

St. Rita of Cascia High School

Course Description Guide for Incoming Freshmen

Class of 2021

112 Theology 1: Introduction to Catholicism and Augustinian Values

Freshman Requirement

Grade 9, Credit 1.0

The student enrolled in 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 his own life and the world around him. 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 provides a foundation upon which the student grows as an Augustinian gentleman with a vision and purpose in the world that is rooted in the Gospel.

901 Building a Ritaman

Freshman Requirement

Grade 9, Credit .25

In this quarter course, we explore four values that are critical for being a true RitaMan: integrity, perseverance, empathy and leadership. Students will be challenged to think, to speak their mind, to challenge each other and to grow. The ideas of this course will be presented through readings, music, video clips and other popular media. There will be a series of projects from which a student can choose in order to express their understanding of each value. This class is designed to explain and examine what a RitaMan is and how we can best live it out.

716 Intro to Technology

Freshman Requirement

Grade 9, Credit .25

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.

817 Speech

Freshman Requirement

Grade 9, Credit .25

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 quarter 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 with an emphasis on beginning argumentation skills and 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.

610 Visual Art

Fulfills Freshman Fine Arts Requirement (choice)

Grade 9, Credit .25

This Art course covers the foundations of drawing and painting. The students will learn basic drawing and shading techniques and will be given an introduction to multiple materials. Students will learn the possibilities as well as the limitations of materials, and begin to explore making some compositional decisions based on the principles and elements of design. Students will be working in pencil, charcoal, and chalk creating landscapes and still life compositions. Students will also be learning the basic techniques of watercolor painting. Students will be introduced to multiple subject matters, including abstract designs. A student portfolio will be maintained throughout the course.

611 Music

Fulfills Freshman Fine Arts Requirement (choice)

Grade 9, Credit .25

This course will introduce students to a variety of different music concepts. The students will study the history of music as well as the building blocks of performance, which will be put to use in different exercises, such as percussion ensembles and student-led compositions. Students who are successful in this course will leave with a familiarity of many different genres of music and an awareness of important artists from the last two centuries. Students will also gain a working knowledge of several musical instruments and of written music.

512 World Geography

Freshman Elective

Grade 9, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Students in World Geography will be able to analyze the location, movement, place, region and human/environment of geography, describe the physical, economic, and political characteristics of world regions, differentiate people and places in their reading of various texts, and read maps and other geographic representations. This course will include lectures, note taking, independent practice, group projects, and cooperative learning.

510 World Geography Honors

Freshman 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, solve problems within a group, understand point of view through context clues from various texts, and read maps and other geographic representations. In addition to AP preparations throughout the semester, students will have the opportunity to explore the physical, economic, and cultural regions throughout our world with a focus upon current events. This course will include lectures, note taking, independent practice, group projects, cooperative learning, and document based question analysis.

661 Beginning Band

Freshman Elective

Grade 9, Credit 1.0

Beginning Band class is intended for freshmen and sophomore students who are interested in being in the Band but have no musical experience on a band instrument. The class may also accommodate the upperclassman, though the class is designed so that students may move on to Honors Band after completing this course. *This course fulfills the .5 Fine Arts credit requirement for graduation.*

692 Band Honors

Freshman Elective

Grade 9, 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. *This course fulfills the .5 Fine Arts credit requirement for graduation.*

412 Biology

Fulfills Freshman Biology Requirement

Grade 9, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

This course is designed to develop the students' appreciation and understanding of the basic principles of Biology. The course explores current research and discoveries in biology, while providing an historical perspective for the student. The students will be introduced to a broad range of topics, from cellular biology to the exploration of the entire ecosystem. It builds a framework based upon core concepts and the 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. During the second semester the students will study the human body, concentrating primarily upon anatomy and physiology. The basic principles of ecology will also be covered. Labs include the use of equipment, statistical analysis, and the dissection of representative animal groups.

812 English I

Fulfills Freshman English I Requirement

Grade 9, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

English I is a one-year course divided between the teaching and analyzing of literature, writing, and grammar. In literature, focus of study is on the definitions and applications of literary terms, comprehension, and social application of four novels, one Shakespeare play, and various short

stories and poetry. In writing, emphasis is given to writing for a variety of purposes and audiences. Grammar study is intended to aid the writing process.

811 English I Honors

Fulfills Freshman English I Requirement

Grade 9, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

English I Honors is a one-year course divided between the teaching and analyzing of literature, writing, and grammar. In literature, focus of study is on the definitions and applications of literary terms, comprehension, and social application of six (6) novels, two (2) Shakespeare plays, and various short stories and poetry are studied. In writing, emphasis is given to writing for a variety of purposes and audiences. Grammar study is intended to aid the writing process. The honors course encompasses a more complex college preparatory reading and discussion of classic and contemporary literature.

302 Algebra 1 – Part 1

Fulfills Freshman Algebra I requirement (for selected students)

Grade 9, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

This course introduces the student to the basic structure of algebra through the use of the real number system. The basic operations of signed numbers, linear equations and inequalities are the basis of the course. Algebra 1 - Part 1 focuses on the fundamentals of intermediate Algebra. Applications will be made in solving equations, graphing equations and inequalities, and solving real-world problems. Placement in this course is determined by the school administration.

312 Algebra 1

Fulfills Freshman Algebra I Requirement

Grade 9, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

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

311 Algebra Theory Honors

Fulfills Freshman Algebra I 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 an emphasis on both procedure and analysis. Topics of factoring, exponents, and trigonometry normally covered in Algebra 2 are covered in this course. Concepts of Geometry are also used in problems requiring algebraic solutions.

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.

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 the students take the AP Calculus 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 AP Calculus.

210 Spanish 1

Fulfills Freshman World Language 1 Requirement

Grade 9, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Spanish 1 is a one-year course divided between the teaching of culture, grammar, and communication through writing, listening and speaking in the target language. This is an introductory course for students with little to no prior Spanish language instruction. Grammar topics covered are the present tense, implied future, numbers 0-100, forming questions and

noun/adjective agreement. Vocabulary themes are greetings, family, school, and activities. In addition, geography of Spanish speaking countries is also covered. Upon successful completion of the course, the Spanish 1 student will matriculate to Spanish 2 or Spanish 2 Honors.

209 Spanish 1 Honors

Fulfills Freshman World Language 1 Requirement

Grade 9, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Spanish 1 Honors is a one-year course divided between the teaching of culture, grammar, and communication through writing, listening and speaking in the target language. The work is more fast-paced and rigorous than that of the Spanish 1 course. Students are required to use all concepts learned throughout the year in communication with the teacher and their peers. The use of the target language during instruction will increase by the teacher as new grammar and vocabulary is introduced. A placement exam will be offered in May for students who have basic knowledge of the target language. In addition, students who are placed in English 1 Honors (students who have not had previous Spanish language instruction) will also be given high consideration for enrollment into this course.

220 Spanish 2

Fulfills World Language 2 Requirement

Grade 10, 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 Freshman World Language 1 Requirement

Grade 9, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Spanish 2 Honors is a one-year course divided between the teaching of culture, grammar, and communication through writing, listening and speaking in the target language. The work is more fast-paced and rigorous than that of a Spanish 2 course. Students are required to use the grammar concepts and vocabulary previously learned in their Spanish 1 Honors course. Instruction by the teacher in the target language during a class period will begin at 50% in the beginning of the school year and increase to a minimum of 75% by the end of the school year.

Any transfer students or incoming freshmen with advanced knowledge of the Spanish language wishing to take this course will need to take a placement exam that will be offered in May. This is highly encouraged for any student who has had previous years of Spanish instruction or for those students where Spanish is spoken at home.

212 French 1

Fulfills Freshman World Language 1 Requirement

Grade 9, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

French 1 is a one year course where students will begin their journey of the French language through reading, writing, listening and speaking. Throughout the year students will be learning basic vocabulary such as family, school and leisure activities as well as the alphabet, numbers, greetings and introductions. Grammar topics covered vary through the present and near future tense as well as basic sentence structure and adjective agreement. As students learn vocabulary they will be incorporating it into their usage of French in the classroom. Through grammar and vocabulary students will be able to converse at a basic level. Along with building vocabulary and conversations, students will be exposed to culture of the Francophone world through various projects and daily activities. Students who have successfully completed this course will matriculate into French 2 or French 2 Honors.

222 French 2

Grade 10, Credit 1.0

Fulfills World Language 2 Requirement

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Prerequisite: Successful completion of French 1.

French 2 is a second year 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 2 Honors is an accelerated second year 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.

214 Latin 1

Fulfills Freshman World Language 1 Requirement

Grade 9, Credit 1.0

NCAA Clearinghouse Approved

Latin 1 is intended as an introduction to the basics of the Latin language. It will develop a knowledge and use of grammatical structure and forms of the language with a view toward the reading of actual Latin texts. A solid foundation in Latin is an invaluable tool for success in the ACTs and SATs, as well as in any future study of Latin, the Romance languages, medicine, or law. Time will also be spent on the more prominent aspects of Roman culture and mythology. Students who have successfully completed this course will matriculate into Latin 2 or Latin 2 Honors.

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.