
Presentation of Mary Academy

Course Catalog

Business/Technology Department

Introduction to Business (Level 3)

The course is designed to introduce the student to the varied and broad aspects of business as an area of study. It emphasizes the many elements that characterize both domestic and international enterprise, as well as the numerous market factors which influence business decisions. Practical illustrations are given to demonstrate how business decisions affect consumers. It also aims to help the student understand the various social responsibilities business bears as it operates in today's commercial climate. Students are urged to begin thinking as businesses might in terms of income, assets, liabilities, investments, insurance, information technology and sound money management. Guest speakers now working in Human Resources, Banking, General Finance and Small Business Ownership are an integral part of the curriculum.

Introduction to Economics (Level 3)

Economics relates to almost every aspect of life, which makes it a very useful subject. The study of Economics focuses on how people choose to use resources and why they make those decisions. Emphasis is given to how goods are produced and consumed and the transfer of money necessary to do both. How consumers interact to get what they want and need will also be looked at. The global economy, world markets and the importance of currency will be examined. Macroeconomics involves the major factors related to a country's economy and its connection to international markets. Microeconomics takes a closer look at the actions taken by people and industries---buyers and sellers as well as borrowers and lenders. Contemporary economic issues related to work and leisure, investments and why businesses succeed or fail will be discussed.

Introduction to Management (Level 3)

The course will focus on the study of management, which is the process of accomplishing an organization's goals through the effective and efficient coordination of resources. These resources include human resources, financial resources, IT resources and natural resources. Emphasis will be given to the basic functions that define management in a formal way: planning, organizing, leading, and controlling. Various management styles will be studied along with leadership characteristics that distinguish effective managers. Guest speakers in Human Resources, Leadership and General Management will be invited to speak. Their experiences will give example to the importance of a manager's role.

English Department

ESOL Academic Seminar (Level 3)

The ESOL Academic Seminar will provide students with skills, activities and life lessons. English grammar, writing and reading skills will be stressed throughout the year. Vocabulary development will be incorporated throughout all areas. Students will be encouraged to use their English vocabulary during class.

Introduction to Literature (Level 3)

This freshman course emphasizes vocabulary development, writing and grammar. It is an introduction to the four literary genres: short story, novel, poetry and drama. Weekly vocabulary, writing assignments and reading comprehension practice are included in order to expose students to the PSAT and SAT tests.

Levels in Freshman English classes are determined by the High School Placement test and student transcripts.

Introduction to Literature Honors (Level 4)

This freshman course emphasizes vocabulary development and introduction to expository writing. It also provides an introduction to the four literary genres: short story, novel, poetry and drama. Literary terms are studied and applied, and fundamental interpretive skills are developed. Creative writing opportunities are offered.

Levels in Freshman English classes are determined by the High School Placement test and student transcripts.

English Literature (Level 3)

This survey course for sophomores encompasses the Anglo-Saxon time to the Twentieth Century, with emphasis on the English novel. A concentration on the expository writing process is of primary concern. Importance is placed on vocabulary and reading comprehension skills, PSAT and SAT preparation.

Successful completion of a research paper is a requirement of this course.

English Literature Honors (Level 4)

This course for sophomores examines key literary works in the great body of English Literature, with emphasis on Shakespeare and the English novel. A concentration on the expository writing process is of primary concern. Critical analysis, both written and oral, is stressed. Importance is placed on vocabulary and reading comprehension skills, PSAT and SAT preparation.

Successful completion of a research paper is a requirement of this course.

Advancement into Honors English courses requires a 92% average and an 86% average for Level 4 students.

American Literature (Level 3)

Juniors will cultivate an appreciation and love for American literary heritage, while developing the skills for literary analysis. Discussion of literary classics will promote critical thinking. Opportunities will be provided for expository writing, which will also serve to enrich vocabulary and SAT preparation. A formal study and practice of reading comprehension is included in this course.

Successful completion of a research paper is a requirement of this course.

American Literature Honors (Level 4)

This course for juniors covers the beginnings of the American tradition through the 20th century. Each quarter focuses on an in-depth chronological study of significant American authors. Written analysis and class discussion of literature are major concerns. Importance

English Department

Successful completion of a research paper is a requirement of this course, as is a yearlong American Literature Author project.

Advancement into Honors English courses requires a 92% average and an 86% average for Level 4 students.

AP English Language and Composition (Level 5)

This course is offered to qualified juniors who will examine a writer's purpose in accordance with the writer's use of rhetorical devices. The students will write effectively and confidently across the curriculum. Importance is also placed on vocabulary development and test taking skills in preparation for the SAT. Successful completion of a research paper is a requirement.

Upon completion of this course students are required to take the AP Language and Composition exam. It is recommended that students who wish to take this course have a 90% average in previous English courses. All required summer reading and writing assignments must be completed in order to start this course in September. Students are required to take extended class.

Great Books (Level 3)

This senior survey course is organized by theme and culture to present significant works of World Literature. Careful attention is paid to critical and analytical discussions and writing.

Successful completion of a term paper, based on the textual analysis of a literary work, is a requirement of this course.

Great Books Honors (Level 4)

This senior course will sharpen students' powers of literary criticism and analysis in oral and written forms. Through writings of authors from around the world, students will explore the common literary styles, philosophies and behavior of mankind.

Successful completion of a term paper, based on the textual analysis of a literary work, is a requirement of this course.

Advancement into Honors English courses requires a 92% average and an 86% average for Level 4 students.

AP Literature and Composition (Level 5)

This English class for seniors focuses on writing and revising essays, topical discussions and analyzing short stories, poems, dramas and novels. Extended class time, once per rotation, is required for this course.

Upon completion of this course students are required to take the AP Literature and Composition exam.

It is recommended that students who wish to take this course have a 90% average in previous English courses. All required summer reading and writing assignments must be completed in order to start this course in September.

Students are required to take an extended class once a week.

Writing Sense (Level 3)

This elective course for seniors focuses on developing writing skills. Students are instructed in a variety of techniques to make their writing more colorful, better organized, and effective. Each week, students write and peer-edit short works, toward the completion of a major

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project each quarter. All the student's work is compiled in folders to create a comprehensive writing portfolio over the course of the year.

Fine Arts Department

Fine Arts and Physical Education (Level 3)

Subjects, such as Introduction to Art, Music, Drama/Speech and Physical Education/Health vary by day of the week.

Beginner Guitar (Level 3)

Do you have a guitar that's been left in a closet or under your bed? Well, it's time to pull it out and start playing! This course will teach you basic chords, rhythm techniques, and how to read music notation. Having a guitar is required in order to take this class. Class will meet one day a week in lieu of a study period.

Clay Sculpture (Level 3)

During this course students will learn basic clay techniques and sculpting using polymer clay.

Songwriting 101 (Level 3)

Have you ever wanted to know how to write a song? In this class, students will learn the basics of songwriting, song and story structure, lyrics and rhyming schemes by dissecting different types of pop songs and standards. Students will have the opportunity to work towards writing their own songs. Basic music theory skills are helpful but not required. Class will meet, once a week, in lieu of a study period.

Studio Art (Level 3)

An elective course offering students an opportunity to draw and paint, using various media: pencil, charcoal, ink, oil and chalk pastels and acrylic paint. It will explore still life, design, fashion design, portraits, flowers, animals, landscapes and modern painting.

Foreign Language Department

French I (Level 3)

This course is for students with little or no preparation in French. It covers elements of the language including: conversation, pronunciation, reading, and writing. The material is linked to real life situations, such as introducing oneself, speaking about school, shopping, asking for directions etc. Oral exercises and drills, as well as group and pair work are used to develop the correct pronunciation and learn common conversational patterns.

Students become acquainted with contemporary life, attitudes, and customs in the French-speaking world.

Students with native fluency in French are not eligible to enroll in this course and are required to take a placement test.

Spanish I (Level 3)

This is an introductory course for students with little or no preparation in Spanish. This first year introduces students to the fundamentals of grammar, with emphasis on all four language skills - reading, writing, listening, and speaking. A complete audio and video program is used to enhance student learning and address various learning styles.

Students with native fluency in Spanish are not eligible to enroll in this course and are required to take a placement test.

French I Honors (Level 4)

This accelerated course contains the same topics as French I with a deeper understanding of grammar structures and more extensive vocabulary. In class, students will perform simple communicative tasks such as: responding to questions, asking questions, sustaining short conversation on familiar topics. Students will be placed in this course based on the result in the English and/or French placement test(s).

Students with native fluency in French are not eligible to enroll in this course and are required to take a placement test.

Spanish I Honors (Level 4)

In this accelerated course, students will be introduced to the fundamentals of grammar, with emphasis on all four language skills - reading, writing, listening, and speaking in Spanish. Grammar and vocabulary are linked to real-life situations such as: introducing oneself, speaking about school, shopping, etc. In addition, various projects are assigned throughout the year.

Students will be placed in this course based on the result in the English and/or Spanish placement test(s).

Students with native fluency in Spanish are not eligible to enroll in this course and are required to take a placement test.

French II (Level 3)

This course continues the development of the fundamental skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing, with increasing emphasis on the practice of reading and writing. It includes further training in grammar, as well as listening comprehension and oral practice. Students learn more about Francophone cultures from around the world.

Spanish II (Level 3)

The second year of Spanish continues the development of proficiency in the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Constant re-entry of the material provides consistent reinforcement and review. Students learn more about the Spanish-speaking world. This course requires active involvement from the students and is conducted mostly in Spanish.

Foreign Language Department

French II Honors (Level 4)

Emphasizing the active use of the language, this course develops the fundamental skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Various communication activities allow student to use vocabulary and grammar creatively interacting with a partner, a small group or the entire class. The material covered will be similar to French II, but at a more rigorous pace. The course also includes more extensive reading, classroom discussions, and short essay writing. Conducted mostly in French.

Open to students with an 86% or higher in French I Honors or a 92% in French I, subject to department approval.

Spanish II Honors (Level 4)

The material covered is similar to Spanish II, but at a more rigorous pace, with more extensive reading, classroom discussions, and short essay writing. The classroom language is Spanish.

Open to students with an average of 86% or higher in Spanish I Honors or 92% in Spanish I, subject to department approval.

French III (Level 3)

The purpose of this course is to develop and reinforce all language skills in a wide variety of real-life situations and tasks. Audio and video materials allow students to become familiar with a range of authentic French accents that they may encounter in the French-speaking world.

Spanish III (Level 3)

This course is a continuation of Spanish II. Emphasis is placed on strengthening the four basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will further their mastery of the language through dialogue, class projects and compositions.

French III Honors (Level 4)

This course is focused on extensive reading, more sophisticated grammatical structures, and topical vocabulary. The development of vocabulary is stimulated by the cultural content of the reading materials. Students are introduced to a wide range of discussion topics. The course is conducted in French.

Open to students with an average of 86% or higher in French II Honors or a 92% in French II, subject to department approval.

Spanish III Honors (Level 4)

This course is a continuation of Spanish II at an advanced level. Emphasis is on strengthening the four basic skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. In addition to the textbook and the workbooks, videos and CDs will be used to enhance student learning of the language and culture of Spanish speaking countries. Conducted in Spanish.

Open to students with an average of 86% in Spanish II Honors or 92% or higher in Spanish II, subject to department approval.

Conversational French Honors (Level 4)

The course is for students who have completed the three-year French program based on Espaces (or its equivalent) and want to develop speaking and listening skills through conversation.

The course will focus on various aspects of modern life in French-speaking countries, and cultural readings will provide material for class discussions. We will listen to authentic audio resources (songs, interviews, and podcasts) and view a variety of audiovisual resources (music videos, short movies, etc.) Students will refine pronunciation and broaden vocabulary, especially related to everyday situations.

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Conversational Spanish Honors (Level 4)

The objective of this course is to improve students' conversational techniques and develop their oral proficiency in Spanish. The main emphasis will be on oral practice, written production and presentations. Other skills such as listening, reading, and writing will also receive serious attention. Another component of the course is the study of Latin–American culture. The course consists of lectures, videos, and conversational exercises.

AP French Language and Culture (Level 5)

Students who enroll in AP French Language should already have a good command of French grammar and vocabulary and be proficient in listening, reading, speaking, and writing. The course emphasizes the use of language for active communication and develops students' ability to express themselves with fluency and accuracy in both written and spoken French. Taking the AP exam in May is a requirement.

Recommended to students with an average of 86% or higher in French III Honors or a permission of the Department Chairperson.

AP Spanish Language and Culture (Level 5)

This rigorous course is the culmination of the Spanish language program. This class focuses on advanced grammar, extensive writing, and independent work, a more in-depth look at great works of literature from the Spanish-speaking world and various projects throughout the year. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement Examination in May.

This course is recommended to students with an average of 86% or higher in Spanish III Honors and a 90% in Spanish IV and if they are native speakers and fluent in reading and writing or teacher recommendation.

Mathematics Department

Algebra I (Level 3)

This course starts with a quick review of basic operations with numbers. Then it introduces the use of variables in solving problems. Topics covered include: equations, inequalities, absolute value, exponents, polynomials, systems of equations, quadratic equations, word problems and graphing linear equations.

Algebra I Honors (Level 4)

This course covers properties of real numbers, solving linear equations, graphing linear functions, writing linear equations, solving and graphing linear inequalities, systems of linear equations, and inequalities, exponents and exponential functions, quadratic equations and functions, polynomials and factoring, rational expressions and equations, and radicals.

Placement in Freshman Algebra I Honors is determined by the High School Placement Test and student transcripts.

Geometry (Level 3)

Using all the tools from Algebra I, this course teaches properties of angles, lines and various geometric figures. It covers parallel lines, congruent and similar triangles, quadrilaterals, circles. Right triangle trigonometry is introduced. Proofs are used throughout the course.

Geometry Honors (Level 4)

This course covers all the topics taught in Geometry in greater depth and with more emphasis on proofs. Additional topics include surface area and volume of various 3 dimensional figures.

Prerequisites: An 86% average or above in Algebra I Honors or a 92% average or above in Algebra I.

Algebra II (Level 3)

This course stresses the structure of Algebra and the development of problem solving skills. Algebra I topics are reviewed and extended. Equations, inequalities, polynomials, functions, and complex numbers are covered as well as some trigonometry.

Algebra II Honors (Level 4)

This course will cover all the material of Algebra II in greater depth. Conic sections, matrices, trigonometry, exponential and logarithmic functions will be covered in detail.

Prerequisites: An 86% average or above in Geometry Honors or an 92% average or above in Geometry.

Precalculus (Level 3)

Leveraging skills acquired in Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II, this course will study functions, mathematical modeling and real world applications of Algebra and Trigonometry concepts. Units explored in this course include: Algebra Skills/SAT Preparation; Quantitative Reasoning and Functions; Polynomial, Rational, Exponential and Logarithmic Functions; Introduction to Trigonometry; and Probability and Statistics.

Precalculus Honors (Level 4)

Leveraging skills acquired in Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II, this course will study functions, mathematical modeling and real world applications of Algebra and Trigonometry concepts. By the end of this course, students will be prepared to study Calculus at the AP or collegiate level. Units explored in this course include: Algebra Skills Review/ SAT Preparation; Function and Graph Analysis; Polynomial and Rational Functions; Exponential and Logarithmic Functions; Trigonometric Functions; Additional Topics in Trigonometry; Probability and Statistics; and an Introduction to Calculus.

Mathematics Department

Prerequisites: An 86% average or above in Algebra II Honors or a 92% average or above in Algebra II.

Introduction to Statistics Honors (Level 4)

The objective of this course is to give a deeper introduction to statistics. Topics covered include: exploration and comparison of data including measures of center, variation and position; probability; probability distributions; the standard normal distribution; estimates of mean and standard deviation; what-if analysis; hypothesis testing; inferences from two samples; correlation and regression and analysis of variance. Real-world case studies with real-world data will be used; these will allow the student to see how statistics is an important discipline used throughout many situations in life. In addition, some time early in the year will be devoted to SAT preparation and the study of typical statistics related SAT questions.

Prerequisites: An 86% average or above in Precalculus/Algebra II Honors or a 92% average or above in Precalculus/Algebra II.

Placement in this course is at the discretion of the department. Seniors may select this course as a second math course provided prerequisite requirements are met.

Calculus Honors (Level 4)

The course will begin with an comprehensive review of advanced algebra topics and SAT preparation. Following that, the course will explore the topics of limits, differential calculus and integral calculus with a very strong emphasis on applications.

Prerequisites: An 86% average or above in Precalculus Honors or a 92% average or above in Precalculus.

AP Calculus AB (Level 5)

The topics covered will include graphical, numerical and analytical representations of functions, limits of functions and unbounded behavior, the derivative at a point and the derivative as a function, the geometric relationship between first and second derivatives, the definite integral as total change, the integral as an accumulation function, volumes with known cross-sections and other applications of integration, rectilinear motion, functions and their inverses, and the writing and solving of separable differential equations and modeling. This course requires extended class time during each schedule rotation and the completion of a summer packet consisting of a precalculus review module and limits module due on the first day of class.

Prerequisites: A minimum 86% average in Pre-Calculus Honors, a passing grade on the AP Calculus Readiness Test (administered in May) and a recommendation by the department.

AP Calculus BC (Level 5)

Explore the key concepts, methods, and applications of single-variable calculus including all topics covered in AP Calculus AB (functions, graphs, and limits, derivatives, integrals, and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus) as well as additional topics in differential and integral calculus, such as parametric, polar and vector functions, and series.

Become familiar with concepts, results, and problems expressed in multiple ways including graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally. Use technology to help solve problems, experiment, interpret results, and support your conclusions.

Science Department

Physical Science (Level 3)

This freshman science course is designed to teach the basic principles which will be reinforced in all future science classes that are offered at PMA. Introduction to laboratory safety, proper techniques of measuring and correct use of laboratory equipment will be stressed. The basic concepts of Chemistry are the focus of this course and they will be used in Biology and Chemistry.

Physical Science Honors (Level 4)

This freshman science course is designed for the students who have a strong science and math background. It will prepare them for the honors science track which includes the classes: Biology Honors, Chemistry Honors, and the electives : AP Biology, Physics Honors, and Anatomy and Physiology Honors. During the first semester laboratory safety and skills and the basics of Chemistry are taught. During the second semester introduction to basic Physics is taught.

Biology (Level 3)

This is a required sophomore course that involves the study of life. Topics covered include an introduction to biochemistry, cell structure and function, cellular energy, photosynthesis, respiration, protein synthesis, cell growth and division, heredity, viruses, bacteria and various vertebrates.

Biology is a lab science and students will be in the lab one day per week.

Biology Honors (Level 4)

This sophomore course is designed for the student with a strong science background. The concepts covered are the same as in Biology, but with greater intensity. These concepts are approached with critical thinking, inquiry, and problem solving related to the topics that correlate with the materials mastered in each chapter. Research projects will be required. A strong emphasis will be placed on laboratory work.

A final exam is required. A 95% average in CP Physical Science is required to take this course.

This course includes extended class for more detailed labs.

Chemistry (Level 3)

Chemistry is a required science course. Concepts that will be covered are properties of matter, atomic structure, periodic law, chemical bonding, chemical formulas, equations, stoichiometry, gas laws and solution chemistry. Laboratory experiments which correlate with these topics will be performed.

Chemistry Honors (Level 4)

Chemistry Honors is a higher-level survey course in high school general Chemistry. The topics covered are properties of matter, atomic structure, periodic law, chemical formulas, chemical equations, stoichiometry, limiting reactant, percent yield, calorimetry, heat of reaction, gas laws, solutions and acid/base chemistry.

Extended class time is required for this course.

A final exam is required of all students.

This course is offered to those students who have an 86% in Biology Honors and 92% in Biology.

Science Department

Anatomy & Physiology (Level 3)

This course introduces the student to the systems of the human body. The focus of the class is to study the anatomy of the body with less emphasis on the physiology. Independent research projects will be required. Labs, which include microscope work as well as dissection, will be an integral part of the class.

Anatomy & Physiology Honors (Level 4)

This course introduces the student to the systems of the human body. Both the anatomy and the physiology of these systems are studied by using a detailed college text. A coloring book is used which includes all the diagrams studied in the class. Independent research projects will be required. Labs, which include microscope work, as well as dissection, will be an integral part of the class.

A final examination will be required of all students.

A combined average of 92% in both Biology and Chemistry is required to enroll in this course.

Physics Honors (Level 4)

This is an introductory course for seniors, taught using a mathematical approach through problem solving and a conceptual approach through labs. Topics covered include: One and Two Dimensional Motion, Forces and the Laws of Motion, Work and Energy, Momentum and Collisions, Rotational Motion and the Law of Gravity, Rotational Equilibrium and Dynamics, Fluid Mechanics, Heat, Thermodynamics, Vibrations and Waves, Sound, Light and Reflection, Refraction, Interference and Diffraction. (Electric Forces and Fields, Electrical Energy and Capacitance, Current and Resistance, Circuits and Circuit Elements, as time permits.)

Extended class time is required for this course.

An average of 92% in Chemistry or an 86% in Chemistry Honors is required to enroll in this course.

AP Biology (Level 5)

This course is designed to mirror an introductory Biology course usually taken by Biology majors in their first year of college. This elective is extremely fast paced and covers a tremendous amount of detailed information. Students can expect a MINIMUM of one hour per night of homework, which includes reading. Students in this course are expected to take responsibility for their work, and ultimately their success in this class. There will be assignments given over all vacations as well as a MANDATORY summer assignment to be completed before the start of the school year.

It is recommended (though not required) that Anatomy and Physiology be taken concurrently.

Extended class time is required for this course.

All students are required to take the AP Biology exam.

A 92% in Biology, Chemistry and Anatomy and Physiology (if applicable) is suggested to take this course.

AP Chemistry (Level 5)

AP Chemistry is considered the equivalent of a first-year college general Chemistry course. The AP Chemistry course is designed to help students attain both a deeper understanding of fundamentals and increased competence in solving chemical problems. The course requires students to develop the ability to think clearly and to express their ideas, orally and in writing, with clarity and logic. AP Chemistry is offered only after the successful completion of Chemistry and includes summer work. Topics include the structure of matter; states of matter and solutions kinetic theory, (including solids, liquids and gases) and gas laws; chemical reactions, equilibrium and stoichiometry (reaction types, REDOX, net ionic

Science Department

A grade of 92% in biology and chemistry is suggested to take this course.

Social Studies Department

World History (Level 3)

World History is a one-year, five-unit curriculum. The goal of this course is to show students how the past impacts today's world and how people throughout time face similar concerns and situations. To help students understand how today's complex world came to be, five themes are utilized. Themes include: Continuity and Change, Geography and History, Art and Literature, Technology and Economics, and Diversity. The objectives of this course are to develop the student's critical thinking and problem-solving skills, both collaborative and individual, and to ensure content mastery, analytical skills, and research skills. Written assignments will be required.

World History Honors (Level 4)

World History is a one-year, five-unit curriculum. The goal of this course is to show students how the past impacts today's world and how people throughout time face similar concerns and situations. To help students understand how today's complex world came to be, five themes are utilized. Themes include: Continuity and Change, Geography and History, Art and Literature, Technology and Economics, and Diversity. The objectives of this course are to develop the student's critical thinking and problem-solving skills, both collaborative and individual, and to ensure content mastery, analytical skills, and research skills. Written assignments will be required.

American History I (Level 3)

A one-year course for sophomores is designed to develop in students an awareness of their "rich heritage." A chronological and topical approach to exploration, revolution, expansion, civilization, reconstruction, industrial development, etc., is used to present information on the key people, ideas, events, and movements of the period. The goal is to challenge the student to improve their ability to identify, analyze, and interpret materials. Successful completion of a research paper is required.

American History I Honors (Level 4)

This is a one-year course for sophomores, designed to develop in students an awareness of their "rich heritage." A chronological and topical approach to exploration, revolution, expansion, Civil War, Reconstruction, and industrialization is used to present information on the key people, ideas, events and movements of the period. The goal is to challenge the more advanced student to improve their ability to identify, analyze, and interpret materials. Primary source material is used extensively. Summer reading, independent study in an area of student interest, and a research paper are required. Successful completion of a research paper is required.

The course is open to sophomores who have a 92% average in World History.

American History II (Level 3)

Junior year focuses on American history 1870's to the Cold War. This is a one-year, four unit curriculum. The goals of this course are as follows: to develop in the students an understanding and awareness of their "rich heritage," cooperative learning, critical thinking and problem solving skills, as well as their ability to interpret a wide variety of source materials. A chronological and topical approach is used; independent study and successful completion of a research paper are required. Current events are included.

American History II Honors (Level 4)

Junior year focuses on American history 1870's to the Cold War. This is a one-year, four unit curriculum. The goals of this course are as follows: to develop in the students an understanding and awareness of their "rich heritage," cooperative learning, critical thinking and problem solving skills, as well as their ability to interpret a wide variety of source materials. A chronological and topical approach is used. Summer reading, independent study, and successful completion of a research paper are required. Current events are included.

Social Studies Department

The course is open to juniors who have an 86% average in American History Honors or a 92% in American History.

AP United States History (Level 5)

This course attempts to develop the student's awareness of the interplay of economic, political and cultural forces that have led to the development of modern day America. The entire range of American history is covered. The text, materials, and methods are designed to present a difficulty level comparable to college freshman work. The students enrolled in this course are given a required summer reading list and take part in workshops given prior to the school year in August.

Extended class time, is required for this course. Students taking this course should have an 86% average in Honors American History. Taking the AP exam is a requirement.

American Government (Level 3)

This elective survey course for seniors attempts to develop in the students an awareness of the structure, leadership and "process" of government in America. The emphasis will be on how government "develops public policy through interaction with its citizens." By studying the democratic process, students will begin to appreciate their role as decision-makers, learning that democracy works only when its citizens participate in it. Independent study in areas of student interest is encouraged. Participation in off campus events, such as Model United Nations, Student Government Day, and Law Day is required. Additionally, Internet access outside of the school experience is a prerequisite.

Modern History (Level 3)

A one-year course designed to develop in students an awareness of their "rich heritage." A chronological and topical approach is used to present information on the key people, ideas, events, and movements of the post World War II era. Students will study the consequences of World War II on American life, the causes and course of the Cold War, important economic and political changes during the cold war, and more recent events and trends that have shaped modern-day America. The goal is to challenge the student to improve their ability to identify, analyze, and interpret materials. Current events will be a component of the course.

Psychology (Level 3)

This is a one-year introductory elective course for seniors covering a wide range of topics that fall under the category of Psychology. Included in the curriculum are topics such as: psychological methods, drugs and consciousness, the influence of drugs and alcohol on mental health, human emotion and motivation, gender roles, stress and health, psychological disorders, etc. Lectures, videos and group work are used to relate the information to the student and outside reading is assigned to illustrate concepts learned in class. Students will also learn about how psychologists conduct research by creating a class presentation on a topic of their interest within the field of psychology.

World History II (Level 3)

Students will study the rise of the nation state in Europe, the French Revolution, and the economic and political roots of the modern world. They will study the origins of the Industrial Revolution and its consequences, 19th century political reform in Western Europe, and imperialism in Africa, Asia and South America. They will be able to explain the causes and consequences of the great military and economic events, such as World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War and the Russian and Chinese revolutions. Finally, students will understand the growth of nationalistic movements over time and the various conflicts that have existed and continue to exist in the world, as we know it today. This course is a continuation of the World History I course.

Theology Department

Scriptures (Level 3)

Understanding the Scriptures (Level 3)

This freshman course presents a thorough examination of the history of salvation as revealed in The Bible which finds its fulfillment in Jesus Christ. It studies Divine Revelation through its sources in Scripture. This course also explores the various books of the Bible, examining the Old and New Testaments as being an unbroken communication between God and His people.

The Sacraments (Level 3)

This Theology course focuses primarily on the sacraments of the Catholic Church. The seven sacraments, instituted by Christ, each confer special and particular efficacious graces that, with cooperation, allow the recipient to perfect his/her life. Our aim is to gain a clear understanding of the meaning of this efficacious grace, freely given. The Eucharist is the source and summit of our Catholic faith, and its importance in the life of the Catholic will be highlighted. Other topics from the text will be covered as time allows.

Christology and Theology of the Body (Level 3)

Christology introduces juniors to the mystery of Jesus Christ, the living Word of God. This course explores the mystery of the Blessed Trinity - one God in three persons, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit as revealed in Scripture and Tradition. Christian vocation will also be studied and how God invites us to be in communion with him, enabling us to share in the divine life that has been prepared for us from all eternity.

Theology of the Body refers to a series of 129 lectures given by Saint John Paul II during his Wednesday audiences in Rome between September 1979 and November 1984, later compiled and published as a single work entitled "Theology of the Body According to John Paul II." Based on John Paul's revolutionary teaching, Theology of the Body for Teens covers such topics as the bodily dimension of the person, the person created as male and female, the nature of human sexuality, the human need for communion and the meaning and purpose of marriage as created by God in his image and likeness.

Our Moral Life in Christ (Level 3)

This senior level course will focus on Catholic morality. The class will focus on the integration and application of the principles of Christianity to the student's own moral decision-making. We will seek to become critical thinkers in thought and writing concerning moral decision-making and the need to have an informed conscience. Our aim will be to recognize the requirements of the human being concerning our social responsibility and the duty to be a moral person in our thinking and in our interaction with the world.
