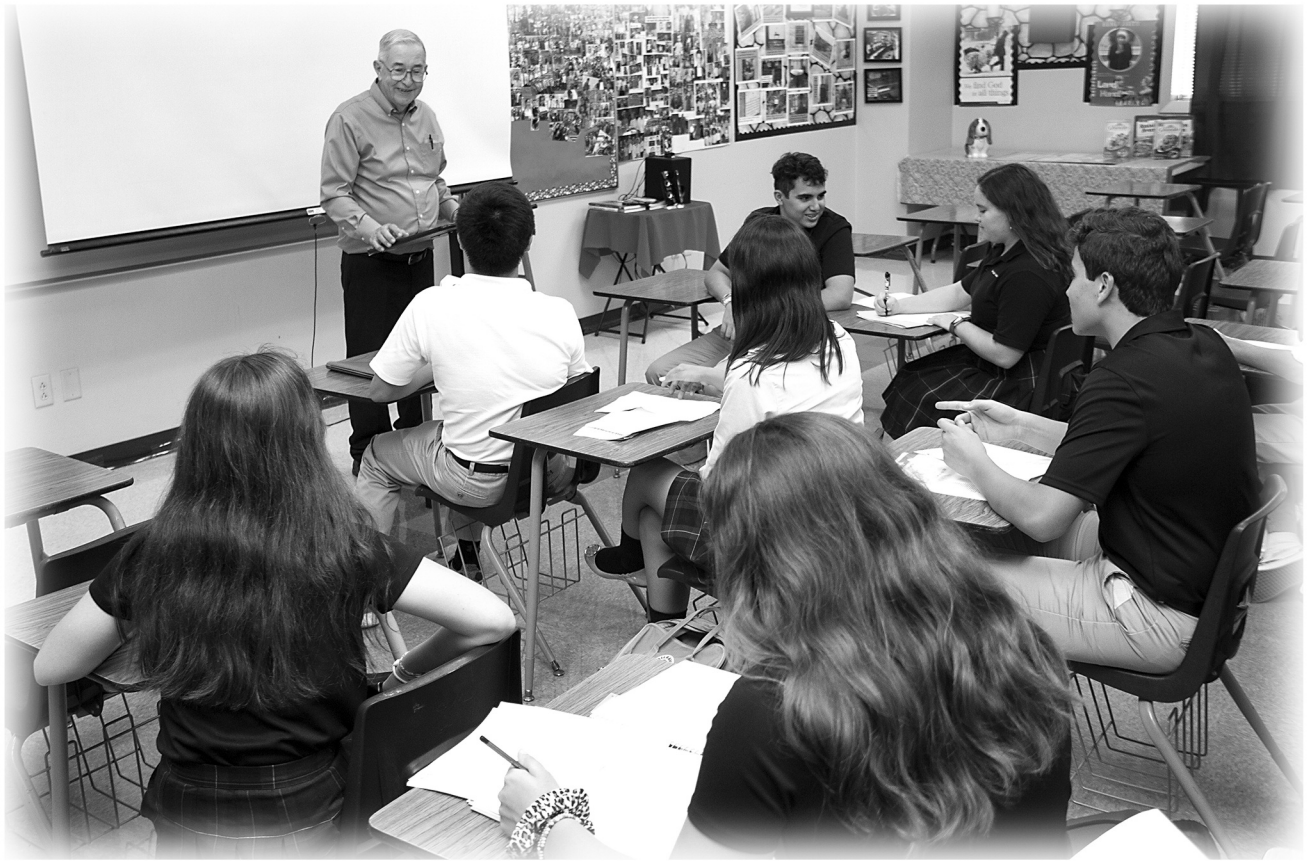


# Course Bulletin

2020-2021





*Saint Joseph Academy maintains 100%  
graduation and college acceptance rates.*

# The Mission of Saint Joseph Academy

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*Conducted by the Marist Brothers  
of the Schools and serving the children  
of the lower Rio Grande Valley,  
Saint Joseph Academy provides  
religious and moral formation  
and a college preparatory education  
in the tradition of the Roman Catholic Church.  
It endeavors to form young men and women  
who will succeed in university studies,  
who know and love Jesus, and who  
actively participate in the worship  
and mission of the Church,  
including the Church's preferential  
option for the poor.*

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# School Administration and Department Chairpersons

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## **Administration**

*President/CEO* Mr. Michael Motyl  
*Principal* Mrs. Melissa Valadez

## **Accreditation**

Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops Education Department (TCCBED)

## **Professional Affiliations**

Texas Association of Private & Parochial Schools  
Texas Association for College Admission Counseling  
National Association of Secondary School Principals  
The College Board  
National Catholic Education Association  
Brownsville Association of Non-Public School Administrators  
National Association of College Admission Counselors  
National Middle School Association

## **Academic Department Chairs**

*Computer Science* Mrs. Roberta Pacheco  
*English* Mrs. Suzanne Mohr  
*Writing Across the Curriculum* Ms. Ruth Poole  
*Mathematics* Dr. Stella Filizola  
*Modern Languages/Montagne Students* Mr. Manuel Gamez  
*Physical Education* Ms. Monique Carre  
*Religious Studies* Ms. Mary Beth Martin  
*Science* Ms. Daniela Espinosa  
*Social Studies* Mr. Kevin Hickson

## **Counseling**

*Grades 7/8* Mrs. Mrs. Vilma Wolfe  
*Grades 9/10* Ms. Lindsay Irwin, Chair  
*Grades 11/12* Mrs. Olga Cisneros

## **Campus Ministry**

*Campus Minister* Mr. Tony Cantu



*Saint Joseph Academy Motto:*  
*Ad astra per aspera*  
*“To the stars through difficulties.”*

# About the Program of Studies at Saint Joseph Academy

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**The educational experiences offered to students at Saint Joseph Academy are a reflection of the principles in our mission statement:**

## **To succeed in university studies**

Saint Joseph Academy's comprehensive curriculum in the arts and sciences emphasizes fundamental academic skills – the written and oral expression of ideas, problem solving, critical thought, and the competent use of current technology. Our students prepare themselves for university studies and for a lifetime of learning. Recognizing that our students come to us with a variety of ability levels, we offer classes that will meet them at their level and help them to grow in their aptitude for scholastic achievement. For those who seek opportunities for advanced learning, a variety of Honors, Dual Enrollment, and Advanced Placement courses are offered in English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Modern Languages, and Fine Arts. Courses are also offered for students who enter with limited English language skills. The Champagnat Learning Center offers a variety of support services for students with diagnosed learning differences.

At Saint Joseph Academy, writing and research are incorporated into all subject areas. As part of an on-going information literacy initiative, students at every grade level receive training in the most up-to-date research practices. The curriculum, which has undergone extensive renovation under the direction of a nationally recognized authority in the field of curriculum

and instruction, is designed to foster the critical thinking, research, and writing skills students will need for success at the university level. In addition, faculty in all departments continue to participate in professional development to ensure that our students receive excellent instruction and have abundant opportunities to hone their writing skills in all their classes.

## **To know and love Jesus**

The study of Roman Catholicism, central to our curriculum, has two aims. First, students acquire a comprehensive understanding of the Roman Catholic tradition. Secondly, and even more importantly, students gain fuller access to the rich Catholic treasury of resources for developing a meaningful life of faith. These resources include a balanced and informed moral system based on a keen sense of social responsibility. While formal religious education takes place in religion classes, Christian values are reflected throughout the curriculum.

## **To actively participate in the worship and mission of the Church**

Through regular worship as a school community, opportunities for prayer and reflection, the Marist Youth Movement, retreat experiences, and a variety of voluntary service projects, the seeds of faith, love, and responsibility to the least favored have the opportunity to take root in the lives of students. Following the model of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, Saint Joseph Academy continually strives to build a genuinely Christian community in which students are offered love, acceptance, discipline, and challenge.

**Guided by these principles and goals, graduates of Saint Joseph Academy will be able to:**

1. apply Roman Catholic teaching to the analysis of personal and social issues;
2. speak and write English clearly and fluently for formal and informal communication;
3. listen to and read English critically, intelligently evaluating the validity of spoken and written arguments;
4. communicate in a second language through the written and spoken word;
5. use critical thinking, mathematical problem-solving, and scientific methods to draw and apply conclusions;
6. apply a comprehensive understanding of our world - its geography, cultures, histories, and the natural and social processes that govern it - to the analysis of current events;
7. conduct and report research across disciplines;
8. use with skill the techniques of one (performing or visual) artistic medium;
9. utilize calculators, computers and the Internet as tools for research, word processing, data management, multi-media presentations, and reference;
10. participate in the worship and mission of the Church - particularly in service to the least favored - in an active and informed manner;
11. employ the principles and skills of fitness and exercise, wellness, safety, teamwork and good sportsmanship;
12. lead productive lives marked by respect, generosity and compassion, effective planning and decision-making, fruitful collaboration with others, and functional processes for solving personal, interpersonal and situational problems.



# Course Selection at Saint Joseph Academy

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This course bulletin has been prepared to assist students in making informed and responsible selection of courses for the 2020-2021 academic school year. Students should use the information contained within these pages and be realistic about their courses in terms of ability, background, interest, and future educational and occupational plans.

Students should make their selections bearing in mind the general requirements for graduation as well as the prerequisites required for certain courses. Students should discuss their programs with their parents, their teachers, and their counselors before making a final decision. **All signed course selection sheets must be returned to the student's grade level counselor by March 23, 2020.**

Each course listed in this bulletin is part of the proposed course offerings for the coming school year. **However, course offerings will be finalized after the course selection deadline on March 23, 2020, and courses with insufficient registration will be cancelled.** In that case, students will be asked to select another course. Scheduling conflicts may also require a particular student to choose

an alternative course instead of an original preference.

Once a program has been chosen, the selection will be considered final, and it may be impossible to arrange a change, so students should be certain that their selection is deliberate, serious, and final. **Students wishing to request a change to their course selections should see the Principal during the month of June. After the first week of classes, a fee of \$75.00 will be assessed for any schedule change. In order to make a course change, parents must give written permission for the change, and the \$75.00 fee must be paid at the time of the change.**

Schedule changes without a fee will be made if an incorrect class has been scheduled, if a class has been inadvertently omitted from a student's schedule, or if a teacher recommends that the student take a different course. Schedule changes will not be made so that students can/cannot have a specific teacher. **All schedule changes must be made by the end of the second full week of class in the semester.**

## **2020-2021 Course Selection and Re-Enrollment Schedule for Returning Students**

### **March 2020**

*Students meet with counselors for course selection.*

### **March 23, 2020**

Signed Course Selection Forms returned to the student's grade level counselor.

### **Schedule for Completion of Enrollment Process:**

Priority Re-enrollment deadline- Families who enroll by March 6th will receive a \$50 Enrollment Fee discount.

March 23: Course Selection deadline.

March 27: Enrollment Deadline- Enrollment fee of \$600 due by this date.

After March 27: Students who enroll after the deadline will pay a Late Enrollment Fee of \$750.

**Note:** Students who do not reserve seats by completing the course selection process by March 23, 2020 will not be scheduled and will not be guaranteed a seat for 2020-2021. Transfer students may be offered the

remaining seats. **Late course selections will be scheduled only by course availability and not by prior requested classes. This includes placement in Honors and Advanced Placement classes, since enrollment in these classes is limited.**

**Important:** Students who have not registered for the 2020-2021 academic year will NOT be allowed to run for office, participate in pre-season athletics, or audition for activities such as cheerleading or dance team.

### **Course Selection Schedule for NEWLY ADMITTED Students**

### **February 20, 2020**

Student and Parent Course Selection Meeting for Newly Accepted 7th through 12th Grade Students at 6:00 PM in the Middle Division Gym.

### **Enrollment Deadlines for New Students:**

Priority Enrollment deadline- New families who enroll by March 6th will receive a \$50 Enrollment Fee discount.

March 27, 2020: New Student Enrollment Deadline- Enrollment fee of \$650 due by this date.

### **Summer School**

Students who fail one or two courses for the year may be given the opportunity to successfully complete that course in summer school, thereby making possible their continued enrollment in Saint Joseph Academy. Students needing summer school are required to take those courses at Saint Joseph Academy. Only when a summer school course is not offered at the Academy is a student allowed to take it elsewhere. Saint Joseph Academy will only recognize and accept for credit those summer school courses pre-authorized for that particular student by the Principal. **Note: In order to ensure a firm foundation in mathematics, seventh grade students who fail Pre-Algebra and eighth grade students who fail Algebra I will be required to repeat the course during the subsequent school year, rather than attending summer school for this purpose.**

### **Shortage of Credits**

Students are required to make satisfactory progress toward graduation in order to remain enrolled in Saint Joseph Academy. If students are found to be short of the number of credits for graduation, either because they have failed a course or because they have transferred to Saint Joseph Academy, it is their responsibility to make arrangements to make up the loss of credit either through a summer program or by other arrangement such as a correspondence course. Such arrangements must be made with the approval of the Principal. A student may only make up a total of 2 credits in this manner.

### **Transfer Credits**

Upon occasion, new Upper Division students will enter Saint Joseph Academy having taken courses for high school credit while they were in the 7th or 8th grade. **In order to ensure that all of our Upper Division students have the solid foundation necessary for academic success, Saint Joseph Academy reserves the right to withhold credit for high school courses taken in another junior high school and require that students re-enroll in those courses at Saint Joseph Academy if it is deemed that the student would benefit from this course of action.** Such decisions will be made by the school administration, in consultation with the appropriate department chairperson.

### **Graduation**

Diplomas are only granted to those students who have successfully completed the graduation requirements of Saint Joseph Academy. If a senior is short of the requirements at the time of graduation, the student will be allowed to participate in the commencement exercise, but will not receive a signed diploma until such time as the necessary credits have been completed.

### **Incompletes**

A student may be assigned an incomplete grade at the end of a marking period. Typically this is done when the student has been unavoidably out of school due to illness or unable to complete school work due to some unusual circumstance. School policy requires that students make up incompletes within the first two weeks of the next marking period. If the student does not make up the incomplete within the time allowed, the missing work will be assigned a grade of zero, and the course grade will be averaged accordingly. Any exception to this rule must be approved by the principal.

## **Honors and Advanced Placement Courses**

Saint Joseph Academy is proud of its rigorous curriculum in the arts and sciences and offers opportunities for students who seek advanced study through our Advanced Placement and Honors courses. Initial GPA requirement for entry for Honors and Advancement Placement courses is 94 or above. In addition, placement in an Honors or AP course is based on the student's academic history, teacher recommendations, and departmental approval. Students maintain their placement in Honors or AP courses from year to year based on a maintained average of 80 or above as well as a demonstration of the initiative and dedication expected of Honors students. Students not currently enrolled in an Honors level course but who would like to be considered for such placement may apply with the approval of their counselor. Once the request has been submitted, it will be reviewed by the school administration, and a decision about placement will be made. Because of the increased difficulty of Honors and Advanced Placement courses, semester grades are weighted as follows: Advanced Placement: 1.10; Honors: 1.05.

### **Advanced Placement Courses**

Specially designated courses developed according to the College Board's Advanced Placement Program prepare qualified students to take the nationally administered Advanced Placement Tests for college credit. Our Advanced Placement courses currently include:

<b>Course:</b>	<b>Offered to:</b>
Chemistry	Juniors/Seniors
Computer Science	
Principles	Juniors/Seniors
French Language	Seniors
Human Geography	Freshmen
Physics 1	Seniors
Psychology	Juniors/Seniors
Spanish Language	Juniors/Seniors
Spanish Literature	Juniors/Seniors
Studio Art: 2-D Design	Juniors/Seniors
World History	Sophomores

Every student in an AP class is required to take the AP exam that is given in May. There is a fee for each exam. However, because the school subsidizes these exams, each student is charged according to a scale based on the number of AP classes in which the student is enrolled and billed with the tuition.

Placement in an Advanced Placement class is typically made at the recommendation of the current teacher for the specific discipline. A student who does not receive departmental recommendation may appeal to the Principal. Since the AP curriculum is particularly challenging, it is recommended that students consider carefully the load being carried. **Most qualifying students can handle two AP classes in addition to other honors courses and involvement in extra-curricular activities. It takes an exceptional student to handle three or four of these courses, especially in light of other extra-curricular involvement.**



### **Dual Enrollment**

Dual enrollment, a program of study offered by Saint Joseph Academy in partnership with UTRGV and Texas Southmost College, allows high school students to earn college credits for courses taken at Saint Joseph Academy. College credits earned through dual enrollment can be simultaneously applied toward high school and college graduation requirements and may be transferred to other colleges or universities.

**Dual enrollment courses are college courses, and students should understand that the amount of work necessary to succeed in dual enrollment courses may be greater than that of high school courses. In addition, dual enrollment courses become part of a student's permanent college transcript.**

Failing a dual enrollment course or withdrawing from the course after the published deadline will negatively affect a student's future applications for college admission as well as their eligibility for financial aid. As a result, students and parents should be sure that the student is prepared to accept the serious responsibility associated with dual enrollment. Students must qualify for dual enrollment through a satisfactory score on the SAT, ACT, passing TSI score, and qualifying GPA, as well as by teacher recommendation and administrative approval. Students interested in dual enrollment should discuss their options with the Saint Joseph Academy Dual Enrollment Coordinator or the Principal. Current dual enrollment offerings

include Algebra II (College Algebra), Pre-Calculus, Calculus, English 11 (ENGL 1301,1302), English 12 (ENGL 2341), U.S. History (HIST 1301, 1302), Govt (POLS 2305, 2306), Macroeconomics (ECON 2301). Availability will be based upon demand. Dual Enrollment course grades are weighted 1.10.

### **Senior Electives**

Seniors must take a full course load and be present for all seven daily class periods. For most seniors, this will mean a minimum of 7.0 credits, 5.0 or 6.0 of which are prescribed courses. Seniors may complete their credit requirements from the electives listed in this course bulletin.

### **Writing Portfolio Requirement**

Helping students become skilled writers is an important part of Saint Joseph Academy's mission of preparing our graduates for success in their college studies. All students in Grades 9-12 are required to complete a yearly writing portfolio containing specific samples of their writing. The compilation of the writing portfolio will be under the direction of the student's English teacher. **The completion of the annual writing portfolio is a graduation requirement for all students. Students whose portfolios are incomplete at the end of a semester will not receive an exam pass for semester exams until the portfolio requirement has been met.**

# Middle Division Program of Studies

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## 7th Grade

Religious Studies 7  
Language Arts 7 \*  
Language Enrichment 7  
Pre-Algebra\*  
Physical Science 7  
Texas History  
Computer Literacy/  
Keyboarding (semester course)  
Physical Education  
(semester course)

\*\*Electives: (semester courses)

- MD Art
- Applied Engineering
- Drama

## 8th Grade

Religious Studies 8  
Language Arts 8 \*  
Algebra I \* (1.0 HS credit)  
Environmental Systems 8\*  
(1.0 HS credit)  
United States History through 1877  
Physical Education (semester course)

\*\*Electives: (semester courses)

- Speech Communication  
(0.5 HS credit)
- Health (0.5 HS credit)
- Beginning Spanish  
(year long course 1.0 HS credit)
- MD Art
- MD Art History
- Drama

\* Math, Science, and Language Arts courses have multiple levels; placement is made by the Administration and is based on entrance exam results, previous report card grades, standardized test scores, and teacher recommendations.

\*\* 7th Grade Students may choose one elective. 8th Grade students may choose up to 3 electives.

**Note:** Middle Division students may earn credits toward high school graduation through successful completion of Algebra I, Environmental Systems 8, Health, Speech Communication, and Beginning Spanish.

# Upper Division Program of Studies

**Requirements for graduation from Saint Joseph Academy include a total of 28 credits as described below and a completed Writing Portfolio.**

(for portfolio requirement, see p. 11):

Religious Studies	4.0 credits	Health	0.5 credit
English	4.0 credits	Fine Arts	1.0 credit
Mathematics	4.0 credits	Computer Science	1.0 credit
Science	4.0 credits	Physical Education	1.0 credit
Social Studies	4.0 credits	Speech	0.5 credit
Modern Languages	3.0 credits	Electives	1.0 credit

## 9th Grade

Religious Studies	1.0 credit
English	1.0 credit
Mathematics	1.0 credit
Science	1.0 credit
Modern Languages I	1.0 credit
World Geography	1.0 credit
Computer Science I	1.0 credit

## 11th Grade

Religious Studies	1.0 credit
English	1.0 credit
Mathematics	1.0 credit
Science	1.0 credit
Modern Languages III	1.0 credit
U.S. History	1.0 credit
PE**	0.5 credit
Speech*/Fine Arts/Elective	0.5 credit

## 10th Grade

Religious Studies	1.0 credit
English	1.0 credit
Mathematics	1.0 credit
Science	1.0 credit
Modern Languages II	1.0 credit
World History	1.0 credit
Fine Art/Speech*/Health/Elective	0.5 credit
PE	0.5 credit

## 12th Grade

Religious Studies	1.0 credit
English	1.0 credit
Mathematics	1.0 credit
Science	1.0 credit*
Economics	0.5 credit
Government	0.5 credit
Fine Arts	0.5 credit
Health*/Speech*/Electives	1.5 credits

\* unless satisfied at SJA in Grade 8

\*\* unless satisfied at SJA through Varsity Athletics

# Business

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## **Accounting - #2706**

Students investigate the field of accounting, including how it is impacted by industry standards as well as economics, financial, technological, international, social, legal, and ethical factors. Students will reflect on this knowledge as they engage in the process of recording, classifying, summarizing, analyzing, and communicating accounting information. Students will also formulate and interpret financial information for use in management decision-making. **Credit: 1.0. This is a full-year elective course for juniors or seniors.**

## **Business Management and Ownership - #2703**

This course helps the student to identify and differentiate between the various types of business ownership, examining the advantages and disadvantages of each. The student will learn the different functions of management and finance and gain an understanding of the

United States marketplace. Other topics covered will include the uses of money and credit, investment opportunities, insurance protection, and techniques in marketing.

**Credit: 0.5. This is a one semester elective course for juniors or seniors.**

## **Business Entrepreneurship - #2700**

Entrepreneurship recognizes the importance of a business opportunity. From the initial idea to the operating and maintaining a business, this course explores every aspect of business ownership. Entrepreneurship is necessary not only for students who will become entrepreneurs, but also for individuals working in the increasingly competitive corporate world. Entrepreneurship integrates the functional areas of business—accounting, finance, marketing, and management – and the legal and economic environments in which any new venture operates. **Prerequisite:** Business management #2703. **Credit: 0.5 This is a one semester elective course for juniors or seniors.**



# Computer Science

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## **Computer Literacy and Keyboarding - #2701**

Required of seventh grade students, this course begins with students mastering the essentials of typing through the use of the computer. Students will learn to type material by touch and to develop, through drills, speed as well as accuracy. By the second quarter, students will begin covering word processing, database, and spreadsheet applications, as well as an introduction to the Internet and Power Point presentations. The course also includes the history of computer development, computer ethics, computer use and its place in the present day. **This is a one-semester required course for students in grade seven.**

## **Computer Science I - #2702**

In this course, students will sharpen existing technology skills and learn about many aspects of owning and using a computer. Topics include the following: advanced use of Microsoft Office applications, basic understanding of networks, effective use of web searches and web sites, editing images and audio files, and an introduction to webpage design. Through the introduction of the Python coding language, students will independently find solutions to computer-related problems, demonstrate algorithmic thinking, and design programs.

**Credit: 1.0. This is a full-year course that satisfies the Computer Science graduation requirement.**

## **Digital Media Internship- #2631**

Students enrolled in this course will develop their interpersonal skills by conducting interviews, research, and data collection. Students will also work on website design, communicate with the public via social media, and assist with SJA philanthropy projects throughout the semester. **Prerequisite:** applicant must possess excellent critical thinking, interpersonal, communication, time-management and problem-solving skills and receive Administrative approval. **Credit: 0.5. This is a one semester course for Juniors and Seniors which may fulfill and elective credit.**

## **Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles - #2710**

This course offers a multidisciplinary approach to teaching the underlying principles of computation. The course will introduce students to the creative aspects of programming, abstractions, algorithms, large data sets, the Internet, cybersecurity concerns, and computing impacts. AP Computer Science Principles also gives students the opportunity to use current technologies to create computational artifacts for both self-expression and problem solving. **Prerequisite:** Instructor approval and successful completion of Computer Science I. **Credit: 1.0; Weight 1.10. This is a full-year elective course for 11th or 12th grade students.**

# English

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## **Language Arts 7 - #2131**

This course includes a comprehensive study of grammar, vocabulary, writing, literature, and research skills. Students will develop skills in writing effective sentences, paragraphs, and short essays and will be introduced to research methodology through the completion of a research report. Novel reading and book reports bring students closer to other cultures and time periods and introduce them to techniques of style analysis and close reading. Direct instruction and guided practice will foster vocabulary development. **This is a full-year required course for students in grade seven.**

## **Honors Language Arts 7 - #2132**

Students accepted into this course have proven strong ability in reading and writing skills. While addressing the Language Arts curriculum for grade 7 (see above), independent thinking and expression are expected from students in this course. Students will employ critical thinking in conjunction with a deeper analysis of literature. These students should expect more reading and writing assignments that are of a more complex nature. **Prerequisite:** Administrative approval. **Weight: 1.05 This course fulfills the Language Arts requirement for students in grade seven.**

## **Language Enrichment 7 - #2144**

This course is designed to offer students an opportunity to read with competence, confidence, and understanding through

instruction in comprehension strategies, word recognition, and vocabulary. Students read, write, listen, speak, and view to learn more about the world around them and to create, clarify, critique, and appreciate ideas and responses. In addition, students continue to read on their own or listen to texts read aloud for the purpose of enjoyment. Significant blocks of time are provided for reading both independent and instructional-level material for varied purposes such as collecting information, learning about and appreciating the writer's craft, and discovering models for their own writing. Students respond to texts through various avenues such as talk, print, and electronic formats, connecting their knowledge of the world with the text being read. Students will also be guided in the development of study skills, including organizational, test-taking, and time-management strategies. **This is a one-semester required course for students in grade seven.**

## **Language Arts 8 - #2134**

This course builds on the fundamentals of grammar, writing, literature study, and research methodology developed in Language Arts 7. Students will identify and correctly use various sentence types in the writing of multi-paragraph essays. Direct instruction and guided practice will foster vocabulary development. Reading selections from different genres, including novels and non-fiction books, introduce students to literary terms and continue their training in style analysis. Students will continue to receive instruction in the use of effective study skills and

will develop their information literacy skills through the completion of more extensive research projects. **This is a full-year required course for students in grade eight.**

#### **Honors Language Arts 8 - #2135**

In this enriched course, students continue with the Language Arts curriculum for grade 8 (see above), while further strengthening literary analysis skills and writing development. Reading and writing assignments are of a more challenging nature. **Prerequisite:** Departmental recommendation and administrative approval. **Credit: 1.0. Weight: 1.05. This course fulfills the Language Arts requirement for students in grade eight.**

#### **Speech Communication 8 - #2129**

In this course, Grade 8 students will study all aspects of oral communication. Through activities such as Radio Project, Impromptu and Manuscript speaking, and in-class discussions, students will develop the skills necessary to construct and deliver a speech. Students will write and effectively deliver speeches for various purposes, gaining skill in making oral presentations in a variety of settings. Further, students will develop listening skills and learn to constructively critique speeches given by their peers. **Credit: 0.5. This is a one-semester course for students in grade 8 that fulfills the Speech Credit requirement for high school graduation.**

#### **Speech Communication - #2119**

In this course, students will study all aspects of oral communication. Through activities such as Radio Project, Impromptu and Manuscript speaking, and in-class discussions, students will develop the skills necessary to construct and deliver a speech. Students will write and effectively deliver speeches for various purposes, gaining skill in making oral presentations in a

variety of settings. Further, students will develop listening skills and learn to constructively critique speeches given by their peers. **Credit: 0.5. This is a required one-semester course for students in grades 9-12, unless the Speech requirement has been satisfied at SJA in Grade 8.**

#### **English 9 - #2108**

This course concentrates on the further development of students' reading and writing skills. Students will read and analyze selections from a variety of literary genres and respond through the writing of multi-paragraph essays. Direct instruction and guided practice will foster vocabulary development. Information literacy skills are taught through completion of a major research project. **Credit: 1.0. This is a full-year required course for freshmen.**

#### **Honors English 9 - #2109**

This course requires strong writing and reading skills, a naturally inquisitive nature, and the maturity necessary for independent work. The class will emphasize discussion, analysis, critical writing, and reading for literary appreciation. Direct instruction and guided practice will foster vocabulary development. The study of short stories, novels, non-fiction, and poetry will expand the students' familiarity with literary genres. **Prerequisite:** Departmental recommendation and administrative approval. **Credit: 1.0; Weight: 1.05. This is a full-year course which fulfills the 9th grade English requirement.**

#### **English 10 - #2110**

This course builds on the integration of reading, writing, speaking, and listening concepts fostered in grade 9. Direct instruction and guided practice will encourage vocabulary development. The study of diverse literary selections taken from World Literature allow students the opportunity to further develop

critical analysis and writing skills. Information literacy and MLA research skills are refined as projects become more complex. **Credit: 1.0. This is a full-year required course for sophomores.**

### **Honors English 10 - #2111**

This course requires strong writing and reading skills, a naturally inquisitive nature, and the maturity necessary for independent work. The class will emphasize discussion, analysis, critical writing, and reading for literary appreciation. The focus will be on World Literature classics. **Prerequisite:** Departmental recommendation and administrative approval. **Credit: 1.0; Weight: 1.05. This is a full-year course which fulfills the 10th grade English requirement.**

### **English 11 - #2112**

This course centers on American Literature as it has developed from the Colonial Era to the present. Students continue to develop competency in writing for the purpose of literary analysis. Direct instruction and guided practice will foster vocabulary development. Research techniques are honed through the preparation of a major research project. Special attention is given to preparation for college entrance examinations. **Credit: 1.0. This is a full-year required course for juniors.**

### **English 11- Dual Enrollment- #2148**

This course is designed to help students become more effective and confident writers as well as more active and engaged readers of complex texts. To do this, students will engage in a variety of writing projects which will help them become more reflective writers who are better able to revise their work to meet the needs of a given writing situation. Students will learn how to

initiate inquiry, engage in meaningful research, and produce effective researched arguments. To do this, students will get experience with primary and secondary research methods, engage in a variety of writing projects, and create at least one major research project. **Prerequisites:** Successful completion of English 10, passing score on TSI, and completion of all UTRGV requirements. **Credit: 1.0; Weight: 1.10. This is a full-year course which fulfills the 11th grade English requirement. Credit for UTRGV Comp I 1301 and Comp II 1302.**

### **English 12 - #2114**

This college-preparatory English course emphasizes not only the development of critical thinking skills and expository writing skills, but an appreciation and enjoyment of the relevance of classic literature. It covers major works of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama — both British and World -- and introduces students to developing effective reading, listening, speaking, and writing skills. Also included are vocabulary strategies and Shared Inquiries. **Credit: 1.0. This is a full-year required course for seniors.**

### **English 12 - Dual Enrollment #2147**

An introduction to literary genres, with special emphasis on the short story, novel or novella, drama and poetry. Requires careful reading and the writing of critical essays about individual works. **Prerequisites:** Successful completion of English 11, passing score on TSI, and completion of all UTRGV requirements. **Credit: 1.0; Weight: 1.10. This is a full-year course which fulfills the 12th grade English requirement. Credit for UTRGV Introduction to Literature #2341 and Introduction to British Literature #2321.**



# English Elective Courses

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*The following English Department course offerings may be taken for elective credit.*

## **Advanced Creative Writing - #2123**

In this course students explore writing as art. Students will read, analyze, and create works of fiction, non-fiction, drama, and poetry. Creative writing features include consideration of audience, figurative language, cross-genre writing, performance, and publication. Students also practice evaluating their own work and the work of their peers. This course provides the time, instruction, and skills necessary to pursue meaningful creative writing. **Credit: 0.5. This is a one-semester elective course for Upper Division students.**

## **Learning Center - #2120**

This is a special course for selected students with documented learning differences. The purpose is to enable students to develop skills and organizational techniques to increase their ability to function as independent learners. Enrollment in this course is made possible either as part of the student's accommodation plan or by recommendation of the Saint Joseph Academy Learning Center Committee. **Prerequisite:** Recommendation from Saint Joseph Academy Learning Center Director. **Credit: 0.5.**

# Fine Arts

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## **Middle Division Art - #2598**

This course has an emphasis on the basic elements and principles of art. Additional projects include painting and drawing. The elements and organizing principles of art are studied and applied in all projects. There is an art history component that supplements this studio course. Each student will have the opportunity to work with the teacher, independently, and in groups. **This is a one-semester elective course for students in grades seven and eight.**

## **Two-Dimensional Design - #2603**

This course has an emphasis on the basics of two-dimensional design, drawing, painting, and printmaking. Students will also study the elements of design, as organized by the principles of design. Students will have the opportunity to work on individual and group projects and will gain experience in critiquing their own art and that of others. **Credit: 0.5. This is a one-semester elective course for Upper Division students.**

## **Three-Dimensional Design - #2604**

This course has an emphasis on the basics of three-dimensional design, ceramics, crafts, and sculpture. Students will study the elements and principles of design as it relates to form. Students will have the opportunity to work on individual and group projects and will learn to critique their own art and that of others. **Prerequisite:** Two-Dimensional Design. **Credit: 0.5. This is a one-semester**

**elective course for Upper Division students.**

## **Art Portfolio - #2605**

The Art Portfolio course is designed for students who wish to pursue careers in the arts or in art-related fields such as architecture, landscape design, fine arts, or design. Students will experience an independent course of study under the direction of the instructor in order to produce a consistent body of work to be submitted with their college applications. Students are particularly encouraged to consider enrolling in this course during the spring semester of the junior year and/or the fall semester of the senior year in order to prepare their portfolios for use with their college applications. **Prerequisite:** Two-Dimensional Design and Three-Dimensional Design or approval of the instructor. **Credit: 0.5. This is a one-semester elective course for Upper Division students. This course may be taken multiple times for elective credit.**

## **Art History - #2619**

This course involves critical thinking and should help students develop an understanding and knowledge of diverse historical and cultural contexts of architecture, sculpture, painting and other media. In this course, students examine and critically analyze major forms of artistic expression from the past and the present from a variety of cultures. While visual analysis is a fundamental tool of the art historian, art history emphasizes understanding how and why works

of art function in context, considering such issues as patronage, gender, and the functions and effects of works of art. **Credit: 1.0. This is a full-year Fine Arts elective course for Upper Division students.**

### **Advanced Placement Studio Art 2D**

#### **Design - #1617**

Demonstrate mastery through any two-dimensional medium or process, such as graphic design, digital imaging, photography, collage, fabric design, weaving, fashion design, fashion illustration, painting and printmaking. Develop technical skills and familiarize yourself with the functions of visual elements as you create an individual portfolio of work for evaluation to be submitted at the end of the course for the possibility of college credit. **Prerequisite:** Approval of the instructor. **Credit: 1.0. Weight: 1.10; this is a full-year Fine Arts elective course for Upper Division students.**

### **Survey of Theatre**

#### **History & Performance - #2599**

To explore theatre history from its earliest known origins with a focus on Western theatre. Examination will begin with Ancient Egypt/Near East up to current 21st Century theatre development. Students will engage in academic exploration paired with practical in class work; varied performances, script reading/studying, as well as student led

instruction (small group and one-on-one presentations). **Credit: 0.5. This is a one-semester elective course for Fine Arts credit for Upper Division students. This course may be taken multiple times.**

### **Performing Arts - #2600**

In this course, we will examine Improvisation, Audition Process, Monologues, Duets and Group Scenes, Movement, Voice and Diction, Playwriting, Shakespeare, and Theatre Literature. **Credit: 0.5. This is a one-semester elective course for Fine Arts credit for Upper Division students. This course may be taken multiple times.**

### **New Course! Music -**

#### **Dual Enrollment #2632**

This course is an introduction to the formal study of music. Subject matter includes the basic elements of music and the historical style periods in Western art music along with their most important composers. Although “classical” music will be the course’s emphasis, popular styles after 1900 (like jazz and rock), as well as several non-Western musical traditions may also be covered. Listening, reading, and analysis will lead to a greater understanding and appreciation of these styles. **Prerequisite:** passing score on the TSI, completion of all UTRGV requirements, admission into the DEEP Program. **Credit: 0.5; Weight: 1.10. This is a one-semester course which fulfills a Fine Art or elective credit. Credit for UTRGV Music.**

# Library Media Department

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## **Mission Statement**

The goal of the library media center is to create a dynamic student-centered program that will provide quality materials in a variety of formats and promote an understanding of the individual's right to access information. The Library Media Center's program must be the center of academic life at Saint Joseph Academy allowing for the development of life-long learners who are not only skillful consumers of information but active contributors to society in the information age.

## **Program Description**

The Library Media Centers are staffed by a full time Library Media Specialist. The program and policies of the centers are directed by our Library Media Specialist who works with students on both an individual and classroom basis. Our program is designed to promote critical and recreational reading, the ethical use of information and technology, develop research skills and strategies, and encourage students to become life-long learners.

## **Research & Writing Initiative**

In collaboration with the faculty and staff of Saint Joseph Academy, the Library Media Department will promote the development of research and writing skills with our student patrons to prepare them for work at the college level. Students will learn how to be discerning consumers of information and to make a positive contribution to the Saint Joseph learning community through effective participation in groups and the production of information. Students will be exposed to the skills necessary to meet the criteria established by the American

Association of School Librarians (AASL) for information literacy standards and the indicators for each standard ([www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org)). These skills will be taught by the Library Media Specialist in collaboration with the faculty for various research projects and reading assignments that will include but not be limited to: utilization of the OPAC (Online Public Access Catalog) for the library's collection, subscription reference databases, web evaluation, plagiarism and copyright issues, ethical use of technology, and the efficient utilization of print resources.

## **Library Aide Internship - #2121**

As a library aide, the student will learn the basic processes of library circulation including check-in, check-out, shelving books, processing periodicals, preparing new books and library materials to be circulated, basic cataloging skills, and how to interact with the public in a professional setting. Other duties will include but not be limited to the preparation of bulletin boards, bookmarks, signs and promotional materials. The course will require the student to learn and understand the Dewey Decimal system, assist students and teachers in finding materials, and use several different software applications such as word processing programs, in-house library applications, and web based programs. **Prerequisite:** An application process is required prior to registration for this class which will include references from other faculty members and final approval from the Library Media Specialist. **Credit: 0.5. This is a one-semester elective course open to students in grades 9 – 12. This course may be taken multiple times for elective credit.**

# Mathematics

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## **Pre-Algebra - #2202 (Grade 7); #2204 (Grade 8)**

This course covers the transition from previous mathematics study into the study of algebra. Basic operations involving decimals, fractions, and integers are reviewed and strengthened. Solving equations and word problems that involve rational numbers, proportions, percentages, and graphing are included. **This is a full-year required course for students in grades seven.**

*In order to ensure a firm foundation in mathematics, seventh grade students who fail Pre-Algebra will be required to repeat the entire course in grade eight rather than attending summer school for this purpose. Additionally, seventh grade students who have not demonstrated mastery of Pre-Algebra concepts may, upon departmental recommendation and administrative approval, be required to repeat Pre-Algebra in grade eight.*

## **Honors Pre-Algebra - #2203**

This course, designed for students in grade seven who have a strong mathematics background, provides an enriched curriculum in preparation for the study of algebra. While students continue to gain experience in computation and problem-solving, their understanding of mathematical structure and reasoning are reinforced. Concepts will include solving first degree equations, word problems involving rational numbers, proportions, percentages, linear equations, inequalities, and an introduction to trigonometry. Emphasis will be given to problems requiring higher order thinking and

application of problem-solving strategies.

**Prerequisite:** Administrative approval.

**Weight: 1.05. This is a full-year course that fulfills the Pre-Algebra requirement.**

## **Algebra I - #2205 (Grade 8); #2207 (Grade 9)**

This course presents to the student the study of real numbers, equations, and inequalities in one variable, polynomials, systems of linear equations and inequalities, relations and functions, exponents and radicals, and an introduction to quadratic equations. Problem-solving and graphing are also included. **Prerequisite:** Pre-Algebra. **Credit: 1.0. This is a full-year required course for students in grades eight or nine.**

*In order to ensure a firm foundation in mathematics, eighth grade students who fail Algebra I will be required to repeat the entire course in grade nine rather than attending summer school for this purpose. Additionally, eighth grade students who have not demonstrated mastery of Algebra I concepts may, upon departmental recommendation and administrative approval, be required to repeat Algebra I in grade nine.*

## **Honors Algebra I - #2206**

Honors Algebra I presents to the student the study of real numbers, equations, and inequalities in one variable, polynomials, systems of linear equations and inequalities, relations and functions, exponents, radicals, and quadratic equations. Special emphasis is given to problem solving, critical thinking strategies, and graphing.



**Prerequisite:** Pre-Algebra, departmental recommendation, and administrative approval. **Credit: 1.0; Weight: 1.05. This is a full-year required course that satisfies the Algebra I requirement**

### **Geometry - #2208**

Geometry stresses the basic structure of a mathematical system and proficiency in developing proofs. The course includes concepts of space geometry integrated with plane geometry, the review and use of algebraic skills, and units on trigonometry, area and volume, constructions, coordinate geometry, and transformations. **Prerequisite:** Algebra I. **Credit: 1.0. This is a full-year required course for freshmen or sophomores.**

### **Honors Geometry - #2209**

Honors Geometry stresses the basic structure of a mathematical system and a strengthened proficiency in developing proofs. Properties of two and three dimensional geometric shapes will be analyzed and mathematical arguments about geometric relationships will be developed. The course includes concepts of space geometry integrated with plane geometry, the review and use of algebraic skills, and units on trigonometry, area and volume, constructions, coordinate geometry, and transformations. **Prerequisite:** Algebra I, departmental recommendation, and administrative approval. **Credit: 1.0; Weight: 1.05. This is a full-year course that satisfies the Geometry requirement.**

### **Algebra II - #2210**

With an emphasis on equation solving and the application of equations to problem solving, the course includes the following among its topics:

relations, linear equations, polynomials, rational expressions, irrational numbers, quadratic equations, and an introduction to trigonometry and conic sections. **Prerequisite:** Geometry. **Credit: 1.0. This is a full-year required course for sophomores or juniors.**

### **Algebra II - Dual Enrollment #2231**

This course includes the following among its topics: relations, linear equations, polynomials, rational expressions, irrational numbers, quadratic equations, an introduction to trigonometry, arithmetic and geometric series, and statistics. Attention is paid to the derivation of formulas and the application of material to real-life situations through the use of projects. There is a strong emphasis placed upon the practical application of problem-solving equations. This course will require independent study by the highly motivated student. **Prerequisite:** Algebra I, Geometry, a passing TSI score, departmental recommendation, and administrative approval. **Credit: 1.0; Weight: 1.10. This is a full-year required course that satisfies the Algebra II requirement. Credit for TSC Math 1314: 3.0 hours.**

### **Pre-Calculus - #2214**

This course provides students with a firm foundation in the theory and use of functions and their graphs. Polynomial, rational, piece-wise, exponential, and logarithmic functions are explored. A comprehensive treatment of trigonometry which deals with the trigonometric functions, their graphs, and solutions of right and oblique triangles is included. **Prerequisite:** Algebra II. **Credit: 1.0. This is a full-year required course for juniors or seniors.**

### **Pre-Calculus - Dual Enrollment #2232**

This integrated course is the culmination of the process of acquiring the fundamental skills of algebra, geometry and trigonometry necessary for the study of calculus. Advanced topics in algebra include the number system, equations and inequalities, quadratic functions and equations, theory of equations, and the conic sections. A complete treatment of trigonometry, which includes the trigonometric functions and their graphs, polar coordinates, and the solution of right and oblique triangles, is provided. Fundamental concepts of plane geometry will be interwoven throughout the algebraic and trigonometric topics to provide a sound knowledge of geometry. This course will require independent study by the highly motivated student. **Prerequisites:** Algebra II (Dual Enrollment), a TSI score, departmental recommendation, and administrative approval. **Credit: 1.0; Weight: 1.10. This is a full-year course that satisfies the Pre-Calculus requirement. Credit for TSC MATH 2412: 4 hours.**

### **Calculus I - #2217**

Calculus includes the algebraic study of functions and their graphs. Limits and their applications, derivatives, anti-derivatives and the integration of the algebraic and trigonometric functions will be covered. Applications of derivatives and anti-derivatives will also be covered in this course. **Prerequisite:** Pre-Calculus. **Credit: 1.0. This is a full-year course for juniors or seniors.**

### **Calculus I - Dual Enrollment #2233**

This course covers function, limits, and continuity; the derivative; differentiation of algebraic functions; the derivative as a rate of change; maximum and minimum problems with applications; Rolle's Theorem; the Mean-Value Theorem; higher derivatives; concavity; techniques of graphing; antiderivative; the definite integral and integration with applications. **Prerequisite:** Dual Enrollment Pre-Calculus, departmental recommendation, and administrative approval. **Credit: 1.0; Weight: 1.10 This is a full-year course for seniors. Credit for TSC MATH 2413: 4 hours.**

# Modern Languages

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## **Beginning Spanish - #2503**

This course provides an introductory program for non-Spanish speakers. The students are exposed to the basic skills of listening, speaking and writing. **Credit: 1.0. This is a full-year course that satisfies one year of the Modern Languages requirement.**

## **Intermediate Spanish - #2504**

This course is a comprehensive review of the topics presented in Beginning Spanish. It is offered to introduce new structural elements, verb tenses, and functional vocabulary. This course will allow students to pursue proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, writing and higher-level communication in the language. **Prerequisite:** Beginning Spanish or departmental recommendation based on placement exam. **Credit: 1.0. This is a full-year course that satisfies one year of the Modern Languages requirement.**

## **Advanced Spanish - #2505**

This course offers the student a solid review of the topics presented in Intermediate Spanish while focusing on advanced Spanish grammar, structural elements of grammar and stylistics, syntax, oral communication, and the assimilation of culture and literature. **Prerequisite:** Intermediate Spanish or departmental recommendation based on placement exam. **Credit: 1.0. This is a full-year course that satisfies one year of the Modern Languages requirement.**

## **Honors Spanish - #2506**

There are three points of focus in this program.

Grammar includes mastery of advanced grammar; structural irregularities in morphology as well as syntax. Correct writing emphasizes proper accentuation, spelling and composition skills. Reading develops skills in literal comprehension and literary analysis and appreciation. This course is offered to students who are native speakers with a high degree of ability in oral and written Spanish. **Prerequisite:** Advanced Spanish or departmental recommendation based on placement exam. **Credit: 1.0; Weight 1.05. This is a full-year course that satisfies one year of the Modern Languages requirement.**

## **Advanced Placement Spanish Language - #2507**

This course is designed to offer students with strong Spanish language skills an opportunity for a highly challenging curriculum. Extensive reading, writing, and critical thinking and analysis are required to prepare the students for the Advance Placement Language examination that they are required to take in May. Successful completion of the Advanced Placement Exam may earn the student college credit. The language course prepares the students in verb functions and applications, idiomatic expressions, reading comprehension, and both speaking and listening skills. **Prerequisites:** Honors Spanish and/or departmental recommendation and administrative approval. **Credit 1.0; Weight: 1.10. This is a full-year course that satisfies one year of the Modern Languages requirement.**

### **Advanced Placement Spanish Literature - #2508**

This course is designed to offer students with strong Spanish language skills an opportunity for a highly challenging curriculum. Extensive reading, writing, and critical thinking and analysis are required to prepare the students for the Advanced Placement Spanish Literature Examination that they are required to take in May. Successful completion of the Advanced Placement Exam may earn the student college credit. The literature course requires extensive writing and reading of both contemporary and classical writers. **Prerequisites:** AP Spanish Language and/or departmental recommendation and administrative approval. **Credit: 1.0; Weight: 1.10. This is a full-year course that satisfies one year of the Modern Languages requirement.**

### **French I - #2509**

This course introduces the French sound system and basic grammatical structure. It builds an essential vocabulary, enabling the student to begin conversing, reading, and writing in French. The study of the language is complemented by references to French culture, assisting the student in comprehending the totality of the foreign language experience. **Credit: 1.0. This is a full-year course that satisfies one year of the Modern Languages requirement.**

### **French II - #2510**

The course reviews structures and vocabulary of the first year French, and presents new structural material within an audio-visual framework, to develop the student's ability to better understand the spoken language. The course emphasizes reading and writing as well as develops an appreciation of France and her people through the presentation of cultural material. **Prerequisite:** French I. **Credit: 1.0. This is a full-year course that satisfies**

**one year of the Modern Languages requirement.**

### **French III - #2511**

This language course prepares the students in verb functions and applications, idiomatic expressions, reading comprehension and aural or listening skills. **Prerequisites:** French II. **Credit: 1.0. This is a full-year course that satisfies one year of the Modern Languages requirement.**

### **Advanced Placement French - #2512**

This course is designed to offer students with strong French language skills an opportunity for a highly challenging curriculum. The primary goal is to prepare them to express themselves coherently in the spoken and written form with reasonable fluency. Students are also exposed to the world of literature, history and current events through literary texts, videos, audio files, newspapers and magazines articles that serve as a tool to comprehension and bring forth analytical, Socratic and spontaneous discussions.

Students enrolled in the class should have a more than basic command of French grammar and ample vocabulary. The four basic language skills will be emphasized: reading, writing, listening and speaking. Extensive training in the organization and writing of compositions will be a focal point of the course. Critical thinking and analysis are required to prepare the students for the AP Language examination that they are required to take in May. Successful completion of the Advanced Placement Exam may earn the student college credit. **Prerequisites:** Successful completion of French III, departmental recommendation, and administrative approval. **Credit 1.0; Weight: 1.10. This is a full-year course that satisfies one year of the Modern Languages requirement or may be taken for elective credit.**

# Physical Education

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## **Physical Education**

**Girls: #2801 (7th); #2803 (8th); #2805 (Upper Division)**

**Boys: #2802 (7th); #2804 (8th); #2806 (Upper Division)**

An integral part of a total education, this course meets the needs of students and helps them to strive both individually and in groups. Fitness conditioning, aerobic conditioning, and skills in a series of specific sports and physical activities are explained, demonstrated, practiced, and utilized by the students. Knowledge of rules, strategies, and skill techniques are taught by lecture, demonstration, experience, and testing.

The course aims at developing in students an appreciation for and a desire to continue physical activity throughout life. Students are required to dress out daily in the school's physical education uniform. **Credit: 0.5 for Upper Division PE; 1.0 credit must be taken in grades 9-12 to fulfill the graduation requirement.** *Note: Credit in Physical Education may also be earned through participation in Varsity-level athletics. For more information, students should see the Principal.*

## **Health - #2827 (8th); #2809 (Upper Division)**

This course presents various facets of maintaining personal and family well-being in such topics as physical growth, anatomy, family life and sex, nutrition, emergency care, first aid, major serious diseases, communicable diseases, and substance abuse. **Credit: 0.5. A one-semester required course which satisfies the graduation requirement in Health.**

## **Athletic Conditioning (Varsity) - #2826**

This class is designed for varsity athletes. Class time will be spent focused on this specific sport therefore students wishing to enroll in the class must obtain the coach's written permission before registering with the counselor. All students enrolled in this class are receiving state or local credit toward graduation and cannot be enrolled in any other physical education class. **Prerequisite:** Approval of the Athletic Director. **Credit: 0.5 for Upper Division PE; this is a one-semester course for students in grades 9-12.**

# Religious Studies

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## **Religious Studies 7:**

### **Introduction to Jesus - #2001**

This course focuses on Jesus and deals with His depiction in the four Gospels. Specifically, this course will analyze Jesus' role as friend, son, brother, teacher, and king. To illustrate these roles, students will identify Jesus' characteristics in figures from Church and secular history and describe the contemporary moral implications of Jesus' life and teachings. Special emphasis will be placed on the life of St. Marcellin Champagnat, founder of the Marist Brothers. **This is a full-year required course for seventh grade students.**

### **Religious Studies 8: Life in Christ - #2002**

This course deals with the building of Catholic character values and provides a summary of basic Catholic teaching. The course seeks to equip students with a working knowledge of Catholic doctrine and practices while developing Christian life skills. Students will be challenged to develop their conscience in the light of Church teachings regarding virtue and morality. **This is a full-year required course for eighth grade students.**

## **Religious Studies 9:**

### **Sacred Scripture - #2003**

This course is aimed at introducing students to the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures, especially

as they apply to contemporary Catholic perspectives and practices. Students will consider the concepts of salvation history, revelation, culture, and literary forms as they relate to the Bible. In the first semester, this course will provide students with a general overview of Hebrew Scriptures, with special attention paid to the Torah. The New Testament will be examined in the second semester, with emphasis placed on the four Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles. **Credit: 1.0. This is a full-year required course for freshmen.**

## **Religious Studies 10:**

### **Church and Worship - #2004**

Tenth grade students will study the Church and its methods of worship and prayer. In the first semester, students will grapple with the question: What is the Church? Students will explore the history of the Church, its evolving understanding of itself, and the tension between being "in the world but not of the world." Special emphasis will be placed on ministry in the Church. During the second semester, students will explore the sacraments as sacred signs that celebrate God's love for us and Jesus' presence in our lives and in the Church. Students will also explore other kinds of prayer and spirituality. **Credit: 1.0. This is a full-year required course for sophomores.**



### **Religious Studies 11:**

#### **Social Justice - #2005**

This course challenges students to confront injustice, violence, and victimization with hearts and minds inspired by Catholic social teaching. Issues discussed will include the option for the poor and vulnerable, the rights and responsibilities of workers, the right to life and self-determination, and care for creation. Sustained and special emphasis will be given to the Christian response to war and violence. Students will engage these issues with the assistance of Sacred Scripture, Catholic theology, and their informed conscience. This course will include a major research and presentation component. **Credit: 1.0. This is a full-year required course for juniors.**

#### **Senior Religious Studies Courses:**

*Students choose two (2) Religious Studies Electives each year from the list below.*

*Exception: Call to Ministry is a full-year course and would fulfill a student's senior year Religious Studies requirement. Courses may not be repeated.*

#### **Christian Identity - #2010**

In this course, students will explore the journey of faith and spirituality that will evolve after graduation. Students will be encouraged to examine personal commitment to faith. The course will also facilitate the discovery of ways in which students can grow in the Marks of a Marist Student. Additionally, an investigation into the possibilities for lay ministry and different forms of discipleship will be included. The importance of service and the reasons why people are called to serve will be included. **Credit: 0.5. This is a one-semester course for seniors which fulfills one semester of the senior Religious Studies requirement.**

### **Genocide Studies - #2011**

Genocide Studies is a course designed to address the needs of the student who is interested in learning about those who were involved in the horrors of genocide. Students will dig deep into the periods of genocide and gain a better understanding of the perpetrators, victims, bystanders and "upstanders," each of whom played their part in the sad history of genocide.

**Credit: 0.5. This is a one-semester course for seniors which fulfills one semester of the senior Religious Studies requirement.**

#### **World Religions - #2008**

This course offers students an introduction to the belief systems, practices, traditions, and cultures of the world's great religions. Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism will receive particular attention. Students will be invited to find similarities between the doctrines, worship styles, and spiritualities of Catholicism and the various religions studied in this course. **Credit: 0.5. This is a one-semester course for seniors which fulfills one semester of the senior Religious Studies requirement.**

*The Following Courses are Application-Only Courses.*

#### **Call to Ministry (CTM) - #2006**

This course will involve the student not only academically, but also experientially by providing a lived experience of service both within the Saint Joseph Academy community and their parishes. Students will come to an understanding of what ministry is and actively participate in it by preparing and coordinating the school's Masses and retreat program. Students will gain an overview of liturgical ministries, the ministry of retreats, and peer counseling skills. Ethical and practical matters in ministry will also be discussed. Through

prayerful reflection, students will be challenged to take what they have learned and live it out in service to the church and the global community. Involvement in ministry outside of the school will also be expected. **Prerequisites:** Students wishing to be considered for admission must submit a written application by the course deadline and participate in an interview conducted by a committee appointed by the administration. Criteria considered in selection include a student's leadership potential, good academic and disciplinary standing, and active faith involvement in ministry service to the school/community. Students must also have participated in the Encounter program in order to be eligible for selection as a member of the Call to Ministry class. **Credit: 1.0. This is a full-year course for seniors, which fulfills the senior Religious Studies requirement.**

### **Christian Service - #2007**

Students will be scheduled in a two-period block during which they will be assigned a service project in the community. Through prayerful reflection, students will be challenged to take what they have learned and live it out in service to the church and the global community. **Prerequisites:** Students wishing to be considered for admission must submit a written application by the course deadline and participate in an interview conducted by a committee appointed by the administration. Criteria considered in selection include a student's leadership potential, good academic and disciplinary standing, and active faith involvement in ministry service to the school/community. **Credit: 1.0. This is a one-semester two-period block for seniors, which fulfills one semester of the senior Religious Studies requirement.**

# Science

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In all science courses offered, students conduct field and laboratory investigations using safe, environmentally appropriate, and ethical practices. The use of technology is incorporated throughout the science curriculum to gather and organize data. Students use the scientific method, critical thinking and scientific problem solving to interpret and analyze information to draw informed conclusions, make inferences, or to propose possible solutions. Students will also use critical thinking to make informed decisions in real-life situations and in evaluating the impact of research on scientific thought, society, and the environment.

## **Physical Science 7 - #2301**

This course builds on the scientific processes and concepts introduced in previous years, integrating the physical sciences to conduct scientific inquiry. It is the expectation that students will experience the content of Physical Science through inquiry learning. Hands-on laboratory investigations, individual studies, and group activities constitute a major portion of the learning experience. Using available technology, students will investigate forces and motion, the chemical and physical properties of matter, the ways in which matter and energy interact within the natural world, and the forms and properties of energy. Conservation of matter and energy is an underlying theme throughout the course. Physical Science will provide the knowledge, prerequisite skills, and habits of mind needed for problem solving and decision making about matters of scientific and technological concern. Physical science provides a basic foundation for advanced studies in chemistry and physics. **This**

**is a full-year required course for students in grade seven.**

## **Applied Engineering - #2322**

This semester-long, hands-on, project-oriented class introduces STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) principles, concepts and guidelines. It will incorporate an understanding of materials and robotics as important tools to solve problems. Students will engage in a variety of technology problems individually and in cooperative groups focusing on collaboration, problem-solving and presenting to a group. Participation and completion of Applied Engineering prepares students to solve open-ended problems with an engineering mindset. **This is a one-semester elective course for students in grade seven.**

## **Environmental Systems 8 - #2303**

In Environmental Systems, students conduct field and laboratory investigations concerning a variety of topics. These topics include: biotic and abiotic factors in habitats; ecosystems and biomes; interrelationships among resources and an environmental system; sources and flow of energy and changes within environmental systems. **Credit: 1.0. This is a full-year course for students in grade eight that fulfills one science credit required for high school graduation.**

## **Honors Environmental Systems 8 - #2304**

This course includes all the major concepts and skills taught in the Environmental Systems course. The course differs in that the student is expected to develop a higher level of critical

thinking, problem solving, and ability to apply concepts through a more rigorous, faster paced, more in-depth curriculum. This course will require a great deal of self-discipline and independent study. **Prerequisite:** Departmental recommendation and administrative approval. **Credit: 1.0. Weight: 1.05. This is a full-year course for students in grade eight that fulfills one science credit required for high school graduation.**

### **Biology - #2305**

Students in Biology study a variety of topics that include: structures and functions of cells and viruses; growth and development of organisms; cells, tissues, and organs; nucleic acids and genetics; biological evolution; taxonomy, metabolism and energy transfers in living organisms; living systems; homeostasis; ecosystems; and plants and the environment. **Credit: 1.0. This is a full-year required course for freshmen.**

### **Honors Biology - #2306**

This course includes all the major concepts and skills taught in Biology, but with an emphasis on higher level skills and problem solving. The students are expected to apply the learned concepts at a faster pace and with a more in-depth curriculum. The course will require a great deal of self-discipline and independent study. **Prerequisite:** Departmental recommendation and administrative approval. **Credit: 1.0; Weight: 1.05. This is a full-year course which fulfills the Biology requirement.**

### **Chemistry - #2308**

In Chemistry, students study a variety of topics including the following: scientific measurement, characteristics of matter, atomic structure and bonding, chemical nomenclature, chemical equations, stoichiometry, the states of matter, thermo-chemistry, behavior of gases, chemical periodicity, reaction rates and equilibrium, solutions, acids and bases, neutralization and

salts, redox-reactions, nuclear fusion and fission. Students will investigate how chemistry is an integral part of our daily lives. **Credit: 1.0. This is a full-year required course for sophomores.**

### **Honors Chemistry - #2309**

This rigorous course is designed for highly motivated students. In comparison to the regular Chemistry course, it demands a higher level of critical thinking, application of concepts, self-discipline, and a great deal of independent study. Topics will be examined in greater depth and at a faster pace. In addition to the core topics covered in the Chemistry course, this course covers the following topics: phase diagrams, thermo-chemical equations, calorimetry and standard heats of formation, departures from the gas laws, the quantum concept, the photoelectric effect, quantum mechanics, bond dissociation constants, equilibrium constants, buffers, and an introduction to Organic Chemistry. **Prerequisite:** Departmental recommendation and administrative approval. **Credit: 1.0; Weight: 1.05. This is a full-year course which fulfills the Chemistry requirement.**

### **Physics - #2311**

This course studies the fundamental concepts of mechanics using vectors and dimensional analysis. It goes on to study the sources of all motion and energy, and how that energy is both transferred and conserved. Mathematics is the language of physics; therefore, a solid experience covering the basic concepts of Algebra and Geometry in order to solve problems using scientific data is required. Knowledge of the trigonometric functions of sine, cosine, and tangent is essential. Students study a variety of topics that include motion, forces, energy, matter, heat, thermodynamics, and the characteristics and behavior of sound and light. **Credit: 1.0. This is a full-year required course for juniors or seniors.**

### **Honors Physics - #2312**

This course covers the topics outlined in the regular Physics course, but with a more rigorous, in-depth mathematical approach. This course is for highly motivated students with exceptional mathematical capabilities. Students can expect to be challenged in a direction that is parallel to that of the general motion of the class, however, in a much deeper sense, laying the in-roads to sound understanding of the discipline of Physics. **Prerequisites:** Departmental recommendation and administrative approval. **Credit: 1.0; Weight: 1.05. This is a full-year course which fulfills the Physics requirement.**

### **Honors Anatomy & Physiology - #2315**

This course is designed to give students an in-depth introduction to the anatomy and physiology of the human body. It will provide students with an opportunity to study the structures and functions of several important organ systems, from the molecular level to the level and interactions of the entire body. The student will learn how the body functions, how to maintain its normal functions, and the consequences of injury and disease. Students will come to understand the interrelationships among the various organ systems, which maintain a healthy functioning individual. Important lifestyle and health related issues will be stressed, providing students with important information to be applied in their own lives. **Prerequisites:** Biology, Chemistry, Physics. **Credit 1.0; Weight: 1.05. This is a full-year elective course for juniors or seniors which fulfills one science credit required for high school graduation.**

### **Advanced Placement Physics 1 - #2313**

The Physics 1 course includes topics in both classical and modern physics. A thorough knowledge of algebra and basic trigonometry is required for the course; the basic ideas of calculus may be introduced in connection with physical concepts, such as acceleration and

work. Understanding of the basic principles involved and the ability to apply these principles in the solution of problems are the major goals of the course. The Physics 1 course seeks to be representative in topics covered in similar college courses and is grouped into five general areas: Newtonian mechanics, fluid mechanics and thermal physics, electricity and magnetism, waves and optics, and atomic and nuclear physics. Students will be expected to take the AP Physics examination in May. Any student seriously considering a career in science or physics as a basis for life sciences, medicine, geology and related areas should consider enrolling in this course. **Prerequisites:** Biology, Chemistry, Physics; Departmental recommendation and administrative approval. **Credit: 1.0; Weight: 1.10. This is a full-year elective course for juniors or seniors which fulfills one science credit required for high school graduation.**

### **Advanced Placement Chemistry - #2310**

This lab science course is equivalent to a first year college chemistry course. Topics in the course will give the student an in-depth understanding of fundamental chemical principles, and a competence in dealing with chemical problems emphasizing chemical calculations and mathematical formulation of these principles. A number of laboratory experiments will be performed. Students will be expected to complete a significant amount of course work outside of class. Students will be expected to take the AP Chemistry examination in May. **Prerequisites:** Biology, Chemistry, Physics; Departmental recommendation and administrative approval. **Credit: 1.0; Weight: 1.10. This is a full year elective course for juniors or seniors which fulfills one science credit required for high school graduation.**

### **Engineering 1 - #2319**

This course is designed as an overview to engineering including Chemical, Electrical, Reverse, and Systems Engineering. Students will work in

a variety of collaborative (team) environments. They will conduct a variety of tests and analyze data to develop product specifications and write technical reports. This course provides an opportunity to use a variety of engineering organizational tools to develop product designs, write a project plan while working on a multiple team systems design and understand the product development cycle. **Prerequisites:** Algebra II, Biology, Chemistry, Physics; Departmental recommendation and administrative approval. **Credit: 1.0. This is a full year elective course for juniors or seniors which fulfills one science credit required for high school graduation.**

### **Engineering 2 - #2321**

This course comprises a combination of project-based, socially relevant design challenges and explorations. Students employ the processes, algorithmic thinking, data representation and analysis, and modeling that are so important in engineering. Skills and habits of mind developed in Engineering 1 are used to solve more complex challenges that rely on computing and programming. **Prerequisites:** Engineering 1; Departmental recommendation and administrative approval. **Credit: 1.0; this is a full- year elective course for seniors which fulfills one science credit required for high school graduation.**

### **Honors Astronomy - #2320**

This course will introduce students to modern research taking place in the fields of astronomy and astrophysics. The course is research-based, with a focus on students and/or student teams developing a research project that could be followed throughout their high school careers and beyond. The students will spend much of their time gathering data and doing projects in a computer lab setting. Students will utilize resources to perform lab activities, computer simulations, projects, presentations, and tests. **Prerequisites:** Interest in science, particularly physics; and an aptitude for math. Departmental recommendation and administrative approval are required. **Credit 1.0; Weight: 1.05. This is a full-year elective course for juniors or seniors which fulfills one science credit required for high school graduation.**



# Social Studies

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## **Texas History - #2401**

Texas History covers the geography, history and government of the state from its beginnings to the present. Students analyze major social, political, and economic trends. The emphasis is placed on the cultural achievements of the diverse Texas population. **This is a full-year required course for students in grade seven.**

## **United States History Through 1877 - #2402**

Eighth-grade U.S. History surveys American history from pre-colonial times through 1877. Students analyze key economic, political, social, and cultural trends, focusing on economic regionalism, the development of democracy, and the diversity of American society and culture. Geography skills are integrated throughout the course; civics is taught as a logical sequel to the Constitutional Period, and students are encouraged to seek connections between history and literature. **This is a full-year required course for students in grade eight.**

## **World Geography - #2403**

This course is designed to prepare students for life in a globalized world. It is an overview of the earth and its life, its differing environments, their effects upon peoples, and the response which nations and regions make to their environment. Through the study of geographic principles and the cultural foundations of other nations,

students will build the skills and awareness needed to successfully understand their role and responsibilities as citizens of the world. **Credit: 1.0. This is a full-year required course for freshmen.**

## **AP Human Geography - #2423**

AP Human Geography presents students with the curricular equivalent of an introductory college-level course in human geography or cultural geography. Content is presented thematically rather than regionally and is organized around the discipline's main subfields: economic geography, cultural geography, political geography, and urban geography. The approach is spatial and problem oriented. Case studies are drawn from all world regions, with an emphasis on understanding the world in which we live today. Historical information serves to enrich analysis of the impacts of phenomena such as globalization, colonialism, and human-environment relationships places, regions, cultural landscapes, and patterns of interaction. Students will be expected to take the AP Human Geography examination in May. **Prerequisites:** Students who enroll in this course should be capable of reading and comprehending texts written at the college level and should possess fundamental skills in composition and research. Departmental recommendation and administrative approval are required. **Credit: 1.0; Weight: 1.10. This is a full-year course which satisfies the World Geography requirement.**

### **World History - #2405**

This course focuses on the major historical events, individuals, patterns and trends in world history. Attention is directed to the ancient and classical civilizations, the Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Reformation in Europe, the Age of Revolution, and the development of modern nations. Introductions to Asian, African, and Latin American cultures encourage an appreciation of the diversity and richness of the human experience. **Credit: 1.0 This is a full-year required course for sophomores.**

### **Advanced Placement World History - #2400**

In this course students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes from 1200 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical connections; and utilizing reasoning about comparison, causation, and continuity and change over time. The course provides six themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: humans and the environment, cultural developments and interactions, governance, economic systems, social interactions and organization, and technology and innovation. AP World History is designed to be the equivalent of an introductory college or university survey of modern world history. interpret a variety of primary sources. Students in this course will be required to take the AP exam in May. **Prerequisite:**Departmental recommendation and administrative approval. **Credit: 1.0; Weight: 1.10. This is a full-year course which satisfies the World History requirement.**

### **United States History Since 1877 - #2407**

Building on the foundations of United States History 8 and World History, this course examines the history of the United States in the late nineteenth century and twentieth century. Students are encouraged to view the country's history in a global context, as they analyze the emergence of the United States as a world power, major economic and political developments, and the great social and cultural movements of the time. **Credit: 1.0. This is a full-year required course for juniors.**

### **United States History- Dual Enrollment - #2426**

An integration of social, political, and economic history of the United States with attention directed to geography and its influences. The approach is by problems that move chronologically from the earliest colonial period through the Civil War. Second semester is an integration of social, economic, and political history of the United States with attention to geographical influences. The approach is by problems that move chronologically from Reconstruction to the present. **Prerequisites:** passing score on the Reading & Writing portion of the TSI ,attempt the Math TSI, teacher recommendation, successfully complete all requirements for UTRGV Dual Enrollment. **Credit: 1.0; Weight: 1.10. This is a full-year course which satisfies the U.S. History requirement. Credit for UTRGV 1301 & 1302: 6 hours.**

### **United States Government - #2412**

As a study of the organization and functioning of local, state, and federal governments, this course emphasizes the current realities of government operation and the interplay between social change and government. The United States Constitution and the Texas

Constitution are studied. **Credit: 0.5. This is a one-semester required course for juniors or seniors.**

**Economics - #2410**

This is an introduction to the basic concepts of economics. The course considers the role of the individual as a consumer and producer, and investigates the importance of money and banking, pricing, the gross domestic product, the free enterprise system, principles of the market, and the government influences on the economy. Alternative economic systems are also studied. **Credit: 0.5. This a one-semester required course for juniors or seniors.**

**Principles of Macroeconomics -**

**Dual Enrollment- #2428**

This course provides an introduction to the economy as a whole. Topics include national income and output, unemployment, inflation, market forces and economic growth, international linkages (such as trade deficits), and economic, social and political structures and institutions (such as fiscal and monetary policies and the Federal Reserve System).

**Pre-requisites:** passing score on the Reading & Writing portion of the TSI , attempt the Math TSI, teacher recommendation, successfully complete all requirements for UTRGV Dual Enrollment. **Credit: 0.5; Weight: 1.10. This is a one-semester course which satisfies the Economics requirement. Credit for UTRGV 2301: 3 hours.**

# Social Studies Electives

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The following course offerings from the Social Studies Department may be taken for elective credit.

## **American Cultures - #2414**

This course provides students with the opportunity to explore the contributions of various ethnic groups to American culture. Students will examine the history, cultural development, struggles, and accomplishments of diverse ethnic groups, with special emphasis on Native American, African American, and Mexican American contributions to the American cultural identity. Through reading of primary and secondary sources, independent research, class discussion, and presentations by guest speakers, students will develop an appreciation of the many influences that have created American cultural traditions. **Credit: 0.5. This is a one-semester elective course for juniors and seniors.**

## **Modern History - 1946 to the Present - #2415**

In this course, students will investigate some of the issues and challenges facing society in the contemporary period. Using the foundations of history and geography to analyze current events,

students will examine both global and domestic issues from the post-World War II era to the present. Through study of current informational sources and a variety of related readings, independent research, and class discussion, students will seek to understand current events and issues, their implications for the United States, and possible means by which they might be addressed. **Credit: 0.5. This is a one-semester elective course for juniors and seniors.**

## **AP Psychology - #2425**

The AP Psychology course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. They also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice. **Prerequisite:** 94 or above in Social Studies course, teacher recommendation and/or departmental approval. Students enrolled in this course will be taking the AP exam in May. **Credit: 1.0; Weight: 1.10. This is a full-year course for juniors and seniors.**

# Upper Division Course Planning Worksheet

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<b>Department</b>	<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Credits</b>
Religious Studies		
English		
Mathematics		
Science		
Social Studies		
Modern Languages		
Fine Arts		
Physical Education		
Computer Science		
Business		
Electives/Other		

**Must Total  
7 Credits**



*Saint Joseph Academy students are the  
future leaders of our community.*





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