introduction to Psychology course. All units require students to read assigned chapters and to take lecture notes. Excerpts from “Real Boys” by William Pollack, Ph.D. and “Raising Ophelia” by Mary Pipher, Ph.D. are read and discussed during the semester. Additionally, an oral report about a major Psychologist is completed by all students.

582 Sociology

Elective

Grades 10, 11 & 12, Credit 0.5

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

The sociology course is designed to introduce the theories, concepts, and areas of inquiry typically associated with human relationships and behavior. Specific areas to be covered in the class may include: culture, socialization, social interaction, social groups, deviance/crime, social class, race and ethnicity, sex and gender, and aging. The course will illustrate how the groups, or social structures, that one belongs to have a profound influence on the way you think, feel and act.

574 AP Psychology

Elective

Grades 11 & 12, Credit 1.0

College Board Approved

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Prerequisites: Students should have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0. Having taken the general psychology class would be a helpful base for the AP class, but it is not required. Students should be aware of the demanding reading requirements of the course.

Advanced Placement Psychology is a one year elective course. The course introduces students to the systematic study of behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles and phenomena associated with the major subfields within Psychology. Students also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice. This class is intended for students who wish to take a class equivalent to a college introductory course in Psychology.

556 AP Human Geography

Elective

Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12, Credit 1.0

College Board Approved

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Prerequisites: A minimum GPA of 3.0 in social science and English courses is quite strongly encouraged. If any students fall beneath the minimum GPA, they must be strongly recommended by their current social science or English teacher.

The purpose of the AP course in Human Geography is to introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human social organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their science and practice.

560 AP American Government and Politics

Fulfills Senior American Government Requirement

Grade 12, Credit 1.0

College Board Approved

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Prerequisites: A minimum GPA of 3.0 in social science and English courses is quite strongly encouraged. If any students fall beneath the minimum GPA, they must be strongly recommended by their social science and English teacher from their junior year.

The AP Government & Politics: United States course provides an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. This course involves both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. politics and the analysis of specific case studies. It also requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute U.S. political reality. Topics covered include the U.S. Constitution, the branches of the federal government, an analysis of the media's impact, and the political party system in the U.S.

Theology

Department Chair: Mr. Thomas Conlon

tconlon@stritahs.com

112 Theology 1: Introduction to Catholicism and Augustinian Values

Freshman Requirement

Grade 9, Credit 1.0

An Introduction to Catholicism will develop an understanding of the Roman Catholic Christian faith, with particular attention to revelation and worship. The course begins with understanding faith as a living relationship with God, progresses through revelation in both Scripture and sacred tradition, and concludes with a study of the Church and its liturgy and sacraments.

This course will also provide the student with a forum to explore, learn, and grow as a young man in the spirit of St. Augustine. Among other images and symbols, stories, and experiences, we will use the symbol of the heart (the *restless heart*, *cor unum*, the *pierced heart*), the Augustinian Core Values, and the image of the journey within Augustinian tradition in this venture. This class will be a place for the student to gain an understanding of who St. Augustine is and how the Augustinian Tradition has been lived and continues to be lived within the community of the Church in general, and St. Rita of Cascia High School in particular. The student will also have the opportunity to engage with theological and spiritual ideas, and to make connections in your own lives and the world around you. The student will do this on his own, but even more importantly, we will do this together as a community of learners. Also, in the spirit of the Augustinian tradition, the student will engage in service, since a hallmark of Augustinian spirituality is service to the Church, especially as Christ is present in the poor and outcast. In the end, this class hopes to be a foundation toward the student's growth as Augustinian gentlemen with a vision and purpose in the world that is rooted in the Gospel.

122 Theology 2: Introduction to the Old and New Testaments

Sophomore Requirement

Grade 10, Credit 1.0

This course serves as an introduction to the Old Testament both as a work of ancient literature and as God's privileged revelation to us through human forms. As such, attention will be given to such diverse topics as literary interpretation and biblical inspiration, and issues of faith, among others. Students will be asked to read, study, and interpret select texts in order to understand how God's self-revelation has unfolded through creation and human events. The second half of the course touches the historical setting of Jesus' life through the gospels and epistles. It covers the environment, emperors, apostles and other important people of that time period. It also traces the Acts of the Apostles and Paul's missionary journeys.

121 Theology 2 Honors: The Old and New Testaments

Fulfills Sophomore Theology Requirement

Grade 10, Credit 1.0

Prerequisites:

- *Students must have at least a B- final average of both semesters combined in Theology to be considered for entry into Honors Theology.*
- *Any student receiving less than a C- final average in either semester of his Theology course will not be considered for entry into Honors Theology.*
- *Regardless of a student's semester averages, a recommendation that he not move into Honors Theology by a teacher, counselor, or administrator will be a determining factor.*

This course covers the curriculum of Theology 2, while engaging the student with a more thorough analysis of the historical contexts of the Old and New Testament writings. This analysis examines scholarly insights from archaeological discoveries, mythological studies, and from literary research on scrolls, parchments, and papyri

from the ancient Near East. Furthermore, the student will be introduced to a variety of methods of contemporary biblical interpretation, which are pertinent for assisting the student to cultivate a Christian conscience and an ethical and moral perspective in an age of rapid cultural change. As part of this course, the student will be expected to read entire biblical books, submit weekly writing assignments, participate in class discussions, and create a final presentation.

133 Theology 3: Catholic Morality and Catholic Social Teaching

Junior Requirement

Grade 11, Credit 1.0

In the first semester of this course, students will academically explore a variety of moral issues. The course will help provide an intellectual foundation to help form men of character and virtue in the Catholic and Augustinian traditions. It will help students to think through moral issues relevant to their lives today and in the future in their civic, family, and professional lives. The second semester is designed to give students a greater understanding and awareness of Social Justice and its related teachings from a Catholic perspective. Students gain a thorough knowledge of the principles that are central to Social Justice such as the Common Good, respect for human life and the dignity of the human person.

134 Honors Theology 3: Catholic Morality and Catholic Social Teaching

Fulfills Junior Theology Requirement

Grade 11, Credit 1.0

Prerequisites:

- *Students must have at least a B- final average of both semesters combined in Theology to be considered for entry into Honors Theology.*
- *Any student receiving less than a C- final average in either semester of his Theology course will not be considered for entry into Honors Theology.*
- *Regardless of a student's semester averages, a recommendation that he not move into Honors Theology by a teacher, counselor, or administrator will be a determining factor.*

This course offers a more rigorous exploration of moral issues. The course will help provide an intellectual foundation to help form men of character and virtue in the Catholic and Augustinian traditions. It will help students to think through moral issues relevant to their lives today and in the future in their civic, family, and professional lives. During the second semester, students explore the rich tradition of Catholic Social Teaching and the principles that define it. Emphasis will be placed on key figures such as Helen Prejean, Dorothy Day, and Oscar Romero, who have embodied the principles of Catholic Social Teaching in recent social movements. Students will interpret primary documents and personal narratives in order to contextualize current events dealing with social injustices. In order to expose students to the experiential nature of Catholic Social Teaching, opportunities will be given for students to step out of the classroom and into the streets in order to better understand social inequalities. This course is taught at the honors level and includes the added demands of an honors curriculum.

142 Theology 4: The Confessions of St. Augustine

Fulfills Senior 1st Semester Requirement

Grade 12, Credit 0.5

This course prompts students to reflect upon, appreciate and embrace the Augustinian dedication to probing and communicating the various ways that the Divine manifests itself. The issues to be raised and discussed in the first semester of the class emerge from *The Confessions* of St. Augustine. Through a historical, literary and

spiritual reading of this text, participants are given the chance to examine both the restless heart of St. Augustine and their own.

146 Theology 4: World Religions in America

Fulfills Senior 2nd Semester Theology Requirement
Grade 12, Credit 0.5

In this second semester course, students explore the diversity, division and commonality among the major religions in the United States. This entails investigating the origin, historical development, and key figures, concepts, symbols, and practices of Native American spirituality, Judaism, the denominations of Christianity, Islam, and other religious movements and traditions such as Mormonism, Scientology, and New Age spiritualities. Participants engage in collaborative discussions with both their peers and guest presenters.

141 Theology 4: Jesus and Darwin: Can we build a bridge between Science and Religion?

Fulfills Senior 2nd Semester Theology Requirement
Grade 12, Credit 0.5

This course, while demonstrating respect to the individual disciplines, will attempt to stimulate a dialogue between religion and science and highlight places of integration. Our views of nature undergo continuous reinterpretation as the natural sciences continue to uncover new insights. This course will challenge students to consider scientific thought in the context of Christian theology and demonstrate that there perhaps may not be a conflict between faith and science after all.

The course will explore the intersections between science, ecology, religion, and spirituality by investigating the following topics through both the scientific lens of reason and theology: God in Creation, Big Bang Theory, Evolution, Ecology, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Agriculture, Energy Cycles (nitrogen, water, carbon, etc.), and Conservation.

147 Manning Up!: A Course on Christian Masculinity

Fulfills Senior 2nd Semester Theology Requirement
Grades 12, Credit 0.5

This course is designed to provide you with an opportunity to examine manhood. Today, there is a constant barrage of media that can make being a man very confusing. While we discuss being a Ritaman quite often, maybe we need to take a step back and simply discuss what being a man means. This course will propose the following questions: What does being a man mean? What does being a Christian man mean? What has it meant? What does it mean today? What is your personal idea of manhood? How do you plan to live it out in your life? Time to man up!

144 Honors Theology 4: The Confessions of St. Augustine and World Religions in America

Fulfills Senior Theology Requirement
Grade 12, Credit 1.0

Prerequisites:

- *Students must have at least a B- final average of both semesters combined in Theology to be considered for entry into Honors Theology.*

- *Any student receiving less than a C- final average in either semester of his Theology course will not be considered for entry into Honors Theology.*
- *Regardless of a student's semester averages, a recommendation that he not move into Honors Theology by a teacher, counselor, or administrator will be a determining factor.*

The first semester of this course seeks to interpret what Augustine meant when he said: "...our heart is restless until it rests in you." Augustine believed that we humans experience restlessness in our search for ultimate meaning. In the *Confessions*, Augustine chronicles his experience of this restlessness and confesses the stages of his human journey. What he eventually found, which gave him ultimate meaning and peace, was surrender to God. In this course, therefore, we journey with Augustine so that we may better understand our own restless hearts and what will ultimately give us ultimate meaning and peace. An important dimension of achieving the above is the activity of contextualization and appropriation in order to promote a method of finding a deeper personal connection to what Augustine means in light of the present historical, social and personal reality of each student.

In the second semester, students explore the major religions, spiritualities and philosophies that shape religious experience in the United States. Students investigate extensively the religions of Judaism and Islam, along with the denominations of Christianity that are prevalent in the United States. Further investigation of other religious movements, traditions, and spiritualities will also be conducted. A key goal of this course is to expose the student to the various methods of contextualization, ecumenism, and interreligious dialogue in order to understand the diversity of different religious traditions, the divisions that arise from within these traditions, and a better appreciation for their own religious experience.

This course is intended for students who would benefit from a more rigorous theological experience in the final sequence of their theological studies. Each course is taught at the honors level and includes the added demands of an honors curriculum.

World Language

Department Chair: Mrs. Colleen Earley

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In order to graduate from St. Rita of Cascia High School, all students must successfully complete 2 years of the same foreign language. Normally, this is met by taking levels 1 and 2 of the same foreign language. Level 2 classes are also available to incoming freshmen who may have already taken Spanish in grammar school. Currently, there is an optional Spanish language placement exam in offered during the summer months before freshmen begin their academic program at St. Rita that can help determine which class the student should begin in. Most freshmen begin at the entry level while some may begin at the Honors level. Many colleges and universities require that students take at least 2 years of the same foreign language in high school and many desire 3 or 4 years of language studies completed for admission into the college or university.

The World Language Department at St. Rita is very active with experiential learning through educational trips overseas with our students.

212 French 1

Fulfills World Language 1 Requirement

Grade 9, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Prerequisite: None. This course is designed for students with no or minimal prior knowledge of the French language.

French 1, a full credit course for freshmen, is an introductory French course which provides a foundation that will ultimately prepare students for future French courses. This course offers the opportunity to learn basic speaking, listening comprehension, translation and writing skills. It also presents students with their first glimpse of the French culture by familiarizing them with French people, places, food, entertainment, history, traditions, and customs. Strong emphasis is placed not only on grammar rules but also cultural norms because it invites the student to gain a more comprehensive and appreciative knowledge of the cultural differences that exist between different nations.

222 French 2

Grade 10, Credit 1.0

Fulfills World Language 2 Requirement

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Prerequisite: Successful completion of French 1.

French II is a second year elective course designed to reinforce previously learned structure points and vocabulary as well as to further enhance aural, reading, writing and oral proficiency in a French immersion environment. Students will explore more complex grammatical structures and vocabulary within the context of thematic units which promote a deeper appreciation of the Francophone world, make connections to other disciplines and explore the benefits of speaking French in a global society. Students engage in a variety of communicative tasks and projects that become increasingly challenging in order to build confidence, increase comprehension and gain fluency.

223 French 2 Honors

Fulfills World Language 2 Requirement

Grade 10, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Prerequisites: Students should have at least a B final average in French 1 (or took a placement exam as a freshman to start at this level). In addition, if students would like to request to move from French 1 to French 2 Honors, it will be reviewed by the French teacher and the Department Chair.

French II Honors is an accelerated second year elective course designed to reinforce previously learned structure points and vocabulary as well as to further enhance aural, reading, writing and oral proficiency in a French immersion environment. Students will explore more complex grammatical structures, and extensive vocabulary within the context of thematic units which, promote a deeper appreciation of the Francophone world; make connections to other disciplines; and, explore the benefits of speaking French in a global society. Students engage in a variety of communicative tasks and projects requiring higher order critical thinking skills which build confidence, increase comprehension and gain fluency.

236 French 3

Elective

Grade 11, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approval Pending

Prerequisite: Successful completion of French 2 with a final average of C+ or better and a recommendation from the French teacher and the Department Chair.

This third year of French is geared toward the reinforcement of grammar and vocabulary previously learned and the teaching of new grammar and vocabulary that will help the student in the application process of French. The coursework includes grammar exercises and tests, written essays and the reading of short stories. The essays and readings done in this third year of French incorporate the many levels of grammar and vocabulary learned.

233 French 3 Honors

Elective

Grade 11, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Prerequisites: Students should have at least a B final average in French 2 Honors. In addition, if students would like to request to move from French 2 to French 3 Honors, it will be reviewed by the French teacher and the Department Chair.

French III Honors is a full year course conducted solely in French in which students will build upon aural, written, oral and reading skills learned in French II in preparation for AP French IV. The curriculum provides an in-depth, intensive study of the French language, multiculturalism and students' roles and perspectives in a pluralistic society by means of advanced grammatical structures, extensive vocabulary acquisition as well as analytical reading, writing and discussion. Students will give presentations, complete projects, analyze short stories and films as well as write frequently in various contexts in order to develop and demonstrate more supple use of complex thinking and language skills with reasonable accuracy and fluency.

243 AP French Language and Culture

Elective

Grade 12, Credit 1.0

College Board Approved

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Prerequisites: Students should have successfully completed each semester of French 3 Honors with a minimum of a B final average in both semesters. Additionally, students must be recommended by their current French teacher and receive approval from the AP French teacher in order to enroll in the course.

AP French IV Honors is a full year course conducted solely in French offered to students who have successfully completed French III Honors and is a preparatory course for the French Culture and Language Advanced Placement Exam. The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) standards of Connections, Communities, Cultures, Communication, and Comparisons are adhered to in order to encompass all aspects crucial to real language acquisition. This course provides an intensive study of the French literature,

art and culture in a historical context spanning from ancient civilization through 20th century. Moreover, a strong emphasis is placed on six overarching themes as deemed relevant by the College Board: global challenges, families and communities, personal and public identities, beauty and aesthetics, science and technology, and contemporary life. The aforementioned themes are introduced predominately through class surveys and discussions, film, authentic media such as French and Francophone news sources, readings and music. A structured and in-depth review of grammar is infused in all lessons in relevance to the theme being explored.

216 Italian 1: Language and Culture

Does not fulfill World Language 1 Requirement

Grades 11 & 12, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approval Pending

Prerequisite: None. This course is available to juniors and seniors as an elective class. This class does not fulfill World Language 1 requirement.

This is an elective course for students who have already satisfactorily met their language requirement; that is, successful completion of 2 years of the same world language. This course serves as an introduction to the language and culture of Italy. It focuses upon the grammatical forms of the Italian language with a goal toward speaking and reading comprehension and proficiency. Some attention will also be devoted to Italian culture and society.

214 Latin 1

Fulfills World Language 1 Requirement

Grade 9, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Prerequisite: None. This course is designed for students with no or minimal prior knowledge of the Latin language.

This course serves as an introduction to the language and culture of the Ancient Romans. It focuses upon the grammatical forms and syntax of the Latin language with a goal toward reading comprehension and reading proficiency. As such, the course provides a firm foundation for the future study of Latin and the other Romance languages. Some attention will also be devoted to the cultural and historical aspects of Roman civilization.

224 Latin 2

Fulfills World Language 2 Requirement

Grades 10, 12, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Latin 1.

This course is a continuation of the introductory course. As such, a more focused approach to the grammar and structure of the language is taken. Additionally there is a greater emphasis on the historical and cultural aspects of the Late Republic and Early Empire.

225 Latin 2 Honors

Fulfills World Language 2 Requirement

Grade 10, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Prerequisites: Students should have at least a B final average in Latin 1. In addition, if students would like to request to move from Latin 1 to Latin 2 Honors, it will be reviewed by the Latin teacher and the Department Chair.

This course serves as a continuation of the introductory course. As such, a more focused approach to the grammar and structure of the language is taken with the goal of reading and comprehending actual Latin literary texts. Selections of ancient authors are gradually introduced and strategies developed for attaining reading proficiency. This course also entails a deeper immersion into the history and culture of the Late Republic and Early Empire.

234 Latin 3 Honors

Elective

Grade 11, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Prerequisite: Students should have at least a B final average in Latin 2 Honors and / or approval of the Latin teacher and the Department Chair.

This course has as its goal the reading and comprehension of actual Latin literary texts. As such, it targets final mastery of the grammar of the language and serves as an introduction to the style and feel of Latin prose. Caesar's De Bello Gallico and a selection from other authors constitute the vehicle toward this goal. Concomitant with the study of these texts is a deeper exploration into the cultural and historical milieu which produced them. Lastly, this course is designed to prepare the students for the fourth year, AP curriculum.

241 Latin 4 Honors: Vergil and the Augustan Age

Elective

Grade 12, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Prerequisite: Students should have successfully completed each semester of Latin 3 Honors with a minimum of a B final average in both semesters and / or approval of the Latin Teacher and the Department Chair.

A combination language and history class, this course serves as an exploration into the principate of Augustus using the poetry of Vergil as its primary source. Students will be reading and interpreting poetry, both Latin and English, and its intersection with the social and political developments of both Ancient Rome and the Modern World. An alternative to the AP curriculum, this course is designed for 4th year Latin students who wish to continue with Latin, but do not foresee the necessity nor the rigor of the AP exam.

210 Spanish 1 - Freshmen**230 Spanish 1 - Juniors**

Fulfills World Language 1 Requirement

Grades 9 & 11, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Prerequisite: None. This course is designed for students with no or minimal prior knowledge of the Spanish language.

The first year of Spanish begins with introduction of basic, useful vocabulary. The vocabulary learned is incorporated with the grammar taught so that the student can adequately structure the understanding of the new language. The emphasis of this course is in building skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The textbook has many helpful teaching tools including, but not limited to, a supplementary learning website and videos corresponding to each unit taught. This first year of Spanish centers on the uses of the present tense.

209 Spanish 1 Honors

Fulfills World Language 1 Requirement

Grade 9, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Prerequisite: Students can begin in this class by placement following the entrance exam, demonstrating some solid prior knowledge of Spanish from grammar school.

This beginning course is appropriate for students who have some basic knowledge of the Spanish language and culture. It will be conducted in Spanish, as a full immersion class. The course is aimed at providing the student with a survey of the language through speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The students will be able to use the language to ask and answer simple questions and make simple statements. They will gain knowledge of Spanish customs, history, geography, and traditions. Pre-requisite: placement determined by Spanish teachers and/or successful completion of Spanish placement exam.

220 Spanish 2 - Sophomores**240 Spanish 2 - Seniors**

Fulfills World Language 2 Requirement

Grades 10 & 12, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish 1.

This course in Spanish reviews all of the basic vocabulary and grammar concepts from Spanish 1. An increased emphasis is placed on reading and writing the language. New grammar rules and structure are introduced during the second semester. Practice exercises, done by means of reading, writing, speaking and listening are used to help students understand the language rules and be able to begin speaking full sentences more easily. Videos, DVDs, computer programs, and other supplements are also used and are provided by the instructor.

221 Spanish 2 Honors

Fulfills World Language 2 Requirement

Grade 10, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Prerequisites: Students should have at least a B final average in Spanish 1 Honors (or took a placement exam as a freshman to start at this level). In addition, if students would like to request to move from Spanish 1 to Spanish 2 Honors, it will be reviewed by the Spanish teacher and the Department Chair.

This course in advanced Spanish reviews all of the basic vocabulary and grammar concepts from Spanish 1 at a faster pace. Emphasis is placed on reading and writing. New grammar information is introduced throughout the year. Practice exercises, projects, and writing assignments are used to help the student understand the language rules so that they are on the path to speaking more fluently. This course will prepare students for Spanish 3 Honors and eventually, for Spanish 4 – Advanced Placement. Videos, DVDs, computer programs, and other supplements are also used and are provided by the instructor.

232 Spanish 3

Elective

Grade 11, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Prerequisites: Students should have completed Spanish 2 with a final average of C+ or better and be recommended by their Spanish teacher and the Department Chair.

The third year of Spanish is geared toward the reinforcement of grammar and vocabulary previously learned and the teaching of new grammar and vocabulary that will help the student in the application process of Spanish. The coursework includes grammar exercises and tests, written essays and the reading of short stories. The essays and readings done in this third year of Spanish incorporate the many levels of grammar and vocabulary learned.

231 Spanish 3 Honors

Elective

Grade 11, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Prerequisites: Students should have at least a B final average in Spanish 2 Honors. In addition, if students would like to request to move from Spanish 2 to Spanish 3 Honors, it will be reviewed by the Spanish teacher and the Department Chair.

The third year of Spanish is geared toward the reinforcement of grammar and vocabulary previously learned and the teaching of new grammar and vocabulary that will help the student in the application process of Spanish. The coursework includes grammar exercises and tests, written essays and the reading of short stories. The essays and readings done in this third year of Spanish incorporate the many levels of grammar and vocabulary learned. The close of the year should yield a student with a strong grasp of the Present, Preterit, Imperfect, Future Conditional, Progressive and Compound tenses.

235 Spanish 4

Elective

Grade 12, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Prerequisites: Students should have completed Spanish 3 with a final average of C+ or better and be recommended by their Spanish teacher and the Department Chair.

This level of study is designed for the student that wants to become proficient in the Spanish language. This course identifies the importance of understanding culture through the language. The class will be conducted mostly in Spanish and students will be encouraged to communicate with each other in the foreign language. In this class students will use the skills they have learned in Spanish I, II, and III in order to reinforce their reading, comprehension, writing, speaking, and grammar skills. Course prerequisites are: minimum C+ in Spanish III and approval of the Spanish III teacher.

241 AP Spanish Language

Elective

Grades 11 & 12, Credit 1.0

College Board Approved

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Prerequisites: Students should have successfully completed each semester of Spanish 3 Honors with a minimum of a B final average in both semesters. Additionally, students must be recommended by their current Spanish teacher and receive approval from the AP Spanish teacher in order to enroll in the course.

This course is the Level 4 Spanish class, and placement requires recommendation by the Spanish 3 teacher. Students in this course are required to read two novels in Spanish and to complete various compositions in Spanish. The course reviews all grammar information from previous years at a very rapid pace. The most advanced grammar points of the Spanish language are introduced. This course prepares students for taking the Advanced Placement Exam in Spanish Language and for the language portion of placement tests that many colleges and universities require incoming freshmen to take. Videos, computer programs, El Cantar de Mio Cid, Don Quijote de la Mancha, and other reading materials are used throughout the year.

251 Spanish 5 Honors

Elective

Grade 12, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Prerequisites: Successful completion of AP Spanish with a minimum of a B- final average. In addition, students must be approved to enroll in the course by the AP teacher and the Department Chair.

This Spanish 5 honors level class requires recommendation by the AP Spanish teacher and a minimum grade of B- in the class. Students will be required to use Spanish with the teacher and the other students in the class. The course focuses on the conversational skills of the students in various settings and topics. Throughout the course students will be reading short stories, poems, essays, and a minimum of 2 novels. Students will be exploring the culture of the language by completing projects assigned by the teacher. At the end of the course students are expected to have achieved mastery of a wide range of grammar concepts as well as native like proficiency of the language.