

2011-2012 VCHS Course Descriptions

Restrictions may apply for admittance into advanced courses.

Social Studies

World Geography

Credit: 1 unit

This course presents an overview of the general principles of geography including the relationships and concepts between geography and world affairs. Students also learn the facts concerning the physical world such as landforms, climates, oceans, and waterways. The different economic systems and cultural aspects of human life are stressed. Students will work with maps of every continent in the world.

Civics

Credit: ½ unit

This course will focus on the rights and responsibilities of citizens as active participants in the American political system. Students will develop a basic understanding of the principles, structures and function of federal, state, and local governments. This semester course is required for graduation. This course is paired with Free Enterprise.

Free Enterprise

Credit: ½ unit

In this course, students will develop a basic understanding of economic terms and concepts as they study about the American economic system. Students will also learn how to make responsible economic decisions as consumers, wage earners and voters. A career investigation unit will be included to assist students in preparing for the future. This course is required for graduation and is paired with Civics.

American History

Credit: 1 unit

This course is a survey of United States history. Its achievements and failures are presented enabling the student to form a balanced view of the history of our country. Emphasis will be placed on the democratic ethics and values as well as the multicultural character of the American people.

World History

Credit: 1 unit

This class is a survey of major ideas and institutions that have shaped the world from the earliest times to the eighteenth century. The classical world and its heritage; the influences of early India and China; the rise of Christian Europe and its expansion overseas; the transition to modern modes of life and thought; and the beginnings of the modern world are all issues and topics that will be covered over the course of the year.

Psychology

Credit: ½ unit

This is an introductory Psychology course, which provides a foundation in the basic theories and principles of Psychology. Topics include: Personality, learning, and social psychology. Other areas include dream interpretation, altered states of consciousness, and conflict resolution.

Various Schools of psychology are introduced. It is recommended that this course be taken in conjunction with Sociology.

Sociology (NEW)

Credit: ½ unit

Sociology is the study of human society. Key concepts and major themes of sociology will be explored. Social problems, interactions, and institutions such as marriage, family, schools, crime, and poverty are several of the topics that may be examined. It is recommended that this course is taken in conjunction with psychology.

Science

Physical Science

Credit: 1 unit

This course includes an introduction to basic chemistry and physics. Topics covered include the study of matter, its structure and changes, motion, energy, and other topics in elementary chemistry and physics. Many of these topics involve formulas using math skills, and reading skills.

Biology I

Credit: 1 unit

This course is an introductory course into the “science of life”. A broad range of topics will be considered including, but not limited to, the scientific method, cell theory, genetics, evolution, the environment, the plant and animal kingdoms, and an introduction to human anatomy. Laboratory exercises will be included to enhance the learning experience. **1 Credit**

Chemistry

Credit: 1 unit

This course offers a comprehensive introduction to the basics of modern chemistry. Topics include atomic structure, periodic table, writing formulas and balancing reactions, stoichiometry, gas laws, acids and bases, and solutions. **Prerequisite: Biology 1 Pre or co-requisite: Algebra II.**

Biology II

Credit: 1 unit

This course has been designed as a study of the anatomy and physiology of the human body. Emphasis will be placed on an understanding of the cell theory, and a detailed study of the 11 systems of the human body. Additional laboratory exercises will be performed whenever possible. A science fair project will be required. **Teacher approval is required.**

Environmental Science

Credit: 1 unit

This course is an elective science course open to juniors and seniors. The course will cover topics including ecology, communities and populations, resources, pollution and energy. Consideration will also be given to environmental ethics, politics and economics.

Physics

Credit: 1 unit

A theoretical and mathematical science that studies motion, force, thermodynamics, waves, sound, light, electricity, magnetism, and universal gravitation. Much emphasis is placed on

problem solving, and using the graphing calculator. **Prerequisite: Algebra II with a C or better average**

Geology (NEW)

Credit: ½ unit

Geology study is a must for the student who enjoys discovering more about the planet Earth. It concerns all of earth; its natural hazards, earthquakes, volcanoes and floods, glaciers, natural resources such as crystals, gems, minerals, fossil fuels, and rocks. The history of earth will be reached through fossil collection and investigation.

Family and Consumer Sciences

Family and Consumer Science I

Credit: 1 unit

The Home Economics program is designed to provide students with skills for living and to help them meet the challenges of everyday living through both studies and hands-on activities. Students will learn basic information and practical skills related to consumer practices, foods and nutrition, clothing selection and care, construction of sports bags and a creative craft.

Business

Keyboarding

Credit: ½ unit

This course is designed to develop levels of skill in keyboarding with regards to speed and accuracy and also to provide learning activities simulating actual office situations. The student will learn to work in a Windows environment while completing skill-oriented jobs designed to teach the production of a variety of useful documents and formats.

Word Processing

Credit: ½ unit

This is a comprehensive course designed for the literate keyboard user. The student will learn to work in a Windows environment using a document-based approach to word processing. An in-context approach will provide continual reinforcement as students move from simple to intermediate document production. **Prerequisite: Keyboarding**

Principles of Marketing (NEW)

Credit: ½ unit

This course introduces the basic foundations and functions of marketing. Emphasis is placed on knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for entering and advancing in the field of marketing. Skills in communications, mathematics, technology, and psychology are reinforced in this course through the application of marketing principles.

Accounting I (NEW)

Credit: ½ unit

This course is designed to introduce students to basic accounting theory and procedures along with current applications of computer technology in accounting. Emphasis is placed on the mastery of basic accounting concepts and procedures. Mathematical, critical thinking, problem solving, decision making, technology and team building skills are reinforced in this course. Prerequisite: Average to above average math skills.

Computer Literacy (NEW)

Credit: ½ unit

Computer Literacy for Beginner is designed for students who are new to computer use. This course is especially helpful to people who want to understand how to effectively use their computer. This course is also designed to help you become computer literate as you learn to use various software applications.

Introduction to Business Computer Application:

Credit: 1 unit

Students will be expected to have knowledge in the touch method of operating a computer keyboard to produce simple business documents. Emphasis will be placed on basic computer concepts, word processing, and spreadsheet application.

Health & Physical Education

First Responder (NEW)

Credit: ½ unit

Course Fee: \$45 covers CPR card, state certification card, & CPR mask

This course is designed to improve the quality of emergency medical care to victims of accidents and illnesses. Topics include CPR, airway management, hemorrhage control, bandaging, simple spinal immobilization, and simple splinting and infection control. Students will be certified in CPR-BLS for Health Care Provider with American Heart Association prior to First Responder certification. First Responder certification is possible in Louisiana upon receiving a minimum grade of 87 or above. Students must be 16 years of age to be eligible for certification.

Health

Credit: ½ unit

An overview of interpersonal skills, positive living and personal relationships and how they affect our lives are presented. It is a study of mental health, sound hygiene practices and interactive skills. We pursue the latest scientific information on medicinal drugs, health occupations, the human living system and interaction with the environment. Critical thinking, decision-making and positive self - esteem are the basis of the course.

Physical Education I

Credit: ½ unit

An introduction to the rules and basic skills in the areas of various team and individual sports. Each unit will expose the student to various individual and team activities. One semester of health is included as a part of this course.

Physical Education II

Credit: 1 unit

This course will build on the concepts of P.E. I by teaching strategies and advanced techniques of various team and individual sports.

Physical Education III

Credit: 1 unit

P.E. III is a course designed for those students who wish to maintain a high level of conditioning and training.

Physical Education IV

Credit: 1 unit

This course is designed to allow students to participate in a program of weight-lifting, athletic training and running. **1 Credit**

Weight Training (NEW)

Credit: ½ unit

Introduction to proper techniques for lifting weights to increase strength, flexibility and endurance. Progress in the course will be self-paced.

Fit for Life (NEW)

Credit: ½ unit

This course emphasizes lifetime sports, leisure pursuits, and the importance of physical fitness. Careers related to recreation and physical education, body building, intramural and outdoor education will be addressed.

English

English I

Credit: 1 unit

The English I curriculum will expose students to specific study skills and will increase vocabulary skills and grammar usage through selections of short stories, poetry, novels, mythology and a Shakespearean play. Grammar skills will be reviewed using Grammar oriented textbooks and workbooks. Refinement of writing skills will be introduced with emphasis on writing well-supported paragraphs. Students will be introduced to term papers using a novel read outside of the classroom. An introduction to research will be implemented into the curriculum using a classroom read novel and a home/class paper. The student will begin the Great Books Program. Each student will read four classical or modern novels.

English II

Credit: 1 unit

English II encompasses the elements of literature, grammar, vocabulary, and composition. This course is designed to prepare students and provide them with the basic literary and language arts skills needed to complete high school and build a basis of the literary and language arts skills needed on the collegiate level. Students will refine skills through the analysis and discussion of literature, development of creative writing skills, building of vocabulary and troubleshooting of common grammatical errors. Writing will be stressed and the Great Books Program will continue. The student will write a mini term paper. **Prerequisite: English I**

English III

Credit: 1 unit

English III encompasses the elements of literature, grammar, vocabulary, composition and research. This course is designed to prepare students and provide them with the necessary skills needed on the collegiate level. The literature of this course is a survey of American Literature. Student's refinement of the above skills will involve the discussion and analysis of American Literature, the development of expository writing skills, the building of vocabulary, and the troubleshooting of common grammatical errors. Writing will be stressed. The student will write a major research paper. The Great Books Program will continue. **Prerequisite: English II**

English IV

Credit: 1 unit

The English IV curriculum provides a survey of the literature of Great Britain and important world literature. The studies will be connected to the history and social structures present at the time that the works were written. Students will be required to read short stories, essays, poetry, plays and novels. The course offers a review of basic grammar rules, diction, syntax, and their applications in composition. Skills in development of thesis, organization, unity, coherence, and selective vocabulary will be reinforced. Different types of writing will be stressed. A major literary research paper will be required along with a paper on “What I want to be and why”. The Great Books Program will culminate four years of reading classical and modern novels.

Prerequisite: English III

Children’s Literature (NEW)

Credit: ½ unit

This course is designed to introduce and explore wonderful examples of children’s literature. We will be reading, discussing, and evaluating a wide array of outstanding children’s literature, as well creating original works of literature by participating in a writing workshop. The primary focus is the development of your appreciation for children’s literature through immersion into a variety of authors, illustrators, and genres. This course will introduce you to examples of the various genres of children’s literature, explore writing styles and techniques, enhance your understanding and enjoyment of children’s literature and reading, and facilitate your growth as an advocate, proponent, and reader of children’s literature. Finally, you will have multiple opportunities to share these works with elementary school children. **This course may be taken for elective credit only and does not count as an English credit.** It is recommended that this course be taken in conjunction with Creative Writing.

Creative Writing (NEW)

Credit: ½ unit

In this writing course, students examine well-crafted stories, poems, and essays and complete a thorough study of creative writing techniques. They also participate actively in local, state, or national creative writing communities. Publication of student work is emphasized. **This course may be taken for elective credit only and does not count as an English credit.** It is recommended that this course be taken in conjunction with Children’s Literature.

Mythology (NEW)

Credit: ½ unit

Mythology is a literature-based course that analyzes story elements, structure, archetypes and symbols in myths from many cultures, as well as the influence of mythology in literature, film, and popular culture. Reader-response strategies and composition skills are integrated in the study of mythology. **This course may be taken for elective credit only and does not count as an English credit.**

World Literature (NEW)

Credit: ½ unit

Students will read a wide variety of literature from around the world representing the history of human civilization from the most remote ancient cultures through the present day. In addition to the assigned text, students will also be responsible for outside independent reading and reporting, including reports on books to be chosen in consultation with the teacher. Students will be responsible for learning through tests, quizzes, group and individual presentations, and a variety of writing assignments. The writing will stem directly from the reading and provide students the opportunity to improve analytical, critical, and persuasive skills. Class writing activities will also include some informal, personal narrative, and creative writing to help clarify ideas and

stimulate discussion about the readings. The course focuses on regional study of the specific history and development of human cultures as seen through the literature. Therefore, one main objective is for students to learn information about history, the writers, their works, and literary movements. **This course may be taken for elective credit only and does not count as an English credit.**

Publications I

Credit: 1 unit

This course covers the fundamentals of producing a newsletter and maintaining the school website. This course will be open to Juniors and Seniors and enrollment will be limited to six students.

Publications II

Credit: 1 unit

This course covers the fundamentals of producing a yearbook. Students will learn to design a layout, produce artwork, write copy and crop pictures. Students will also learn basic fundamentals of photography. Students will be required to prepare a budget, sell advertising and promote sales to the student body. Students must be prepared to cover all school activities. This class is open to Seniors only.

French

French I

Credit: 1 unit

The students will learn the basic level of the French language in order to develop their speaking, listening, and reading skills. They will also learn the present, near future, and past tense of verbs with sentence construction. The course will give the student a basic knowledge of French culture, history, and government. The students will also develop vocabulary skills by presenting hands-on demonstrations and activities to the class.

French II

Credit: 1 unit

The students will apply advanced conversational skills by discussing art, travel, daily life, and other topics in French. Exposure to the imperfect, perfect, and future tenses will be emphasized by using French videotapes, music, and other multimedia devices. The students will also be required to write several short essays in French incorporating various verb tenses.

Prerequisite: French I

French III/IV –Let’s Speak French!

Credit: 1 unit

Focusing primarily on communication, both spoken and written, this class will be taught primarily in French. Material and methods used could include the internet, film, readings on popular subjects, francophone (French language) magazines and music videos to foster increase grammar and vocabulary. Various francophone cultures will be examined in more depth through cuisine, customs, local writings, etc. Students will speak primarily in French and they will not be afraid to make mistakes – lots of mistakes! Eventually, they will learn how to function in a French speaking world! They will not be graded for perfection, but rather by their effort to learn to communicate in French. **Prerequisite: French I and French II**

Fine Arts

Fine Arts Survey

Credit: 1 unit

The Fine Arts curriculum will introduce students to various art forms. Each semester will concentrate on the four basic forms of art: music, visual arts, drama and dance. Much of the student's grade will depend on participation. The student will view various films relating to the arts.

Art I (NEW)

Credit: ½ unit

Course Fee: \$50

Art I is a studio based course that is an in-depth study of the elements and principles of design and the development of skills necessary to solve artistic problems. Art history, art criticism, media knowledge, sketchbook practice, class critiques, and good craftsmanship are integral part of each assignment. Students will learn the language of art through a working verbal and visual vocabulary.

Chorus (NEW)

Credit: ½ unit

Course Fee: \$50

This course is designed to give the student a fundamental technical knowledge of the voice as an instrument, music reading skills, including the opportunity to play hand chimes, and the pure enjoyment of vocal music. The chorus will perform a varied repertoire of music including sacred, classical, folk, jazz, and popular music. Audition is not necessary. Previous vocal experience or musical knowledge is not required. Members will participate in the District Solo and Small Ensemble Festival as well as give concerts within the community.

Speech I

Credit: 1 unit

This course is designed to assist students in development formal oral communication skills. Students learn to research, plan, and organize speeches to persuade and inform. An introduction to debate, mock trial, and television are included.

Speech II

Credit: 1 unit

The course is designed to enhance interpersonal communication skills and build on skills acquired in Speech I. Also included will be an advancement of problem solving skills, non-verbal skill, trust, perception, conflict management, and interviewing.

Competitive Drama (NEW)

Credit: ½ unit

This course is designed for members of the competitive speech squad whose primary interest is drama. This is a lab class that includes in-depth work on dramatic and humorous interpretation and duet acting. Students are required to attend a set number of tournaments as determined by the teacher.

Theology

Theology I – Apologetics

Credit: 1 unit

This branch of theology deals with defending our faith using Scripture, history, reasoning and common sense. It will better prepare students to meet the challenges of defending their faith and correcting misconceptions about our Catholic faith which are held by some members of other faiths. With the use of the New Testament and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the following topics will be included: God – who is He, the Trinity, Scripture as Truth, Tradition with a capital “T”, Ecclesiology, Our response to being Catholic through Prayer, Faith, and Grace, the Sacramental life, Liturgy and Rituals of the Catholic Church, and the Four Last Things – Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell. **1 Credit**

Theology II – Morality**Credit: 1 unit**

This course covers the formation of a Catholic conscience using the values and guidance of our mother Church. Fundamental terms and ideas of morality are covered as a basis for discussing specific moral issues as it pertains to our daily lives. Areas of focus will include Christian morals, virtues, sin, justice and the area of sexuality developed from Theology of the Body by Pope John Paul II, directed toward the gift of sexuality as part of God’s gift.

Theology III – Catholic Church History**Credit: 1 unit**

This class will focus on how faith is lived through the centuries with its struggles, victories and scandals and how dogma and doctrine has been shaped and our need to remain faithful to Jesus. It will help student’s understanding of the heritage of our faith by exploring the roles of the Apostles, prominent Church figures, positive and negative effects of the schisms, the Dark Ages of our church, the influences of the Protestant Reformation and the pivotal role played by ecumenical councils in history. It will also touch on the adaptation of our Church to our modern day needs.

Theology IV - Christian Vocations**Credit: 1 unit**

In an effort to expand the understanding of various states or conditions of life to which God calls us to aid in the fulfillment of his plan for us, we will explore the following:

Married State – instituted by God as a sacrament and its indissolubility.

Sacred Orders – the life of a priest, deacon and bishop as earthly shepherds of God’s people and His earthly Church.

Consecrated Religious – those who accept a vow of poverty and chastity on their journey of service to the people of God’s Kingdom and His Church in their roles as seminarians, religious brothers and religious sisters.

Single Life and the transitional stage from the parental faith umbrella to the practical application of learned faith beyond home-life security.

To Lead As Jesus Did (NEW)**Credit: ½ unit**

This course builds on the elements of character education in regards to leadership styles, conflict resolution, problem solving, time management, organizational skills, ethical decision making, and Catholic social justice teachings. Students will work on effective communication skills in a variety of settings. Students will have an opportunity to practice these skills by serving as Jesus did through their community as well as working with their peers and elementary and middle school students. This course is open to Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors only.

Mathematics

Algebra I

Credit: 1 unit

This course is a study of real numbers, polynomials, factoring, absolute value, rational expressions and problem-solving (word problems)

Geometry

Credit: 1 unit

This course covers deductive reasoning and the use of logic in proving theorems and working problems. Congruent triangles, similar polygons, circles, areas and volumes are some of the topics covered. **Prerequisite: Algebra**

Algebra II

Credit: 1 unit

This course includes operations with real numbers and imaginary numbers, solving equations and systems of equations. Also included are polynomials, functions, common logarithms and conic sections. Honor classes are expected to have a greater understanding of concepts and be able to derive formulas. They should also be able to use the graphing calculator for greater understanding. **Prerequisite: Algebra I**

Advanced Math – Pre-Calculus

Credit: 1 unit

The focus in the first semester is an intense study of trigonometry. Topics include the six trigonometric functions and their inverses, their graphs, solving trigonometric equations, verifying trigonometric identities, polar equations, and graphing. The second semester focuses on the intense study and theory of linear functions and systems, polynomials, inverse functions and relations, and the nature of graphs of these different functions and relations. More topics include exponential and logarithmic functions, series, binomial expansion, synthetic division, and limits. **Prerequisite: Algebra II**

Calculus

Credit: 1 unit

This course is designed for students with a strong background in algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and functions. Topics include the study of limits and continuity, derivatives with applications, integration with applications, and non-algebraic functions with applications.

Pre-requisite: Advanced Math

Financial Math

Credit: 1 unit

This course is designed to provide a comprehensive review of the fundamental principles using whole numbers, common fractions, and decimals with emphasis on percentages. The course includes procedures, consumer information and other topics pertinent to business transactions. Manual and machine (calculator) calculations are emphasized. This course does not fulfill one of the three math requirements for TOPS.

Other Electives

Study Skills (NEW)

Credit: ½ unit

This course is designed to provide students with a multisensory, structured language approach and strategies to support reading comprehension and written expression across the curriculum.

Louisiana Virtual School

The Louisiana Department of Education, in partnership with The Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts provides Louisiana high school students access to standards-based high school courses delivered by certified highly-qualified Louisiana teachers through the Louisiana Virtual School (LVS). Students in LVS courses utilize the web, email, and other online and offline resources to complete a rich course of study in a multitude of courses. Students should realize that taking a course online requires personal discipline and good time management skills. Students should not expect that there will be less to do than in the regular classroom, since each course must adhere to the Louisiana standards and benchmarks for the area of instruction. Most people agree that students spend more time taking an online course than they typically devote to a traditional high school class. **Students should consult their school counselor to make sure that they are ready for online learning.** Computer expertise is not required; however, students should be aware that a certain level of computer skill and comfort is necessary to do work online. Please contact Ms. Kayla Gaspard to determine whether an online course with LVS will meet your needs. For a list of LVS course offerings, please go to www.louisianavirtuelschool.net. Only those courses that are not offered on campus at VC will be available to students through LVS.