

Wylie Preparatory Academy

Secondary Course Descriptions, 2011-2012

ENGLISH

7th English

Students will read a variety of novels and literary works. Critical thinking will be developed as literature and poetry are analyzed and discussed. The program focuses on the evaluation of literature and writing, using Biblical principles as the standard by which they are evaluated. Students will write five-paragraph compositions, including a thesis statement, an outline, and introductory and concluding paragraphs. An emphasis will be placed on the Writing Process – planning, writing, editing, revising, and publishing compositions. They will select and use different forms of writing for specific purposes such as to inform, persuade, or entertain and incorporate stylistic techniques within each form. Students continue to read widely in classic and contemporary selections and informational texts. Students will be given the opportunity to communicate their views both orally and in writing. Vocabulary development and word study skills will be emphasized including the knowledge of Classical Greek and Latin roots, prefixes, and suffixes. Grammar skills will be reinforced and new concepts introduced and will be utilized within the context of the writing program along with additional practice.

8th English

Students will continue to refine their ability to write a standard five-paragraph essay using evidence to support thesis statements. The students will select and use different forms of writing for specific purposes such as to inform, persuade, or entertain. They will edit and revise drafts using basic knowledge of grammar and usage, spelling, and conventions. Students will produce final, error-free compositions that include the use of varied sentence length and structure, and that are strengthened by visuals and media. They will continue to read a wide range of literature, intermixing contemporary works among the classical, more ponderous novels. Students will be introduced to concepts and terms used in literary analysis. They will evaluate literature using Biblical standards and principles, and apply associated concepts in their analysis. Grammar skills will continue to be honed, with review and introduction of new concepts.

9th English

Ninth grade students will continue to increase and refine communication skills. This course provides instruction on expanding the five-paragraph essay. Students are expected to plan, draft, and complete varied forms of writing. Emphasis is placed on organizing logical arguments and sub-topic paragraphs with clearly expressed theses and factual evidence for support. This course will lay the foundation for the students' understanding of interpretive literature and prepare them for more detailed literary analysis. They will become more familiar with different genres and sub-genres such as Fiction, Non-fiction, Poetry, Drama, and Folk Literature. Critical thinking skills used in analyzing themes, characters, conflict, structure, point of view, and moral tone will be developed and refined. The students will also study four complete works in the form of the novel. The students will interpret the possible influences of the historical context

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on a literary work. Vocabulary development will focus on Latin and Greek roots, synonyms, antonyms, homonyms, word families, denotation and connotation. Students will continue to receive instruction in grammar in the form of review and introduction of new skills necessary for effective writing. Students will complete one significant research project during the course.

10th English

World Literature will focus on the development of literature from the earliest of recorded writings to the present. The first half of the text is divided into major subjects with examples from subsequent authors of various cultures and countries. The second half of the text follows the development of literature chronologically from the first recorded works to the present. Students will be reading works from Classical Greece and Rome, Russia, Latin America, America, England, France, Spain, Japan, China, etc. Students will study short biographies on each author as well as read excerpts from their most prominent writings. Students will be required to read three to four complete works in addition to the text. Possible works of literature to be read outside of the text may include but are not necessarily limited to: *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, *Confessions of St. Augustine*, *The Divine Comedy*, and *The Brother's Karamazov*. Students will be introduced to the major literary elements and terms. They will begin to learn to identify these elements within works of literature. Students will also be required to complete a writing project for each subsequent unit of their text. The writing projects cover various forms of writing. Each writing project is broken into steps in order to walk the student through the process. Grammar skills will be refined through the writing assignments as well as grammar activities included within the text. Vocabulary will be taught from the literature passages. The words chosen from each literary selection are based on the top 1000 words used on the SAT. Students will define, identify in text, and learn to use the words in their writing.

11th English

American Literature will focus on the development of literature in America from the time of colonization to the present. The text is organized chronologically into specific "Writing Eras"; such as, Neo-Classical, Romanticism, Naturalism, etc... Students will study short biographies on each author as well as read excerpts from their most prominent writings. Students will be required to read three to four complete works in addition to the text. Possible works of literature to be read outside of the text may include but are not necessarily limited to: *Common Sense*, *The Scarlet Letter*, *The Pearl*, *The Last Sin Eater*, and *Fahrenheit 451*. Students will review and/or learn all major literary elements and terms. They should be able to identify these elements in works of literature by the end of the course. Writing will be taught throughout the year. Each unit has a subsequent writing project that requires a particular type of writing (narrative, persuasive, analytical, etc...), therefore, exposing the student to numerous forms of writing. Students will work on their grammatical skills throughout the writing via reinforcement lessons given in the text. Students will also be required to complete a Literary Analysis Project during the Spring Semester. Vocabulary is introduced within each literary selection. The words chosen from each section are based on the top 1000 words used on the SAT. Students will define, identify in text, and learn to use the words in their writing.

12th English

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Students read, discuss, and interpret a careful selection of British novels, short stories, essays, plays, and poetry. Class work emphasizes close reading of each work to discover the worldview, theme, style, point of view, character development, mood, and imagery, then analyze each in light of Biblical principles. These works will be studied in chronological order beginning with the Anglo-Saxon Era and ending with the Modern Era. The students will interpret the possible influences of the historical context on a literary work. These readings serve as models of good literature and as subjects for the students' analytical writing. Among others, the works of Johnson, Chaucer, Donne, Milton, Shakespeare, Austen, Swift, Wordsworth, Dickens, Tennyson, Browning, and Lewis are studied. Students will receive instruction on composing essays that demonstrate mastery of various aspects of literary analysis and effective writing style. They will be required to complete assignments that stress a mastery of English vocabulary and grammar. Students will complete two significant research projects during the course.

MATH

7th Math

This course is a bridge to build the confidence a student needs for transitioning to Pre-Algebra. It consists of a structured approach to a variety of topics such as integers, fractions, ratios, percent, equations and inequalities as in Pre-Algebra. It also includes basic geometry, graphing, and probability. It captures your students' interest with exciting and easy-to-use technology such as online-tutor and daily lesson quizzes. Checkpoint Quizzes assess student understanding after every few lessons to insure comprehension. Problem Solving is supported by expanding the problem, guiding the student through the problem solving process and providing extra practice.

Pre-Algebra

This is a transitional course moving students from arithmetic to algebra. Students will enhance their knowledge of topics such as the order of operations, integers, exponents, fractions, decimals, and factoring. Students will be introduced to the Distributive Property, solving for a variable, scale, area, ratios & proportions, probability, and percents. The concepts of linear equations and graphing will be introduced.

Course Prerequisite: Math Placement Exam

Algebra I

In this course, the student will move into algebra, learning linear equations in one variable, algebraic numbers, graphs, formulas, positive and negative numbers, fundamental operations, special products and factoring, fractions, ratio, and proportion. Additionally, the students will be exposed to variation, linear systems of equations, powers and roots, exponents and radicals, and quadratic equations and numerical trigonometry.

Course Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra

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Geometry

This course provides a standard sophomore level course in Geometry. Topics include a basic introduction to geometry; an introduction to proof including two-column proofs; the geometry of parallel lines and planes, congruent triangles, using congruent triangles with other figures, similarity, right triangles, circles, constructions and loci, area and perimeter of polygons, surface area and volume, transformations, and basic trigonometric relationships.

Course Prerequisite: Algebra I

Algebra II

Course coverage includes real numbers, inequalities and problem solving; relations, functions and graphs; systems of equations and inequalities; polynomials and polynomial equations; rational expressions and equations; powers, roots, radicals, and complex numbers; quadratic equations and functions; polynomial functions; exponential and logarithmic functions; quadratic relations; sequences and series; probability.

Course Prerequisite: Algebra I

Pre-Calculus

This course begins with a comprehensive exploration of trigonometry, including right triangle and periodic circular functions, inverse trig functions, trig identities, parametric functions, properties of combined sinusoids, the Law of Sines and the Law of Cosines. It finishes with discussion of polynomial and rational functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, different forms of data regression, sequences, and series.

Course Prerequisite: Algebra II and Geometry

Calculus

This course begins with the study of limits, differentiation, and definite and indefinite integration. The calculus of logarithmic, exponential, and other transcendental functions are included. Students will study the calculus of growth and decay, solution of differential equations including the use of slope fields and Euler's Method, L'Hopital's Rule, the calculus of plane and solid figures, solids of revolution, and polar coordinates.

Course Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus

Consumer Math

This course covers numerous topics in personal finance as well as the Biblical view of work, wealth, and stewardship. Personal financial topics covered are budgeting, stocks, bonds, banking, savings, loans, credit cards, vehicle purchase and financing, housing acquisition and maintenance, and vacation planning. Beginning with the understanding that God owns everything, the student will explore God's word as it pertains to financial concepts including prayer, giving, honest labor, cosigning for debts, minimizing debt, trusting God, paying taxes, and wise counsel.

Course Prerequisite: Algebra I

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SOCIAL STUDIES/HISTORY

7th History

Seventh Grade history will include the study of two core subjects.

Fall Semester: This semester will be devoted to the study of Texas from the state's earliest civilizations to statehood. Themes in Texas History will include Geography; Economics; Government; Citizenship; Culture; Science; Technology and Society; Constitutional Heritage and Global Relations. A unit of state government will also be included.

Spring Semester: During this semester the students will begin the study of American history. The subject of history is a living, meaningful, relevant subject to our everyday lives and will be taught as such. Areas to be taught are the discovery of the "new world"; settlement of the original thirteen colonies; daily life of the colonists; challenges with the British; the ultimate conflict; independence; establishment of the Confederation and the writing of the United States Constitution.

8th History

In eighth grade the students will continue the study of American History beginning with President George Washington and the establishment of the new government. The course continues by exploring the people and cultures as the United States expands westward; the Civil War and Reconstruction; Industrialism, America and the World; Progressivism and World War I. Students will study the influence of Christianity on American history as well as the interaction of people, ideas, and culture in America.

World Geography

World Geography & Cultures is a comprehensive study that examines the eight culture regions, the physical geography aspects (physical features, physical location, climate) and the human geography aspects (government, economy, religion, people groups, cultures) of each region. There is a focus on modern history and current events and a development of a biblical worldview of how humanity interacts with each other and the world.

Students will use textbooks, activity books, & the Internet for research, study, and online work as well as map work and people studies. Students will interact with each other and develop and understanding of the distinctive of different cultures, locations and develop ideas and their own worldview.

World History and Cultures

This course is a historical study of significant developments in western civilization from the ancient near eastern civilizations to the present. We will look specifically at selected influential personalities as well as intellectual, political, cultural, and religious trends interpreted within a Christian conceptual framework. To gain a better insight into the perspectives of the personalities studied, we will also be reading various selections from the different time periods. The writing within this course will be coordinated with their English course in order to develop the student's ability to produce quality, written essays expressing their

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knowledge of the subject matter. This class is structured as a prerequisite to the Worldviews, Faith and Cultures class offered the senior year.

American History and Cultures

This second class in our worldviews sequence covers our nation's history beginning with the 1920s up to the present. Special attention is given to God's providence and the nation's Christian heritage. Students will investigate selected influential personalities as well as intellectual political, cultural, and religious trends interpreted within a Christian worldview. This course is structured as a prerequisite to the Worldviews, Faith and Cultures class offered the senior year.

Biblical Worldview/Faith in Culture

This is a senior level class where students will learn to recognize the major worldviews and world religions that have influenced the current cultural trends of our age. Students will learn how to develop a consistent Christian worldview, and how to engage the world as a thoughtful witness for Christ.

Semester 1 (Worldviews) will serve as an introduction to philosophy and theology proper. Here students will gain a clear definition of a Christian worldview. This class will consist primarily of reading, writing essays, and classroom dialogue.

Semester 2 (Faith in Culture) will help students learn how to thoughtfully discern and respond to the ideas and values that come from cultural arts, media, technology, and social trends. There will be a number of books read and a "Cultural Journal" kept throughout the semester. The final portion of this class will strive to help students learn the importance of discovering their calling so that they will be more efficient and strategic in their service to Jesus Christ in this world.

Economics

Economics is a broad focused course looking at the history of modern economics, different economic philosophies and a study of the U.S. economic system. Interwoven in the course work are personal finance elements, such as understanding credit and planning a budget, which will be tools for the students to use throughout their lives.

Students will use textbooks, assigned readings, internet elements and their organization skills to understand that economics is much more about choices made rather than finances. Students will develop and understanding of wealth, poverty and a biblical worldview of money.

Government

Government is a study of the government philosophy and system of the United States government working through the history and development of the U.S. government and working towards an understanding of how the history and philosophies are still being applied to day as well as how they have adapted to the needs of the U.S. over time.

Students will use textbooks, assigned reading, videos and government related documents and exercises to develop their understanding of the U.S. government. Research and writing are both integral elements to this class.

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SCIENCE

7th Science - Life Science

Students in their seventh year of study will take Life Science. Students will engage in hands-on activities to examine the attributes of life, classification, cells, and creation. The text deals with life processes of organisms, genetics, and comparing & contrasting the theory of evolution versus Creation from a Biblical perspective. It also presents concepts in microbiology, zoology, and ecosystems.

8th Grade - Earth Science

Eighth year science students will receive an overview of earth science that is the study of God's inorganic creations. The four main areas of study include: astronomy, meteorology, geology, and the hydrosphere. This class will include labs that will enforce the understanding of the concepts being taught. Students will also extend their understanding of the scientific method and the experimental design by conducting individual science experiments for the school's annual science fair.

9th Grade - Biology

This course will expose the students to the scope of biology, with special emphasis on subjects and concepts that will affect their decisions about themselves and their spiritual needs. The students will learn the scientific method, use of the microscope, cytology, botany, zoology, human physiology, respiratory and digestive systems, and excretory and nervous systems. This is a heavy lab course that includes multiple projects and lab dissections.

Course Prerequisite: Successful completion of Life Science highly recommended

10th Grade - Chemistry

This class presents students with extended learning of the concepts behind energy & matter, atomic structure, bonding, stoichiometry, nomenclature, solutions, equations, reactions, oxidation, and acid-base chemistry. The text stresses the marvels of design in Creation and promotes the development of organized problem solving.

Course Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra 1

11th Grade - Physics

Physics is a course designed for students to learn the math behind the science in the world around us. Students will learn about such topics as measurements, motion, vectors, Newton's Laws, work & energy, waves, geometric optics, and electricity & magnetism. Hands-on investigations in each chapter make this course's topics come alive.

Course Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra 2

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12th Grade - Anatomy & Physiology

This course is a comprehensive study of anatomy, physiology, and pathology. Students will use microscopes and dissections in their investigations of the following systems of the human body: integumentary, skeletal muscle, nervous, endocrine, circulatory, lymphatic, digestive, respiratory, urinary, and reproductive. Students will also study the topics of histology & movement and dermatology. Students taking this course will be better prepared for careers & college courses related to health professions, science technology, science education, and physical education.

Course Prerequisite: Successful completion of Biology and Chemistry

12th Grade - Advanced Plant & Soil Science

Students in this course will investigate the importance of plant and soil science and its relationship affecting the production of food & fiber in industry. Students will assess the plant ecosystem, erosion processes, petroleum energy, crop production, and genetically engineered plants and their importance to solving world hunger. This class will have 40% of its instruction dedicated to conducting experiments and investigations. This class is open to 12th grade students & counts as a 4th-year science credit. Students in this class will be eligible to participate in the Wylie Prep FFA activities, competitions, & awards program.

Seniors who participate in the Wylie Prep FFA may also apply for scholarships through the Texas FFA & the National FFA Association.

Course Prerequisite: Successful completion of Biology, Chemistry, and Algebra 1; Recommended prerequisite is a minimum of one credit of an Agri-science course

Additional Required Classes

Computer Applications:

Students will learn the basics and intermediates skills needed to use Microsoft Office. They will learn to work with Word, Excel, Power Point, Publisher, and have exposure to Access Databases. Students should have a working knowledge of the keyboard, mouse pad and basic computer skills. This course may be taken in 8th grade for high school credit if space allows.

Health/Life Skills

This course will be addressed from a Christian philosophy and is designed to embrace, in view of God's Word, the many fields found under the Family and Consumer Services umbrella and to help in preparation of transitioning to post high school. Topics to be covered will include the family, physical growth, dating, courtship, marriage, and preparing for the future. Students will be required to complete projects, such as preparing a budget that will provide current and relevant information.

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Spanish I:

Spanish 1 is a comprehensive standards-based college-preparatory Spanish curriculum that balances grammar and communication. Students learn simple, relevant vocabulary and grammar, including sentence formation, regular, irregular, stem-changing, and reflexive verbs. Students also learn about the use of direct and indirect objects, and begin to learn about some preterit forms of certain verbs.

Spanish II:

The course is comprehensive, standards-based, and college preparatory. The content balances grammar with oral and written communication and vocabulary. The course also combines learning the Spanish language with an appreciation for various aspects of Hispanic cultures around the world. Students will also improve their fluency in speaking Spanish, while they learn how to conjugate irregular & reflexive verbs, possessive adjectives and pronouns, and will be able to use both the preterit and imperfect tenses while describing action in the past.

Speech

The goal of WPA is to shape culture through authentic communication and equip students with both the competence and character they need to influence culture for Christ. This speech class aims to go alongside classroom instruction to engage peers in relevant discourse on faith and world events.