

2011-2012 Course Catalog and Descriptions

COURSE CATALOG

This section has been provided for families as a guide to help them in the class selection process. Course offerings can be affected by enrollment. If a class does not meet the minimum amount of students required, the school reserves the right to cancel the class.

Many colleges and universities have specific requirements and students are responsible for choosing courses which meet the requirements of the colleges to which they intend to apply. CCCHS has an excellent college counseling department and will assist in the process of selecting the proper college after high school. It is advised that students (and parents) read through the course catalog and policy manual (for more specifics) before making final class selections.

ENGLISH

The English program is designed to provide students with the skills needed to understand and communicate with others in a spirit of Christian love. Through Christ, language can be redeemed as the Holy Spirit works in students through the study of grammar, writing, speech, and literature, helping students speak and write more clearly and honestly, and helping them listen and read with godly discernment and enjoyment.

Students must take one English course each year to satisfy graduation requirements.

ENGLISH 9

Length: Two Semesters

Credits: 10

Grade: 9

Required

Satisfies UC/CSU Subject b

This course alternates between a study of literature and grammar, with a constant emphasis on writing and reading. The literature is taught by genre in order to familiarize students with the different forms of literature through which authors express themselves. Students read a variety of authors and are encouraged to express how a Christian worldview can be applied to these authors' works. Students learn critical thinking, analyzing, interpreting, and evaluating skills. The study of grammar reviews parts of speech, sentence patterns, paragraph development, and punctuation. The students' vocabulary will be enriched through weekly vocabulary study.

ENGLISH 10

Length: Two Semesters
Credits: 10
Grade: 10
Required
Satisfies UC/CSU Subject b

This course will help students develop skills in organization of ideas, self-expression, self-confidence, reading comprehension, and analytical and critical thinking, including discernment of worldviews in light of Biblical teaching. This will be accomplished through journaling, reading, discussing, studying grammar and vocabulary, researching, essay writing, speeches, and debating. The skills developed in this course will assist students as they accomplish the course tasks. Students will develop a Christian standards frame of reference within which they can evaluate various authors' worldviews.

ENGLISH 11 – AMERICAN LITERATURE

Length: Two semesters
Credits: 10
Grade 11, 12
Required
Satisfies UC/CSU Subject b

In order to understand the present and contribute to the future, students need to grasp the philosophies and events of the past. This course, which focuses on the literature of America, clarifies the values and thought patterns of American authors who reflect and influence the period in which they write. Students will be challenged to evaluate the validity of the concepts they study as they lay them against the measuring rod of Scripture. The course follows American literature chronologically in order to provide a broad overview of the patterns of American thought.

ENGLISH 11 – AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE & COMPOSITION

Length: Two semesters
Credits: 10
Grade: 11, 12
Elective
Prerequisite: B+ or better in 2nd semester of English 10, student application.
Satisfies UC/CSU Subject b

Students will be prepared to take the Advanced Placement examination in English Language and Composition through the extended and enriched content in this course. Students will improve their understanding of literature through advanced reading assignments, various compositions, and application of literary terms and devices. The content will be presented chronologically, starting with early American literature and ending with Post-modernism, and will include some world literature to better prepare the students for the A.P. exam.

ENGLISH 12 – ENGLISH LITERATURE

Length: Two semesters
Credits: 10
Grade: 12
Required
Satisfies UC/CSU Subject b

This is a one year integrated literature and composition course intended to prepare senior year students for college or entrance to the business world. In preparation for these two goals, this course is designed to improve your critical thinking and extensively practice business and collegiate writing. This writing will be in response to a survey of British Literature. Writing will include essays, journal writing, academic prompts, and creative and critical writing exercises in response to readings. We will then relate the course curriculum to the overarching study of how the evolution of Western thought has related to and influenced the church and Christian faith.

ENGLISH 12 – AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

Length: Two semesters
Credits: 10
Grade: 12
Elective
Prerequisite: B+ grade or better in 2nd semester of English 11, student application
Satisfies UC/CSU Subject b

Students will work on several different types of writing assignments and activities that will serve to improve writing skills. In addition to journals, vocabulary, in-class essays, grammar, various writing exercises and three papers, students will also focus on revision and peer editing skills. Through clear, concise, creative language we have the opportunity to communicate lovingly and truthfully. Students will be prepared to take the Advanced Placement examination in English Literature and Composition

CREATIVE WRITING

Length: One semester
Credits: 5
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12
Elective

This single semester course explores various modes of creative writing including short story, poetry, and playwriting. Students will be exposed to examples of writing and will use these models to learn the forms and elements of different styles. Exercises and assignments will help students develop their ability to express themselves in creative and powerful ways. The course will explore why God has given people a creative and inventive nature and what the purpose of art is.

YEARBOOK/JOURNALISM

Length: Two semesters

Credits: 10

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Prerequisite: Submission of application and permission of instructor

The yearbook is an important memento of the students' life at school and as such will be produced in a professional manner. Production will require learning skills in planning, layout, record keeping, sales, writing, editing, proofreading, and photography.

The journalism portion of the class provides an environment that allows the students to produce an all school student magazine.

FINE ARTS

ART I

Length: One Semester

Credits: 5

Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Art I emphasizes observations and interpretation of the visual environment. It covers the organization of design elements and principles and provides study of their application in two- and three-dimensional problems in a variety of media. Students analyze and use design principles in works of art throughout history. Students learn to critique their work and the work of others and become more aware of art and design in their environment.

ART II

Length: One Semester

Credits: 5

Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Prerequisite: Grade of C- or better in Art I

Art II emphasizes the development of personal style and control of various two- and three- dimensional media. Students apply the elements and principles of design to the field of commercial art and advertising design. The course offers practical experiences in generating original ideas, executing layouts, and developing a portfolio of work. Students study from historical and contemporary views artists who practice the art forms and learn to critique their work and the work of others.

BAND

Length: Two Semesters – Must be taken for a full year

Credits: 10

Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Prerequisite: Experience playing a band instrument for a minimum of one year or the approval of the instructor.

Satisfies UC/CSU Subject f

Band is designed to teach the students instrumental and musical fundamentals in order to assist them in developing their playing and instrumental listening skills. These fundamentals are taught because we, as image bearers of God, have been placed in this world to understand, shape, use and enjoy His creation. Sound is part of God's created order. Christians should be taught to use musical sounds in praise and glory to God through service in community with others. Students will develop a vocabulary necessary for communication in band. Students will participate in concert performances.

CHOIR

Length: Two Semesters – Must be taken for a full year

Credits: 10

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Satisfies UC/CSU subject f

Choir is designed to teach vocal and music fundamentals to develop singing and choral skills. Choir should encourage students to develop musical abilities as image bearers of God for praise, service, and enjoyment. Students will develop a musical vocabulary, musical etiquette, sight-reading, rhythm, vocal techniques such as breathing control, intonation, diction, phrasing, posture, harmonization, and performing ability. Music from different periods (Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Contemporary) will be learned, including both secular and sacred sources.

MUSIC APPRECIATION I

Length: One Semester

Credits: 10

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Music Appreciation I is designed to be an introduction to musical styles, both western and non-western. Students will learn how music affects their culture and other cultures around the world. Students will learn how music is used in a myriad of situations, from communication to mood setting. Students will learn to recognize music in its written form as well as its aural form.

MUSIC APPRECIATION II

Length: One Semester

Credits: 10

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Prerequisites: C- or better in Music Appreciation I

Music Appreciation II continues to develop the topic and themes of the first semester.

DRAMA PRODUCTION

Length: One Semester

Credits: 5

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Prerequisites: Admittance into class by audition

Students will take on various technical and design responsibilities for the fall or spring school productions. Students will conduct research and do interviews, design and plan for areas of responsibility, and execute their designs and plans according to scheduled deadlines. Students will learn how to be stage managers, program designers, graphic designers, lighting designers, and costume and prop managers.

DRAMA SURVEY

Length: One semester

Credits: 10

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Students will study dramaturgy (theater history and plays) and theater performance. Instruction will be provided on the nature and composition of plays and theater and on the skills and strategies for constructing and executing performances as an actor. In the study of drama, students will examine an overarching question of what is universal in our human experience and character and what is God's design for humanity.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

SPANISH I

Length: Two semesters

Credits: 10

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Satisfies UC/CSU subject e

In this course, students will develop a basic understanding of Spanish in order to glorify God through their oral and written language. Spanish 1 students will learn to engage in conversation, express likes and dislikes, make requests, obtain information and understand ideas. They will be learning vocabulary, writing, reading and responding to commands given to them in Spanish. This course prepares students for Spanish II.

SPANISH II

In Spanish II students will begin to develop an academic and personal understanding of Spanish. Students are expected to respond, converse, and listen to their teacher and their classmates in Spanish. Students will learn to make requests, express their needs, understand important ideas, compare, give their opinion, and write essays in Spanish. Spanish II will build upon the vocabulary and grammar learned in Spanish I.

Length: Two semesters

Credits: 10

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Prerequisite: Passing grade in Spanish I

Satisfies UC/CSU subject e

SPANISH III

Length: Two semesters

Credits: 10

Grades 10, 11, 12

Elective

Prerequisite: C- or better in Spanish II

Satisfies UC/CSU subject e

In Spanish 3 students are expected to respond, converse, and listen to their teacher and their classmates in Spanish. This course gives students the ability to help their family and their community through their knowledge of Spanish language and culture. Students will learn to think academically, analyze literature, and write essays in Spanish. Spanish 3 is intended for students who are seeking admission into colleges or universities requiring a third year of a foreign language. This course will also prepare students for Spanish IV.

AP SPANISH IV

Length: Two semesters

Credits: 10

Grades: 11, 12

Elective

Prerequisite: B+ or better in Spanish III

Satisfies UC/CSU subject e

This course is intended for students who desire to gain a deeper understanding of the Spanish language. The emphasis in the course is on reading Spanish literature with comprehension and discernment as well as on writing compositions with clarity. Students will review and practice for the AP test.

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

HEALTH

Length: One semester

Credits: 5

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Required

The course is intended to help students achieve a high level of wellness and prevent disease by providing many opportunities to apply understanding of health knowledge. Some topics covered are mental health, family and social issues, life cycle, body systems, personal health and fitness, nutrition, medicines and drugs, disease and disorders, and safety and emergency care. The students will learn to take responsibility for their health. It is important to take care of the temples that we have been given in order to glorify God. Twenty credits of PE are required for graduation. All students must earn at least 10 credits through the Physical Education class. Any or all of the remaining 10 credits may be earned through participation in competitive sports.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Length: One semester

Credits: 5

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Required (4 semesters)

Physical Education is concerned with using physical activity for service to God and having a better understanding of the student's body and how God created it. The course is designed to develop health fitness, motor proficiency, and knowledge of physical movement. Content involves the learning of sports games and rules as well as appropriate exercises.

COMPETITIVE SPORTS

Length: One Quarter

Credits: 2.5

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Requirement: Sports fee, passing try-outs

Elective

Contra Costa Christian High School offers competitive, league sports in the following areas: boys' and girls' basketball, soccer, cross-country and volleyball as well as boys' baseball and girls' fast pitch softball and cheerleading. CCCHS competes in a league with high schools of similar size. Practices and games are scheduled to take place during after school hours. Passing try-outs may be required to participate in some sports.

INTERDISCIPLINARY ELECTIVES

ACCOUNTING I

Length: One semester

Credits: 5

Grades: 10, 11, 12

Elective

Prerequisite: C or better in Algebra I or equivalent

Accounting is a basic foundation for many career possibilities and teaches students to be stewards of their personal finances. Accounting teaches the student how to keep financial records and how to analyze those records. The students learn the principles of double-entry accounting and why it is necessary to keep accurate and easily interpreted records. Besides learning the basics of accounting and how to do the math on paper, the students will learn the basics of using the QuickBooks Pro Software. The course will cover debits, credits, journals, ledgers, financial statements, adjusting entries, payroll, taxes, depreciation, and inventory.

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

Length: One Semester

Credits: 5

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Students are taught the basics of computers, understanding basic software programs, including Microsoft Word and Excel. Basic HTML and Web design are covered at the end of the semester.

LIFE SKILLS

Length: One Semester

Credits: 5

Grade: 12

Elective

This course covers instruction in the “basics” of life: budgeting, renting and leasing an apartment, buying and maintaining a car, choosing a college, investing money, understanding the legal system, rules of etiquette, home and car repair, personal hygiene, biblical decision making, prioritizing, memorization techniques, and more.

MEDIA CRITICISM

Length: One semester

Credits: 5

Grades: 10, 11, 12

Elective

Media Criticism is a one-semester elective. During the semester, students study media in a variety of forms, including music, movies, television, advertising, and the Internet. Through a combination of readings, projects, lectures, discussion and examples, students develop a better understanding of the media business. They learn how different types of media communicate as well as how engage with, critique, and participate in the media from a Christian perspective. The purpose of Media Criticism is to teach students the skill of Christian discernment as they evaluate the media. Each unit of the course will focus on a different area of media study.

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics is a human activity wherein people try to describe God's orderly universe in terms of number and shape. "Mathematics originates with the things around us, not with theorems and deductive proofs. Mathematical results are almost always proved deductively only after they have been discovered, accepted, and used. Our primary aim in mathematics courses is not to teach the student how to think clearly and logically [although this is a key component in any study of mathematics]. Our first concern is to help the student understand God's creation more fully, his task in it, and how mathematics can help him fulfill his calling" (Van Brummelen).

The progression of math courses at CCCHS typically begins with Algebra I and proceeds to Geometry, after which students will have completed the mathematics courses required for graduation. Many students continue by taking Algebra II, Pre-Calculus. Most freshman take Algebra I, however, students who have passed Algebra in the 8th grade with a B- or better in the second semester are permitted to skip Algebra I and begin in Geometry.

ALGEBRA I

Length: Two semesters

Credits: 10

Grades: 9, 10, 11

Required

Satisfies UC/CSU subject c

This course will prepare students for higher-level mathematics by exposing them to basic algebraic manipulation of numbers and basic equation solving skills. The course is the first in a series of college preparatory mathematics courses. Students will become adept in the use of mathematical symbols and language and in the application of basic algebraic concepts and skills.

GEOMETRY

Length: Two semesters

Credits: 10

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Required

Prerequisite: Passing grade in Algebra I

Satisfies UC/CSU subject c

Students will learn to write geometric proofs, including by contradiction, construct and judge validity of logical arguments, prove theorems involving the properties of parallel lines, quadrilaterals, circles and triangles, solve problems involving perimeter, circumference, area, volume, lateral and surface area of geometric figures, perform basic constructions, know basic trigonometric functions, etc.

ALGEBRA II

Length: Two semesters

Credits: 10

Grades: 10, 11, 12

Elective

Prerequisite: C- or better in the 2nd semester of Geometry

Satisfies UC/CSU subject c

This college preparatory course is designed to teach higher-level algebraic concepts emphasizing analysis of different types of functions such as exponential, logarithmic and trigonometric. Some topics covered are polynomials, transforming equations, linear functions, exponents, radicals and irrational numbers, complex numbers, conic sections, logarithms, trigonometry, etc.

PRE-CALCULUS

Length: Two semesters

Credits: 10

Grades: 11, 12

Elective

Prerequisite: C- or better in Algebra II

Satisfies UC/CSU subject c

The focus of this college preparatory course is in mathematical analysis, emphasizing different types of functions such as exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric. Students will work with exponents, logarithms, trigonometric functions, graph linear, polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions, apply mathematics to real-world relationships and problems. The course ends with a study of probability and statistics as well as an introduction to calculus.

AP CALCULUS

Length: Two semesters

Credits: 10

Grades: 12

Elective

Prerequisite: B+ or better in 2nd semester of Pre-Calculus.

Satisfies UC/CSU subject c

In Honors Calculus students will find derivatives and integrals of a variety of functions, apply the derivative and integral to real-world problems, calculate area and volume of 2- and 3-dimensional objects, and approximate irrational roots of higher order equations. Students will review and practice for the AP test.

RELIGION

Each year, all students take one Religion course. Freshmen and sophomores must take New Testament and Old Testament, which are offered in alternate years, before taking elective courses as juniors and seniors.

OLD TESTAMENT

Length: One Semester

Credits: 5

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Required

This course will examine the various epochs in the Old Testament with a specific emphasis on Creation; Sin and the Fall; and God's Covenant of Grace as it unfolds in Redemptive History. Students will learn of the different literary styles of the Old Testament, a general history of the Old Testament, and the major figures of Old Testament history. Finally, attention will be given to interpreting the Old Testament in light of the New Testament and learning how the Old Testament promises and points forward to the New Testament fulfillment in Jesus Christ and His church.

CHURCH HISTORY

Length: One Semester

Credits: 5

Grades: 11, 12

Elective

This course will study the history of the church from the Apostles to the present day. The major focus will be on 1) major figures in the history of the church 2) the councils, creeds and confessions of the church 3) the articulation of Christian theology 4) the contemporary church and the issues confronting her. Students will gain an appreciation of the universal church and their response of service to Christ in the visible church.

COMPARATIVE RELIGIONS

Length: One Semester

Credits: 5

Grades: 11, 12

Elective

Students will be exposed to major religions such as Buddhism and Hinduism. Major cults such as Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormonism will be investigated as well. The identifying characteristics of each religion will be studied. Through understanding these religions it is believed that students will be better equipped to relate and witness to people who belong to these religions. It is expected that students will be able to discern true from false teachings.

THE LETTERS OF PAUL

Length: One Semester

Credits: 5

Grades: 11, 12

Elective

This course will explore the life and teachings of the Apostle Paul. An emphasis will be placed on the study of the book of Romans, I Corinthians and Ephesians.

SCIENCE

Science is the activity of investigating physical phenomena to understand the structure God has given to His creation. The science program is designed to help students gain knowledge of how things work. In this regard, students learn methods of investigation that help reduce subjectivity and increase objectivity as conclusions are drawn. The science program aims to develop the student's awareness that God's creation is an integrated whole, to understand that science abstracts elements of creation to study them in a structured way in order to deepen understanding, to see science as a tool to serve God and one another, and to deepen understanding of the concepts, laws, theories and practices of science.

To satisfy graduation requirements CCCHS students must take biology and one of either Physical Science, Chemistry or Physics.

BIOLOGY

Length: Two semesters

Credits: 10

Grades: 10, 11, 12

Required

Satisfies UC/CSU subject d

The course covers the basics of biology: cells and their structures, function, metabolism (anaerobic and aerobic respiration), photosynthesis and plant biology, cell division (mitosis and meiosis), heredity and genetics, animal and plant classification, and creationism and evolutionism.

CONCEPTUAL PHYSICS

Length: Two semesters

Credits: 10

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

The study of Physics should lead to an understanding of God's created order for the purpose of enriching our lives and bringing glory to God. Physical phenomena operate according to God's law while the laws developed by scientists are descriptions of the phenomena and may need modification from time to time. The course will include an elementary survey of Mechanics, Matter, Heat, Sound & Light, Electricity & Magnetism, and Atomic & Nuclear Physics. Through the study of the physics, students would grow in faith as they uncover the wonder of God's physical creation, contribute to their community as they make connections between the course content and how it applies to everyday life, strive for excellence as they learn scientific investigative skills and procedures, and think critically as they conduct experiments and analyze theories.

HUMAN ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY

Length: Two semesters

Credits: 10

Grades: 10, 11, 12

Elective

Prerequisites: Grade of C- or better in Biology

Satisfies UC/CSU subject d

Human anatomy and physiology is a study of God's mysterious and masterful creation of the human body and its functions. Special attention will be given to how disease mechanisms disrupt the body's marvelous ability to efficiently metabolize, grow, develop, and reproduce. Topics will address details of all the body systems and some associated disorders. The study will include a histology and review of molecular and cell biology.

CHEMISTRY

Length: Two semesters

Credits: 10

Grades: 11, 12

Elective

Prerequisites: C- or better in Algebra I and Geometry, Algebra II taken concurrently, C or better in Biology

Satisfies UC/CSU subject d

This course examines the structure of the atom and nuclear energy, chemical periodicity, chemical kinetics and bonding, states of matter, thermodynamics, electrochemistry, basic organic chemistry, environmental chemistry, and properties of elements.

SOCIAL SCIENCES

The social sciences study how human society has responded to God's mandate to rule and subdue the earth. History involves human perspective and as such is subjective. The recording of events does not make history. History always involves a perspective on the events. As Christians we attempt to understand and evaluate historical events and human culture in the light of God's Word.

All students at CCCHS take a three year sequence of Social Studies classes that begins with World History in the sophomore year and concludes with a semester each of Government and Economics during the senior year.

WORLD HISTORY

Length: Two semesters

Credits: 10

Grades: 10, 11, 12

Required

Satisfies UC/CSU subject a

World History is a class that studies the establishments of early civilizations, their accomplishments, their contributions, and what effect they had on future generations. The course goes briefly into the early civilizations known to man; it covers the Golden Age of India and China, it traces the roots of Greeks and their contributions, it studies the Roman Empire and its role in history, it traces the Renaissance and the Reformation, and it covers early exploration of the New World. Students will demonstrate their ability to analyze, discuss, conduct research projects, write essays, do oral presentations, compare and contrast, and relate the past with the present.

AP EUROPEAN HISTORY

This course follows the College Board's AP curriculum closely. We will use the standard textbook for the World History class (World History: Patterns of Interaction), but this will be supplemented by a reading packet of primary sources for European history. Emphasis will be placed upon mastering both content knowledge and essay-writing skills, and students will complete a research paper in the month following the exam in lieu of a final exam.

Length: One Year

Credits: 10

Grade: 10, 11, 12

Elective

Prerequisite: Approval of Instructor

UNITED STATES HISTORY

Length: Two semesters
Credits: 10
Grades: 11, 12
Required
Satisfies UC/CSU subject a

U.S. History is a study of how the country of the United States was formed. The course goes briefly into European history to attain background, covers colonial life up to the American Revolution, re-traces the times and trials of America as an early nation, emphasizes the years of growth (manifest destiny), researches the Civil War, and pushes on into the 20th century. Students will be able to demonstrate skills in analyzing content, writing essays, creating projects, doing research, making oral presentations, and participating in class discussions.

AP UNITED STATES HISTORY

Length: Two semesters
Credits: 10
Grades: 10, 11, 12
Required
Prerequisite: Approval of Instructor, B+ or better in second semester of World History
Satisfies UC/CSU subject a

U.S. History is a study of how the country of the United States was formed. The course goes briefly into European history to attain background, covers colonial life up to the American Revolution, re-traces the times and trials of America as an early nation, emphasizes the years of growth (manifest destiny), researches the Civil War, and pushes on into the 20th century. Students will be able to demonstrate skills in analyzing content, writing essays, creating projects, doing research, making oral presentations, and participating in class discussions. Students will review and practice for the AP test.

ECONOMICS

Length: One semester
Credits: 5
Grades: 12
Required
Satisfies UC/CSU subject g

Senior high school economics presents fundamental economic principles in a manner that will help students become better citizens, better stewards and individuals with a greater understanding of how the economic world operates around them. The course is taught from a Biblical perspective that money, business, and economics are part of God's domain and that as stewards of the earth, we must learn to be stewards of the economic aspect of our lives. Students will learn to be stewards of their own money by learning the skills of budgeting and revenue estimation that include incorporating giving into their budgeting plans. The course involves an economic history paper and a class entrepreneurship project.

GOVERNMENT

Length: One semester

Credits: 5

Grades: 12

Required

Satisfies UC/CSU subject a

The course takes a look at various aspects of government from the foundations of the constitution to current events. This course includes a look at the documents serving as the roots for the United States constitution, a study of the creation and evolution of the Constitution as a living document, and learning new aspects of the role of the presidency and Congress through lecture, research, and class projects. The course includes a mock congressional debate on a topic selected by the students as legislators, and a research project oriented toward a major current event.

PSYCHOLOGY

Length: One semester

Credits: 5

Grades: 10, 11, 12

Elective

Psychology involves the study of behavior and can help students learn to work together and to understand themselves. Students are introduced to its basic principles and terminology to help them learn more about why people behave the way they do. Students are encouraged to examine their own behavior in an effort to learn more about themselves and the reasons for their behavior. Major units covered include experimentation in psychology, biological factors in behavior, learning patterns, personality development, personality theory, mental health, and mental disorders. The course combines lectures, discussions and in-class experiments.