



2020-2021
Curriculum Guide



Dear Mercy Students and Parents,

We are very proud of the academic program that we are able to offer our students here at Mercy High School. The administration and faculty have collaborated upon our course offerings and designed with care this guide to our course selections. In this booklet you will find all of the information you will need to plan effectively your educational program and to make the important decisions that will impact your future.

You are about to engage in the course selection process, and as you begin we would like to express the importance of thoughtful choices, careful planning and solid communication between home and school. We ask you to become familiar with all course offerings so that knowledgeable, responsible choices will be made. Your course selections should be based upon our graduation requirements, as well as your own future educational and career plans. We believe that parental involvement in the educational process is vital. Therefore, we invite both students and parents alike to utilize the expertise of our faculty and Guidance Department in the course selection process.

Once again, we encourage you to become very familiar with this booklet and to seriously reflect upon your choices. The building of the master schedule rests upon the totals of the course requests made by the students during course selection time. Accuracy of course request numbers will reduce the number of conflicts and maximize our opportunity to fill those requests. Please keep in mind, however, that a course will be scheduled only if there is sufficient enrollment. We reserve the right to cancel and make revisions in the courses offered should that become necessary.

As you begin to read this Curriculum Guide, be assured that our staff is ready to assist you in selecting the educational program that will pave the way for a successful future. We look forward to working with you in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristi Walters Wessling". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Kristi Walters Wessling '88
Principal

Course Selection Process and Policies

This catalog lists all the courses currently taught at Mercy High School. Not all courses are offered each year. The decision to offer a course is made by the administration and is determined, in part, by student interest and enrollment. Further, the number of sections and seats for a course may be limited. This can result in students being unable to enroll in a particular class.

Careful choices during course selection time should eliminate the need for schedule changes. Students are required to consult with their Academic Advisor to ensure that the courses being selected are appropriate and fulfill their needed requirements for graduation. Parental involvement is also essential in the process as students evaluate choices. Thoughtful planning during the course selection time will result in fewer changes for the student. Since student course requests are used to build the master schedule, fewer conflicts will result when the information used is accurate.

However, if a course change is needed, the following policies will be implemented. Entry into a class will be considered if there is space available in the class the student wishes to enter and if the student is free to take the class at the time it is offered. Placement policies may also affect whether or not the student is granted permission for a schedule change. A course change request may be initiated within the first two weeks of school for any one of the following reasons:

- A. Scheduling errors
- B. Teacher-initiated course change
- C. Counselor-initiated course change
- D. Student-initiated course change
- E. Parent-initiated course change

A, B, and C are considered necessary changes. There is no charge for these changes. There will be a \$50 charge after June 1 for changes D and E, those initiated by students or parents. Schedule changes will not be made to change a teacher or as a sole remedy for poor performance.

To request a schedule change, the student must first discuss the matter with her Academic Advisor. If a change is deemed necessary and/or desirable, the advisor will give the student the necessary Schedule Change Form. This form requires the signatures of the teacher of the class being dropped and of a parent or guardian.

After the Schedule Change Form is completed, the student submits it along with the \$50 schedule change fee to her advisor. If the change is approved, the student will report to her new class after she has received a copy of her new schedule.

After the first two weeks of school, students will be unable to drop, add, or change courses. It is imperative that the student adequately reflects upon her choices for the entire school year before selecting courses. Course changes that occur as a result of a student's lack of careful planning are detrimental to that student, as well as disruptive to the total educational process. Therefore, schedule change policies and deadlines will be followed.

Mercy Graduation Requirements

1 credit is earned for a course that meets 1 semester, 5 days per week

50 credits are required for graduation

Students must carry at least 12 credits per year

Theology	8 credits	Must include: Theology 9; 10; 11 and 12
English	8 credits	Must include: English 9; 10; 11 and 12
Social Studies	6 credits	Must include: World History; US History; American Government, Economics
Math	6 credits <i>Students are advised to complete 8 credits</i>	
Science	6 credits <i>Students are advised to complete 8 credits</i>	Must include: Biology
Fine Arts	2 credits	Art, Dance, Music, Theatre
Computer Technology	2 credits	Must include: Intro to 21 st Century Technology
Physical Education	3.5 credits	Must include: PE I; PE II; Health
Public Speaking	1 credit	
Electives	7.5 or more credits <i>Students are advised to complete 4 to 8 credits of an World Language</i>	Electives are additional credits chosen from the above departments, as well as courses from Business, Humanities or International Language departments.

Advanced Placement® Courses

The Advanced Placement® Program is administered by The College Board®, a national nonprofit membership association. Mercy High School is a member school offering AP® courses. Courses are taught by Mercy faculty and are comparable to first-year college courses. At the conclusion of an AP® course, students must take the corresponding exam. The College Board® cites these benefits to Advanced Placement® Courses:

- 1 Students have the opportunity to study a subject in-depth at the college level, so they will be more prepared for college work.
- 2 Students receiving a qualifying grade on an AP® Exam may be eligible for advanced placement or course credits at the vast majority of colleges and universities in the United States. Acceptance of the credit depends on the policies of the particular college or university where the student enrolls.
- 3 The AP® Program offers a number of Scholar Awards to students for outstanding performance on AP® exams. This achievement is noted on the transcript and recognized by colleges.

AP® courses are open to those students who meet the requirements specified for each course. **All students taking an AP® course at Mercy who are not dual-enrolled must sit for the exam. Current AP® offerings are listed below. Please keep in mind that courses with insufficient enrollment may not be offered.**

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Biology | U. S. Government and Politics |
| Chemistry | Music Theory |
| Calculus AB | English Literature Composition |
| Statistics | Language and Composition |
| U.S. History | Computer Science Principles |

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Dual Enrollment Courses

Dual Enrollment means the student has the option of registering to earn college credit based on successful completion of the Mercy course, at a price much lower than typical college tuition. Registration to the college and payment of the dual enrollment fee (varies by university) occurs during the first few weeks of the course. Mercy currently has dual enrollment arrangements in place for the following courses. These arrangements are subject to change.

Nebraska Wesleyan University: <i>French III, French IV, French V, AP® Government, AP® US History, AP® Language and Composition, AP® Literature and Composition</i>
University of Nebraska Omaha: <i>Spanish III, Spanish IV, Spanish V, AP® Statistics</i>
College of Saint Mary: <i>Her-Story: Women in the Church, God in Art</i>
Midland University: <i>Honors World History</i>

Mercy Learning Online

Mercy Learning Online is a program of the Mercy Education System of the Americas, which links all forty-one Mercy sponsored high schools around the United States. It provides an opportunity for students to take courses online. All courses are taught by faculty employed by Mercy Secondary Schools, and are available only to students attending Mercy Secondary Schools. These courses provide opportunities for students to take classes for enrichment and acceleration or for makeup credits.

Students must have access to the internet & *must* log onto the class *every day* the class meets.

For a complete and current listing of summer courses please visit: <http://www.mercylearningonline.org/>.

The tuition rate for Summer 2020 is as follows:

\$285.00 for each student enrolled in a 1/2 credit course:

Offered June 15, 2020 - July 17, 2020

\$175.00 for each student enrolled in a credit recovery course for Semester 1:

Offered June 15, 2020 - July 3, 2020

\$175.00 for each student enrolled in a credit recovery course for Semester 2:

Offered July 6, 2020 - July 24, 2020

\$175.00 for each student enrolled in the three weeks skills courses:

Offered June 22, 2020 - July 24, 2020

Course Descriptions

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

PERSONAL FINANCE

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: None

This course is a basic introduction to the business world. Students learn to understand their role as a consumer in the economy while studying various business theories and practices including saving, investing, credit, debt, money management, and being financially responsible.

ACCOUNTING I

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: None

This course teaches basic accounting principles for a business. The basic accounting cycle is covered, which includes: the accounting equation, simple transactions, recording and posting transactions, payroll, and working with financial worksheets. Any student interested in pursuing a career in business should take this course.

ACCOUNTING II

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: Accounting I

This course teaches basic accounting principles for running a merchandising corporation. Special journals, subsidiary ledgers and all financial statements are studied. Any student interested in pursuing a career in business and furthering their knowledge of accounting should take this course.

FOUNDATIONS OF BUSINESS

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: None

Intended for all prospective business majors, this course introduces students to the contemporary business world by studying economics, management, marketing, finance, law, business careers, and how to start a small business. Students gain experience through hands-on projects, simulations and case studies encompassing business issues for the 21st century.

INTRODUCTION TO 21ST CENTURY TECHNOLOGY

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class standing: 9

Prerequisite: None

The goal of this course is for students to understand and learn to utilize 21st century education and workplace information technology tools. This course teaches students to utilize word processing, presentation, spreadsheet, video editing, and business communication software along with other applications. Students will learn how these tools can enhance their ability to share, communicate, collaborate, and be productive in a technological society. Students will learn to appropriately format documents in a desired writing style and learn the importance of citing sources to avoid plagiarism. Digital citizenship is studied through examining cultural, social, ethical, and legal issues associated with information technology in the 21st century. Emphasis on screen time and how it could affect young minds is discussed.

DIGITAL DESIGN FOUNDATIONS

Term: 1 Semester 1 credit

5 times per week

Class Standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: 21st Century Technology

Technology has become an essential creative tool in illustration, graphic design, photography, multimedia, animation, and fine art. This course will teach students the steps in the digital design process, an introduction to iPad design applications, and how to design work for clients. The iPad applications include the Adobe apps of: Draw, Sketch, Fresco, Photoshop, and Spark Video. Students will also gain design, editing, and productions skills in these graphic arts programs. Analysis of the similarities and differences of digital and traditional image-making will be discussed. By the end of the semester, students will be creating client-based designs to be used by Mercy's administration, advancement office, and/or clubs and athletics. This course fulfills the second technology credit for students.

CONVERGENCE OF MEDIA IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class standing: 9- 12, students may take this course more than once

Prerequisite: B- or above in 21st Century Technology and B- in most recent English course.

With the advances in technology today, news can be captured and delivered with the touch of a button. Students no longer need expensive equipment, as we already have communication technology in the palms of our hands. Using Apple technology, his course will converge different elements of photography, videography, journalism, social media, and broadcasting to tell the story of Mercy High School. Not only will students become familiar with these technologies, they will learn to collaborate with others, manage projects, and lead among their peers. Participation outside of class is required as students must attend sporting events, club meetings and theatrical productions as well as other Mercy High School sponsored events. Students must be able to provide their own transportation. This course fulfills the second technology credit for students.

FOUNDATIONS OF STEAM

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class standing: 9- 12

Prerequisite: 21st Century Technology

In this introductory course, students interested in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math will apply the design thinking process to investigate open-ended problems. Students will use a tech skill paired with an innovator's mindset to creatively solve real-life problems. Tech skills will focus on coding, circuitry and 3D printing. After working individually or collaboratively, students will present their solutions to their peers. This class breaks the mold of traditional grading, allowing a safe place to take risks, fail, refine and adapt to yield exceptional results. Ideally, students will shift from being focused on their grade, to being focused on their learning. This course fulfills the second technology credit for students.

AP[®] COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES I

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class standing: 10- 12

Prerequisite: 21st Century Technology, Algebra I

AP[®] Computer Science Principles introduces students to the foundational concepts of computer science and challenges them to explore how computing and technology can impact the world. More than a traditional introduction to programming, AP[®] Computer Science Principles is a rigorous, engaging, and approachable course that explores many of the foundational ideas of computing so all students understand how these concepts are transforming the world we live in. The AP[®] Program designed AP[®] Computer Science Principles with the goal of creating leaders in computer science fields and attracting and engaging those who are traditionally underrepresented with essential computing tools and multidisciplinary opportunities.

AP[®] COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES II

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class standing: 10- 12

Prerequisite: AP[®] Computer Science Principles I

AP[®] Computer Science Principles II will pick up where we left off at the end of AP[®] Computer Science Principles I. Students must take this course to be eligible to take the AP[®] CS Principles assessment in May of 2021. Students who receive a 3 or higher on the AP[®] CS principles assessment could be eligible to receive college credit in an introductory computer science related college course. This course will focus on developing students' ability to program in the JavaScript language using Code.org's App Lab, and prepping for the AP[®] Explore Performance Task and AP[®] Create Performance Task.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

HONORS ENGLISH 9

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 9

Prerequisite: Recommendation by School Administration

Students placed in Honors English 9 engage in an accelerated and intensive study of the English 9 curriculum. Students are also expected to read additional challenging texts apart from those taught in English 9. Independent reading assignments may also be required.

HONORS ENGLISH 10

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 10

Prerequisite: B+ Honors English 9 or A English 9 plus Dept. Approval

Students placed in Honors English 10 engage in an accelerated and intensive study of the English 10 curriculum. Students are also expected to read additional challenging texts apart from those taught in English 10. Independent reading assignments may also be required.

HONORS ENGLISH 11

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 11

Prerequisite: B+ Honors English 10 or English 10 plus Dept. Approval

Students placed in Honors English 11 engage in an accelerated and intensive study of the English 11 curriculum. Students are also expected to read additional challenging texts apart from those taught in English 11. Independent reading assignments may also be required.

HONORS ENGLISH 12

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 12

Prerequisite: B+ Honors English 11 or A English 11 plus Dept. Approval

Students placed in Honors English 12 engage in an accelerated and intensive study of the English 12 curriculum. Students are also expected to read additional challenging texts apart from those taught in English 12. Independent reading assignments may also be required.

AP® ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 11

Prerequisite: B+ Honors English 10 or A English 10, plus strong Standardized Test Scores, on-demand writing assessment, and Dept. Approval

AP® English Language and Composition explores a variety of American texts through which students learn close-reading and analysis skills; these texts coincide with some of the content of the junior level American Literature and U.S. History courses. The purpose of the course, as stated by College Board, is to engage “students in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of rhetorical contexts, and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Both their writing and their reading should make students aware of the interactions among a writer’s purposes, audience expectations, and subjects, as well as the way genre conventions and the resources of language contribute to effectiveness in writing.” Argumentation, narration, exposition, and analytical forms of writing are emphasized. *Unless dual enrolled, the AP® English Language and Composition exam is required.*

AP® ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 12

Prerequisite: B+ AP® Language and Composition or A Honors English 11, plus strong Standardized Test Scores, on-demand writing assessment, and Dept. Approval

AP® English Literature and Composition engages students in the careful reading and the critical analysis of imaginative literature. This course explores a variety of British and global literary texts through which students refine close-reading and analysis skills; these texts coincide with some of the content studied in English 12. The purpose of this course, as stated by College Board, is to invite students to “the experience of literature, the interpretation of literature, and the evaluation of literature.” Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to relate history to the various literary periods; compare and contrast pieces of literature in relation to style, structure, and content; discover the heritage of present-day literature; and analyze and criticize themes and styles of various authors. Expository, analytical, researched, and argumentative forms of writing, as well as reaction papers and character sketches are explored. *Unless dual enrolled, the AP® English Literature and Composition Exam is required.*

ENGLISH 9

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 9

Prerequisite: None

Freshmen placed in English 9 read and interpret literature related to the discovery of self. Students read a balance of contemporary and classic works (e.g. drama, novels, poetry, non-fiction, and short stories) that encourages them to make inferences and to look at the world through archetypal patterns. Students improve their writing, reading, speaking, listening, viewing, and study skills in this course. A particular emphasis is placed on students’ understanding of literary terms and devices. The essential questions for the course include: (1) How are the themes and subjects of literature relevant to our lives, and what makes these themes and subjects universal? (2) How does a writer’s style affect our understanding of and reaction to literature? (3) How can a person develop personal independence? (4) How do personal decisions and environmental influences impact selfhood? (5) What does it mean to “come of age”? Composition centers on effective paragraph development and the five-paragraph expository essay.

ENGLISH 10

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 10

Prerequisite: English 9

English 10 is a survey of world literature which builds on the language arts curriculum established in the ninth grade. Students placed in this course read and interpret literature to develop an appreciation for and understanding of ideas and experiences from around the world. Through the lens of cultural encounters, students read a balance of contemporary and classic works (drama, novels, poetry, non-fiction and short stories) that encourages the examination of multiple points-of-view. Students work to become more effective writers, critical thinkers, attentive readers, and engaging presenters. A particular emphasis is placed on the hero's journey. The essential questions for the course include: (1) What is a hero, and how do cultural conventions affect the definition of a hero? (2) How can an individual mature and change through taking heroic action? (3) What are the benefits and boundaries of cultures? (4) What are the rights and responsibilities of individuals in a diverse cultural society? (5) How does literature reveal universal truths about human nature? Composition centers on the introduction of various types of expository writing and an introduction to fundamental literary research skills.

ENGLISH 11

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 11

Prerequisite: English 10

English 11 builds on the language arts curriculum established in ninth and tenth grade. Students placed in this course read and interpret the varied literature of the United States. Students also explore the American identity in the context of a multicultural society, studying canonical pieces as well as new and rediscovered voices. Students primarily analyze literature (e.g. drama, novels, poetry, non-fiction, and short stories) and produce writing as vehicles to explore social, historical, economic, political, and artistic issues. The essential questions for the course include: (1) How has the American experience evolved over time? (2) What is the role of the individual within American society? (3) What does the phrase "The American Dream" mean, and is it even a possible reality? (4) What are the inequities that exist within our society, and why do they persist? (5) Based on reoccurring themes in American literature, what does it mean to be an American? Composition centers on the refinement of expository writing skills with a particular emphasis placed on writing literary analyses.

ENGLISH 12

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 Times per week

Class standing: 12

Prerequisite: English 11

English 12 builds on the language arts curriculum established in grades nine, ten, and eleven. Students placed in this course read and interpret the varied literature of the United Kingdom. Students analyze literature (e.g. drama, novels, poetry, and non-fiction) and produce writing as vehicles to explore social, historical, economic, political, and artistic issues. A particular emphasis is placed on students' understanding of the development of the English language and the complex thought patterns embedded in its literary history, as well as many critical reading and thinking strategies to use in post-secondary scholarship. The essential questions for this course include: (1) How did the early historical and cultural development of Britain influence its first literature? (2) How did early British literature reflect the lives of ordinary people? (3) How are truth and beauty manifest in British literature and are they mutually exclusive? (4) How was the literature of the English Romantic Period different from other periods in British literary history? (5) What is the influence of the English language and literary tradition on other global literatures to date? Composition centers on the refinement of written literary analyses as well as other types of expository writing required in college courses.

YEARBOOK

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit (Students may take this course for a full year for 2 credits.)

5 times per week

Class standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: C+ average in English courses

The yearbook course is designed to provide students with the journalism skills and the ability to apply those skills to the production of the Monarch Memories yearbook. Units of study include teamwork, journalistic and ethic responsibility, brainstorming, content, coverage, concept, reporting, writing, headlines, captions, editing, photography, typography, design, graphics, finances, yearbook campaigns, advertising and distribution, and careers. (Freshmen students wishing to take this course should have scored above the 70th percentile on the placement test in "Language" and "Reading.")

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: None

This course is a survey of the basic principles, components, and skills of effective speaking and listening. Students study the basis of communication: research, writing, speaking, and listening. Students create and deliver informative, persuasive, demonstrative, and impromptu speeches.

FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

INTRO TO ART

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: None

This course prepares students in the basic elements of art and design. During the first semester, special emphasis is placed on understanding how your brain functions in a creative process and learning various drawing strategies and techniques. Students then expand their skills into color theory and explore a variety of media and techniques including painting, pastels, printmaking, ceramics, and glass fusing. Technology, art appreciation, and art history is woven throughout the course.

DRAWING & PAINTING

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: B in Intro to Art

This course is for the student who wishes to concentrate her efforts on large scale works in the area of drawing and painting. Projects are broader by design and students determine the direction of their creative solution. Some of the media and advanced techniques covered include charcoal, pastels, watercolors, silk painting, intaglio printmaking, acrylic and oil.

ADVANCED GRAPHIC DESIGN

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: B in Digital Design Foundations

This course concentrates on the foundational skills of graphic design with emphasis on written and visual communication, advertising, marketing, and creating art for a “client.” Areas explored include the Principles of Gestalt, generating ideas and concepts, visual problem solving, typography, logos, page layout, and package design. Hand-drawn design work eventually merges with computer-aided design through the course using Adobe software.

HONORS ART

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class Standing: 12

Prerequisite: Two Art Courses B or higher, Application and Teacher Approval

This course is designed for students who intend to go into the field of art or for those with a very strong interest in art. Students design self-directed projects through quarterly contracts. Additionally, a few teacher-directed assignments are given each quarter to expand on advanced art topics. Work is expected to be high in quality, concept and creativity. Students develop artist statements to support and define their each of their creations. The capstone of this class is the gallery of work each student will display in their spring Senior Show.

3D DESIGN

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: Intro to Art

This course explores creative avenues of constructing three dimensional forms as well as design applications. Traditional and non-traditional sculptural materials are utilized including found objects, paper mache, ceramics and glass fusing. Learning to throw on the potter's wheel and constructing large scale glass projects are included in this class. This course also incorporates art history and critiques with each unit of study. *(This course offered alternating years. Next offering 2021-22.)*

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class Standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: None

This course covers the fundamentals of photography including camera operations, composition, digital optimizing, critiquing, and photography history. Beginning projects are technical studies and then evolve to creative problem solving. The course is based on digital photography but the course also covers a brief overview of black and white film photography and darkroom techniques. **A digital camera with manual mode is required for the course.** Photo shoots are conducted inside and outside of class time. Photoshop will be utilized throughout the course. *(This course offered alternating years. Current offering 2020-21.)*

INTRO TO DANCE

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class Standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: None

This class is ideal for students with less than two years of previous dance experience. In this class, we will explore the basics and master the building blocks for multiple dance styles, including Ballet, Modern, Hip-Hop and Jazz. Students will explore the vocabulary used in the different dance techniques, the different styles of ballet through a project, and learn about dance history through their own research about important figures in the dance world, and begin to create a dance piece of their own. Students are required to dress in clothes they can easily move in and wear their hair up, secured off of the face and neck, and are expected to acquire appropriate dance shoes (Ballet and Jazz). This class will participate in a performance at the end of the semester.

BEGINNING DANCE

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: B in Intro to Dance or be approved through an audition.

This class is ideal for students who have completed Intro to Dance or have one to three years of dance experience. In this class, we will explore, learn, and perfect choreography specifically for the spring concert as well as delve into dance history, dance technique vocabulary, and becoming familiar with master works. Students will have their own choreography project and opportunity to submit student work for the spring performance (dancers can expect to be in one to four dances). Dancers are required to dress in clothes they can easily move in and wear their hair up, secured off of the face and neck, and are expected to acquire appropriate dance shoes (Ballet and Jazz).

INTERMEDIATE DANCE

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: B+ in Beginning Dance or be approved through an audition.

This class is ideal for students who have three to five or more years of dance experience. In this class, we will explore and build upon technique for multiple dance styles including Ballet, Modern, Hip-Hop, and Jazz. Students will continue to examine the history of dance, along with dance cultures across the world through small presentations and projects. We will explore, learn, and perfect choreography for the Spring Concert (each dancer will be in 2-5 dances). This class will also have their own choreography project and opportunity to submit student work for the performance. Dancers are required to dress in clothes they can easily move in and wear their hair up, secured off of the face and neck, and are expected to acquire appropriate dance shoes (Ballet and Jazz).

ADVANCED DANCE

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: Dancers must be approved through an audition.

This class is ideal for students who have five or more years of intense dance experience. In this class, we will work towards mastering dance techniques for multiple dance styles including Ballet, Modern, Hip Hop, and Jazz. Students will also explore Pilates and Yoga as a form of cross-training. Along with physical class, advanced students will dive into areas of complementary study, such as, dance in media and technology, world dance, pedagogy, and dance after high school. In addition to these projects, dancers will have multiple opportunities to choreograph and present their work in class. Second semester dancers will learn and perfect choreography for the spring concert (each dancer will be in three to seven dances). Dancers are required to dress in clothes they can easily move in and wear their hair up, secured off of the face and neck, and are expected to acquire appropriate dance shoes (Ballet and Jazz).

CONCERT CHOIR

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: None

This introductory class teaches the fundamentals of singing and music theory. Diverse styles of music are utilized to develop students' vocal technique and music literacy. Students will work on performance skills, evaluations, singing in two and three-part harmony, basic music theory and solo singing. This choir performs at the Christmas and Spring Concerts.

MERCY HIGH SINGERS

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: Audition

This ensemble is the premier performing choir for Mercy High School, serving as musical ambassadors to the community. Diverse music styles are utilized to broaden student's abilities in the fundamentals of music, advanced vocal technique and singing in two, three, and four-part harmony, as well as solo singing. Students perform at the Christmas and Spring Concerts, District Music Contest and various community engagements as well as Mercy functions. Mercy High Singers also serves as our Mass choir at Mercy.

BEGINNING GUITAR

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class Standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Students will learn to play the guitar while learning to read music and understand elementary music theory. We will work on performance techniques, and they will perform as a group and as individuals. We will also explore the role of the guitar and guitar music in history and other cultures. Guitars are available to use in class.

INTERMEDIATE GUITAR

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class Standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: B in Beginning Guitar or teacher permission through audition

This course will continue to develop the skills necessary to become independent as a guitarist. It emphasizes the development of style, articulation, dynamics, rhythmic ability and other skills inherent to performance. Areas of concentration include: note reading, aural skills, flat picking, rhythmic patterns, chord study (including bar chords), finger-picking styles, musical forms, improvisation and performance. Guitars are available to use in class.

BEGINNING PIANO

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class Standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Beginning piano focuses on the skills of playing piano and the music theory needed to create music. Students will learn piano through a varied repertoire of musical styles and genres. There will be a larger focus on music appreciation throughout the length of the course. Finally an additional focus on music technology will help students understand the process of music writing both in a creative and a music theory based model.

AP[®] MUSIC THEORY

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: Instrumental or vocal background and ability to read music in at least one clef AND teacher approval

This college-level course integrates the elements of music such as melody, harmony, texture, rhythm, form, analysis, elementary composition, and aesthetics and criticism. Students develop musicianship skills such as melodic and harmonic dictation, sight singing and listening skills. The ability to read and write musical notation is fundamental to this course, and it is assumed that the student has acquired basic performance skills on her voice or instrument. This course is highly recommended for those planning to pursue any kind of music study at the college level. *AP[®] Music Theory Exam required.*

INTRO TO THEATRE

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: None

This class introduces students to the appreciation, history, and production of theatre and allows them the opportunity to explore a variety of areas in the technical and performance sides of theatre. Students learn the roles of drama as a ritual, literature, and artistic expression. The class focuses chiefly on the role of theatre as an integral development in human society. Through instruction and projects in this class, they gain introductory knowledge and experience in the concepts and designs of technical theatre (stagecraft) areas like properties, costumes, and stage design, while also learning and applying basic performance concepts of acting and directing by workshopping short scenes.

INTERMEDIATE THEATRE

Term: 1 semester 1 credit

Class Standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: Intro to Theatre, Stagecraft, Acting OR instructor approval

This course is a continuation of the study of theatre for those seeking deeper study following completion of Intro to Theatre or for those who have shown interest in further exploring theatre artistry after securing instructor approval through demonstration of capability in extracurricular theatre. It will involve a more intensive than basic exploration of both performance and technical theatre while continuing the study of theatre history begun in Intro to Theatre.

ADVANCED THEATRE

Term: 1 semester 1 credit

Class Standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: Intermediate Theatre OR instructor approval

This course is the highest level of theatre study within Mercy's theatre curriculum. It serves as a continuation of the study of the art and craft of theatre for those who have taken Intro and Intermediate Theatre or for those who have shown serious desire to and have proven themselves capable of handling technical or performance theatre at a specialized level per instructor approval. It will involve a demanding, creative, differentiated, project-based approach to learning in which students assume a primary focus for individual projects (performing or technical) and uniquely contribute to producing a play as the creative figures responsible for its design, direction, production, and performance. Students in both areas of focus, technical and performance, come together to achieve the common goal of creating a production.

HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT

PRAYER AND LOSS

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class standing: 12

Prerequisite: None

This class is designed to first learn about and experience different styles of prayer. It will highlight the importance of relying on prayer during times of need. The process of grief will be explored in the context of the Paschal Mystery. Students are given time in class to talk about losses in their lives and learn that prayer can help them through.

GOD IN ART

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class standing: 11 -12

Prerequisite: B+ in previous Theology class

In this course, students will delve into the theological meaning and symbolism found in art, literature, film, and music. Through this multi-media course students will tap into their own creative talents and come to a deeper understanding of the Christian themes and messages referred to in the arts. Students will study common religious symbols and look at how the saints are portrayed in art. They will also view famous depictions of Biblical stories in visual art. They will find religious themes in literature and film and analyze both religious and secular music. *(This course offered alternating years. Next offering 2021-22.)*

HER-STORY: WOMEN IN THE CHURCH--online

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class standing: 11 – 12

Prerequisite: B+ in previous Theology class

This course will be offered online during the school year. The first quarter of this course will be spent studying Biblical women and female saints. During the second quarter students will be challenged to investigate modern influential Christian women and analyze issues facing their sisters in the world. Time is also spent articulating a Christian response to world problems when it comes to women. Because this is a dual enrollment class, all students will receive credit using the honors/dual enrollment grading scale. *(This course offered alternating years. Current offering 2020-21.)*

WORLD RELIGIONS

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to help students understand the key elements of religion, and compare the fundamental beliefs of Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, and others with those of Christianity. A major focus is on the beliefs and teachings that all religions hold in common, and on the significant differences between Western Religions and the Religions of the East. This course will stress a great appreciation for the various cultures and religions across the globe. *(This course offered alternating years. Current offering 2020-21.)*

LITERATURE AND FILM

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: English 10 or Honors English 10

In this elective course, eleventh and twelfth-grade students study the translation of various literary works into the genre of film. Emphasis is placed on illustrating that theme, characterization, motif, mood, and plot are concepts that apply to film as well as literature. Class time is devoted to film-watching, discussion, and analysis. On occasion, students may be asked to view some films outside of class. The essential questions for the course include: (1) How do the film techniques used to tell a story differ from those used in literature? (2) How do film techniques influence our understanding of literary elements? (3) How do the themes present in both literature and film create a universal experience? (4) Why is the film genre increasingly popular in contemporary society? (5) How do audiences receive film as opposed to how they receive literature?

CREATIVE WRITING

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: English 10 or Honors English 10

In this elective course, students improve their creative expression, as well the delivery of their own original pieces of writing. Students read and discuss articles on the craft of writing. The first quarter focuses on prose writing. Students will read and evaluate the effectiveness of fiction of varying styles. The second quarter focuses on poetry. Students will learn poetic vocabulary and analyze poems of varying styles. Throughout the semester, students will workshop each other's writing to compile a final portfolio at the end of the term. Students will be expected to deliver their writing to an audience. The essential questions for the course include: (1) How does writing shape our world? (2) How does writing elicit emotion? (3) What makes poetry unique from prose fiction? (4) How is writing a process, and how does that process aid in the production of a final product? (5) How does audience analysis influence a writer's decision-making?

WOMEN WRITERS

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: English 10 or Honors English 10

In this elective course, students engage in the study of literature by and about women. Through a critical lens, students examine the literary experiences and contributions of women writers from around the world. Students also explore how literature reveals the gender identity. Essential questions for the course include: (1) What constitutes femininity? (2) How are female roles defined by a particular society or culture? (3) How is the relationship between men and women portrayed in literature? (4) How do characters embody traditional and nontraditional gender roles? (5) What are the implications of literary canon based on the male literary experience? Composition centers on analytical essays and creative writing assignments that allow each student to make her own contribution as a woman writer. *(This course offered alternating years. Current offering 2020-21.)*

SOCRATES AND FRIENDS

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: none

This course will be an introduction to the discipline of Philosophy. It will introduce several important figures in the history of Philosophy including Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, and Kant. We will discuss questions such as “What is the soul?” “What can we know using reason?” “What is virtue?” using the Socratic method of questioning. The instructor’s role is to guide discussion and debating over the big questions. Not only will students be introduced to Philosophy, they will also understand the importance of philosophy in civil society and how Philosophy relates to Theology. *(This course offered alternating years. Next offering 2021-22.)*

MATH DEPARTMENT

GENERAL MATH

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 9

Prerequisite: Placement by School Administration

The General Math course develops and strengthens needed skills to lay the foundation for success in further high school algebra and geometry coursework. Students improve computational skills by reviewing arithmetic concepts, including extensive work with fractions, integers, and percents. Students are introduced to foundational algebra, geometry, probability, statistics, and finance concepts. The goal throughout is to develop effective problem-solving methods so students are able to apply mathematics to real-world situations.

DIRECTED ALGEBRA I

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

10 times per week (2 periods/day)

Class standing: 9-10

Prerequisite: Placement by School Administration

Directed Algebra 1 studies real, rational, and irrational numbers and variables, while exploring algebraic fractions, polynomials, probability and introductory Geometry concepts. This course meets for two class periods everyday for one year to allow students more time to practice and review concepts. Students will solve and graph linear, quadratic, and exponential equations and inequalities and learn function notation. Students will also learn how to use graphing calculators as a computational tool for solving application problems using graphical and statistical analyses. *Students must also register for Directed Algebra I Lab.*

ALGEBRA I

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 9

Prerequisite: Placement by School Administration

Algebra 1 studies real, rational, and irrational numbers and variables, while exploring algebraic fractions, polynomials, probability and introductory Geometry concepts. Students will solve and graph linear, quadratic, and exponential equations and inequalities and learn function notation. Students will also learn how to use graphing calculators as a computational tool for solving application problems using graphical and statistical analyses.

HONORS FRESHMAN GEOMETRY

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 9

Prerequisite: Placement by School Administration

Honors Freshman Geometry combines a thorough, fast-paced review of first-year Algebra skills and an accelerated version of the Geometry course. From an algebraic perspective, we will study systems of linear equations and inequalities, exponential and quadratic functions, and rational expressions and equations. We will emphasize communication and the application of mathematical concepts to “real world” situations. Geometry is the branch of mathematics studying the characteristics, measurements, and relationships of objects in space. In this course, students will further the development of their reasoning and spatial thinking skills through a variety of hands-on investigations, written assignments, use of technology, and the study of several types of formal proof. Logic patterns, data analysis, and coordinate geometry will be emphasized.

BASIC GEOMETRY

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: Directed Algebra I or Algebra I

Geometry is the branch of mathematics that studies properties, measurement, and relationships of points, lines, angles, surfaces, and solids. In this course, students will further the development of their reasoning and special thinking skills through a variety of hands-on investigations, written assignments, and use of technology. Although this class is not proof oriented, there will be emphasis on application problems and strengthening arithmetic and algebra skills.

GEOMETRY

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: C- in Algebra I, B+ in Directed Algebra I, or Department approval

Geometry is the branch of mathematics that studies properties, measurement, and relationships of points, lines, angles, surfaces, and solids. In this course, students will further the development of their reasoning and special thinking skills through a variety of hands-on investigations, written assignments, use of technology, and the study of several types of formal proof. Logic patterns, data analysis, and coordinate geometry will be emphasized. Applications of geometry can be observed in many venues, such as interior design, architecture, and in nature. We will discuss these connections throughout the year.

INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: Geometry or Basic Geometry

Intermediate Algebra will review and expand on algebra skills and concepts learned in previous math courses. This class will focus on the following topics: operations on real number expressions, solving and graphing linear equations and inequalities, absolute value equations and inequalities, polynomial functions and factoring, exponents, square roots, and systems of linear equations and inequalities including applications.

ALGEBRA II

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: C- in Geometry or A in Basic Geometry, or Algebra II Prep/Intermediate Algebra

Algebra II is an extension of Algebra I and Geometry. This class includes working with real and complex numbers, linear equations and inequalities, matrices, various functions and graphs, rational functions, and logarithms. Usage of graphing calculators will be used to enhance the curriculum. Applying the content to story problems, projects, and assessments will be addressed throughout the course. Graphing calculator (TI-83 or TI-84) required.

HONORS ALGEBRA II

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 10-11

Prerequisite: B- in Honors Freshman Geometry or A in Geometry, plus strong Standardized Math Scores

Honors Algebra II is an extension of Algebra I and Geometry and moves at an accelerated pace. This class includes working with real and complex numbers, linear equations and inequalities, matrices, various functions and graphs, rational functions, and logarithms. Usage of graphing calculators will be used to enhance the curriculum. Applying the content to story problems, projects, and assessments will be addressed throughout the course. Graphing calculator (TI-83 or TI-84) required.

INTRO TO TRIGONOMETRY

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: Algebra II

Trigonometry is the study of the properties of triangles, trigonometric functions and their properties. Using definitions of trigonometric functions of angles, students will find relationships between the sides and the angles and sides of triangles. Students will also define trig functions in a larger way that does not require the use of triangles. These functions are of interest, in part, because they can be used to model periodic behavior in nature. Trig is used widely in engineering, applied science, and navigation. This course will focus mainly on trigonometry functions and radians. Graphing calculator (TI-83 or TI-84) required. *This course, when paired with Intro to Statistics, meets UNL's requirement for a 4th year math class.*

INTRO TO STATISTICS

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: Algebra II

The study of statistics is the mathematics of the collection, organization, and interpretation of numerical data. This course will focus on averages and variation, regression and correlation, binomial probability distribution, normal distributions, and estimation. Graphing calculator (TI-83 or TI-84) required. *This course, when paired with Intro to Trigonometry, meets UNL's requirement for a 4th year math class.*

AP[®] STATISTICS

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: Honors Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, Honors Pre-Calculus, or B+ in Algebra II

Advanced Placement[®] Statistics is a collegiate-level statistics course that introduces students to the foundational skills necessary for collecting, evaluating, and drawing conclusions from statistical data sets. As detailed by the College Board, AP[®] Statistics emphasizes the key elements of data analysis, during which “students are exposed to four broad conceptual themes: (1) Exploring Data: Describing patterns and departures from patterns, (2) Sampling and Experimentation: Planning and conducting a study, (3) Anticipating Patterns: Exploring random phenomena using probability and simulation, and (4) Statistical Inference: Estimating population parameters and testing hypotheses.” This course is equivalent to a one-semester non-calculus based university level statistics class, and students are able to earn college credit if they choose to dual-enroll or through their performance on the end of year AP[®] exam. *AP[®] Statistics Exam required if student is not dual-enrolled.*

PRE-CALCULUS

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: Honors Alg II, C- in Algebra II, or Intro to Trigonometry and Statistics

Pre-Calculus will study functions: their definitions, equations, graphs, inverses, composition, and applications. Linear, polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic and trigonometric functions are studied in depth, laying the groundwork for the study of calculus. Graphing calculator (TI-83 or TI-84) required. *This course meets UNL's requirements for a 4th year math class.*

HONORS PRE-CALCULUS

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: B- in Honors Alg II or A- in Algebra II

Honors Pre-Calculus will study functions at an accelerated pace and begin the study of calculus. This course will focus on functions: their definitions, equations, graphs, inverses, composition, and applications. Linear, polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic and trigonometric functions are studied in depth. Students will also study calculus concepts such as techniques of limits and differentiation. Graphing calculator (TI-83 or TI-84) required. *This course meets UNL's requirements for a 4th year math class.*

AP[®] CALCULUS AB

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: C+ in Honors Pre-Calculus, B+ in Pre-Calculus, plus strong Standardized Test Scores and Dept. Approval

AP[®] Calculus AB applies students' mathematical skills to the study of function behavior. The concepts and techniques of limits, differentiation, and integration are explored and applied to polynomial, rational, exponential, and trigonometric functions. These powerful concepts allow students to solve important problems involving rates of change, optimization, motion, and measurement. Graphical interpretations are emphasized throughout, aided by the use of graphing calculators. This course is intended to prepare students for the Advanced Placement[®] Calculus AB exam in May. Graphing calculator (TI-83 or TI-84) required. *AP[®] Calculus AB Exam required.*

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

PHYSICAL EDUCATION I

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: None

PE I is a program that provides each student the opportunity to participate in a comprehensive program that consists of skill development, lead up games and team sports. The students will receive instruction in rules, skills and strategies associated with the different sports. The class will promote the spirit of cooperation, leadership, fair play and friendly competition.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION II

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: P.E. I

PE II is designed to teach and introduce students to different sports and activities that they may carry into their later years. The goal of this class is to instill the importance of physical activity as they continue to grow as teenagers, as well as, into their adult years. This goal will be accomplished with continued participation in different sports skills and activities throughout their lives.

STRENGTH TRAINING

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: P.E. II

This elective course helps students improve muscular strength and endurance through a variety of strength training techniques including resistance bands, free weights and selectorized machines. Students also study the concepts of strength training & conditioning.

FITNESS FOR LIFE

Term: 1 Semester ½ Credit

3 times per week

Class standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: P.E. II

This course will focus on students achieving and maintaining a level of physical fitness for health and performance while demonstrating knowledge of fitness concepts and strategies. Students will establish personal fitness goals, using principles of aerobics, strength and core training. Students will engage in vigorous activities. This course will include both physical and written assignments.

DANCE FITNESS

Term: 1 Semester ½ Credit

3 times per week

Class standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Dance Fitness is a group exercise class that will incorporate some or many forms of dance. It is an aerobic workout, divided into different tracks that provide peaks and troughs of intensity. The overall intensity of the class varies depending on the style you are doing. In this course you will get to explore Yoga, Pilates, Zumba, Barre, and Hip Hop dance.

HEALTH

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to help students explore current health issues, evaluate personal attitudes towards health-related matters, and make informed decisions about choosing health-enhancing behavior. Students complete the Heart Association CPR/First Aid certification program.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

BASIC BIOLOGY

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 9

Prerequisite: Placement by School Administration

This is a general introduction to the life sciences with a lower emphasis on biochemistry. The main concepts of ecology, cell structure and function, energy acquisition and transfer, reproduction, genetics, evolution and diversity and classification of life forms are studied. Students will master microscope usage and perform laboratory activities as they relate to topics being studied.

BIOLOGY

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 9

Prerequisite: Placement by School Administration

This course is a general introduction to the life sciences. The main concepts of ecology, cell structure and function, energy acquisition and transfer, reproduction, genetics, evolution, and the diversity and classification of life forms are studied. Students will master microscope usage and perform laboratory activities as they relate to topics being studied.

HONORS BIOLOGY

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 9

Prerequisite: Placement by School Administration

This class is for those students who have a deep interest in and very solid understand of science. This course includes the study of ecology, cell structure and function, energy acquisition and transfer, mitosis, meiosis, genetics, evolution, and the diversity and classification of life forms. Students will master microscope usage and perform laboratory activities as they relate to topics being studied. These topics are studied in depth and at a fast pace.

INTEGRATED SCIENCE

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 10

Prerequisite: Basic Biology or Biology

The purpose of this course is to give students the foundation they will need in order to be successful in their future science courses. It will provide students with an overview of chemistry, physics and anatomy and physiology through lectures, labs and use of technology. During the anatomy and physiology unit, students will be learning the 11 systems of the human body. Main and support organs' form and function will be discussed. Topics covered in the physics unit will include: thermal energy, heat transfer, light, and properties of waves. The chemistry unit will cover the basics of the atom, the periodic table, physical and chemical properties, mixtures and reactions.

BASIC CHEMISTRY

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: Algebra I or Directed Algebra I

This course combines the core concepts of chemistry with societal issues. Students will learn basic concepts including basic mole concepts, atomic structure and bonding, and balancing equations. Activities, online research, and lab investigations and virtual labs allow exploration of how chemistry relates to supplying our water needs, conserving chemical resources, petroleum, understanding food composition, air and climate, and health. A variety of student decision-making activities encourages small group learning and cooperation, and prepares students for effective citizenship. Students will also learn basic lab techniques and an understanding of basic chemistry models.

CHEMISTRY

Term: 1 year 2 credits

5 times per week

Class standing 10-12

Prerequisite: C in Biology or B in Basic Biology AND B in Directed Algebra I or C in higher math class

Students in this course study topics including the metric system, atomic structure, especially electron structure, development of periodic table, chemical bonding, formulas and reactions. Students will also study mole concepts, stoichiometry, gas laws, solids, liquids and analyze solutions. Work includes experiments, research papers, projects, and demonstrations. Lab techniques are stressed throughout the course.

HONORS CHEMISTRY

Term: 1 year 2 credits

5 times per week

Class standing 10

Prerequisite: A in Biology AND A in Algebra I or B+ in Honors Biology AND B+ in higher math class

This course is for those students who have a deep interest in and very solid understanding of science. Students in this course study topics including: properties of matter, scientific measurement, atomic structure, electron configuration, periodic table and its trends, chemical bonding, chemical nomenclature, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, states of matter, gases, solution chemistry and thermochemistry. Work includes experiments, projects, research papers, and demonstrations. Lab techniques are stressed throughout the course. These topics are studied in depth and at a fast pace. This course is strongly encouraged for students wanting to take AP[®] Chemistry in the future.

HUMAN ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY I

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: C in Biology AND in Chemistry OR an A in Basic Biology AND in Basic Chemistry

This is a challenging and demanding in-depth course on the human body. Students are expected to do a large amount of reading and to take notes on the reading in order to be ready to participate in daily discussions. It is recommended for anyone considering the healthcare professions as well as for students who want to learn more about their own bodies. Systems covered include: skeletal, digestive, male reproductive, female reproductive, and standard directional terms, cavities, and membranes. Diseases/disorders that affect the body systems being studied are also discussed.

Dissection is required.

HUMAN ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY II

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class Standing 11-12

Prerequisite: Anatomy & Physiology I

This course is a continuation of Human Anatomy & Physiology I. Human body systems studied include cardiovascular, muscular, integumentary, and blood along with associated diseases and disorders.

AP[®] BIOLOGY

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 11- 12

Prerequisite: A in Biology (both semesters) or B+ in Honors Biology and A in Chemistry (both semesters) or B+ in Honors Chemistry, plus strong Standardized Test Scores and Dept. Approval

This course is designed to enable students to develop advanced inquiry and reasoning skills, such as designing a plan for collecting data, analyzing data, applying mathematical routines, and connecting concepts in and across a variety of topics. The following "Four Big Ideas" are covered: 1. The process of evolution drives the diversity and unity of life 2. Biological systems utilize free energy and molecular building blocks to grow, to reproduce and to maintain dynamic homeostasis. 3. Living systems store, retrieve, transmit and respond to information essential to life processes, 4. Biological systems interact, and these systems and their interactions possess complex properties. ***AP[®] Biology Exam required.***

AP[®] CHEMISTRY

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: A in Chemistry, plus strong Standardized Test Scores and Dept. Approval

Corequisite: AP[®] Chemistry Lab

This course provides an intense study of chemistry equivalent to a college course with topics including atomic structure and properties, molecular and ionic compound structure and properties, intermolecular forces and properties, chemical reactions, kinetics, thermodynamics, equilibrium, acids and bases, and applications of thermodynamics. The aim of this course is to develop problem-solving skills in chemistry through a logical approach to quantitative problems, laboratory work, and analysis of chemical reactions. Students are also required to register for the AP[®] Chemistry Lab Class which meets two days a week in addition to this five-day-a-week class. ***AP[®] Chemistry Exam required.***

AP[®] CHEMISTRY LAB

Term: 1 Year 0 Credits

2 times per week

Class standing: 11-12

Corequisite: AP[®] Chemistry

This class will be scheduled so that it runs back-to-back with the above lecture class to allow for double periods for labs two days a week. This laboratory program challenges students to think analytically, understand problems, design and carry out experiments, manipulate data acquired, draw conclusions, evaluate and propose further questions for study, and to accurately communicate their conclusions in a written laboratory report. This course will include a variety of detailed laboratory experiences, some of which use computer-interfaced probes.

CONCEPTUAL PHYSICS

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: Chemistry or Basic Chemistry

This course provides a conceptually-based exposure to the fundamental principles and processes of the physical world. Topics include basic concepts of motion, forces, energy, heat, electricity, magnetism, and the structure of matter and the universe. Upon completion, students should be able to describe examples and applications of the principles studied. Laboratory experiments and computer-based exercises enhance and consolidate the understanding of basic physical principles and applications.

PHYSICS

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: B in Algebra II or by permission

Physics is the study of motion, the forces that cause motion, and the various forms of energy associated with these including sounds, light and electricity. Emphasis is placed on problem solving and using problems to expand understanding of the principles in physics. Because the language of physics is essentially mathematics, a working knowledge of algebra, geometry, and basic trigonometry is suggested for this course. Various activities will be performed to examine these physical phenomena, either through computer simulations or experiments performed in the classroom.

PRINCIPLES OF GEOLOGY

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: None

This is an introductory course that studies the forces that shape planet Earth. How these forces interact with each other and affect living things will be analyzed.

ECOLOGY

Term: 1 semester 1 credit

5 times per week

Class standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: none

Ecology will study the interactions of living things with each other and their environment. Topics of study include; earth as a dynamic system, nutrient cycling, structure & functioning of ecosystems, species interactions and the effect on populations, biodiversity and extinction, environmental policy and ecosystem health.

ASTRONOMY

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: None

The universe is vast and ever-changing. Using simulation software which can be run on their iPads, students will gradually travel ever outwards to explore the wonders of our universe and discover our place in it. The topics covered in this course include a brief history of astronomy, the formation of our solar system, planetary and orbital motion, characteristics of planets, the lifecycle of stars, supernovae, white dwarfs, pulsars, black holes, distances of stars and galaxies, the possibility of life on other planets, and the history and future of space exploration.

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

WORLD HISTORY

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 10

Prerequisite: None

Either World History or Honors World History is required sophomore year

The primary purpose of this course is to provide both an understanding and an appreciation of the diverse history and multitude of cultures in the world both past and present. By examining the evolution of civilization, we can better understand where we come from and where we need to go. We study the beginnings of civilization with the creations of farming and river valley-based societies, the subsequent origins of the world's major religious traditions, the formations of empires and states, and discuss the impact leaders and cultures have had on the world.

HONORS WORLD HISTORY

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: A- in English 9 or B+ in Honors English 9, plus strong Standardized Test Scores, on-demand writing assessment, and Dept. Approval

Either World History or Honors World History is required sophomore year, but Honors World History can be an elective during junior or senior year.

This course spans the Neolithic age to the present in a rigorous academic format organized by chronological periods and viewed through fundamental concepts and course themes. Students analyze the causes and processes of continuity and change across historical periods. Themes include human-environment interaction, cultures, expansion and conflict, political and social structures, and economic systems. In addition to mastering historical content, students cultivate historical thinking skills that involve crafting arguments based on evidence, identifying causation, comparing and supplying context for events and phenomenon, and developing historical interpretation. The course will also encourage the use of students' writing skills through topical essays and research papers. This course meets the World History requirement for graduation from Mercy High School.

U.S. HISTORY

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 11

Prerequisite: World History or Honors World History

United States History is a year-long two-semester course analyzing the origins of the American nation in the Founding Era and the Civil War and then concentrates on the emergence of the modern era from the beginnings of the Industrial Revolution in 1870 to the fall of communism in 1989 and into the present. The course prepares students to grapple with fundamental questions concerning the history of the United States from the proper role of government in a representative democracy to the role of social movements in shaping the character of the American experience. Close attention will be paid to the role of America in world affairs as well as examining how the economic conditions and policies have shaped the response of government and ordinary citizens alike. At the conclusion of the course students will have a ready command of the details of American history, allowing them both the historical perspective to comment on particulars as well as inform their thinking regarding current issues.

AP[®] U.S. HISTORY

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 11

Prerequisite: A- in World History & A- in English, B+ in AP[®] World History & B+ in Honors English 10, plus strong Standardized Test Scores, on-demand writing assessment, and Dept. Approval

The Advanced Placement[®] United States History course allows students to examine the intellectual, cultural, political, diplomatic, social and economic developments of US History since European settlements began in the early 1600's. The goals of the course are to a) provide a basic narrative of events and movements, b) develop an understanding of seven principal themes in US history, c) develop an ability to analyze historical evidence and historical interpretation, and d) develop an ability to express historical understanding in writing. This course is designed to help prepare the student for college and success on the College Board Advanced Placement[®] United States History Exam. Students who are taking the course, who are not dual-enrolled, are required to take the AP exam. Students are required to read college level texts, take notes in a lecture format, and write essays. The course is divided into units which consist of lecture outlines, discussion of required readings, document sets, and PowerPoint presentations that contain photographs of important individuals, maps, graphs, charts, and the interpretation of visual images.

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class standing: 12

Prerequisite: World History and U.S. History

This course provides students with a background in the philosophy, functions, and structure of the United States government. We take an in-depth look at the U.S. Constitution and the institutions that make up our government. We also consider our laws and court cases that impact the way we live and work. Students participate in activities such as mock elections, mock trials, amendment creation, and evaluation of pieces of legislation.

AP[®] U.S. GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class standing: 12

Prerequisite: A- in U. S. History or B+ in AP[®] U. S. History, plus strong Standardized Test Scores, on-demand writing assessment, and Dept. Approval

In AP[®] Government, students will engage in an in-depth study of the make-up and functions of the United States' Government and the American political system. The goal of the course will be twofold: first, to provide students with a working knowledge of American government and politics which will serve them later in life; and, to prepare students to take the United States Government and Politics Advanced Placement[®] Exam (required for students who are not dual-enrolled). The course will examine, among a variety of topics, the three branches of the federal government, the presidential and Congressional election process, the influence of the various kinds of funding on the political process, and an introduction to Constitutional law with the study of significant Supreme Court decisions, both past and current. AP[®] Government is the equivalent to an introductory college-level American Government course. The demands of the course are rigorous.

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: None

This course examines current issues in the world and their connection to our lives. It follows the *Great Decisions* curriculum from the Foreign Policy Association, an organization created by President Woodrow Wilson to promote knowledge of world events. *Great Decisions* topics in the recent past have included the state of the oceans, energy geopolitics, the Arab Spring, and U.S. border issues. Rather than a textbook, course information draws from current media sources.

WORLDWIDE WANDERERS

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Where in the world would you like to go, if you had the chance? This class focuses on understanding cultures across the globe to help you answer that question. We look at destinations and famous landmarks from over 50 countries to give you a taste of what it might be like to visit. We discuss differences in government, religion, language, and food in various parts of the world. Students will learn about the many treasures world traveling has to offer them.

SOCIOLOGY

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: None

How do you fit in today's society? This course introduces students to the sociological perspective by examining various components of society. We study the use of culture and social structure in the world around us. Students will learn about the development of human personality and relationships. We will discuss social inequality in its various forms and look at changes that are occurring in the social world today. (*This course offered alternating years. Next offering: 2021-22.*)

STREET LAW

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: None

This course incorporates discussion of civil, criminal, and consumer laws and responsibilities. We discuss the roles of lawyers, policemen, and citizens in the court system. We debate controversial cases and how they impact our society. Students will have opportunities to participate in role playing activities, listen to speakers, and visit the correctional facility. Learn about your rights as a citizen and how to protect them. (*This course offered alternating years. Current offering: 2020-21.*)

ECONOMICS

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times a week

Class Standing: 12

Prerequisite: AP[®] US History or U.S. History

Economics is a one-semester required course for students in Grade 12 that addresses essential concepts necessary for students to completely and effectively participate in a complex global society. Content encompasses both microeconomic and macroeconomic principles. Key elements include the study of scarcity, supply and demand, market structures, the role of government, national income determination, money, and the roles of financial institutions and trade. The course will encourage students to develop skills for understanding how economies function, recognizing economic and social problems, and evaluating costs and benefits of choices. Instructional activities address decisions made regarding public policy, including their impact on current economic issues.

THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT

THEOLOGY 9

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 9

Prerequisite: None

The purpose of this course is to give students general knowledge and appreciation of the Sacred Scriptures. Through their study of the scriptures they will come to encounter the living Word of God, Jesus Christ. They will look at the ways God has revealed himself and most specifically how Jesus Christ is the most complete revelation of God. Exploring the Gospels and the vital messages from the Gospels will aid students in coming to a deeper understanding of guidelines for living a Christian life. They will also introduce themselves to the mystery of Jesus Christ, which begins with the incarnation and was complete with His ascension into heaven. In this course students will understand that Jesus Christ is the ultimate Revelation to us from God. In learning about who He is, the students will also learn who He calls them to be.

THEOLOGY 10

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 10

Prerequisite: None

The first semester of this course explores the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ and second semester looks at how Jesus' mission was and is carried out in His church. Students will delve into the goodness of creation and our fall from grace, the promise of the Messiah, how we are redeemed through the paschal mystery, and the moral implications for the life of the believer. Students will discover how Christ established the church. By exploring the history of the Catholic Church, students will come to a deeper understanding of the evolution of theological thought and practice. Students will also evaluate many images of the church and the Marks of the Church.

THEOLOGY 11

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 11

Prerequisite: None

This course focuses first on the sacramental nature of the church and the seven official sacraments of the Roman Catholic Church. Students will reflect on the meaning, symbols and rituals associated with each sacrament, and will be encouraged to adopt a sacramental awareness of the sacredness of life. Attention will also be given to the historical development of the Sacraments. The second half of the course centers on our moral life and our call as Christians to respond like Jesus Christ to situations, issues and decisions. Students will be encouraged to look to the example and teachings of Jesus as a moral guide. Students also discuss the reality of sin and its effects on our community and relationship with God. Special attention will be given to a modern interpretation of the Ten Commandments and a Christian response to these challenging situations.

THEOLOGY 12

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 12

Prerequisite: None

This first semester of this course explores the rich tradition of Catholic Social Teaching through an in-depth study of official Church documents, Scripture, modern social theories, and current societal/global issues. The purpose of the class is to engage students in critical analysis of the social structures of the world which lead to injustice and violence, and evaluate and create – from a Christian perspective – alternative structures aimed at creating a more just and peaceful world. Social sin and its personal and societal consequences will also be explored. The second semester of this course will focus on vocations. This part of the course first and foremost focuses on the essential relationship with God. Next it explores how to live out Jesus' call through vocational choice which leads to extensive studies of single life, married life and religious life. Also studied are relationships with self, healthy relationships with others and human sexuality. Through this course students learn how to “Love one another as Jesus has loved you.” (John 13:34).

SOCIAL JUSTICE PLUS

Term: 1 Semester 1 Credit

5 times per week

Class Standing: 12

Prerequisite: None

This unique class is designed to give students the chance to participate in an ongoing service project. As they answer God's call to service, they will also have opportunities in a classroom setting to process everything they are learning in their Social Justice class and see how it applies in the Omaha community. Class time will be spent analyzing social justice issues, while formulating plans to help solve world issues. This class also ties in with the strong charism and commitment the Sisters of Mercy have to service. This is a hands-on, experiential class.

WORLD LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

FRENCH I

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: Recommendation by school administration

The goal of this course is to develop proficiency in the basic language skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing, and to create cultural awareness of daily French life. Specifically, the course includes vocabulary and verbs used in greeting and making introductions, telling time and giving dates, going places and participating in activities, ordering and eating at a cafe, describing people and explaining family relationships, making purchases, talking about school supplies and classes, showing location with prepositions, and discussing the weather. Special cultural units include the geography of France and the monuments and history of Paris.

FRENCH II

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: C- in French I

This course is a continuation of the basic language skills learned in French I. More advanced vocabulary and grammar are presented to improve and reinforce students' proficiency. Specifically, the course emphasizes vocabulary and verbs used in buying and wearing clothing, making comparisons and expressing preferences, discussing health and visiting the doctor, talking about one's daily routine, buying and selling at the market or specialty stores, setting a table at home and eating at a French restaurant, giving directions to places in town, welcoming guests and showing them around one's home, and telling about past events. Special cultural units include regions of France and other francophone parts of the world.

FRENCH III

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: C in French II

This course reviews the vocabulary and grammar presented in French I and II, introduces more complex structures, and continues to develop the fundamental language skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Specifically, the course emphasizes vocabulary and verbs used in celebrating holidays and going to places like festivals, museums, and the theater, doing house and yard work, getting dressed and using toiletries, expressing opinions and giving advice, talking about jobs and professions, describing people, things, events and conditions in the present and past, and discussing future plans. Cultural units include Québec and the history of French art. As a dual credit course with Nebraska Wesleyan University, Juniors and Seniors in French III can receive four credit hours of first semester sophomore-level college French. Because this is a dual enrollment class, all students will receive credit using the honors/dual enrollment grading scale.

FRENCH IV

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: C in French III

This course reviews the vocabulary and grammar presented in French I, II, and III, introduces more complex structures, and continues to develop the fundamental language skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Students are encouraged to communicate in French, using all verb tenses and moods, idiomatic expressions and special constructions. Specifically, the course emphasizes vocabulary and verbs used in taking classes at school, going to an amusement park, using tools, describing a crime, expressing needs, desires and feelings, interviewing and being interviewed, giving and following directions, discussing animals and plants, weather, and natural phenomena. Cultural units include the kings of France and their châteaux, and the French Revolution. As a dual credit course with Nebraska Wesleyan University, Juniors and Seniors in French IV can receive four credit hours of second semester sophomore-level college French. Because this is a dual enrollment class, all students will receive credit using the honors/dual enrollment grading scale.

FRENCH V

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: B- in French IV

This course prepares students for continued study at the university and for international travel with emphasis on perfecting grammatical concepts and expanding vocabulary. As a dual credit course with Nebraska Wesleyan University, Juniors and Seniors in French V can receive four credit hours of second semester sophomore-level college French. Because this is a dual enrollment class, all students will receive credit using the honors/dual enrollment grading scale.

SPANISH I

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: recommendation by the school administration

The goal of this course is to develop proficiency in the basic language skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing, and to create cultural awareness of daily Spanish life. Specifically, this course includes vocabulary and verbs used in describing food, family, school, and other aspects of the daily life. Special cultural lessons include traditions from Spain and Latin American countries.

SPANISH II

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: C- in Spanish I

This course is a continuation of the basic language skills learned in Spanish I. More advanced vocabulary and grammar are presented to improve and reinforce students' proficiency. Specifically, the course is designed to provide a more in-depth study of the compound verb tenses of present, past, and future, as well as an introduction to more complex tenses. Specifically, this course includes vocabulary and verbs used in describing one's day at school, extracurricular activities, pastimes, news and television, and other aspects of the community. Special cultural lessons include studies of Spanish speaking countries and introduction to poetry and short stories.

SPANISH III

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: B- in Spanish II

This course reviews the vocabulary and grammar presented in Spanish I and II, introduces more complex grammatical structures, and continues to develop the fundamental language skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. This course presents a comprehensive study of all verb tenses. Specifically, the course emphasizes vocabulary and verbs used to describe nutrition and health, jobs in the community, and citizenship responsibilities. Cultural units involve short readings from Spanish speaking countries. Because this is a dual enrollment class, all students will receive credit using the honors/dual enrollment grading scale.

SPANISH IV

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: B- in Spanish III

This course reviews the vocabulary and grammar presented in Spanish I, II, and III, introduces more complex structures, and continues to develop the fundamental language skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Students are encouraged to communicate in Spanish, using all verb tenses and moods, idiomatic expressions and special constructions. The emphasis of this course is to prepare the students for an upper-level university Spanish course. It includes a survey of the works of prominent authors in the Spanish speaking and a comprehensive review of grammar. Students participate in creative writing, conversation, and discussion, and analysis of local and global issues in the Spanish speaking world. Because this is a dual enrollment class, all students will receive credit using the honors/dual enrollment grading scale.

SPANISH V

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 12

Prerequisite: B- in Spanish IV

This is a literature and culture course designed to provide students with a learning experience equivalent to that of an introductory college literature course. This course includes reading, discussing, and writing about Spanish literature from Spain, Latin America, and the United States. The overarching aims of this course are to provide students with ongoing and varied opportunities to further develop their proficiencies across the full range of language skills with special attention to critical reading and analytical writing and to encourage them to reflect on the many voices and cultures included in the literature.

SPANISH FOR SPANISH SPEAKERS I

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: Must have a Spanish speaking background.

This course will focus on the unique challenges faced by students who speak Spanish fluently, but may have difficulty reading and writing the language. It will involve an in depth study of the intricacies of Spanish grammar and language structure, a study of Spanish language literature, as well as an investigation of the culture, history, and literature of Spanish speaking peoples around the world. This course is taught exclusively in Spanish.

SPANISH FOR SPANISH SPEAKERS II

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

5 times per week

Class standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: C- in Spanish for Spanish Speakers I

This course will be an extension of what is learned in Spanish for Spanish Speakers I. Students will move beyond the technical aspects of grammar, to a more focused study and appreciation of media and literature in the Spanish language, as well as honing their ability to write, speak, and otherwise express themselves in Spanish. Students will learn about and discuss contemporary and historical themes that make up part of the Latin American experience.

Notes:

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