

SOUTHWEST CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

7400 Eldridge Rd.
Houston, Texas 77083

**OFFICIAL
CURRICULUM GUIDE
HIGH SCHOOL**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Coursework by Department

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF MATH

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF BIBLICAL STUDY

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM AND SPEECH

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE ARTS

ENGLISH 1

Sem: 2, Credit: 1

Students are expected to plan, draft, and complete written compositions on a regular basis with editing for clarity, engaging language, and the correct use of all mechanics of written English and produce error-free drafts. Emphasis is on the organization of logical arguments with clearly expressed definitions and parameters, reference skills, and competent structural techniques within the compositions, using a multi-paragraph composing process. Students will read extensively in multiple genres from world literature and become familiar with literary forms, styles, and terms associated with selections being read.

ENGLISH 2

Sem: 2, Credit: 1

Coursework is designed to continue the study of composition and literature, with more emphasis on developing the student writing skills. Research papers emphasizing the research process and the organization of lengthy documents will be part of this course. Literary works are required reading and interpretation skills are developed as to how to interpret influences on a literary essay from a historical perspective.

ENGLISH 3

Sem: 2, Credit: 1

This course refines communication and writing skills, and builds on vocabulary, mechanics of grammar, and the use of various composition forms. Students will write narrative, persuasive, and expository essays and will learn to use various styles of form including the business memo, summaries, abstracts, and resumes. American literature is studied through the short story, novel, poetry, and drama and students will learn to interpret historical influences on a literary work.

ENGLISH 4

Sem: 2, Credit: 1

This course surveys selections and genres from the medieval, Elizabethan, and other periods in British literature. Selections from the Romantic and Victorian Ages will give students the opportunity to express themselves in writing by responding to the reading assignments. This senior level course is further designed to help students become aware of interactions between writer purposes and audience expectations, and the use of poignant language, prose, and differing writing conventions to communicate effectively. Writing skills are further refined by strengthening the foundations of vocabulary, sentence structure and critical thinking in order to improve both creative and practical writing style.

CREATIVE WRITING

Sem: 2, Credit: 1

A rigorous composition course requiring students to demonstrate skills in such forms of writing as essays, short stories, poetry, and drama. All students are expected to demonstrate an understanding of the writing process, effectively applying the conventions of usage and the mechanics of written English. Students will progress into the study of four advanced writing types such as: descriptive (the use of concrete language, vivid modifiers, and sensory language), narrative (the creation of dramatic scenes, thoughts, and experiences into personal narratives), persuasive / argumentative (expressions of opinions with clarity and the use of narrative to influence or develop opposing viewpoints), and expository (exercises in the writing of information that describes a process, a cause-and-effect scenario, a compare and contrast synopsis, or research summaries on specific topics).

DEPARTMENT OF MATH

ALGEBRA 1

Sem: 2, Credit: 1

Traditional topics in Algebra 1 are covered including: simplification operations applied to polynomials and integers; factoring algebraic expressions and their application to the manipulation of algebraic functions; methods for equation solving including: linear, quadratic, fractional, two variables, and inequalities; operations with square roots and radicals; graphing techniques.

GEOMETRY

Sem: 2, Credit: 1

This course consists of the study of geometric figures of zero, one, two, and three dimensions and the relationships among them. Emphasis is placed on deductive reasoning in the form of proofs, congruence and similarity, properties of parallel lines and their angles, and special study of quadrilaterals and other polygons, special right triangles, circles and their angles and tangents.

ALGEBRA 2

Sem: 2, Credit 1

This course extends problem solving skills in manipulation of variables, graphing and graphical interpretation, and the analysis of functions. Included are studies in conics, matrices, higher degree polynomials, exponential and log functions, complex fractions and the complex number system.

PRE-CALCULUS

Sem: 2, Credit 1

This course is a study in trigonometric functions and utilizes advanced algebra and analytical geometry skills. The course covers trig identities and their graphs, trig and triangles, inverse functions and equations; circular functions and applications, complex numbers and sequences. In addition, students are exposed to radian measure, fundamental identities, solutions of triangles, polar coordinates, inverse functions, conic sections, and exponential functions.

CALCULUS

Sem: 2, Credit 1

Calculus is for the advanced math student. The curriculum includes a detailed study of derivatives and integrals, applications, and differential equations. Emphasis is placed on limits, integration, and differentiation skills.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

WORLD GEOGRAPHY

Sem: 2, Credit 1

This course is a comprehensive study of the surface of the earth, including climate, weather, vegetation, wildlife, and mineral and other resources. Agriculture, industry, culture, politics, trade, and communications of selected regions of the world are also covered.

WORLD HISTORY

Sem: 2, Credit 1

This course is an overview of the entire history of mankind. The major emphasis is on the study of significant people, events, and issues from the earliest times to the present. Traditional historical points of reference in world history are identified as students analyze important events and issues in western civilization as well as in civilizations in other parts of the world. Students examine the impact of geographic factors on major historic events and identify the origins of economic and governmental systems. Further, students will examine the history and impact of major religious and philosophical traditions and analyze the growth of industrial economies.

AMERICAN HISTORY

Sem: 2, Credit 1

This course is the study of the history of the United States from the Colonial period to the present. Historical content focuses on the political, economic, and social events and issues related to industrialization and urbanization, major wars, domestic and foreign policies, and reform movements including civil rights. Students examine the impact of numerous factors on major events and analyze causes and effects of the Great Depression. Students further examine the impact of constitutional issues on American society, evaluate the dynamic relationship of the three branches of federal government, and analyze efforts to expand the democratic process.

U.S. GOVERNMENT

Sem: 1, Credit .5

This course emphasizes the study of the structure and function of the US Government. Other political systems will be compared to that in the United States. Documents that have shaped the government and influenced the individual citizenship will be studied extensively. Civil rights, civil liberties, state and local governments and citizen responsibilities will round out this senior level course.

ECONOMICS

Sem: 1, Credit .5

This course is a comprehensive exploration of economics and the free enterprise system which will involve problem solving and analysis of economic principles. The focus is on the basic principles concerning production, consumption, and distribution of goods and services in the US and a comparison with those in other countries around the world. Students will further analyze the interaction of supply and demand and study the role of financial institutions in these transactions. Students will apply thinking skills to evaluate economic activity patterns.

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE

BIOLOGY 1

Sem: 2, Credit 1

This course is a detailed study of the growth, development and life process of organisms. Topics of study include cellular structure, tissue, and organs; genetics and nucleic acids; metabolism and energy transfers in living organisms; ecosystems; and plants and the environment. Emphasis is placed on the safe handling of lab equipment, and on the application of biological concepts to daily life.

INT PHYSICS CHEMISTRY

Sem: 2, Credit 1

This course is a study of scientific methods, measurement, physical and chemical properties, engineering and electronics. Students learn how to balance equations, formulate hypotheses and analyze the periodic table. Chemical, electrochemical, and nuclear reactions are studied.

CHEMISTRY

Sem: 2, Credit 1

This course is a study of chemical concepts that include the characteristics of matter, energy transformations during chemical and physical changes; atomic structure; periodic table of elements; behavior of gases; bonding; nuclear fusion and nuclear fission; oxidation reduction reactions; chemical equations; properties of solutions; acids and bases; and chemical reactions. In a laboratory environment, students will investigate how chemistry is an integral part of our daily lives.

ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY Sem: 2, Credit 1

This course is an intensive study and exploration of the topics of homeostasis, histology and the anatomy of the human body systems with concurrent study of the physiology of those systems. Emphasis is on student appreciation of life through an in-depth study of body structure and function as a miraculous creation of God. In addition, a technical study of basic medical terminology, field trips, and lectures by healthcare professionals are included.

PHYSICS

Sem: 2, Credit 1

This course covers a variety of subjects that include laws of motion; changes within physical systems and conservation of energy and momentum; force; thermodynamics; characteristics and behavior of waves; and quantum physics. Students will conduct field and lab investigations, use scientific methods during investigations, and make informed decisions using critical thinking and scientific problem solving methods.

DEPARTMENT OF BIBLICAL STUDIES

BIBLE 9 THE LIFE OF CHRIST Sem: 2, Credit 1

This course directs students into a two part study. Semester one leads students to an understanding of the sovereignty and nature of God and His plan for all people. His omniscience, omnipresence, omnipotence, justice, mercy, and power are studied. Semester two is a study of the life of Christ in the New Testament. The redemptive plan of God through Jesus is a major focus.

BIBLE 10 CRITICAL ISSUES Sem: 2, Credit 1

This course provides students with historical and textual evidence for the reliability of the Bible. The purpose is to equip students to answer the common objections to the Bible that are posed by agnostics and skeptics. Comparisons are also made between the truth in scripture as opposed to major world religions, secular philosophies, cults, sects and the occult.

BIBLE 11 EXPERIENCING GOD Sem: 2, Credit 1

This course will help students to experience the wisdom and truth in the real living God and come to know for themselves that they have a personal relationship with Him. Maturity in Christ is the goal of this course and students will learn to grow in their faith by scripture memorization, a study of the Holy Spirit, and an in-depth look into how a Christian life helps an individual to cope with life from day to day.

BIBLE 12 A STUDY IN EVANGELISM Sem: 2, Credit 1

This course explores the scriptural concept of personal evangelism and missions and the responsibility of each Christian in this area. Students will learn about various types of missionary work such as medical, educational, evangelistic, agricultural and other social ministries. Personal evangelism will be explored as to how, why, and when the most effective methods can be used to spread the gospel using the students own personalized plan.

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

SPANISH 1

Sem: 2, Credit 1

This course is an introduction to the Spanish language, the people, culture, history, and geography with emphasis on speaking and listening comprehension, speaking, reading and writing.

SPANISH 2

Sem: 2, Credit 1

This course serves as a review and further development of basic skills. Reading and writing activities increase. Culture, history, and geography of Spanish speaking countries are integrated into the curriculum.

SPANISH 3

Sem: 2, Credit 1

This course will emphasize communicative skills and grammar will be presented to support functional skills and will be tied into units. Vocabulary related to specific aspects of daily life will be introduced.

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER ARTS

INTRO TO COMPUTERS

Sem: 2, Credit 1

This course acquaints students with computer vocabulary and concepts. It discusses the historical background of computers and how computers work. Computer applications in word processing, spreadsheet, and database are introduced.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Sem: 2, Credit 1

This course is a study in two distinct areas of computer technology. Primary studies in business applications are analyzed, beginning with internet analysis and its applications to the business world of today. Secondary studies will help further prepare students for the college world by studying advanced Microsoft applications of Word, Excel, and other related software.

DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS

ART 1

Sem: 2, Credit 1

This course analyzes artistic expression, creative performance, historical and cultural heritage, and critical evaluation by providing coursework that organizes artistic knowledge and skills into these four broad areas. By analyzing artistic styles and historical periods, students develop respect for the traditions and contributions of diverse cultures. Students respond to and analyze artworks, thus contributing to the development of lifelong skills of making informed judgments and evaluations. Students will be given an opportunity to produce their own artwork in many of the artistic disciplines that they will have studied.

ART 2

Sem: 1, Credit .5

This course is designed to further refine the ability of the student to develop artistic skills by studying generalized perceptions of the environment and by exploring certain areas including sensitivity to their surroundings and their own visual awareness, their memory, imagination, and life experiences. These areas of perception will be the basis and a source for creating artworks.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH EDUCATION

HEALTH EDUCATION

Sem: 1, Credit .5

This course helps students to acquire health information and skills necessary to become healthy adults and learn about behaviors in which they should and should not participate. To achieve that goal, students will understand the following: students should first seek guidance in the area of health from their parents; personal behaviors can increase or reduce health risks throughout a lifespan; health is influenced by a variety of factors; students can recognize and utilize health information and products; and personal and interpersonal skills are needed to promote individual, family, and community health.

FAMILY RELATIONS

Sem: 1, Credit .5

This course is designed to focus on interpersonal relationships, effective family functioning, promotion of family well-being, and an understanding of roles and responsibilities within the family structure. Special attention is directed towards the impact of the family on society and factors related to marital success. The course addresses the management of housing needs, meal etiquette, and family dietary practices from a nutrition perspective.

DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM AND SPEECH

SPEECH

Sem: 1, Credit .5

This course will teach students the concepts and skills related to preparing and presenting public messages. Further, they will learn to evaluate the messages of others. By using this process, students will gain skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and thinking and will examine such areas as invention, organization, style, memory, and delivery.

DEBATE

Sem: 1, Credit .5

In this course, students learn to think critically and respond to a resolution based on a current social issue. Additionally, students learn to conduct thorough research, define specific terms, and create plans to solve social issues. They apply these skills in the debate of timely issues from a biblical worldview through composition, reading and oral communication. Students learn to access, evaluate, and organize information from a variety of sources to critically assess the value of opposing viewpoints, refute false arguments, and construct effective rebuttals and counter-viewpoints.

JOURNALISM

Sem: 2, Credit 1

This course will teach students to write in a variety of forms for a variety of purposes. Students are expected to plan, draft, and complete written print media while carefully examining their work for clarity, engaging language, and the correct use of conventional mechanics of the English language. Students will become analytical critics of the media. Students will also learn journalistic traditions and learn the principles of publishing and writing journalistic texts. As a final product of this course, students are expected to write, edit, and publish the school yearbook.

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Sem: 1, Credit .5

Physical education is offered in all high school grades and includes the ability for students to participate in after school team sports. The basic purpose of these courses is to motivate students to strive for lifetime personal fitness with an emphasis on health related components of physical fitness. Students will participate in sports and are expected to participate in a wide range of individual sports. Students enrolled in team sports are expected to develop an appreciation for team work and fair play. The ultimate goal of all physical education courses is to incorporate the concept of physical activity into a lifestyle beyond high school.