



WYLIE PREPARATORY ACADEMY

Secondary Course Descriptions, 2015-2016

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Languages

English 7:

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.

English 8:

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 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. Vocabulary development and word study skills will be emphasized including the knowledge of Classical Greek and Latin roots, prefixes, and suffixes. Grammar skills will continue to be honed, with review and introduction of new concepts.

English 9:

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

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form of the novel. The students will interpret the possible influences of the historical context 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.

As a way to begin preparing students for 12th grade Advanced Placement English and the Literature and Composition Advanced Placement Test, we will be offering a Pre-AP English course for 9-11th grades. This class will be an advanced class, requiring a more intense reading load as well as project load compared to the regular English class. He/she will receive a denotation on their transcript that shows a more difficult level class was taken. It will also prepare him/her to continue on in the Advanced Program with a greater chance of success to receive a high score on the AP Test, which would be taken the spring of their 12th grade year.

English 10:

World Literature will expose students to various writings from around the world in all time periods. This course will lay the foundation for the students' understanding of interpretive literature and prepare them for more detailed literary analysis. They will review different genres and sub-genres such as Fiction, Non-fiction, Poetry, Drama, and Folk Literature. 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. Also, students will be required to read all or parts of three to four outside 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: *Plato's Republic*, *Crime and Punishment*, *Sayings of Confucius*, (example of magical realism from Latin America), and *The Heart of Darkness*. Students will be introduced to 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. Early writing projects are broken into steps in order to walk the student through the process. As the year progresses, students will be expected to become more independent in their writing process. Grammar skills will be refined through the writing assignments as well as grammar activities as needed. Vocabulary will be taught from the literature passages. Students will define, identify in text, and learn to use the words in their writing, as well as learn about connotation/denotation, word origins, and other vocabulary objectives.

As a way to begin preparing students for 12th grade Advanced Placement English and the Literature and Composition Advanced Placement Test, we will be offering a Pre-AP English course for 9-11th grades. This class will be an advanced class, requiring a more rigorous writing load than the regular English class. He/she will receive a denotation on their transcript that shows a more difficult level class was taken. It will also prepare him/her to continue on in the Advanced Program with a greater chance of success to receive a high score on the AP Test, which would be taken the spring of their 12th grade year.

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English 11:

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-Classicism, Romanticism, Naturalism, etc... Students will study short biographies on each author as well as read excerpts from their most prominent writings. Also, 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*. 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.

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English 12:

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. With regard to literary analysis, we study the elements of style including tone, diction, syntax, figurative language, structure, organization, imagery, detail, and narrative devices. We also analyze literary works, explore archetypes, and identify timeless themes. In our writing instruction our focus will be on well-supported, meaningful, sophisticated writing. Writing instruction will include sentence composing practice, developing stylistic maturity, developing a meaningful thesis, crafting an argument, and incorporating textual support.

Prerequisite for AP English 12: Pre-AP English 11

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Social Studies/History

History 7:

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.

History 8:

In eighth grade the students 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 of the world. The physical geography aspects (physical features, physical location, and climate) and the human geography aspects (government, economy, religion, people groups, and cultures) of each region will be explored. 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 an understanding of the distinctive of different cultures, and to develop ideas and their own worldview.

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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. There is an emphasis on understanding the influence of the church on major empires, movements, and advancements in history. We also spend a great deal of time learning how to assess the evidences left behind that help us to piece together history. To gain a better insight into the perspectives of the cultures studied, we will be reading various selections from the different time periods. 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 Reconstruction and ending with 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. We will assess our past and its effect on the present and the future of our nation. Current events will be weaved throughout. 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.

Fall Semester (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.

Spring Semester (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.

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Economics:

Economics is a multi-disciplinary study combining elements of sociology, finance, psychology, government, marketing, political science, and general business operations to understand the effects, choice, value, and scarcity on the U.S. and global economies. This is an introductory course surveying both micro- and macro-economic concepts. Additionally, this study examines the Biblical perspective of economics, wealth, money, poverty, as well as many personal finance concepts such as credit, budgeting, and insurance. Students will use the textbook, student activities manual, and the internet to explore this study.

Government:

This course will cover the formation of the U.S. political system from the founding of the country to the present. Students will learn the underlying philosophies upon which our constitution was formulated. They will explore the various internal structures of government as well as the results of such systems upon the American body politic.

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.

AP Government:

This course will solidify concepts discussed in the Government course using digital methods for higher order thinking. The additional and more critical practices will prepare them for the AP Government and Politics exam.

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Math

Math 7:

This 7th grade course is designed for average math students who will benefit from a slightly slower pace and more repetition than Pre-Algebra allows. A structured approach to a variety of topics such as integers, fractions, ratios, percents, equations and inequalities guides students through many of the same concepts they will encounter in Pre-Algebra. Basic geometry, graphing, and probability are also studied in 7th Math. Interactive math journals, daily lesson quizzes, and easy-to-use technology such as online video lesson support are a few of the ways students actively and consistently engaged in learning. Checkpoint quizzes assess student understanding after every few lessons to insure comprehension before major tests. Problem solving capabilities are reinforced through class discussions and practice, demonstration of problem solving processes, and availability of extra practice when needed.

Pre-Algebra:

This course is designed for advanced 7th grade math students and on grade level 8th grade math students. 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:

In this course, students will continue their study of 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.

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

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Algebra II:

This course is designed to build on algebraic and geometric concepts. It develops advanced algebra skills such as graphing, analyzing, and interpreting functions including polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions; systems of linear equations and inequalities; imaginary and complex numbers, conic sections; exponents and radicals. It also introduces matrices and their properties. Use of technology with calculators, online video support, and the optional e-text will be used when appropriate to enhance instruction. The content of this course are important for students' success on both the ACT and college mathematics entrance exams.

Course Prerequisite: Algebra I and Geometry

Pre-Calculus:

This course begins with discussion of polynomial and rational functions, exponential and logarithmic functions. It then continues into 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 different forms of data regression, sequences, and series.

Course Prerequisite: Algebra II and Geometry

AP 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 L'Hopital's Rule, the calculus of plane and solid figures, solids of revolution, and polar coordinates. It should prepare the student for the taking of the College Board's Advanced Placement Calculus AB exam.

Course Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus

Financial Applications and Reasoning:

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

Course Prerequisite: Algebra II

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Science

Life Science:

Life Science is the study of living things. 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.

Earth Science:

Students will receive an overview of earth and space science that is the study of God's inorganic creations. The four main areas of study include: the atmosphere, 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. Teach the Scientific Method; students learn to write scientifically in a lab notebook.

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 use of the microscope, proper techniques for dissection, cytology, botany, zoology, human physiology, respiratory and digestive systems, and excretory and nervous systems. Students learn to write scientifically in a lab notebook.

Chemistry:

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

Course Prerequisite: Algebra 1

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: Geometry

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AP Physics:

AP Physics is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course that explores topics such as Newtonian mechanics (including rotational motion); work, energy, and power; mechanical waves and sound; and introductory, simple circuits. One of this course's goals is to prepare the student to take the AP Physics 1 exam in May.

Course Prerequisites: Geometry and Algebra 2

Anatomy & Physiology:

This course is a comprehensive study of anatomy, physiology, and pathology of the human body. 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, sports medicine, and physical education.

Course Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry

Forensics:

Forensic Science explains the science used in forensic science techniques. The course will provide the science behind forensics, as well as integrating hands-on labs and activities. As students progress through the course, they will refine the techniques and apply them to other areas of study. Students will integrate science, mathematics, and writing skills by using real-life application and case studies.

Course Prerequisite: Chemistry and Physics

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Additional High School Required Courses 2015-2016

Computer Applications:

The Computer Applications elective is a full year course for which students receive credit toward their High School diploma and WPA graduation requirements. Students will learn basic computer terminology, have the opportunity to practice keyboarding skills, and become proficient with the Microsoft Office tools of Word, PowerPoint, and Excel. Additionally, time will be spent learning about search engines, email, online presentation products, bibliography tools, and internet safety. The students create hands-on projects and take tests and quizzes to exhibit mastery of the material. Real world applications are used to develop an understanding of how the computer programs are utilized in everyday life.

Students taking the course must have access to a recent version of Microsoft Office and the Internet. A book and computer will be provided and used during school class time.

Life Skills:

This one semester class addresses life skills from a Christian philosophy and is designed to embrace the many fields found under the Family and Consumer Services umbrella. The skills taught will help students in many areas of life, including family relationships (families now, marriage, and future children), social gatherings and friendships, and personal growth (physical, intellectually, and spiritually).

Speech:

Through a variety of assigned speeches, students will learn how to effectively communicate in public settings. There is an emphasis placed on structuring the content of speeches as well as on delivery methods. Students will learn how to research, outline, and create note cards for each presentation. Biblical integration is strong in this class. Students will complete multiple assignments by reading, outlining, and researching Scriptures. Speech class is a valuable, core class for our students in their growth as effective communicators for Christ.

Spanish 1:

At the conclusion of this course, students will have acquired the following skills: knowledge of the Spanish alphabet and its sounds; how to spell; how to ask questions; how to introduce oneself and have a small conversation; how to describe oneself and others; how to express feelings; and how to ask the time and to tell the time. Students will have a solid understanding of basic sentence structure and present tense verb conjugations. Students will have learned vocabulary over the home, school, feelings, greetings, food, occupations, sports and activities. Students will have acquired knowledge over the many Spanish speaking countries and their cultures. Students will also be able to write simple sentences and paragraphs. Throughout this material a wide variety of audios, dialogues, narrations, interviews, authentic texts and many

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other resources can be used in mastering concepts; all of them accompanied by class and home activities that simulate the complexity of the language.

Spanish 2:

This course is designed to build on knowledge obtained in Spanish I. Throughout this material a wide variety of audios, dialogues, narrations, interviews, authentic texts and many other resources can be used in mastering concepts; all of them accompanied by class and home activities that simulate the complexity of the language. At the end of Spanish 2 students will have mastered the ability to understand the use of the past tense, to express daily actions and to narrate facts from the perspective of the past, to express opinion about facts and to compare them orally and in writing, to give advice and suggestions and to read short texts and comment them.

Prerequisite: Spanish 1

AP Spanish: (Not a required course)

This course is made up of thematic units. The ten units that make up the AP language program are designed to provide students with the necessary resources to ensure a positive outcome in the AP Language Exam from the College Board. Throughout this material a wide variety of audios, dialogues, narrations, interviews, authentic texts and many other resources will be used in mastering concepts; all of them accompanied by class and home activities that simulate the complexity of the AP exam activities themes: culture, natural disasters, heroes, Hispanic art, beliefs, movies and literature.

Prerequisite: Spanish 2