



Jacksonville St. Johns Course Descriptions

2017-2018 Academic Year

Humanities Core A

Geography

The foundational course provides a survey of both geographic principles and every country of the world through a regional approach. Students will learn (and learn to spell!) the location, cultures, landforms, climates, resources, economy, religions and government of each country. This course is missions focused and will evaluate the spread of the gospel throughout the world. There is a \$15 fee for mapping supplies and copies.

Composition and World Literature - A

Students will focus on learning the fundamentals of writing. They will begin with grammar, sentence structure, and the formation of paragraphs. Students will also be exposed to different types of writing such as persuasive, expository, narrative and descriptive. A poetry unit will also be included. Although some review of grammar will be included in this course, students should already have a strong foundation beforehand. Literature selections, which complement Geography, will be analyzed for basic literary elements and world-view.

Old Testament Survey

This outstanding Old Testament study exhibits the unity which exists in the Old Testament and shows the historical development of God's work of redemption, emphasizing the fact that the entire Old Testament prepares for the coming of Christ, the eternal King. Other major areas of focus include the Genesis account, the history of Israel, and the application of the Old Testament to New Testament and modern-day Christianity.

Humanities Core B

World History

This foundational course is designed to look at the civilizations of the world through the lens of a Christian worldview. It begins with Creation and progresses in a chronological journey around the world studying empires, cultures, Christianity, and world religions, concluding with an examination of the trends of the emerging 21st century. Principles of freedom will be interwoven throughout the course, helping students to understand the past and their role today.

Composition & World Literature -B

This class will prepare students for success in high school literature courses by guiding them through the foundational elements and devices of literary analysis with an emphasis on Christian worldview. In addition to learning literary elements, the students will learn to write an effective literary analysis essay. Students will improve their writing skills as they complete descriptive and narrative writing assignments, a research paper and several other essays based on the literature read.

New Testament Survey

The goal of this foundational New Testament study is to help the students know and love the Word better, know and love God better and help to see themselves as part of God's story. They will learn the central events, places and themes of the ministries of Jesus and Paul. As in Old Testament Survey, they trace the historical development of God's work of redemption. The students are introduced to the inductive method of Bible study as well.

Humanities Core C

(One year of Logic is a suggested for Core C and a pre-requisite for Cores E & F)

American History

A thorough survey of America's History from colonial times through the present, emphasizing the philosophies behind the founding of America as well as the prevailing philosophies which have determined national events throughout our history.

Composition and American Literature –C

This composition class covers several different types of writing such as persuasive, expository and descriptive essays, along with a poetry unit and a persuasive research paper. The focus is on improving student writing by concentrating on content and technical areas. Students will also learn to identify the four major areas of American literature. Complimenting the Starting Points class and the American History class, American literature will be studied and used as a basis for improving writing techniques.

Starting Points

After students learn the basics of a Biblical worldview, they will apply their knowledge and understanding by examining and evaluating the ideas contained in books and movies. Then they will study three approaches for talking to non-Christians in the 21st century (apologetics). Finally, through a study of American History, students will consider ideas the Founding Fathers used to write the Declaration of Independence.

Humanities Core D

(One year of Logic is suggested for Core C or D and a pre-requisite for Cores E & F)

Ancient History

This course will explore the history of western politics, society, and culture from antiquity to the Early Middle Ages with a particular focus on the development of western cultural institutions and on the role of the individual within these institutions. In addition to the textbook, we will use primary sources to trace the development of the ideas and institutions that have helped shape the modern world.

Composition & Ancient Literature –D

This advanced writing class covers several different types of writing such as persuasive, expository and narrative essays. It also includes a persuasive research paper, poetry and a journalism unit. The focus is to improve writing by concentrating on content and technical areas. The literature selected represents the time periods studied in the Ancient History course and the ideas studied in Western Thought.

Western Thought I

(Culture/Philosophy/Theology/Apologetics/Literature/Political Theory)

This interdisciplinary worldview study is designed to give the student: 1) the ability to stand against the thoughts and ideas of a secular culture, 2) an adequate and logical defense for the hope they have within them, and 3) the ability to take the truth of Christianity into various disciplines. In this first year, students analyze and trace the progression of ideas from Greco-Roman, Byzantine, Medieval and Scholastic thought as well as compare and contrast them with the teachings of the Bible.

Humanities Core E

(One year of Logic is a pre-requisite for Core E)

Medieval to Early Modern History

This course will explore the history of western politics, society, and culture from the Early Middle Ages through the Industrial Revolution with a particular focus on the development of western cultural institutions. In addition to the textbook, we will use primary sources to trace the development of the ideas and institutions that have helped shape the modern world.

Rhetoric/Comp & Lit Analysis I

Rhetoric is the art and science of persuasion. Students study Aristotle's Five Canons, in addition to analyzing the speeches and essays of the past. They will critically analyze persuasive discourses by the "great" and "not-so-greats" from all ages, while developing and applying a biblical worldview to their reading. This is also an advanced writing class that covers several different types of writing, such as persuasive, compare/contrast, research, literary analysis and more. Literature will be selected from the Medieval/Early Modern time period to tie in with the history course and the ideas being studied in Western Thought II.

Western Thought II

(Culture/Philosophy/Theology/Apologetics/Literature/Political Theory)

This interdisciplinary worldview study is designed to give the student: 1) the ability to stand against the thoughts and ideas of the secular culture, 2) an adequate and logical defense for the hope they have within them, and 3) the ability to take the truth of Christianity into various disciplines. In this second year, students will analyze and trace the progression of ideas from the Renaissance, the Reformation, and the Revolutionary eras.

Humanities Core F

(One year of Logic and Rhetoric I is a pre-requisite for Core F)

Modern History

This course will explore the history of western politics, society, and culture from the Industrial Revolution to the present day. In addition to the textbook, we will use primary sources to trace the development of the ideas and institutions that have helped shape the modern world.

Rhetoric/Comp and Lit Analysis II

Rhetoric II builds upon the principles and persuasive techniques studied in Rhetoric I. This course adds the elements of public speaking to the analysis of discourse and literature, culminating in an oral presentation related to a formal research paper. Students will be challenged to communicate clearly and credibly, equipped to reach today's world with biblical Truth. It is also an advanced writing course to prepare students for the types of writing they will encounter in college, with a focus on college entrance essays. Literature will be selected from the Modern/Postmodern time period to tie in with the Modern History course and the ideas being studied in Western Thought III.

Western Thought III

(Culture/Philosophy/Theology/Apologetics/Literature/Political Theory)

This interdisciplinary worldview study is designed to give the student: 1) the ability to stand against the thoughts and ideas of the secular culture, 2) an adequate and logical defense for the hope they have within them, and 3) the ability to take the truth of Christianity into various disciplines. Students will discuss the proper response to politics and social issues. They will discuss questions such as, do absolutes conflict and, if so, how do we determine which absolute to uphold? What is a Christian's position on ethical problems such as divorce and remarriage, care for the environment, capital punishment and other controversial issues? When is culturally contextualizing an orthodox Christian faith appropriate? All of this will be done thru discussion, presentations and analysis.

Other Essential Courses

Art & Music Appreciation

The overall goal of this class is to gain an insight and appreciation for Western Art and Music. During the year, students will learn to analyze the important elements of art and music from a variety of historical periods. Students will also learn how art and music are a reflection of the times, people, and worldviews during which they emerged. Students in this class will go on five fieldtrips during the year (4 trips to the Jacksonville Symphony and one trip to the Cummer Museum of Art). Students must purchase a Sound Check Card for \$25 in order to attend the Symphony Concerts. This is a high school elective. Middle school students will be admitted into this course with approval by the site administrator or the tutor.

Computer

Students will acquire basic to intermediate knowledge of Microsoft's office software: Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel. Each student is required to have a laptop (either PC or MAC) with Microsoft Office installed on it. The goal is not only to learn the applications, but be able to practically apply those skills.

Drama

This full year course will begin with learning the fundamentals of dramatic performance by using time tested theatre exercises and will culminate with a theatre production in the spring. We will study the use of facial expression, vocal inflection, body language, movement and interaction, along with, aspects of the stage, the play, character analysis, and improvisation. The class will perform a short skit/performance for the PEP Christmas program. During the second semester, there will be a few extended classes for extra practice and possibly a Saturday rehearsal to give us more time to prepare the spring performance. Parents will need to help by providing the costume for your child, as well as, miscellaneous props and set pieces. There will be a \$35 fee for script copies or rentals, copyright fees, and backdrop materials.

Drawing

This class is for any student (beginner or beyond) who has a desire to develop his or her drawing skills.

Drawing 1

In this comprehensive drawing class, students are taught foundational concepts such as drawing contours, negative space, foreshortening, perspective, and lights & shadows. Creativity is enhanced through exercises such as upside-down and blind contour drawings, as well as regular focus on negative space. Techniques of the masters – copying master works, use of a picture plane, and sighting – are also employed. In addition to more formal assignments, including still life & hand studies, portraits, landscapes, and indoor perspectives, regular sketchbook work is also encouraged through fun, informal assignments. No prerequisites necessary.

English Grammar (recommended for 7th - 10th grades)

The goal of this course is to provide students with a thorough understanding of English grammar and mechanics (capitalization and punctuation). Beginning with the basics and building into advanced concepts, this course will benefit students of all levels and students of all grades are encouraged to enroll. The course uses sentence diagramming to demonstrate the nuances of sentence structure and uses workbook exercises to enforce the concepts and integrate them into students' writing. Not only does this course help students succeed in writing, speech, foreign language, and logic classes, it helps them grasp the structure of the language they speak and prepares them to communicate clearly and correctly. This is an elective to bolster grammar competency and will not suffice as a high school English credit. There will be approximately 1-1 ½ hours of coursework per week.

Government & Economics (recommended for 11th or 12th grades)

Offered to PEP's upperclassmen, Government and Economics is a yearlong course covering the most fundamental concepts regarding the structure of the United States government and economic theory. The first semester of this two day a week course covers basic government structure and an in depth understanding of the constitution and how it applies to the different branches. Students will learn the intricacies of the local, state, and national government and how they relate to each other. The second semester we will be covering Economics, the study of what and who determines how an unlimited amount of wants and a limited amount of resources are distributed within a society. By the end of the school year students should have a solid understanding of microeconomics, macroeconomics, government economic policy, and the most influential modern economists and economic theories.

Logic (Pre-requisite for Core E & F. Recommended during Core C or D)

This is an introductory course in formal logic. The course work will introduce students to an understanding of the Christian theory of knowledge and present an in-depth study of the classical syllogism. The second semester is an advanced formal logic course. It covers the four figures of the traditional syllogism, the three forms of rhetorical arguments (called enthymemes), the three kinds of hypothetical syllogisms, the four kinds of complex syllogisms, as well as relational arguments. In-class discussion will augment the "what and how" with opportunities to "do." Learning to think well and to think critically is the goal.

Personal Finance (one semester course)

This course enables students to understand the impact of their individual choices regarding finance, covering topics such as saving, credit and debt, budgeting, giving, and more. Building from Dave Ramsey's High School Foundations curriculum, this course equips students to make informed personal financial decisions.

Public Speaking

Through this class, students will learn how God has used great speakers from the past to accomplish His will and how each person can develop his or her speaking skills to be an effective communicator. Students will also learn how to conquer their fear of public speaking as they become equipped with foundational speaking skills. Students will study influential speakers from the past, as well as, watch video examples of different types of speeches. This class will give students experience writing and giving speeches in a safe, supportive environment.

ACT Prep (one semester course)

Students will be guided through an ACT prep course in order to prepare for the ACT test. The course will focus on general ACT strategies as well as specific strategies for the Math, Reading, Science, and Writing sections of the test. Students will take several sample ACT tests during the course.

SAT Prep (one semester course)

Students will be guided through an SAT prep course in order to prepare for the SAT test. The course will focus on general SAT strategies as well as specific strategies for the Math, Reading, Science, and Writing sections of the test. Students will take several sample SAT tests during the course.

Writing Lab

During Writing Lab, a tutor will be available to answer questions and direct students needing help with PEP writing assignments. There will be a one hour session available each week.

Yearbook (Club)

PEP publishes an 80 to 100-page yearbook, which is hardbound. It is very professional and well done. The yearbook class is a time where students, along with the editor, meet to brainstorm, plan, design and create our yearbook. It takes hard work and commitment but it is so fun! We will meet for an hour, once a week at PEP. Each student is required to bring a laptop to class or receive permission from an advisor if they do not have access to one. In addition, students will be required to work on their assigned pages in the yearbook at home, as we have hard deadlines to submit pages to the publisher. This is an amazing experience that looks really great on your transcript! The fee enables us to have a designated tutor to advise the yearbook staff.

Languages

Latin I

Latin is the most important source of both vocabulary and grammatical structure in English, Spanish, French, and the other Romance languages. Studying Latin will prepare students for efficiently learning any foreign language; for developing English vocabulary, reading and writing skills; and for expanding logical reasoning ability. This is a high school course for a student interested in beginning Latin study. The First Year Latin text by Robert J. Henle, S.J. (Lessons 1-21) advances both grammar skills and vocabulary understanding. The student studies all eight parts of speech and memorizes approximately 250 vocabulary words.

Latin II

Latin II is a continuation of Latin I. The students will study Roman culture, build vocabulary (English and Latin), and increase in their Latin grammar. This course will include intensive translation work. Students will continue to learn Latin through readings/translations and studying the technical aspects of Latin grammar.

Spanish I

Spanish I students will be introduced to the basics of the Spanish language. Their vocabulary will increase as they hear and retell short stories in Spanish. They will gain a general understanding of verb conjugation, sentence structure and basic Spanish grammar. They will master present tense verb conjugation. Spanish songs and verses will contribute to their vocabulary.

Spanish II

In this course we will review present tense verbs, focusing on irregular verbs. Then we will introduce past tense and future tense verb conjugation through the use of short Spanish stories. They will develop more of an ear for understanding the spoken language as well as becoming more creative and fluent in speaking. They will be introduced to more advanced grammar including reflexive verbs and Indirect and Direct object pronoun placement in sentences. They will continue to increase their vocabulary through the use of stories, songs, verses and general classroom conversation.

Mathematics

Saxon 8/7

This course offers a good transition for students not 'quite' ready for Pre-Algebra. Saxon8/7 reviews arithmetic calculation, measurement, basic geometry, and other foundational concepts and then introduces a range of upper-level topics. The curriculum emphasizes skills necessary for advancement in mathematics including: fractions, decimals, percents, ratios, perimeter, circumference, area, volume, exponents, scientific notation, signed numbers, and problem-solving techniques using word problems. Using Saxon's distinctive approach with spiraling review, this program not only produces acquisition but also retention of essential math practices.

Pre-Algebra

The McDougal Littell series of math provides an excellent curriculum for students. There are many varied levels of problems for each lesson, as well as practice tests, standardized test practices and real-world problem solving in each chapter. Topics of study prepare the student for more advanced studies in algebra, and include the following topics: basic algebraic manipulation and equation solving, inequalities, exponents, rational equations, ratios and percentages, linear functions, and planar geometry with an emphasis on right triangles.

Algebra I

This course will begin with a review of Pre-Algebra skills and will progress to include translating words into algebraic expressions, equations, and inequalities; working with signed numbers; solving, graphing, and writing linear equations and inequalities from given conditions; solving systems of equations and inequalities; polynomials and factoring; and exponential, quadratic, radical and rational functions. It is foundational to a study of Geometry or Algebra 2.

Geometry

The McDougal Littell series of math provides an excellent curriculum for students. There are many varied levels of problems for each lesson, as well as practice tests, standardized test practices and real-world problem solving in each chapter. Online help include quizzes throughout the chapters and a power point view of each lesson the teacher goes over in class.

Algebra II

This course will begin with a review of Algebra skills and will progress to include solving, writing, and graphing linear equations and inequalities; systems of equations and matrices; solving, writing, and graphing quadratic functions; polynomial functions; rational and radical functions; exponential and logarithmic functions; conic sections; elementary statistics; sequences and series; and trigonometry. It is foundational to a study of pre-calculus.

Pre-Calculus

Pre-Calculus covers topics in four main areas of mathematics: functions, systems of equations and inequalities, analytic geometry and probability. Under the heading of "functions," many different types are discussed: linear, polynomial, exponential, logarithmic and trigonometric. Analytic geometry examines circles, parabolas, ellipses, hyperbolas, and polar coordinates. Real life applications of these topics are introduced consistently throughout the text and the graphing calculator is used extensively to enhance the students' abilities to solve more labor-intensive mathematical challenges.

Math/Science Assistance

During Math/Science Assistance sessions, a tutor will be available to answer specific questions of students needing help with math or upper level science assignments. There will be 1 hour session available each week.

Sciences

All science classes have a \$20 lab fee

Life Science (recommended 7th grade)

This hands-on class introduces the living world with all of its wonders. Topics covered are classification, cellular biology, genetics, and the differences between creation and evolution. These provide a firm foundation for the chapters on microbiology, botany, zoology, ecology, and human anatomy. Students will complete a science project in the second semester. This course is considered a middle school lab science.

Earth Science (recommended 8th grade)

Your students will find themselves climbing mountains, diving into the oceans, and launching into the skies on a quest to learn how the world works. During this quest, students will find that Earth science is also a battle of worldviews. This text and class clearly introduce students to the secular theories of where everything they see came from. They critique these theories. For each secular theory, the text affirms the conservative biblical view of Earth's history shaped by Creation, the Fall, and the Flood. Students' Christian worldviews will be shaped and strengthened as they learn about tectonic processes, landforms and earth materials, fossils, the oceans and oceanography, rivers and lakes, the atmosphere, weather and storms, climate and environmentalism, the solar system, the universe and cosmology, and space science. This is considered a middle school lab science.

Conceptual Physics (recommended 9th grade)

Like a three-legged stool, a thorough science education requires a solid foundation in three disciplines, physics, chemistry and biology. The knowledge of physics is essential to fully understanding the other two disciplines. This course is designed to be an introduction to physics and to lay a foundation for the upper sciences. Students will study laws of motion, matter and energy, electricity, magnetism, vibrations, waves and sound, and light and optics. It is required that the student have completed or currently be enrolled in Algebra I. This course is considered a high school lab science.

Biology (recommended 10th or 11th grade)

Although not a prerequisite, Conceptual Physics and Chemistry will help the student gain a full understanding of topics. Topics covered are: cellular biology, genetics, taxonomy, microbiology, botany, zoology, and introductory human anatomy. When studying topics such as Creation and evolution, human cloning, abortion, and stem cell research, students are pointed to Scripture as the ultimate authority and are encouraged to develop a biblical perspective about these topics. Students will complete a science project during the first semester and participate in many hands-on labs throughout the year, including several dissections. This course is considered a high school lab science.

Chemistry (recommended 10th or 11th grade)

This is a first-year college preparatory chemistry course, which covers measurements and units, energy and heat, atoms and molecules, classification of matter, naming and writing chemical formulas, the periodic table, the mole concept, stoichiometry, atomic and molecular structure, molecular geometry, ionic and covalent bonding, acids and bases, solutions, the gas laws, thermodynamics, kinetics, chemical equilibrium, and reduction/oxidation reactions. The course will include lab experiments to learn basic lab skills, practice experiment procedures, and write lab reports. In order to take this course, a student is required to have completed or currently enrolled in Algebra II. This course is considered a high school lab science.

Anatomy & Physiology (recommended 11th or 12th grade)

This advanced high school course covers both the anatomy and the physiology of the human body and its eleven organ systems. We will focus on basic anatomical terminology and the organization of the body as a whole, as well as the structure and function of the various organ systems and how these systems work together. The course will include microscope observations and specimen dissections. In addition to the textbook work, students will complete coloring and workbook exercises, review case studies pertinent to each system, examine disorders of each system, and write reviews of current articles related to the subject matter. In order to take this course, the student MUST have completed a first-year biology course. This course is considered a high school lab science.

Math/Science Assistance

During Math/Science Assistance sessions, a tutor will be available to answer specific questions of students needing help with math or upper level science assignments. There will be 1-half hour session available each week.