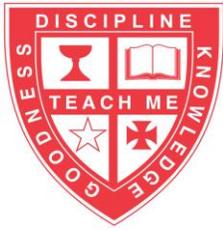




COURSE CATALOG  
2021-2022



ST. THOMAS  
HIGH SCHOOL  
BASILIAN FATHERS • 1900

November 19, 2020

Dear Student,

This course catalogue is for your use as you begin to plan your academic career at St. Thomas High School. It includes descriptions of all courses offered with their pre-requisites. Many of these courses are required as part of our excellent college preparatory program, while others are electives that may be chosen as areas of particular interest to you.

This curriculum is designed to prepare you to succeed in college and to deal successfully with the challenges of life in our ever-changing society. All that is needed is your commitment and dedicated effort to make the most of the opportunities available to you here at St. Thomas.

Sincerely,

Mary Criaco  
Assistant Principal

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

**All students must complete 28 credits for graduation:**

Theology	4 credits (required for all students)
Mathematics	4 credits
English	4 credits
Social Studies	4 credits
Science	4 credits
Physical Education	1 credit
Health	½ credit
Foreign Language	2 credits
Technology	1 credit
Speech	½ credit
Fine Arts	1 credit
Electives	2 (minimum)
Total	28 credits

Students may not take more than 1.5 credits of P.E. toward their graduation requirements. One-half credit of P.E. may be earned if the student plays a Varsity sport for two years or Letters as a Junior.

## COURSE OF STUDY DIRECTIVES FOR FRESHMEN

### GENERAL PRE-REQUISITES

1. All students are required to take core subjects, Health, one elective course (Fine Arts, P.E or Speech). Students enrolled in Marching Band will be exempt from P.E.
2. Summer school may be required in Language Arts, Reading and/or Pre-Algebra.
3. Students must take at least two years of foreign language.

### 9TH GRADE CURRICULUM. STUDENTS MUST TAKE ONE COURSE FROM EACH SECTION.

Theology I

English 9

English I

Advanced English I

World Geography and Culture

Advanced World Geography and Culture

Algebra I

Accelerated Algebra I

Advanced Algebra I/Geometry

Advanced Geometry

Biology

Advanced Biology

Spanish I

Advanced Spanish I

French I

Advanced Latin I

Advanced Mandarin I

Health

Fine Arts, Speech, PE, or Comp Applications

## COURSE OF STUDY FOR UPPER CLASSMEN

### **Sophomore**

Theology  
English  
World History  
Math  
Language  
Science

Select ½ credit worth of additional courses:

P.E.  
Speech  
Fine Arts  
Technology

Minimum of 14 credits needed to be promoted to junior year.

### **Junior**

Theology  
English  
United States History  
Math  
Science

Select 2 credits worth of additional courses:

Language (1 credit)  
P.E. (½ credit)  
Technology  
Fine Arts  
Other Electives

Minimum of 21 credits needed to be promoted to senior year.

### **Senior**

Theology  
English  
Economics/Government  
Math  
Science

Select 2 credits worth of additional courses:

Language (1 credit)  
Technology  
Fine Arts  
Other electives

Note:

1. Student may not repeat subjects at St. Thomas during the regular school year. Failures in required courses must be made up in Summer School.
2. Fees:
  - Advanced Placement classes have a test fee of \$94.00 each.
  - Robotics class has a fee of \$100.00.
  - Comprehensive Weight Lifting has a fee of \$150.00.

## Academic Information

1. The student course load is seven subjects and no more than one study hall per semester.
2. To be eligible for advanced courses, a student must meet established criteria and be approved by of the department dean and counselor.
3. Student schedules are not created or changed based upon requests for specific teachers or specific semesters.
4. Students may not repeat subjects at St. Thomas. Seniors who fail a required course in the fall semester must make it up in night school during the spring semester.
5. Underclassmen are not permitted to repeat a failed course during the fall/spring semesters. It must be taken in summer school.
6. No credit will be recognized for courses taken during the summer at another school unless they have been previously approved by the Assistant Principal. Only credit recovery courses will be considered for approval.

### STH GPA Scale:

Grade	Percentage	GPA Regular	GPA Weighted
A	93 – 100	4.0	5.0
A-	90 – 92	4.0	5.0
B+	87 – 89	3.3	4.3
B	83 – 86	3.0	4.0
B-	80 – 82	3.0	4.0
C+	79	2.3	3.3
C	77 – 78	2.0	3.0
C-	75 – 76	2.0	3.0
D+	74	1.3	2.3
D	71 – 73	1.0	2.0
D-	70	1.0	2.0
F	0 – 69	0	0

### Failures and Summer School Credit Recovery

A student who fails to earn credit for a required course must acquire the credit in St. Thomas' summer school credit recovery program or in another approved summer school in order to return to St. Thomas the following year. The only exception to this is in full-year courses in math and languages other than English in which what is learned second semester builds itself on what is learned first semester. In this case, the first semester failing grade will be raised to a passing grade if the student earns a second semester average of C- or better. (Exceptions: Calculus or Pre-Calculus.)

Credit recovery courses taken with approval will become part of the school record and will be used in the computation of the cumulative grade point average. Students who fail a course are required to take credit recovery. Students earning less than a C- in a core course may have the option of taking the course again in the summer. Both the original course and the credit recovery course will be on the transcript and included in the cumulative grade point average. Only courses taken at St. Thomas High School will be included in the cumulative grade point average.

A student who fails more than one subject in a quarter or semester will be ineligible to participate in any extra-curricular activities until the mid-quarter grade check.

## Academic Concerns

St. Thomas High School does not rank its students. To compute cumulative grade point average, courses are distinguished according to their degree of difficulty and grades are weighted on a 4-point scale using letter grades.

Note: The Physical Education grade is *not* calculated in the GPA.

St. Thomas Club – 4.0 GPA *with no grade below a C-*.

Honor Roll – 3.5 GPA *with no grade below a C-*.

**The Valedictorian and Salutatorian** are determined at the end of seven (7) semesters. The students with the highest grade point average and the second highest grade point average in January of their senior year will be declared Valedictorian and Salutatorian, respectively. A student must have been in attendance at St. Thomas for at least five consecutive semesters in order to be declared Valedictorian or Salutatorian.

## Communications and Technology

**COMPUTER APPLICATIONS:** Students learn to use Microsoft Office including Word, Excel and PowerPoint. In addition, they complete a major project at the end of each unit, which integrates what they have learned. Students must complete this course or successfully pass the placement test during their freshman year as a prerequisite for all technology courses. (One semester).

**WEB DESIGN & MANAGEMENT:** Web Design focuses on key concepts and principles of Website design and development, including web terminology, design principles, and hands-on development of Websites. Students will learn how to design a Website based on requirements, structure Website content, develop Website pages using graphics, animation, and integration with Microsoft Office applications, and perform quality assurance testing. *Prerequisite: Computer Applications* (One semester)

**VIDEO PRODUCTION:** The theme of the Video Production course is the basics of storytelling through video techniques. This course introduces students to broadcasting and video production through a theory based and hands-on approach. Topics include the fundamental technical aspects of the digital video camera, camera shots and composition, media literacy, aesthetic elements and techniques, non-linear editing, public service announcements, television advertising, short films, EBN studio roles and responsibilities and broadcast news. Students also have the opportunity to work in the TV Studio or be part of live events and produce a variety of programming. Once students have been introduced to the fundamental techniques, the students then have independent projects, which they write, film, produce and edit using the functionality learned in the application. As a result, student put their understanding into practical usage for each technique and the equipment. *Prerequisite: Computer Applications* (One Semester)

**BROADCAST JOURNALISM:** The Eagle Broadcast Network (EBN) course operates a robust campus news organization and television station. Students will produce and air a live morning news program, broadcast sporting events, create video stories to be aired on EBN and Round-Up videos. Students will work in a team environment and receive hands-on experience producing, writing, editing, videotaping, and reporting events for the school community. Students must arrive by 7:20 in the morning. *Course prerequisite: Computer Applications* (One Semester)

**ROBOTICS:** Robotics is a one-semester course that will teach students the basics of robotic programming. Students will work in small groups to program their robot to interact with its environment and complete tasks. Robotics can be taken by students with little or no programming experience, and can serve as a concise and engaging introduction to programming, using the language RobotC. (One Semester) *Fee: \$100*  
*Prerequisite: Computer Applications*

**COMPUTER SCIENCE I:** Computer Science I introduces the basic concepts of programming. Students learn problem solving skills as they write Scratch, Jeroo, and Python programs. Students learn basic programming structures, such as loops and conditionals. (One semester) *Prerequisite: Computer Applications*

**INTRO TO CYBERSECURITY:** Students will develop the knowledge and skills needed to explore fundamental concepts related to the ethics, laws, and operations of cybersecurity. Students will examine trends and operations of cyber-attacks, threats, and vulnerabilities. Students will review and explore security policies designed to mitigate risks. The skills obtained in this course prepare students for additional study in cybersecurity. *Prerequisite: Computer Applications*

**AP COMPUTER SCIENCE A:** Advanced Placement Computer Science A is a fast-paced introduction to the Java programming language. Students learn advanced computer science concepts including user interfaces, searching, sorting, and recursion and working with classes, which is a feature of object-oriented programming. The AP exam is taken in May. (Two semesters) *Prerequisite: Computer Applications; Co-enrolled in Algebra II or higher/b or higher in previous math classes or recommendation*

**AP COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES:** Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles covers a wide range of computer topics. Some of the topics covered are how the internet works, the impact of computers on society, cyber security as well as programming. The programming language for this course will be Python. Students learn problem solving skills and collaboration skills as they work on group and individual projects. AP credit is assessed as follows 60% AP Exam in May, 16% Explore Project and 24% Create Project. (Two Semesters) *Pre-requisite: B in Advanced Math Class or A- in Regular Math*

**SPEECH:** This course is an introduction to public speaking. Students learn how to prepare and how to deliver speeches for a variety of public speaking situations including making formal introductions, persuading an audience based on information gained through research, and demonstrating a process. Students also learn the basics of debating a topic effectively. (One semester)

**FORENSICS I:** Forensics I is a full-year course designed primarily for students interested in competitive speech activities. Lincoln-Douglas, Policy and Parliamentary debate formats, as well as extemporaneous speaking, are studied. Research methods and persuasive writing are also covered. The course requirements include assistance with the Junior High School Speech Tournament. This course fulfills the Speech requirement.

**FORENSICS II, III, & IV:** These Forensics courses are designed for the experienced speech and debate student. The course will stress expert knowledge and practice in Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum, Policy and Student Congress debate events. Forensics II will include analysis of current controversial issues, methods and materials of research, evidence, applied logic and reasoning, construction of debate cases and audience analysis. *Prerequisite: Forensics I & recommendation for Forensics II; Forensics II & recommendation for Forensics III; Forensics III & recommendation for Forensics IV*

**INTRODUCTION TO JOURNALISM:** Journalism 1 serves as an introduction to the journalistic style of writing, layout and design, and photography used in the creation of the school newspaper and yearbook. The class serves as a prerequisite for joining the publications class, which produces these school publications. Students will learn to write the three basic styles of journalistic writing: news, feature, and editorial. Subject matter for student writing will range from school level to world news/issue level. Students will learn the basic functionality of professional design software including, but not limited to, Adobe InDesign, Adobe Photoshop, and Studioworks. Students in J1 will learn the fundamentals of good layout for newspaper, magazine, and online publication. Finally, students will learn the fundamental operations of a professional DSLR camera and the particular elements of shooting photographs for photojournalism as opposed to other styles of photography. Students will learn photocomposition, editing, and visual storytelling. This class is offered to grades 9-11 and fulfills either a technology or fine arts credit. (One Semester)

**ADVANCED JOURNALISM (YEARBOOK):** Advanced Journalism (Yearbook) is a two-semester course which provides the student with an in-depth study and hands-on experience in the complete process of production and publishing the *Aquin* yearbook. Each student will have the opportunity to work in all areas of production including photography, design, copywriting, and editing. In addition, students enrolled in this course will gain certificates in Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Indesign as well as proficiency in industry level project management software. Enrollment in this class requires the approval of the advisor.

**ADVANCED JOURNALISM (PRINT AND DIGITAL PUBLICATION):** Advanced Journalism (Print and Digital Publication) is a two-semester course which provides the student with an in-depth study and hands-on experience in the complete process of production and publishing in both print and digital mediums. Students are responsible for the production of the print edition of *The Eagle* as well as *The Eagle Online* student website. In addition, students enrolled in this course will gain certificates in Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Indesign as part of the course. Enrollment in this class requires the approval of the advisor.

## English

**ENGLISH 9 and ENGLISH I:** Students in English I develop critical thinking skills through reading and expository writing based on world literature. The literary survey is coordinated with the students' study of ancient through medieval civilizations in history. Students review basic sentence structure, standard usage and punctuation as well as organizational strategies for essays. Students improve vocabulary through reading and study of supplemental materials. English I students learn to discern and document credible sources used in researching topics related to the study of literature and its context.

**ADVANCED ENGLISH I:** Students in Advanced English I develop critical thinking skills through reading and expository writing based on world literature. Though somewhat broader and deeper than English I, the literary survey is coordinated with the students' study of ancient through medieval civilizations in history. Students review basic sentence structure, standard usage and punctuation, as well as effective organization and rhetorical strategies for essays. Students improve vocabulary through reading and study of supplemental materials. Advanced English I students learn to discern and correctly document credible sources used in researching topics related to the study of literature and its context. A significant difference for Advanced English I students is the expectation that they will display intellectual curiosity beyond that of the regular student.

**ENGLISH II:** Students in English II continue to develop skill in critical analysis, both in reading and writing through the study of world literature from the Renaissance to the present. English II emphasizes clear, coherent writing as a response to the literature. Coordination with World History continues and we introduce the research process with regard to particular authors, analysis of their work, and review of scholarly literary analysis. Students concentrate on those elements of grammar which will improve their writing and prepare them for college entrance exams. Students continue to supplement vocabulary in the literature with a vocabulary program.

**ADVANCED ENGLISH II:** Students in Advanced English II continue to develop skill begun in Advanced English I in critical analysis, both in reading and writing through the study of world literature from the Renaissance to the present. Study of the development of literature as a reflection of and response to historical, political, and social events continues in tandem with the World History class. Students learn formal research methods and procedures. Grammar study focuses primarily on sentence analysis for improvement through modification, coordination, and subordination. Vocabulary study in literature is supplemented for SAT preparation. *Prerequisite: A- in English I & recommendation or B in Advanced English I & recommendation.*

**ENGLISH III:** Students in English III survey American literature from colonial times to the present, placing emphasis on textual analysis and critical response to literature. Clear, coherent essays based on detectable principles of organization and standard objective diction form the basis for the English III writing program. Actively engaging the ideas in a text through discussion and presentation promote mastery learning in English III. Coordination with American history emphasizes the importance of literature as primary source for historical interpretation. Vocabulary, grammar, and usage study build skill for college entrance exam preparation.

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH III LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION:** Students in this course focus primarily on developing well organized, clear, coherent, analytical, and persuasive essays in response to their survey of American literature from colonial times to the present. Students will present their analyses of prose and poetry in writing as well as orally. Coordination with American history emphasizes the importance of literature as a primary source for historical interpretation. Special emphasis on the analysis of exemplary nonfiction and identifying and using rhetorical strategies in their writing helps prepare students for the Advanced Placement Exam in the spring. Credit for passing scores on the exam is awarded in the form of credit hours at most universities in the U.S. *Prerequisite: B in Advanced English II & recommendation or A- in English II & recommendation.*

**ENGLISH IV:** The central purpose of English IV is to cultivate the critical thinking, reading, writing, and oral skills required for students' post-graduation ambitions. The English IV curriculum of 9<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> century British literature encourages students to become more reflective and to further develop their independent study skills, their written and oral discourse, and their exploration and understanding of philosophical ideas. Students also gain a familiarity with British Literature as a body of work by examining how cultural influences have influenced the work of British authors.

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH IV LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION:** AP Literature is designed to satisfy requirements of a survey literature course at the university level and to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Exam in May. In order to develop analytical analysis skills, students read widely from prose, poetry, and drama, from the 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. They learn to read closely and analytically and then write cogently about the literature they study. *Prerequisite: Writing sample from AP English Language/English III.*

**CREATIVE WRITING:** Creative writing allows students opportunities to write in a variety of genre including short fiction, poetry, the memoir, nonfiction essay, and children's literature. Much of the work is accomplished during the class in the computer lab followed by peer editing workshops. Emphasis includes improving students' mastery of language and grammar through revision as part of the creative process. Students build a portfolio of work and are required to submit work for publication in the literary magazine. Students are also strongly encouraged to enter writing contests both locally and nationally. (One semester)

**CONTEMPORARY RESEARCH AND WRITING:** Contemporary Research and Writing encourages students to develop the skills necessary for writing persuasive and informative essays. This rigorous composition course asks students to skillfully research a variety of topics and present that information in technically accurate and stylistically advanced writing. All students are expected to demonstrate an understanding of the recursive nature of the writing process, effectively applying the conventions of usage and the mechanics of written English. The student's evaluation of his own writing as well as the writing of others insures that students completing this course are able to analyze and discuss published and unpublished pieces of writing, develop and apply criteria for effective writing, and set their own goals as writers. (One semester)

**GRAPHIC NOVELS AS LITERATURE:** This one semester elective course seeks to provide an analytical, artistic and cultural introduction to one of literature's most popular, yet understudied, forms, the graphic novel. The course will provide an overview of the form's development and explore its significance to both literature and popular culture. While cultivating the skill of reading this deceptively complex literary genre, the students will become familiar with a number of works that have defined, and redefined, the genre. These works deal with artistic and literary approaches to themes essential to the American experience: politics, class, censorship, violence, and cultural and ethnic diversity. Using these works as their guides, students will write both creatively and analytically about unique contributions of the specific works and visual storytelling as a whole.

## Fine Arts

**DRAWING I:** Drawing I is an introductory course is skill based and therefore involves much hands-on guided practice. Assignments are structured on working from direct observation as well as abstraction and symbolism. Strong emphasis is also placed on design and composition. A variety of mediums are used, such as graphite, ink, charcoal, colored pencil, block printing and collage. (One semester)

**DRAWING II:** Drawing II is a course designed for the student who has already mastered the basic concepts and skills of Drawing I and is confident enough to be more independent in the development of complex compositions. Both color and mixed media are used in Drawing II. Art research, knowledge of art historical movements, and personally based imaginative assignments are integrated into the curriculum. *Prerequisite: Drawing I and recommendation.* (One semester)

**CERAMICS I:** Ceramics I introduces students to the possibilities of creating functional creative hand-built projects. The emphasis of craftsmanship and individual three-dimensional design will be stressed while producing unique one-of-a kind ceramic art. Various glazing techniques will be taught and students will apply different types of glazes to achieve the utmost appearance for each individual project. A few projects students will create are: large bowls, tall vases, platters, bottles and other challenging functional pottery. (One semester)

**CERAMICS II:** Ceramics II expands the ceramic knowledge and creative talents that were introduced in Ceramics I class while introducing advanced hand-building and introductory wheel-throwing techniques to construct larger and more complex assignments. Students will be introduced to basic pottery wheel throwing techniques by using an electric pottery wheel. Emphasis will be to refine creative techniques of hand-building while exploring the possibilities of wheel-thrown pottery. All ceramic pieces will be bisque fired and glazed fired with traditional and alternative glazes. *Prerequisite: Students must have earned an 80 or above in Ceramics I and a recommendation.* (One semester)

**CERAMICS III:** Ceramics III will allow students to explore a wider variety of ceramic construction from the basic knowledge of working in clay and creating complex functional utilitarian forms in Ceramics II. Students will create between six to eight functional ceramic projects. This course is designed for the student to work independently and develop a theme of his own portfolio of highly crafted ceramics. Each student will experiment with a variety of projects, glaze applications and kiln firings. These Ceramic III students may be placed in a Ceramics I or Ceramics II class to facilitate that student's schedule. *Prerequisite: Students must have earned a 90 or above in the Ceramics II class and have approval.* (One semester)

**DIGITAL GRAPHICS I:** Digital Graphics I introduces students to the foundations of digital graphics – how the visual arts and technology unite to communicate ideas effectively. Students will gain visual literacy by analyzing both commercial and artistic work, which includes typography, marketing, motion graphics, and digital imaging. In addition, basic photography principles will help them enhance their designed with bold, original imagery. Reflections, plus individual and class critiques, will promote deep, critical thinking about their own creations and the work of both their peers and prominent artists/designers. This course fulfills either a fine arts credit or a technology credit.

**DIGITAL GRAPHICS II:** Digital Graphics II continues to explore how the visual arts and technology unite to communicate ideas effectively. Students will examine the role of digital graphics today – in both the everyday context of ads and products and in the form of fine art. Relevant topics include branding, marketing, digital imaging, and animation. Learning the principles behind major works of art and design, students will fine-tune their own artistic voices and personal styles. Students' stronger grasp of technology, design history, and methods will help them make original works of design and art. This advanced course also shifts focus to crafting material for clients and for social change. Reflections, plus individual and class critiques, will promote deep critical thinking about their own creations and the work both their peers and prominent artist/designers. This course fulfills either a fine arts credit or a technology credit. *Prerequisite: Digital Graphic I.*

**PRINTMAKING I:** Printmaking I is an introductory course in which students learn basic printmaking techniques including etching, callograph, silk-screening and relief while also learning the history of the medium. Students will learn about the possibilities and production of multiple like images while developing their artistic skills. (One semester)

**PRINTMAKING II:** Printmaking II is a course in which students continue to learn printmaking techniques and develop their skill in processes such as etching, calligraph, silk-screening and relief. Students will work in editions while developing their artistic skills and personal concept. This course will delve into mixed media processes, working on a larger scale, printing on alternative materials and exploring how printmaking can have a role in social justice. *Prerequisite: Printmaking I (One semester)*

**SPECIAL PROBLEMS/INDEPENDENT STUDY:** This advanced course is an independent study to explore challenging creative assignments to broaden the artistic abilities of visual art students during their junior or senior year. Students' works are based on individual problems that have evolved from their previous creative inquiry along with peer and instructor collaboration. The student and supervising teacher will develop an assignment outline, a calendar of project starts and deadlines, and a listing of the number of projects, severity of difficulty, size of projects, and maintain a sketchbook/journal. *Prerequisite: Ceramics III, Digital Graphics II, Drawing II, or Printmaking II and Teacher Recommendation.*

**BAND:** Band produces the St. Thomas Eagle Band. Students study and perform a variety of musical styles in the band repertoire. The band performs at football games, concert performances, festivals, and local concert tours. *Prerequisite: At least one year of experience with a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument.*

**BEGINNING BAND:** Beginning Band provides class instruction for students with no previous musical training. Class instruction at the beginning level provides a supportive, motivating setting which allows the student to develop the skills necessary to perform at the more advanced level of the St. Thomas Eagle Band. By the end of one semester, the student will enroll in the regular Band course.

**ORCHESTRA:** Orchestra produces the St. Thomas String Ensemble. The class is offered to students who show an interest and willingness to learn their choice of violin, viola, cello or bass. The orchestra performs at concert performances and festivals. There are no prerequisites and students at the beginning level are welcome, but some musical knowledge is highly recommended. *There is an audition prior to the fall semester.*

**JAZZ BAND:** Jazz Band is an elective course that allows the student to study and perform the many varieties of jazz, swing, Latin, funk and rock music. The class includes instruction in improvisation, and provides a venue for guitarists, pianists, and bassists. *Prerequisite: Enrolled in Band or Orchestra and recommendation.*

**VOCAL ENSEMBLE:** Vocal Ensemble is open to all students interested in singing. In this full year course, students will be introduced to proper vocal techniques (voice range, diction, pitch) through both solo and ensemble settings. Students will perform at Mass, in concert, and participate in All-State and solo/ensemble competitions.

**MUSIC HISTORY:** Music History is a course open to students who are interested in music history and how it reflects the culture in which it is created. Specific artists from each period who demonstrate the key movements in music as well as identifying key musical instruments, forms, and terms will be explored. (One semester)

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) MUSIC THEORY:** AP Music Theory is designed to provide a college level Music Theory course including aural, written and performance-based components. Students develop the ability to sing melodies on sight and to notate music that they hear. They will learn the grammar of musical notation and analysis, how to meaningfully analyze melodic, rhythmic, harmonic and structural elements of music in words and with symbolic notation. Students will take the national AP exam in May. *Prerequisite: a background in instrumental or vocal music and recommendation.*

**THEATER I:** Theater I introduces students to the world of theater. Onstage practice and performance practice of stage movement, vocal technique, and improvisations prepare students to bring both scripts and characters to life. Students perform dramatic monologues, pantomimes, and duet scenes. Additionally, students participate in all aspects of a typical theatrical production by seeking out props, discovering motivations for actor, developing sound effects, creating costumes, designing a set, and ultimately producing a one act play. (One semester)

**THEATER II:** Theater II continues the introduction of Theater I, including onstage practice, performance, stage movement, vocal technique, and improvisations. A significant portion of the class focuses on self-evaluation (with the aid of video), but students also attend and evaluate performances in the Houston Area theater. Additionally, students will develop workshop ideas, original monologues, and playwriting techniques. The final project is a collaborative creation and production of a one-act play/film. *Prerequisite Theater I.* (One semester)

**THEATER III: ORIGINAL PRODUCTION:** This course will provide ambitious students to develop a one act play from start to finish. The course will cover topics such as developing characters, the significance of settings, thematic development, writing evocative dialogue and creating dramatic scenes, recognizing limitations and liberties of the theatrical vehicle, etc. Additionally, the course will offer technical instruction. Students will operate sound boards, light boards, and spotlights. They will display mastery of industry standard technology like Q-LAB. Also, students will help design costumes, sets, staging, lighting, sound effects, and special effects. Students examine monologues, dialogues, one act plays, costumes, lighting, set designs, and interviews with professional playwrights, lighting technicians, costumers, and theater producers. In turn, students craft their own characters, plots, and tech designs for the purpose of a production. Students design the set, cast the play, design the lights, sound, make up and costumes for the actors, and advertise their productions. The semester ends with performances on stage over the course of a weekend at the end of the semester. *Prerequisite: Theater I and II or Tech Theater I and Tech Theater 2.*

**TECH THEATER:** This course is an exploration of the duties of stage technicians and their contribution to the total aesthetic effect of a dramatic production. Technical theater will incorporate academic study and hands-on application of knowledge and skills. Students will focus on developing the basic tools and procedures for creating elements of technical theater including: stage elements, stage properties, crew assignments, theatre appreciation, costumes, scene design, sound engineering, lighting design, box office management, and publicity.

**TECH THEATER II:** Technical Theater II is a hands-on continuation to the designing, crafting and execution of theatrical productions. Students will continue to learn the basics of theater design terminology and obtain the hands-on skills to properly execute theater design and production. Technical Theater II will introduce the second year technician to the areas of design and theatrical production. This is a project based course. Students will build, paint, climb ladders and handle power tools in this class. Subjects covered will include the following: Scenic Design, Stage Management, Computer Drafting, Lighting Design, Production Management, Computer Paperwork, Sound Design, Costume Design, Hand Drafting, and Carpentry Skills. All Technical Theater II students are required to participate in all semester productions. *Prerequisite: Tech Theater I.*

**FILM STUDIES:** This course is a one semester elective in Fine Arts open to Juniors and Seniors. In this course, students will study films from the broad history of cinema from the silent era to today. Students will develop vocabulary and skills for analyzing and appreciating films in a variety of genres. The course will include American cinema from both Hollywood studios and independent filmmakers, as well as films from across the world.

# Mathematics

**ALGEBRA I:** In Algebra I, students study sets, sentences, properties of operations, monomials, polynomials, first degree equations, inequalities, word problems, special products, factoring, rational expressions, solving systems of equations, ratio and proportion, radicals, and linear graphs. TI30XIIS Calculator Required.

**ACCELERATED ALGEBRA I:** Accelerated Algebra I provides additional challenges within and enrichment to the Algebra I curriculum. Geared toward students for whom an accelerated pace of study is more appropriate, it emphasizes additional challenges, depth, and creative problem-solving within the topics outlined in Algebra I. TI30XIIS Calculator Required.

**ADVANCED ALGEBRA I/GEOMETRY:** Advanced Algebra I/Geometry consists of an accelerated Algebra One course (see Algebra One) and Advanced Plane Geometry (see below). Both Advanced Algebra and Advanced Geometry courses are covered within the year. TI30XIIS Calculator Required.

**PLANE GEOMETRY:** Plane Geometry is a study of lines, planes, constructions, proofs, angles, perpendicular lines, parallel lines, polygons, triangles, congruence, quadrilaterals, inequalities, ratio and proportion, similar figures, right triangles, circles, areas, volumes, and locus. TI30XIIS Calculator Required.

**ADVANCED GEOMETRY:** Advanced Plane Geometry is an in-depth study of the postulates and theorems involving lines, planes, angles, perpendicular lines, parallel lines, polygons, triangle congruence, quadrilaterals, inequalities, ratio and proportions, similar figures, right triangles, circles, areas, volumes, loci and transformations, with an emphasis on deductive arguments and proving theorems related to these geometric concepts. *Prerequisite: A in Algebra I/B+ in Accelerated Algebra I and recommendation.* TI30XIIS Calculator Required.

**ALGEBRA II:** Algebra II students study real numbers, polynomials, special products, factoring rational expressions, equations, inequalities, solving systems of equations, radicals, complex numbers, quadratics, conics, exponents, logarithms, and variations. TI84 Plus CE Calculator Required.

**ALGEBRA II/TRIGONOMETRY:** Algebra II/Trigonometry covers the topics in Algebra II plus an extended overview of Trigonometry. *Prerequisite: C- in Advanced Algebra I/Geometry or B+ in Geometry and Algebra I or C- in Advanced Geometry.* TI84 Plus CE Calculator Required.

**ADVANCED ALGEBRA II/TRIGONOMETRY:** Advanced Algebra II/Trigonometry is a study of polynomials, special products, factoring, equations, probability, radicals, quadratics, conics, inequalities, solving systems of equations, exponents, logarithms, trigonometric functions, formulas, identities, law of sines, law of cosines, and solutions of triangles. *Prerequisite: B in Advanced Algebra I/Geometry or Advanced Geometry for sophomores or B in Advanced Geometry for juniors.* TI-84 Plus CE Calculator Required.

**PRE-COLLEGE ALGEBRA:** Pre-College Algebra is a study of set theory, mathematical systems, number theory, real numbers and their representations, algebraic concepts, linear and quadratic equations, functions, systems of equations and inequalities, geometry, right triangles, trigonometric functions, law of sines, law of cosines, trigonometric graphs, counting methods, and probability. TI84 CE Plus or TI30XIIS Calculator Required

**PRE-CALCULUS:** Pre-Calculus is a two semester course covering all of Trigonometry and other topics leading up to Calculus, including relations and functions, logarithmic and exponential functions, conic sections, graphing techniques, sequences and series, probability and statistics, and limits. *Prerequisite: C in Advanced Algebra II/Trig or C+ in Algebra II/Trig or B in Algebra II and recommendation.* TI84 Plus CE Calculator Required.

**ADVANCED PRE-CALCULUS:** Advanced Pre-Calculus provides an in-depth preparation for AP Calculus. This course covers multiple forms of functions, Trigonometry, systems of equations, conics, polar equations, sequences and series and an introduction to calculus topics including limits, rate of change and derivatives. *Prerequisite: B in Advanced Algebra II/Trig or A- in Algebra II/Trig or A in Algebra II and recommendation.* TI84 Plus CE Calculator Required.

**CALCULUS:** Calculus is a two-semester introduction to the fundamental concepts of Calculus covered in a first semester college course. Students will not take the Calculus AP test at the end of the year; rather, a school final exam will be given at the end of each semester. *Prerequisite: D- in Advanced Pre-Calculus or C- in Pre-Calculus.* TI89 Calculator Required.

**AP CALCULUS AB:** AP Calculus AB is a two semester AP Calculus course covering the requirements set forth by the College Board for one semester of college calculus. The course is organized around the big ideas, which correspond to foundational concepts of calculus: limits, derivatives, integrals, and The Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. The AP exam is taken in May. *Prerequisite: A in Pre-Calculus; C+ in Advanced Pre-Calculus.* TI-84 Plus CE Calculator Required.

**AP CALCULUS BC:** AP Calculus BC is a two semester AP Calculus course covering the requirements set forth by the College Board for two semesters of college calculus. The course is organized around the big ideas, which correspond to foundational concepts of calculus: limits, derivatives, integrals, The Fundamental Theorem of Calculus, and series. The AP exam is taken in May. *Prerequisite: A in Adv. Pre-Calculus and teacher recommendation.* TI-84 Plus CE Calculator Required.

**AP STATISTICS:** The AP Statistics course is equivalent to a one-semester, introductory college-level statistics course. The course introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students cultivate their understanding of statistics using technology, investigations, problem solving, and writing as they explore concepts like variation and distribution; patterns and uncertainty; and data-based predictions, decisions, and conclusions. This class may be taken as a Junior or Senior elective or as a Senior math credit. *Prerequisite: For Juniors: B- in Adv. Algebra II or B in Algebra II/Trig; For Seniors: C- in Advanced Pre-Calculus or B in Pre-Calculus.*

## Physical Education

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Foundations of Physical Education, grades 9-10):** This course offers a broad spectrum of activities in order for students to find a degree of success which will, in turn, motivate them towards a lifetime of physical well-being. The curriculum is designed categorically into two divisions. Team sports, including whiffle ball, football, basketball, soccer and ultimate Frisbee, are used to emphasize the concepts of social interaction and unity. Sports for life, including weight training and cardiovascular training, are departmental tools for encouraging participation in physical functions beyond graduation. (One semester)

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Personal Fitness, grades 11-12):** This course is designed to increase physical strength and cardiovascular fitness while boosting self-esteem and self-confidence. Proper form and technique will be emphasized along with opportunity for aerobic conditioning, strength and toning activities. Grading is based on participation, attendance and attitude. (One semester)

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Comprehensive Weightlifting, grades 9-11):** This spring semester course is designed for underclassmen football players. The purpose of the course is multi-faceted. First, and foremost, the class is geared toward improving the strength and power of our athletes. With a three-phase program, we focus on body acclimation, hypertrophy and the development of explosive power. With a wide range of multi-muscle movements, stretches and core work, we are able to increase our productivity and decrease our chance of injury. We regularly test the participants to show them the results of their hard work. (One semester) *Fee: \$150*

**HEALTH:** Health is a one semester course that includes a vast array of topics centering on the development of the total social, physical, and mental health of the student. The objectives of this course are (1) to study how the body functions, and how to keep oneself healthy and disease-free, (2) to address and discuss differing moral issues such as teen pregnancy, alcohol use and abuse, drugs, sexual diseases, and AIDS, and (3) to increase one's awareness on how to prevent accidents and how to react to accidents through a knowledge of emergency first-aid, CPR, and rescue breathing. (One Semester)

## Science

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE:** Environmental Science topics emphasized include (1) available energy sources and human patterns of energy consumption, (2) human influences on ecosystems, in particular, the exploitation of mineral resources and the use of land, soil, and water, (3) specific problems associated with air pollution, hazardous wastes, and solid waste disposal. Specifically addressed are such matters of concern as global warming, ozone depletion, acid rain, pesticide use, endangered species, and nuclear power. Throughout the course, interrelationships of natural processes, human social processes, and technology are stressed as they pertain to the formulation of environmental policies and decisions.

**BIOLOGY:** Biology involves a general study of life forms. The curriculum begins with the study of the cell and continues into the more complex processes and systems encountered in life forms. Ecological concepts and evolutionary thought are pursued to enhance the students' awareness of the dynamics of the living world around them. Laboratory work is performed to give the student a first-hand opportunity to better understand the subject matter.

**ADVANCED BIOLOGY:** Advanced Biology covers the content included in regular Biology in greater depth. Advanced Biology seeks to establish a strong foundation in science by emphasizing the scientific method and inquiry learning through quarterly projects. The course emphasizes themes intrinsic to all life: evolution, form fits function, unity in diversity, homeostasis, and adaptation. Quarter projects address the subject matter in unique ways that allow for cooperative learning and creativity. Many freshmen elect to take the SAT II in biology at the end of the course.

**AP BIOLOGY:** Advanced Placement Biology is the equivalent of an introductory college biology course. Students are admitted to the course by recommendation only and must have successfully completed Advanced Biology and Chemistry. The AP Biology course differs significantly from the first high school biology course in the depth of topics covered and the types of laboratories completed. Students are required to take the national AP exam in lieu of the final for the course. *Prerequisite: B Advanced Biology or A Biology, C Advanced Chemistry or B Chemistry, and recommendation.*

**CHEMISTRY:** Chemistry is a general survey course designed to introduce the student to the basic fundamentals of inorganic chemistry. Topics covered include chemical formulas, chemical equations, the mole concept, energy changes, chemical bonding, kinetics, equilibrium, acids and bases, solutions, redox reactions, nuclear chemistry and electrochemistry. Laboratory work is an important part of the course. *Prerequisite: B-Biology, B-Math or C-Advanced Biology, C-Advanced Math.*

**ADVANCED CHEMISTRY:** Advanced Chemistry is a course designed to interest and challenge the accelerated science student. The class goes into greater detail on the topics covered in the regular chemistry course and utilizes mathematical descriptions of chemical processes to a greater extent. Laboratory experiments are emphasized as a means of illustrating information presented in lecture. *Prerequisite: B Advanced Biology, B Advanced Math and taking Algebra II/Trig or A- in Biology & in Math & taking Algebra II/Trig*

**AP CHEMISTRY:** Advanced Placement Chemistry is designed for the second year chemistry student who wishes to obtain college credit in chemistry. The class covers topics recommended by the College Board such as atomic and molecular theory, kinetics, complex equilibria and advanced laboratory techniques. Students are successfully prepared to complete the national AP exam in chemistry given in May. *Prerequisite: A- Advanced Chemistry and recommendation.*

**PHYSICS:** Students will engage in an introduction to high school Physics which emphasizes the development of deep conceptual understanding of various topics in mechanics and beyond. The mathematical tools required for this course are limited to Algebra and Geometry. Students will spend time engaging in and developing excellent laboratory practice and analysis. This course introduces students to the concepts in high school Physics which fulfill the requirement of a one-year Physics course.

**ACCELERATED PHYSICS:** Similar to the Physics course, this class is an introduction to high school Physics which emphasizes the development of deep conceptual understanding of various topics in mechanics and beyond. The mathematical tools required for this course extend to Algebra II and Trigonometry. Students will spend time engaging in and developing excellent laboratory practice and analysis. The expectation is that students will develop higher order thinking skills and tools which will allow them to be prepared to excel in college level science or engineering courses.

**AP PHYSICS I:** Advanced Placement Physics I is the equivalent to a first semester college course in algebra-based physics. The course covers Newtonian mechanics, work, energy and power, mechanical waves and sound. It will also introduce electrical circuits. Students will take the national AP Physics I exam in May. *Prerequisite: A- Advanced Chemistry or B+ in AP Chemistry and recommendation; B Math and had Algebra II/Trig.*

**AP PHYSICS II:** Advanced Placement Physics II is the equivalent to a second semester college course in algebra-based physics. Topics include magnetism and electromagnetic induction; fluids, pressure and buoyancy; heat temperature and thermal physics; thermodynamics and ideal gas behavior; optics; nuclear physics and modern physics. Students will take the national AP Physics II exam in May. *Prerequisite: B AP Physics I and recommendation.*

**AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE:** This course is equivalent of an introductory college course in environmental science, through which students engage with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world. The course requires that students identify and analyze natural and human-made environmental problems, evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and examine alternative solutions for resolving or preventing them. The course will focus on the seven content areas emphasized by the College Board. These areas are as follows: Earth Systems and Resources, The Living World, Population, Land and Water Use, Energy Resources and Consumption, Pollution & Global Change. *Prerequisites: B- in Physics or B- in Chemistry and co-enrolled in Physics.*

**ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY:** This course focuses on the organ systems of the human body with an emphasis on both structure and function. Areas of emphasis will include but not be limited to energy needs of the human body; responses of the human body to internal and external forces; body processes that maintain homeostasis; electrical conduction processes and interactions; body transport systems; environmental factors that affect the human body; form fits function; reproduction and development; transplantation technology. Classroom study will be coupled with laboratory investigation. *Prerequisite: C+ in Biology & all subsequent Science classes.*

**EARTH SCIENCE:** Earth Science is designed to familiarize the student with the Geology of the *Solid Earth*, the Oceanography and Meteorology of the *Fluid Earth*, and the history of *Earth in Space and Time* along with that of its celestial neighbors. We will cover all basic principles of geology as well as rocks, minerals, and fossils, volcanic activity, earthquakes, plate tectonics, oil geology, rock structure and geologic time. For the oceans and atmosphere, we will survey features of the seafloor, ocean circulation, currents, waves, tides, shoreline processes, and the ecology of common marine organisms. The role of atmospheric circulation and variations in solar energy as they interrelate to the oceans are examined. The origins of the universe and solar system are also studied along with the characteristics and creation of the sun, moon, planets and smaller celestial objects.

**APPLICATIONS OF ENGINEERING:** This one semester, elective course for Juniors and Seniors will introduce the student to the problem-solving methods utilized by engineers. The methods are mathematically and scientifically based. The goal of the course is for students to apply the concepts or fundamentals of engineering to develop, design and build a functional device. The boundaries of the project design scope will be defined by the available resources for fabrication. These will include: 3D printers, Laser cutter and Raspberry Pi microcontrollers. This course will be a rigorous introduction to engineering. It will require substantial out of class time for design. Summer pre-work will be required for students to research their project concepts and ideas. *Prerequisites: B- in Math and Science; Recommended: Physics or co-enrolled in Physics.*

## Social Studies

**WORLD GEOGRAPHY AND CULTURE:** Students will embark on a journey across the world and over many millennia to discover both the unique geographic features of the seven continents that make up our planet as well as explore the culture and history of mankind as he has lived and grown up in these various diverse places. This course's focus includes both spatial (geographic) realities like location, place, and human environment interaction and also delves into the human elements of geography such as culture, history, and human nature. The framework of the course will be thematic. Themes include: man in his environment, humans in conflict, politics, law, and government, and religion and culture will form the structure of for study but the course will also maintain, simultaneously, a chronological outlook to keep events and locations in their proper perceivable order. There will also be a strong eye to critical thinking and bring to bear acquired skills in real-world problem-solving, relating and connecting geographic, cultural, and historical elements to the present.

**ADVANCED WORLD GEOGRAPHY AND CULTURE:** Students will engage the content knowledge, concepts, and themes included in World Geography and Culture in greater depth and breadth. They will be asked to apply these concepts in a wider arrange of assessments including project-based assignments, collaborative work, document-based questions, level questions, image analysis, presentations, seminars, and hands-on creations. They will be challenged to apply what they learn in more complex ways to reach the highest levels of thinking and synthesis, as well as to read and analyze a more extensive selection of primary sources.

**MODERN WORLD HISTORY:** Students examine trends which have created the modern world including democratic revolutions in the United States and France, the Industrial Revolution, and the Russian Revolutions. Attention is paid to the causes and results of 20<sup>th</sup> century warfare, the Cold War, and the struggle of newly independent nations to establish themselves. Students also study the impact of technological advances, population increases, and cultural development of society. A formal project emphasizing research techniques and writing skills is required.

**AP WORLD HISTORY:** The AP World History course focuses on developing students' understanding of world history from approximately 8000 B.C.E. to the present. The course has students investigate the content of world history for significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in six historical periods, and develop and use the same thinking skills and methods employed by historians when they study the past. The course also provides five themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connection among historical developments in different times and places encompassing the five major geographical regions of the globe: Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania. *Prerequisite: B in Advanced World Geography and Culture and teacher recommendation or with placement test.*

**UNITED STATES HISTORY:** United States History is a thematic analysis of the history of the United States and covers significant events in American history from colonial beginnings through the emergence of the U.S. as a world power in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and into the modern era. The course consists of six major themes: American Foundation and Character; Political Leadership and the American Presidency; Economic Development; War, National Defense and the Responsibilities of Global Leadership; the American People; and the Quest for Equality. There will be a written Case Study in each semester that builds on the research skills developed during the sophomore year and will emphasize formal academic writing.

**AP UNITED STATES HISTORY:** In Advanced Placement U.S. History students will study the conceptual aspects of the growth of the United States from the colonial period to the 1990's. Students will experience American History using of a variety of educational methods and through the use of primary and secondary source reading materials in addition to the course text. Preparation for success in the Advanced Placement Exam for college credit is approached through historical thinking skills and the seven themes that students explore in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places. A formal research paper emphasizing techniques and writing skills is required. *Prerequisite: B in AP World History or with placement test.*

**ECONOMICS:** This course is designed to educate the St. Thomas student to an understanding of the basic theories of economics. The course curriculum begins with the basic classifications of economic systems and then focuses on a practical economics unit, which contains lessons on consumerism, credit, and saving and investing, including participation in the World Wide Stock Market Game. Students continue the semester by studying both Microeconomic and Macroeconomic concepts such as supply and demand, competition, the American banking system, and the workings of the federal budget and taxation. (One Semester)

**GOVERNMENT:** This course communicates knowledge necessary to students' function as citizens. This includes the study of national, state and local government and the workings of the federal system. Traditional topics are treated, such as elections and voting behavior as well as somewhat non-traditional ones such as unconventional forms of political activity. Government economic policy is given special emphasis. (One semester)

**AP GOVERNMENT/ADVANCED ECONOMICS:** This course is designed to meet all of the objectives of the regular government/economics course and to challenge the students' analytical abilities by presenting a variety of opinions on the basic concepts of government and economic systems. Preparation for success in the Advanced Placement Exam for college credit is approached through analysis of primary and secondary materials. *Prerequisite: B in AP US History or with placement test.*

**ADVANCED TEXAS STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT:** This dual credit course with the University of St. Thomas course will provide students with an introduction to Texas state government and politics within the context of other U.S. states and the federal government. Students will learn the general information about state governments in the public policy process, specifically Texas state government and will assess state political cultures, as well as federalism and state constitutions, with a specific emphasis on the Texas state Constitution. This course meets the Texas Higher Education Board's Core Curriculum requirement for Texas Government (GOVT 2306). **REQUIREMENTS: Students must have a B in U.S. History and a 3.0 or above GPA. Additionally, students must have taken the SAT, ACT, or PSAT.**

**NOTE:** This course requires the students to apply for dual credit through the University of St. Thomas, which involves an additional cost paid directly to the University of St. Thomas. We will assist the students in this registration process. The academic credit may be accepted at other colleges and universities in addition to UST. **The additional fee typically costs \$375.**

**U.S. IN WORLD AFFAIRS:** This course is offered as an elective to those students who are interested in the United States and its role in foreign affairs. The course curriculum includes the study of United States' foreign policy from 1945 to the present and will focus on the relationship between the United States and the Soviet Union during this period. Students will focus on critical thinking and analytical methods while participating in this course and will be expected to present both policy papers and briefings based on foreign policy decisions and events. (One semester)

**U.S. MILITARY HISTORY:** This course is offered as a survey of United States military history from the colonial period to the present. Students will examine American military leaders, theorists, strategy, tactics, weapons, and battles/wars. In addition, a special emphasis will be placed on understanding the unique relationship the military and society have with each other in the United States. Students will engage in critical thinking, map reading, and analysis over the course of the semester. They will also be required to conduct a formal presentation and write a research paper emphasizing research techniques and writing skills. (One semester)

**WARFARE IN ANTIQUITY:** This course offering is an in-depth examination of warfare from its earliest beginnings to the end of the Roman Empire. The course will explore the role of leadership, technology/weapons, tactics, strategy, and battles played in the ancient world. It will also analyze the role culture, religion, and politics played in early warfare. The course will focus on in-class discussion, campaign and battle analysis, and debate over the topics covered. (One semester)

**THE CIVIL WAR ERA:** The Civil War is a pivotal event in American history. This course covers the era of the Civil War, from the American Revolution through Reconstruction. It focuses equally on the causes of the war and the war itself. While no historical period fires the imagination of Americans more than our bloodiest conflict, few of us actively explore the deeper meanings of the era for our country's story. Enamored with battles, glory, and courage, popular history seems less willing to understand the massive transformations, which impacted nearly every facet of national life. While we will explore the military side of the War, we will also examine the economic, constitutional, and social changes wrought by the conflict. Assigned readings include a mix of primary sources and a basic survey text.

**INTRODUCTION TO LEGAL STUDIES:** This is a one semester course open to seniors only. This elective serves as an introduction to case analysis and legal argumentation through an intensive examination of American legal case history and the precedents established by those cases. Students will gain a thorough and comprehensive understanding of the Bill of Rights which will serve as the foundation of the course. The course will provide students with the ability to determine the role of the Bill of Rights and the American legal system in contemporary society and how to analyze the constant changes in interpretation of the legal system. The course will incorporate primary source material (case studies), legal argumentation, and intensive analytical processes. Students will be challenged to think beyond their personal opinions on various societal topics. (One semester)

# Theology

## **THEOLOGY I:**

**THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST IN SCRIPTURE:** The purpose of this course is to give students a general knowledge and appreciation of the Sacred Scriptures. Through their study of the Bible they will come to encounter the living Word of God, Jesus Christ. In the course they will learn about the Bible, authored by God through Inspiration, and its value to people throughout the world. If they have not been taught this earlier, they will learn how to read the Bible and will become familiar with the major sections of the Bible and the books included in each section. The students will pay particular attention to the Gospels, where they may grow to know and love Jesus Christ more personally. (Fall semester)

**WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?** The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the mystery of Jesus Christ, the living Word of God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. In this course students will understand that Jesus Christ is the ultimate Revelation to us from God. In learning about who he is, the students will also learn who he calls them to be. (Spring semester)

## **THEOLOGY II:**

**THE MISSION OF JESUS CHRIST (THE PASCHAL MYSTERY):** The purpose of this course is to help students understand all that God has done for us through his Son, Jesus Christ. Through this course of study, students will learn that for all eternity, God has planned for us to share eternal happiness with him, which is accomplished through the redemption Christ won for us. Students will learn that they share in this redemption only in and through Jesus Christ. They will also be introduced to what it means to be a disciple of Christ and what life as a disciple entails.

**JESUS CHRIST'S MISSION CONTINUES IN THE CHURCH (ECCLESIOLOGY):** The purpose of this course is to help the students understand that in and through the Church they encounter the living Jesus Christ. They will be introduced to the fact that the Church was founded by Christ through the Apostles and is sustained by him through the Holy Spirit. The students will come to know that the Church is the living Body of Christ today. This Body has both divine and human elements. In this course, students will learn not so much about events in the life of the Church but about the sacred nature of the Church.

## **THEOLOGY III:**

**SACRAMENTS AS PRIVILEGED ENCOUNTERS WITH CHRIST:** The purpose of this course is to help students understand that they can encounter Christ today in a full and real way in and through the sacraments, and especially through the Eucharist. Students will examine each of the sacraments in detail so as to learn how they may encounter Christ throughout life.

**LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST (MORALITY):** The purpose of this course is to help students understand that it is only through Christ that they can fully live out God's plans for their lives. Students are to learn the moral concepts and precepts that govern the lives of Christ's disciples. Among the topics presented are conscience, decision-making, mercy and sin, and the virtuous life. Respect life issues of stem cell research, abortion and euthanasia are studied in the course.

## **THEOLOGY IV:**

### **FALL:**

**Each student will select ONE of the following courses to meet the required theology at the senior level.**

**ADVANCED PHILOSOPHY:** Philosophy means “love of wisdom.” This course introduces students to some of the ultimate questions that face all of humanity: Who am I? Where have I come from and where am I going? Why is there evil? What is there after this life? Students will search for answers to these and other questions through this introduction to ancient philosophy. Students will be able to use philosophical language clearly, consistently, and appropriately; identify and formulate problems philosophically; examine concepts and questions philosophically; relate specific texts and authors to the examination of concepts and problems, and to be able to construct philosophical arguments. This is not a basic undertaking but one suited to dedication.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Students must have a 3.0 GPA or complete a personal application with the Dean of Theology and the teacher. Additionally, students must have taken the SAT, ACT, or PSAT.

**NOTE:** This course requires the students to apply for dual credit through the University of St. Thomas, which involves an additional cost. We will assist the students in this registration process. The academic credit may be accepted at other colleges and universities in addition to UST. **There is an additional fee to take this course, which typically runs around \$375.**

**ADVANCED SACRED SCRIPTURE:** The purpose of this course is to give an advanced overview of Sacred Scripture with an introduction to the basic principles for understanding and interpreting the Bible. Introduction to contemporary biblical studies, including:

1. The Catholic approach to scripture in light of *Dei Verbum* (e.g., inspiration, revelation canon, hermeneutical principles and methods of critical analysis, relationships of Old and New Testament);
2. A survey of the Old Testament in its historical setting, with emphasis on major themes (covenant, exile, Davidic dynasty, wisdom literature, and messianic prophecies); and
3. A survey of the New Testament in his historical setting (e.g., Christianity’s Jewish and Hellenistic roots, Gospel formation, the Gospels, Acts, letters, and Revelation).

**NOTE:** This course requires the students to apply for dual credit through the University of St. Thomas, which involves an additional cost. We will assist the students in this registration process. The academic credit may be accepted at other colleges and universities in addition to UST. **There is an additional fee to take this course, which typically runs around \$375.**

**REQUIREMENTS:** Students must have a 3.0 GPA or complete a personal application with the Dean of Theology and the teacher. Additionally, students must have taken the SAT, ACT, or PSAT.

**HEALING RACISM:** This course examines the attitudes of today’s society towards people of different ethnic, racial, religious, and cultural groups. Students will apply the scriptural and the Church’s teaching on human dignity and respect of others.

**LIVING AS A DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST IN SOCIETY:** The purpose of this course is to introduce students to Catholic social teaching and learn how Christ’s concern for others, especially the poor and vulnerable, is present today in the Church’s mission. In this course, students will study and put into practice the seven themes of Catholic social teaching by exploring contemporary issues and engaging additional service opportunities connected to the themes of the LAPs.

## **SPRING:**

**Each student will select ONE of the following courses to meet the required theology at the senior level.**

**WORLD RELIGIONS:** This course is an analytical and critical study of the practices, beliefs and the sacred texts of some of the major Western religions. As Christians live in an interdependent, global society, they will be helped by knowing about the faiths of other people. Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Taoism will be described. The Catholic faith is enriched when one studies the God who subsists in all people of faith.

**CHRIST AND POPULAR CULTURE:** This course will explore Christian engagement with popular culture through the lens of the gospels and Catholic social teachings. Students will closely study different Christian themes such as love, forgiveness, goodness, evil, salvation, and the meaning of life as presented in both music and film. A variety of musicians will be studied, such as Tupac, Kanye West, Kendrick Lamar, J-Cole, Blink 182, Johnny Cash, George Strait, Mumford and Sons, and The Avett Brothers. Students will also closely examine different Christ figures as presented in secular cinematography, such as *The Matrix*, *The Lord of the Rings*, *Friday Night Lights*, and *Gran Torino*, *Coach Carter*, *Stranger Things*, *Perks of Being a Wallflower*. For the final examination of the course, students will select a movie and complete an in-depth presentation on different Christian elements presented in the film using the techniques they mastered throughout the semester.

**HEALING RACISM:** This course examines the attitudes of today's society towards people of different ethnic, racial, religious, and cultural groups. Students will apply the scriptural and Church's teaching on human dignity and respect of others.

**BIOETHICS:** This course will explore the current bioethical issues at the beginning and end of life in accord with St. John Paul II's *Evangelium Vitae*, along with other papal documents. Students will engage in current scientific research and consider that data along with contemporary ethical arguments. Students will craft an independent thesis examination of current Catholic social teaching and medical research. They will also develop a collaborative approach to address how we can enculturate better the Catholic intellectual tradition to modern scientific and medical fields. Some of the major issues addressed will be: nuclear weapons, advanced modern warfare, organ donation, abortion, stem cell research, contraception, genetic manipulation, embryo adoption, pain management, euthanasia, cloning etc.

**THE HOLOCAUST IN CHRISTIAN-JEWISH DIALOGUE:** This course will examine the roots, causes, events and implications of the Holocaust. Specific focus will be given to the historical and spiritual relationship between Christianity and Judaism. The students will explore and discuss the need for continual dialogue, mutual respect and tolerance between the two groups.

## **World Languages**

*Placement tests are available in French, Latin and Spanish. Based on the results of the placement test, incoming students may place into Advanced French II, Advanced Latin II, or Advanced Spanish II*

**SPANISH I:** This course is designed for beginners, with an emphasis on oral proficiency. All four language skills – reading, writing, listening and speaking – are developed simultaneously. Students are introduced to Hispanic culture and traditions.

**ADVANCED SPANISH I:** This beginning Spanish course develops the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students are introduced to Hispanic culture and tradition. This course is designed for the following students:

1. A highly motivated student who has had study of Spanish in elementary or middle school and who enjoys the language and truly wants to speak and write Spanish.
2. A highly motivated Hispanic heritage student with some exposure to spoken Spanish in the home environment who wants to further develop his reading and writing skills. Special attention is given to the needs of motivated Spanish speakers.

**SPANISH II:** This course continues to develop the four language skills. More sophisticated instruction is given in the target language. Readings are more in-depth and Hispanic culture and civilization are emphasized, through a use of authentic sources from the Spanish-speaking world.

**ADVANCED SPANISH II:** This course continues to develop the four language skills. Emphasis on reading and writing help students perfect these skills. The use of a multi-unit video develops students' oral-aural skills. *Prerequisite: B- in Advanced Spanish I or A in Spanish I and recommendation.*

**SPANISH III:** This course is designed to improve the student's proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will be introduced to literature and continue study of the cultures of the Spanish-speaking world. Instruction is primarily in Spanish. *Prerequisite: B- in the second year of Adv Spanish/ B in the second year of Regular Spanish and recommendation.*

**ADVANCED SPANISH III:** This course is both challenging and enjoyable. Students continue to develop the four language skills. Short literary passages are introduced and a multi-unit video as well as feature length films in Spanish are viewed. Instruction is entirely in Spanish. *Prerequisite: B in Advanced Spanish II and recommendation.*

**SPANISH IV:** Spanish IV is a conversation/grammar class whose goals are to improve the student's speaking and listening skills, and also to review all major grammatical structures of the first three years. New grammar concepts will also be taught in this course. Skits and oral presentations will be used to develop proficiency in conversation, through the use of authentic sources. A variety of literary works from the Spanish-speaking world will be studied in depth. Instruction is entirely in Spanish. Students are encouraged to take the SAT Subject in May or June after completing the course. *Prerequisite: B- in the third year of Advanced Spanish and recommendation; B in Spanish III recommendation.*

**AP SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE:** Students who have completed Advanced Spanish III are well prepared for this course. Instruction and classroom conversation are entirely in Spanish. Students thoroughly review Spanish grammar; several short stories and poems by major Hispanic authors are studied. A multi-unit video as well as feature films in Spanish are viewed and there is a reading of a complete Spanish play. College credit may be granted for this course with success on the AP Spanish Language and Culture Exam in May. *Prerequisite: A- in Advanced Spanish III and recommendation.*

**ADVANCED LATIN I:** This course is designed for the serious, motivated student. This course teaches the student to read Latin with comprehension and to write Latin with precision. The student is introduced to the history, geography and mythology of the Roman world. The student also acquires grammar and vocabulary skills that help in his understanding of the English language. The student who elects Latin I must continue on to Latin II.

**ADVANCED LATIN II:** This course is designed to further develop the student's skill in reading, writing, understanding, and pronouncing Latin. The student deepens his knowledge of the history and mythology of ancient Rome. He continues his study of the relationship of Latin to the English language. The student begins serious reading of authentic Latin texts.

**ADVANCED LATIN III:** Third year Latin classes challenge the student to become more aware of the richness of the language, the literature, the society, and the culture of the Roman Empire. The discipline and coherence of Latin help the student think and work with greater precision. Latin III is a literature survey course, covering the finer points of Latin grammar using some of the greatest authors of the language as a guide. Authors include Martial, Horace, Ovid, Pliny, Julius Caesar, Catullus, Augustus, Livy, and Vergil. *Prerequisite: B- in Advanced Latin II and teacher recommendation.*

**AP LATIN IV:** Fourth year Latin is a capstone to the Latin experience and a preparation course for the AP Latin test. Students will read the great Roman epic, Vergil's *Aeneid*, as well as selections from Julius Caesar's *De Bello Gallico*. Students will read and analyze passages using knowledge of style, literary devices, Roman history, and culture. After finishing this course, students will have read from and be conversant in the greatest works of Latin literature. *Prerequisite: B- in Advanced Latin III and teacher recommendation.*

**FRENCH I:** This course is designed for beginners, with an emphasis on oral proficiency. All four language skills – reading, writing, listening and speaking – are developed simultaneously. Students are introduced to the culture and traditions of French speaking communities around the world.

**FRENCH II:** This course continues to develop the four language skills. More sophisticated instruction is given in the target language. Readings are more in-depth and French culture and civilization are emphasized, through a use of authentic sources from French-speaking communities around the world.

**ADVANCED FRENCH III:** This course is designed to improve the student's proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will be introduced to literature and continue study of the cultures of the French-speaking world. Instruction is primarily in French. Particular attention is given to communication in spoken and written French. *Prerequisite B in French II; recommendation.*

**AP FRENCH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE:** Students who have completed Advanced French III are well prepared for this course. Instruction and classroom conversation are entirely in French. Students thoroughly review French grammar; several short stories and poems by major French authors are studied. A multi-unit video as well as feature films in French are viewed and there is a reading of a complete French play. College credit may be granted for this course with success on the AP French Language and Culture Exam in May. *Prerequisite: A- in Advanced French III and recommendation.*

**ADVANCED MANDARIN I:** Mandarin I is a course designed for beginners. No background in Mandarin is presumed nor required. Mandarin I introduces students to the four basic skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing in Mandarin Chinese. As students gain knowledge, understanding and fluency, the communication in class will be conducted primarily in Mandarin. By the end of the year, students are expected to pronounce the sound of Mandarin with reasonable accuracy, and to understand and sustain simple conversations in Chinese. Students will additionally be exposed to Chinese culture in order to develop an understanding of and appreciation for different cultures and people, customs, behavior and traditions.

**ADVANCED MANDARIN II:** This course continues to develop the four language skills. More sophisticated instructions are given in the target language. Readings are more in-depth and Chinese culture and civilization are emphasized through the use of authentic sources from Chinese-speaking communities around the world.

**ADVANCED MANDARIN III:** The course continues to develop the student's proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will learn how to form more complex sentences and continued to be exposed to various culture and social topics through authentic sources from Chinese-speaking communities. Instruction will primarily be given in the target language. *Pre-requisite: B- in Mandarin II and recommendation*

**ADVANCED MANDARIN IV:** The course continues to develop the student's proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking, with an emphasis on interpretive conversation. Students will practice expressing thoughts more complexly and continue to be exposed to various culture and social topics through authentic sources from Chinese-speaking communities. Instruction will primarily be given in the target language. *Pre-requisite: B- in Mandarin III and recommendation*