

Alternative School Course Descriptions

Science

Physical Science: (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Science)

This course is designed to provide students with the basic concepts of physical science and fulfills the science requirements for Illinois high school students. The major areas of study are applied to contemporary uses and issues.

Major topics covered in this course: scientific method, matter, velocity, motion, energy, force, work and machines, heat, electricity, magnetism, types of waves, Newton's Laws, power, thermal energy and computers.

Technological Sciences: (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Science)

This is the second semester and continuation of the physical science course. This course is designed to build upon the concepts studied in the first semester and continue to focus on contemporary uses of scientific concepts and the effect on current advances in technology.

Major topics covered in this course: sound, light, lenses and lasers, matter, periodic table of elements, compounds and bonding, water and solutions, chemical reactions, acids, energy sources and energy concerns.

Biological/Health Science: (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Science or Health)

This course is designed as an interdisciplinary science and health course that focuses on the major concepts and theories of the Life Sciences, Biology and Health. This course fulfills the health requirement for Illinois high school students.

Major topics covered in this course: scientific method, branches of Biology, properties of matter, cell theories, organ systems, photosynthesis, glycolysis, genetics, heredity, aquatic biomes, population growth, healthy food choices, environmental effects on health, circulatory system, fighting diseases, respiratory system, viruses, ecosystems, first aid.

Advanced Concepts in Biological/Health Science: (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Science or Health)

This course is the second semester and continuation of the Biological/Health Sciences I course. This course is designed as an interdisciplinary science and health course that focuses on the major concepts and theories of the Life Sciences, Biology and Health. This course fulfills the health requirement for Illinois high school students.

Major topics covered in this course: genetic engineering, DNA, plant growth, instincts and survival, digestive system, immune system, prevention of AIDS, drug and alcohol abuse, tobacco, air and water pollution, endangered species, conservation, transmission of blood diseases, hormones, balanced diet, nutrients, cancer and treatments.

Earth Science: (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Science)

This course is designed to provide students with the basic concepts of the four Earth Sciences: Astronomy, Geology, Meteorology and Oceanography. Each of these are brought into focus by using topics that are relevant to contemporary issues relevant to planet Earth.

Major topics covered in this course: scientific method, maps, longitude and latitude, Earth's rotation and revolution, the moon, Earth's chemistry, rocks and minerals, plate tectonics, earthquakes and volcanoes, clocks and time zones, weathering and erosion, energy resources conservation and acid rain.

Advanced Concepts in Earth Science: (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Science)

This course is the second semester and continuation of Earth Sciences. Continued emphasis is placed upon the relevance of scientific concepts and their effects on current issues and concerns.

Major topics covered in this course: Earth's history, atmosphere and wind, weather and climate, the ocean, water resources, the continents, constellations, global warming, the solar system, the moon, meteors, asteroids and calendars.

Environmental Science: (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Science)

This course is designed to address the major issues occurring in the environment. It stresses the importance of understanding environmental problems and gaining insight into how organisms, including humans interact with the environment.

Major topics covered in this course: a global perspective of the environment, living things in ecosystems, how ecosystems work, kinds of ecosystems, water resources, water pollution, air pollution, the atmosphere and climate.

Advanced Concepts in Environmental Science: (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Science)

This course is the second semester and continuation of Environmental Science. It continues to address the major issues in the environment. It deals with public policy concerning environmental issues, both in the United States and abroad.

Major topics covered in this course: land use, feeding the world's population, pest control, biodiversity, energy issues, waste disposal, population growth, current and future environmental policies.

Vocational

Work Coop Business Class: (Semester Course, ½ Credit per semester for Business Education)

This is a required course for all students in the Alternative High School program. Students receive ½ academic credit for each semester enrolled in the Freshman Business Class, Sophomore Business Class, Junior Business Class or the Senior Business Class.

These courses are designed to prepare students to make the transition from school to work. These courses will provide a background in the characteristics to be successful in the business community. Course content will emphasize organizational skills, management and ethics. Career and educational opportunities will also be explored.

Major topics covered in these courses: job leads, applications, resume, letters of recommendation, job satisfaction, taxes, budgeting, banking, insurance, entrepreneurship, interviewing, career exploration and business ethics.

Work Coop and Work Mentoring Experience: (Semester Course, ½ to 1 Credit per semester for work or community service experience)

This course is designed to provide students the opportunity to receive credit for obtaining work experience at an approved job or community service site. This course is only available to students enrolled in the Work Coop Business class. Students may receive ½ academic credit for working an average of 12 hours per week or 1 full academic credit for working an average of 20 hours per week.

Language Arts

Freshman Language Arts: (Semester Course, ½ credit for English)

Students will read, interpret, analyze, and evaluate various forms of literature that is appropriate at the freshman level of study. Students will also be required to write compositions/essays based on the interpretation of the literature as well as other forms of personal and public writing for a variety of audiences. Comprehension of literary terms and vocabulary will be stressed to expand and improve the student's skills.

The major topics studied in this course: character, plot, theme, symbolism, listening skills, grammar skills, analyzing literary themes, vocabulary development, mood and flashbacks, chronological transitions, debate, writing skills and development, elements of research, critiquing ideas, metaphors, similes, puns, synonyms, antonyms and satire.

Freshman Language Arts II: (Semester Course, ½ credit for English)

This course is the second semester and continuation of the Freshman Language Arts course. Students will continue to read, interpret, and analyze various forms of literature that is appropriate at the freshman level of study. Emphasis will be placed on research activities and the various forms of written expression throughout this course.

The major topics covered in this course: elements of drama, idioms, imagery, persuasive writing, vocabulary development, personification suspense, metaphors, poetry, planning, drafting and revising a written report.

Sophomore Language Arts: (Semester Course, ½ credit for English)

Students will read, interpret, analyze, and evaluate various forms of literature that is appropriate at the sophomore level of study. Students will also be required to write compositions/essays based on the interpretation of the literature as well as other forms of personal and public writing for a variety of audiences. Comprehension of literary terms and vocabulary will be stressed to expand and improve the student's skills.

The major topics covered in this course: elements of fiction, flashback, analyzing literary contrast, identifying mood, critiquing ideas and impressions, using active reading skills, elements of nonfiction, developing outlines, applying listening skills, figurative language, verbal and nonverbal messages, descriptive language, conflict and resolution, elements of poetry, examining imagery, examining rhyme, elements of an autobiography, identifying theme, persuasive essays, autobiographical essays, development of a narrative essay and writing editorials.

Sophomore Language Arts II: (Semester Course, ½ credit for English)

This course is the second semester and continuation of the Sophomore Language Arts course. Students will continue to read, interpret, and analyze various forms of literature that is appropriate at the sophomore level of study. Emphasis will be placed on research activities and the various forms of written expression throughout this course.

The major topics covered in this course: delivering a persuasive speech, research skills, irony, active listening skills, synonyms, satire, active reading skills, interpersonal conflict, communication anxiety, exposition, primary and secondary sources, analogies, foreshadowing, reading with fluency and accuracy, farce, stereotype, revising, editing, publishing, suspense, development of a research paper, thesis statement, one-act plays and first-person narrative.

Introduction to American Literature: (Semester Course, ½ credit for English)

This course is the study of American literature and famous authors from its beginnings to the present. Students will also be required to write compositions/essays based on the interpretation

of the literature as well as other forms of personal and public writing for a variety of audiences. Comprehension of literary terms and vocabulary will be stressed to expand and improve the student's skills.

The major topics to be covered in this course: author expression, Puritan Tradition, sequence events, use of Time Lines, persuasive writing, literary interpretation, life philosophies, impromptu speaking, gothic style, historical issues, oral literature and folk tales.

Advanced Readings and Writings American Literature: (Semester Course, ½ credit for English) This course is the second semester and continuation of the Introduction to American Literature course. Students will continue to study the literature and famous authors of the 19th and 20th centuries. Students will be required to write compositions/essays based on the interpretation of the literature as well as other forms of personal and public writing for a variety of audiences. Comprehension of literary terms and vocabulary will continue to be stressed to expand and improve the student's skills

The major topics to be covered in this course: poetry, public speaking, monologue, communication skills, Black literature, literary interpretation, revolution, evaluating oral messages, research skills, dramatic irony and structure, questioning information, thesis, tragic hero, cause and effect and use of charts.

Introduction to World Literature: (Semester Course, ½ credit for English)
This course is the study of World and British literature and famous authors from its beginnings to the present. Students will also be required to write compositions/essays based on the interpretation of the literature as well as other forms of personal and public writing for a variety of audiences. Comprehension of literary terms and vocabulary will be stressed to expand and improve the student's skills.

The major topics to be covered in this course: synonyms, simile, Canterbury Tales, plays, metaphor, English Renaissance, poetry, persuasive techniques, improvisation, Enlightenment, developing a thesis, Romanticism and milestones in British Literature.

Advanced Readings & Writings in World Literature: (Semester Course, ½ credit for English)
This course is the second semester and continuation of the Introduction to World Literature course. Students will continue to study the World and British literature of the 19th and 20th centuries. Students will be required to write compositions/essays based on the interpretation of the literature as well as other forms of personal and public writing for a variety of audiences. Comprehension of literary terms and vocabulary will continue to be stressed to expand and improve the student's skills.

The major topics to be covered in this course: meter, mood, and soliloquy, research plan, Dickens, Victorian poetry, satire, cluster diagrams, poetry, foreshadowing, emerging modernism, humor, surveys, idioms, imagery and documentaries.

Social Studies

World History: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Social Studies)

This course is intended to acquaint students with the major periods of the history of western civilization and the non-western world. Students will have the opportunity to explore, investigate and research fascinating people, places and events.

The major topics to be covered in this course: Renaissance, Enlightenment, global trade, slave trade, Russian Czars, Russian Revolution, English Monarchy, French Revolution, Industrialization, Communism, Socialism, colonialism, imperialism, nationalism, fascism, holocaust and African development.

Advanced Topics In World History: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Social Studies)

This course is an in-depth study of World History into the modern era. Students will continue to study the major periods of the history of western civilization. More emphasis will be placed on investigating the causes and effects of major historical events throughout this second semester course.

The major topics to be covered in this course: technological and scientific achievements, geographic influence on trade and culture, classical civilizations, major world religions, political ideologies, economic models, World War I causes, World War II causes and democracy.

American History: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Social Studies and the state Constitution requirement completed) This course places emphasis on the chronological study of major historical events and people that have impacted American society.

The major topics to be covered in this course: maps, American Revolution, territorial expansion, industrialism, slavery, Civil War, Reconstruction Period, World War I, New Deal, Illinois Constitution and impact of technology.

Advanced Topics In US History: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Social Studies and the state Constitution requirement completed) This course is an in-depth study of American History into the modern era. More emphasis will be placed on researching and analyzing the causes and effects of major historical events and people and their overall impact on current American society.

The major topics to be covered in this course: geographic themes, map skills, research, historical inquiry, political, social and environmental issues of industrialism, 1920's prosperity and decline, effects of the Great Depression, economic effects of World War II, Cold War politics and political, social and environmental issues from 1960's to the present.

World Geography: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Social Studies)

This course is designed to help the student develop a connection between environments and events, and between geographical regions and cultures.

The major regions studied in this course are the United States, Canada, middle and South America, and Europe.

Advanced Topics in World Geography: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Social Studies) This course is an in-depth study, design to develop a connection between environments and events, and between geographical regions and cultures

The major regions studied in this course are the Russia and Northern Eurasia, Asia, Africa, and the Pacific world.

US & Illinois Government: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Social Studies and fulfills the state Constitution requirement) This course is designed to help students understand the background, operation and organization of our local, state and national governments. A major emphasis will be placed on the study of state and national constitutions emphasizing the role, duties and responsibilities of the American citizen.

The major topics studied in this course: Bill of Rights, due process, comparative governments, civil rights movement, interest groups, voting process, branches of government, federal court system, economic systems, Illinois government and local government.

Sociology: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Social Studies and fulfills the state Constitution requirement) This course is design to let students discover the meaning behind behavior and society's impact on the individual.

Major topics include: cultural diversity, social structure, racial and ethnic relations, adolescents and adult in society, and the family.

Math

Intro to HS Algebra: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Math)

This course is designed to introduce students to the basics of algebra and review and expand basic math skills.

The major topics studied in this course: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of integers; introduction of variables, expression and scientific notation; basic equations and formulas; the metric system, interpreting and drawing graphs, introduction to geometric figures.

Algebra I: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Math)

This course is a continuation of Intro to Algebra. Review and mastery of basic math skills will continued to be emphasized along with the skills necessary for the study of algebra.

The major topics studied in this course: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of fractions; ratios, proportions, percents, perimeter area of polygons, circumference and area of circles, graphing equations and inequalities, probability and statistics.

Intro to HS Geometry: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Math)

This course is designed to introduce students to the basic concepts necessary for the study of geometry. Emphasis is placed on the study of geometric terms, theorems and postulates that are the basic building blocks for understanding geometry.

The major topics studied in this course: points, lines, angles, planes, properties of triangles and polygons and the introduction of geometric proofs.

Geometry I: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Math)

This course is a continuation of Introduction to Geometry. This course will place more of an emphasis on logical thinking and applying the algebraic and geometric concepts learned in the 1st semester to geometric figures.

The major topics studied in this course: area of rectangles, parallelograms, triangles, trapezoids and circles; similar and congruent polygons; surface area and volume of solids; coordinate plane; parallel and perpendicular lines.

Jr. Math, Practical Math Applications I: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Math)

This course is designed for students to build on their basic understanding of math and algebraic concepts. A major emphasis will be placed on applying algebra concepts to real-world situations.

The major topics studied in this course: integers, rational and real numbers, functions and their graphs, equations, inequalities, graphing and writing linear equations.

Jr. Math , Practical Math Applications II: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Math)

This course is a continuation of Practical Applications I. A major emphasis will be placed on applying algebra concepts to real-world situations.

The major topics studied in this course: systems of equations and inequalities, quadratic equations and functions, exponents and exponential functions, right triangles, radical expressions, polynomials and rational expressions and functions.

Sr. Math I, Consumer Math Applications I: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Math)

This course is designed for the students to be able to apply math fundamentals to real-world situations. Students will be expected to provide real data to solve interesting math problems as they relate to real-world situations.

The major topics studied in this course: math problems relating to full-time employment, recreation/sports, basic purchases, checking/savings, credit and automobile expenses.

Sr. Math II, Consumer Math Applications II: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Math)

This is a continuation of Sr. Math I. Students will be provided the opportunity to learn mathematical concepts by investigating situations in-group activities.

The major topics studied in this course: math problems as relating to taxes, housing, investments, probability and equations.