

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Courses in the Social Studies Department enable students to critically evaluate past and current events while utilizing knowledge to discuss the lessons learned from history. Through debates, group projects, and simulations, students develop an understanding of and respect for different opinions and cultures. Through a variety of interactive activities, students are aided in their academic growth through lectures, note taking, citizenship activities, bias identification, exploration and evaluation of primary and secondary sources, and written essays. Students in Social Studies courses are encouraged to think as global citizens and to get involved in local political opportunities.

World History

Level: 9 **Year** 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: None

Description: World History is designed to deepen the student's understanding of major world civilizations from the Industrial Revolution to modern times. Students analyze political, social and economic changes in western nations in the 1st semester and then analyze similar elements in non-western nations in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East in the second semester. Students will begin the research and writing process that they will be further developed in each subsequent social studies course.

AP World History

Level: 10-12 **Year** 10 credits

UC/CSU approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Semester grade of B+ or better in the freshman World History course, an analytical writing sample, performance on Global Studies course exams and recommendation of the current history teacher.

Description: AP World History is an elective course offered to advanced students who want to experience a college-level course. AP World History compares patterns of changes among major societies from 8000 B.C.E. to the present. By the end of the course, students can discuss world events from a sophisticated perspective, and they can make thematic connections between time periods. Students learn to identify relevant historical evidence, to recognize the limitations of those sources, and to debate their arguments. Skills taught include how to read a college text, organize and write analytical essays, interpret historical perspectives, analyze and discuss primary sources, and participate in historical debates. *This class involves an additional workload and extended content for the accelerated student.*

United States History

Level: 11 **Year** 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: World History

Description: United States History is a junior level course that builds on the World History study of global industrialization and its impact on America through the analysis of major historical, social, political, and economic forces that helped to shape the United States from the post-Civil War period to modern times. This course provides a sense of chronological continuity and focus on those major themes that define America's heritage. Students are encouraged to study in depth the contributions of diverse peoples and cultures to the development of the United States and America's own contribution to the development of other nations.

United States History (AP)

Level: 11 **Year** 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Semester grade of B+ or better on most recent Social Studies course plus the recommendation of the current history teacher.

Description: AP United States History is a college level course that highlights major historical, social, and economic trends from the colonial period to modern times. Students rigorously study those defining moments in American history that have led our country to its current state. Students analyze the development of the governmental system, the role of the expanding court, and major political movements that led to equal rights for minorities. *This class involves an additional workload and extended content for the accelerated student.*

American Government

Level: 12 **Semester** 5 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: United States History

Description: American Government is a one-semester course that provides an analysis of the organization and influence of the American government system at the national, state and local levels. This study will include the origins, functions, strengths, and weaknesses of our American political system. Students will analyze the history of America's political system while deepening their understanding of the intricate relationship among federal, state, and local governments. Students will come to have a greater respect for the unique roles and responsibilities of the three branches of government.

AP United States Government

Level: 12 **Semester** 5 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisites: United States History grade of A- or better or B- or better in the United States History (AP), an analytical writing sample (to be completed during class time), and recommendation of the current history teacher.

Description: AP Government and Politics is a one-semester course that provides a rigorous analysis of the organization and influence of the American governmental system at the national, state and local levels. Students will analyze the history of America's political system while deepening their understanding of the intricate relationship among federal, state, and local governments. Emphasis will be placed on the analysis of current political structures and the

creation of logical defenses for debate purposes. Students will come to have a greater respect for the unique roles and responsibilities of the three branches of government. *This class involves an additional workload and extended content for the accelerated student.*

Economics

Level: 12 **Semester** 5 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: United States History

Description: Economics is a one-semester course that provides a study of micro and macroeconomic theory and practice, with an in-depth study of the United States economic system. Students will come to understand common economic terms while analyzing America's market economy in a global setting. Students will work with one another as they analyze the influence the federal government has on the American economy, the U.S. labor market, and international trade. Students will apply their knowledge in a business simulation project that will supplement the coursework.

Psychology

Level: 10-12 **Semester** 5 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: None

Description: Psychology is an elective course that focuses on individual behavior and why an individual thinks, feels, and reacts to certain stimuli. Major emphases will be placed on childhood and adolescent development, the brain's structures and functions, altered states of consciousness, psychological testing, and psychological disorders. Students are encouraged to analyze why we do what we do and how our human biology can explain our actions and thoughts.

AP Psychology

Level: 11-12 **Year** 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: B or better in most recent Social Science course (World History; Global Studies or U.S. History), or B- or better in most recent Honors or AP Social Science Course; no lower than B in most recent English and Science classes, or B- or better in most recent Honors or AP English and science classes; an analytical writing sample and recommendation of most recent Social Science teacher.

Description: AP Psychology is an elective course designed to introduce students to the study of human behavior and mental processes at a college level rigor and pace. Students are exposed to the history and subfields of psychology, the brain's structures and functions, altered states of consciousness, psychological testing, and psychological disorders. Students analyze the biopsychosocial approach to psychology in all human interactions and decisions. Emphasis will be placed on the ethics and statistical methods psychologists use in their science and practice as well as on famous psychological experiments that shaped the field of psychology. *This class involves an additional workload and extended content for the accelerated student.*

analysis of real-world applications, such as modelling supply-and-demand curves, sales forecasts, and population growth.

Algebra II/Trigonometry

Level: 9-11 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Minimum B- in Geometry, or challenge test and recommendation of the Math Department.

Description: This course which covers the topics from Algebra II at a faster pace, in greater depth, and includes a detailed study of trigonometry including trigonometric functions, identities, and triangles. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking and problem solving.

Algebra II/Trigonometry Honors

Level: 9-11 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Minimum B- in Geometry Honors or a minimum A- in Geometry, challenge test and recommendation of the Math Department.

Description: This is an accelerated course which covers the topics from Algebra II at a faster pace, in greater depth, and includes a detailed study of trigonometry including trigonometric functions, identities, and triangles. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking and problem solving.

Math Analysis

Level: 11-12 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Algebra II

Description: This course provides an additional year of math for students wishing to maintain their skills in preparation for future courses, standardized and placement testing, and life skills. A wide range of basic math concepts are covered, including trigonometry, advanced algebra, statistics, and an introduction to personal finance.

Precalculus

Level: 11-12 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Minimum B- in Algebra II, Algebra II Trig, Math Analysis, or a C- in Algebra II/Trig Honors.

Description: Precalculus explores advanced mathematical concepts and includes a review of trigonometry, the study of functions, and graphing functions. Some of the functions covered include linear, quadratic and other polynomial functions, power, rational, exponential, logarithmic and trigonometric functions. Other topics include arithmetic and geometric sequences and series, complex numbers, and polar coordinates. Critical thinking and real-world problems are emphasized.

computing, science, technology, engineering, and math concepts. This course emphasizes hands-on robotics activities with a concentration on mathematical modeling and computer programming for solving problems. As term projects, students may participate in regional and statewide C-STEM RoboPlay Video and/or RoboPlay Challenge Competitions. Through these project-based team activities, students develop critical thinking, problem solving, effective communication, and teamwork skills.

NEW! AP Computer Science A

| | | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------|-------------------|
| Level: | 11-12 | Year | 10 credits |
| UC/CSU Approval: | Yes | | |
| Prerequisite: | A average in Algebra II/Trig or B average in Honors Algebra II/Trig or A average in Honors Geometry AND math department approval. | | |
| Description: | This course emphasizes object-oriented JAVA programming with a concentration on problem-solving and algorithm development and is the equivalent of a first semester college-level course in Computer Science. It includes an introduction to the study of data structures, design, documentation, and abstraction. This course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Examination administered by the College Board in May. Students will take the Computer Science A Advanced Placement exam. Previous experience in computer programming is helpful. | | |

with the rapidly changing science of Biology. Essential to the conceptual understanding are the following: a grasp of science as a process rather than as an accumulation of facts; personal experience in scientific inquiry; recognition of unifying themes that integrate the major topics of biology; and application of biological knowledge and critical thinking to environmental and social concerns. The general areas covered are the following: molecules and cells, heredity and evolution, and organisms and populations. Inquiry-based laboratory investigations develop skills that help students model the work of scientists and develop the critical thinking needed to be a part of the 21st century workforce. Students in this class will explore biotechnology through an extensive, multiple-week laboratory investigation. This course is especially for students who might be interested in careers in the biological sciences.

Forensic Biology

Level: 10-12 Year 10 Credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: C- average in Biology.

Description: Students will build on what they have learned in Biology by applying skills and concepts from biology, chemistry and physics to solve real-life problems within the realm of forensics. All lab activities will involve simulated evidence that will be age-appropriate. The textbook does not include graphic photos. For sophomores, this course will be a good introduction to basic concepts in chemistry and physics. Upper-division students will be able to apply what they have learned in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This laboratory course will teach students about the theory, concepts, and applications of a full-service crime laboratory. It will include units in chemistry, physics, geology, biology, document examination, photography, toxicology, and fingerprinting. Students will be instructed on how laboratory scientists analyze physical evidence, document evidence during laboratory analysis, and present results during testimony upon request of the attorney.

Chemistry

Level: 10-11 Year 10 Credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Sophomores: B average in Biology and Algebra I.
Juniors: None

Description: Chemistry investigates the nature of matter—all the substances which make up our world and the changes that take place in and between these substances. The areas of study include elements, compounds and mixtures, fundamental concepts of atomic theory and structure, chemical bonding, writing chemical formulas and equations, the mole concept, stoichiometry, the properties of gases, solution chemistry, and acids and bases. Laboratory exercises consist of investigating related chemical reactions through the proper use of the scientific method, and a focus on skill development including graphing and data analysis.

Honors Chemistry (Chemistry I – Honors)

Level: 10-11 Year 10 Credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

average in those classes.

Description: This rigorous college-preparatory elective science course includes a detailed study of many human body systems. Homeostatic balance, the relationship between structure and function, and the interrelationships between body systems are a focus throughout the course. This course is recommended for students interested in a health-related career, especially those students who plan to study medicine, nursing, physical therapy, and athletic training. Standards are similar to those in the standard level of the course, but students are expected to have a deeper understanding with a higher level of sophistication. This course uses dissection as an instructional activity.

AP Environmental Science

| | | | |
|------------------|--|-------------|-------------------|
| Level: | 10-12 | Year | 10 Credits |
| UC/CSU Approval: | Yes (weighted) | | |
| Prerequisite: | B average in previous honors level science and Honors English courses, and recommendation of science teachers. Sophomores must be concurrently enrolled in Honors Chemistry. | | |

Description: The goal of the AP Environmental Science course is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the inter-relationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving or preventing them. Environmental science is interdisciplinary. It embraces a wide variety of topics from different areas of study. The course includes a field study component.

WORLD LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

The World Languages Department is committed to preparing 21st Century students who can meet and work with speakers of other cultures. Technology and the internet afford students opportunities to use their second language skills within and outside the classroom arena. Class activities are geared to simulate real life situations within the given cultures. The Department adheres to the California State FL Framework (K-12) as well the standards of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL): Communication, Cultures, Connections, Communities, and Comparisons.

The World Language Department fosters the importance of connecting and communicating with other cultures. Communicative technology has drawn our global society so much closer that today's learners need to be responsible for deeper understanding, compassion, and empathy for diverse cultures. Learning another language creates the bridge to enter into these different worlds and therefore promotes awareness, understanding, and respect for cultural diversity.

Satisfying UC e-requirements:

*Students preparing for entrance into the University of California must satisfy the e-requirement of **two years of the same language other than English**. The e-requirement is intended to ensure that entering freshmen have attained competence in a language other than English. **Note: Two years is the minimum requirement; three in the same language is recommended.** Entrance into the UC system has become increasingly competitive, and students are strongly encouraged to complete or to exceed the recommended number of courses, rather than the minimum requirement, in order to maximize their eligibility opportunities.*

Please note: ASL courses are approved to meet eligibility/selection requirements for UC/CSU. ASL may not meet some private or other state institution’s World Language entrance requirements. Certain majors may not recognize ASL as a World Language. Please check individual colleges for additional credit information.

WORLD LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT PLACEMENT POLICY

*Incoming Freshmen and transfer students wishing to continue their previous language **studied** will take a placement test on a designated day in late April–early May. Students must demonstrate in both written and oral work their ability to understand and sustain comprehension and communication in the target language commensurate with the the ACTFL Proficiency guidelines and their qualifying stage level of the World Language Content Standards for California for which they are qualifying.*

Placement will be made based on performance results from the 2nd semester final exam of the exiting level and an oral interview. Final decision for placement rests with the Department.

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

American Sign Language I

Level: 9-12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Description: American Sign Language I has communication as a primary goal. Toward this end, it is imperative that students be placed in situations where they must interpret whole ideas. To better afford students access to a variety of “histories,” they must be placed in the “real” environment of the people whose only means of communication is through signing. This is best accomplished through multi-media. Grammar and vocabulary are refined with multiple exposures to stories and the cultural environment in which they exist. Students are responsible

for the interpretation of at least two histories per quarter.

American Sign Language II

Level: 9-12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Completion of American Sign Language I with C- or above
It is strongly recommended that a student with C- seek remediation during the summer. A student continuing to level II with D must seek remediation during the summer and have proficiency re-evaluated before entering level II in order to determine the need for additional support.

Description: Beginning with the second year of American Sign Language, students are required to film their own history to serve as both a “pairs” activity and a small group activity. These are a reflection of real-life activities. At this stage, students are introduced more in depth to the literature found in ASL, which is passed on through “story-telling.” At this level, it becomes crucial for student filming for process development, and finally, for teacher-student evaluation. Through these tapings, students will create a collection of “stories” in keeping with the “story-telling” aspect of the curriculum.

American Sign Language III

Level: 9-12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Completion of American Sign Language II with C or above
Student with a C- in level II wishing to challenge entrance to level III must pass a proficiency exam for placement in level III.

Description: Students in Level III study the structure of American Sign Language through American Sign Language literature and through everyday communication. Through the study of American Sign Language literature, students expand their knowledge of classifiers, role-shift and facial expressions, while also increasing their vocabulary and understanding of American Sign Language grammar. Students will also study the process of translating American Sign Language to English, a process that includes Deaf History and Culture as much as it does sign-to-word accuracy. Continued practice in American Sign Language numbering system will be expanded.

American Sign Language IV

Level: 11-12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Completion of American Sign Language III with C or above
Student with a C- in level III wishing to challenge entrance to level IV must pass a proficiency exam for placement in level IV.

Description: Students in American Sign Language IV will expand their vocabulary with the introduction of various content areas dealing with current events, world affairs, health conditions and abstract ideas. Students will continue to develop their skills in role-shift variations and applying the use of classifiers. Students will study American Sign Language narratives, which will be translated into English. Students will be given lessons to increase visual memory. Students will review basic money vocabulary and be introduced to banking terms and discussions on finances. Students will be required to participate in deaf-sponsored events and will continue the

study of deaf people's experience in America; a comparison between the deaf and hearing worlds will be explored.

FRENCH

French I

Level: 9-12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: None

Description: French I is the beginning course in high school which meets the qualifications for college preparatory credit. Through a variety of interactive activities and in a controlled second language environment, students can make statements about things and actions within their vocabulary range on such themes as composition of family, daily routines, future career, hobbies, and personal identification. Students acquire an active vocabulary of 300-800 words. Strong emphasis is given to oral expression, and students must interact informally in the target language. At this level, students can demonstrate comprehension of a selection of reading texts on familiar topics, can produce a simple narrative, and write an account based on familiar materials. Pre-reading and pre-writing strategies which support Mercy's English department are utilized as introductions to composition and essay writing. Culturally, students learn to recognize broader, rather than stereotypical characteristics while learning the language as used within the Francophone culture. In language accuracy (grammatical accuracy), students demonstrate a basic control and recognition of the most basic grammatical concepts and relationships. Grading is weighted to reflect the greater emphasis on listening and speaking skills.

French II

Level: 9-12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Completion of French I C- or above
It is strongly recommended that a student with C- seek remediation during the summer.
A student continuing to level II with D must seek remediation during the summer and have proficiency re-evaluated before entering level II in order to determine the need for additional support.

Description: French II is a continuation of Level I with continued emphasis on oral expression. With an active vocabulary of 800-1500 words, students can more confidently respond orally by describing material presented visually and answering general personal questions. The content commonly includes vocabulary and functions concerning meals, lodging, transportation, time, formal commands, and courtesy interchanges. In reading, students demonstrate comprehension of brief passages of contemporary cultural prose. Students read passages of *Cyrano de Bergerac* in the French language simultaneously with the English classes at this level, students learn to write a brief summary and descriptions of activities they observe. Second year students must direct a two-minute interview in the target language. Grading continues to emphasize the listening and speaking skills.

French III

Level: 10-12 **Year** **10 credits**

Prerequisite: Completion of French III Honors with B or above plus recommendation/evaluation of writing proficiency from English III teacher.
or
Completion of French III with B+ or above plus passing of Challenge Exam and recommendation/evaluation of writing proficiency from English III teacher.

Description: AP French Language and Culture is college level course designed for students wishing to prepare for the Advanced Placement Exam. Course work gives emphasis to the finer points of grammar with careful attention to nuances found in the language. All course work integrates the four modalities of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students are responsible for one essay every two weeks, commencing late in the first semester. The integration process of listening, speaking, and writing is strengthened through exposure to authentic current events gleaned from French broadcasts, especially TV5, from around the French speaking world, and authentic reading materials. These readings give students the necessary exposure to global issues and sub-categories which are at the heart of the French Language AP. Students must practice recording responses to test their ability to speak both in personal and interpersonal situations, and in presentational mode. Students are tested using the AP outline and format and sit for the AP national exam.

SPANISH

Spanish I

Level: 9-12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Pre-requisite: None. Mid-year Transfer Students needing greater exposure to the language at transfer time must arrange for regular tutor sessions with teacher until the production skills are comparable to students already enrolled.

Description Spanish I is the beginning course in high school which meets the qualifications for college preparatory credit. Through a variety of interactive activities and in a controlled second language environment, students can make statements about things and actions within their vocabulary range on such themes as composition of family, daily routines, future career, hobbies, and personal identification. Students acquire an active vocabulary of 300-800 words. Strong emphasis is given to oral expression, and students must interact informally in the target language. At this level, students can demonstrate comprehension of a selection of reading texts on familiar topics, can produce a simple narrative, and write an account based on familiar materials. Pre-reading and pre-writing strategies which support Mercy's English department are utilized as introductions to composition and essay writing. Culturally, students learn to recognize broader, rather than stereotypical characteristics while learning the language as used within the Spanish/Latin American culture. In language accuracy (grammatical accuracy), students demonstrate a basic control and recognition of the most basic grammatical concepts and relationships. Teaching strategies are utilized to address the varied learning styles of all students to include with some elementary language experience, as well as complete novices to the language. Grading is weighted to reflect the greater emphasis on listening and speaking skills.

Spanish II

Level: 9-12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes
 Prerequisite: Completion of Spanish I with C- or above
 It is strongly recommended that a student with C- seek remediation during the summer.
 A student continuing to level II with D must seek remediation during the summer and have proficiency re-evaluated before entering level II in order to determine the need for additional support.
 Mid-year Transfer Students must take a placement test to determine accurate placing. Those needing greater exposure to the language at transfer time must arrange for regular tutor sessions with teacher until the production skills are comparable to students already enrolled.

Description: Spanish II is a continuation of Level I with continued emphasis on oral expression. With an active vocabulary of 800-1500 words, students can more confidently respond orally by describing material presented visually and answering general personal questions. The content commonly includes vocabulary and functions concerning meals, lodging, transportation, time, formal commands, and courtesy interchanges. In reading, students demonstrate comprehension of brief passages of contemporary cultural prose. At this level, students learn to write a brief summary and descriptions of activities they observe. Second year students must direct a two-minute interview in the target language. Grading continues to emphasize the Listening and Speaking Skills. As an interdisciplinary lesson with English classes, students read portions of *Don Quijote* and produce both oral and written projects to support their learning. Grading continues to emphasize listening and speaking skills but strategies strongly prepare them for reading authentic material

Spanish III

Level: 11-12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes
 Completion of Spanish II with C or higher
 Student with a C- in level II wishing to challenge entrance to level III must pass a proficiency exam for placement in level III.

Description: In Spanish III, students demonstrate more ease in conversational skills with limited exposure to themes dealing with some contemporary issues such as segregation, the concept of death, mass media, overpopulation, and pollution. Students receive an introduction to idiomatic expressions. History and geography of Spain and Spanish America are studied extensively through readings and discussions. At this level, students can understand with greater ease Spanish spoken by native speakers. Short literary essays are introduced, and reading and writing become more intense. Grading at this level gives equal emphasis to all four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Spanish III Honors

Level: 11-12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes (weighted)
 Prerequisite: Completion of Spanish II with B or above plus passing Challenge Exam
Description: Spanish III Honors incorporates material covered in Spanish III (see description Spanish III). This course, because of its rigor in its demands of language structures and advanced vocabulary prepares students with a pre-AP mindset. The text for this level begins

addressing global issues that lead students to make valuable comparisons and contrasts between the studied culture and their own. At this stage they begin formally to acquire more advanced vocabulary and time structures, as well other linguistic mechanics to produce a more fluent expression. Students will be guided to function in the language in a more spontaneous manner and with greater accuracy. Strategies for critical thinking skills are emphasized, particularly in the reading of literature. Completion of this course prepares students for entrance into AP Spanish Language and Culture.

Spanish IV

| | | | |
|------------------|---|-------------|-------------------|
| Level: | 11-12 | Year | 10 credits |
| UC/CSU Approval: | Yes | | |
| Prerequisite: | Completion of Spanish III with C or above Student with a C- in level III wishing to challenge entrance to level IV must pass a proficiency exam for placement in level IV. | | |

Description: Spanish IV is geared for students wishing to continue improving their productive and receptive skills with the four modalities of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Course work offers a complete review of grammar, communication opportunities utilizing idioms, native expressions, and proverbs and culture. Films are used as a vehicle of communication. Short literary essays are discussed and writing takes on a more sophisticated approach.

AP Spanish Language and Culture

| | | | |
|------------------|--|-------------|-------------------|
| Level: | 11-12 | Year | 10 credits |
| UC/CSU Approval: | Yes (weighted) | | |
| Prerequisites: | Completion of Spanish III Honors with B or above, plus recommendation/evaluation of writing proficiency from English III teacher. or Completion of Spanish III with B+ or above, plus passing Challenge Exam, and recommendation/evaluation of writing proficiency from English III teacher. | | |

Description: AP Spanish Language and Culture is a college level course designed for students wishing to prepare for the Advanced Placement Exam. Course work gives emphasis to the finer points of grammar with careful attention to nuances found in the language. All course work integrates the four modalities of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students are responsible for one essay every two weeks, commencing late in the First Semester. The integration process of listening, speaking and writing is strengthened through exposure to authentic current events gleaned from Spanish broadcasts from around the Spanish speaking world. These readings give students the necessary exposure to global issues and sub-categories which are at the heart of the Spanish Language AP. Because of this rigor, students are expected to maintain a reading journal of on-site articles read outside of class. Students must practice recording responses to test their ability to speak both in personal and interpersonal situations, and in presentational mode. Students are tested using the AP outline and format and sit for the AP national exam.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Religious Studies I, II and III are taught using an integrative approach allowing for faith formation for each student. The curriculum is aligned with the Bishop's framework using the Credo series as the basic textbooks throughout these first three years.

Religious Studies I

Level: 9 **Year** 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Not applicable

Prerequisite: None

Description: Religious Studies I provides students with the opportunity to explore and come to a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith and its roots in the Jewish tradition. The year includes an introduction to Scripture, important figures of the Hebrew Scriptures, Catholic Christianity, Christian morality and decision-making and human sexuality.

Religious Studies II

Level: 10 **Year** 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Not applicable

Prerequisite: None

Description: The Person of Jesus Christ is the focal point of the second year of Religious Studies. Jesus is viewed from an historical and theological perspective. Students study the Christian Scriptures and the development of the Catholic Christian Church through the years.

Religious Studies III:

Level: 11 **Year** 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Not applicable

Prerequisite: None

Description: Religious Studies III asks the question "what sort of lives ought we lead?" The answer to this question is found by examining the convergence of spirituality and morality. The moral life is the public face of our spirituality and acts back upon our spirituality to test the authenticity of our experience of God and our convictions about the way life ought to be lived. This course will look at the sacraments and how they influence our spirituality and how we act in the world. This course will also look at developing personal ethics based on the teachings of Jesus.

**** NOTE: For Religious Studies IV students will choose between the Service and Social Justice course OR the Social Justice and World Religions combination.**

Religious Studies IV: Service and Social Justice

Level: 12 **Year** 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Not applicable

Prerequisite: Interview with Mr. Diaz or Ms. Simonetti

Requirement for the class: As a part of the Service-Learning nature of this course, students will be required to complete a minimum of 12 hours of direct service with one

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

The Mercy Visual and Performing Arts student, through powerful learning experiences, will embrace and excel in the arts and academics while working toward a professional career.

Art I

Level: 9-12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course is designed to teach basic hand-eye coordination in order to draw and understand the principles of composition. First semester work is in black and white using pencil, ink, charcoal, paper cutting, and scratch board. Second semester work explores color theory in the use of watercolor, tempera, pastel, and prismacolor. Assignment emphasis is on two-dimensional projects. Material fees required.

Art II

Level: 9-12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Completion of Art I

Description: Advanced Drawing and Painting, this course draws on the principles and skills learned in Art I. Portraiture, setting, lighting, and preparation of portfolio quality work are areas to be explored; beginning to spread into personal style and interpretation is encouraged. Materials fee required.

Art III Honors

Level: 9-12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: B+ or higher in Art II

Description: The focus of this course is advanced studio work in drawing, painting, illustration, graphic design, printmaking, art history, and art careers. All work is portfolio quality. Quarterly self-evaluations provide expression of the language of art and communication of the skills learned. Materials fee required.

AP Studio Art: 2D Design and Drawing

Level: 12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes (weighted)

Prerequisite: Passed 3 years of art training at Mercy, (or equivalent by art instructor) a B or higher in Honors Art 3 and preliminary portfolio of 12 pieces of artwork to be approved by art instructor before course begins.

Description: The course of study will include a concentration on developing a theme and body of work to be submitted for the AP Studio Art exam in May. Students will apply

techniques learned in graphic design, illustration, printmaking, painting, and art history to create their portfolio.

Ceramics I

Level: 9-12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: None

Description: Ceramics I students develop skills in designing and creating three-dimensional forms with various hand-building methods with emphasis on wheel-thrown works. Methods of glazing and firing techniques are learned. A variety of styles of ceramic and sculpture works are explored and encouraged. Materials fee required.

Ceramics II

Level: 9-12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Completion of Ceramics I

Incoming transfer students are subject to testing on wheel techniques and depth of previous ceramics knowledge.

Description: Ceramics II will focus on advanced work on the wheel, with emphasis on increasing size and ability, to create multiples of the same objects by creating a dinner service for four. Exploration of various glazing techniques is emphasized. Some written assignments are required. Materials fee required.

Ceramics & Sculpting III Honors

Level: 11-12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: B+ average in Ceramics II

Incoming transfer students are subject to testing on wheel techniques and depth of previous Ceramics knowledge.

Description: Ceramics III Honors will focus on various methods of glazing and personal exploration of forms. Research of different glazing and hand building techniques is required. Weekly written reports and reflection papers are included. Sculpture will be introduced with projects each quarter. Materials fee required.

NEW! 3D Art

Level: 9-12 (preference to upperclassmen) **Year** **10 credits**

USC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: None

Description: Students will learn to recognize the basic concepts, media, and techniques involved in a variety of 3D Art forms and produce a variety of functional and decorative products using the skills introduced in class. Students will develop concepts that will be influenced by the producer's knowledge, training, experience, and attitudes, which follow the principles of good design. Students will apply what is learned through lectures, handouts, and demonstration

materials. The study of applied technology using paper, glass, metals, textiles, dyes, clay, threads, yarn, and wax is part of the course. Computers are used to assist in design. Materials fee required.

NEW! AP Studio Art: 3D Design

Level: 12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Passed 3 years of Sculpture and Ceramics training at Mercy, (or equivalent as deemed by 3D instructor), B+ grade or higher in Ceramics 3H and preliminary portfolio of 12 pieces of artwork to be approved by art instructor before course begins.

Description: The object of this course is to explore the different aspects of 3D sculpture and to teach the students how to express themselves in their own personal style with different media. The individual sections of each portfolio- Quality, Concentration, and Breadth- are discussed in detail. The students are expected to develop mastery in concept, composition, and execution of ideas. Throughout the year, students learn a variety of concepts and approaches to 3D design, reviewing the Principles of Design (unity/variety, balance, emphasis, contrast, rhythm, repetition, proportion, figure/ground relations) articulated thru the Visual Elements (line, shape, color, value, texture and space). Students develop a body of work investigating a strong theme/concept, in 3D design, that they have chosen. This course emphasizes making art an ongoing process involving informed and critical decision-making. Critiques from the teacher and peers are expected and are an ongoing process throughout the year and form part of the assessment grade for the course.

Intro to Music: Chorale I

Level: 9-12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: None

Description: In Chorale, a performance class, students will learn how to develop their voices and experience the pleasure of ensemble singing. This class is an introduction to music and music-making, using voices and instruments to build a foundation for musical understanding. Music is chosen from various styles (musicals, popular, folk and traditional) that will encourage developing voices. We will listen to music from various cultures and have a chance to experience piano, ukulele, percussion, bells, and flutes. The class draws on a variety of different song styles. In this class you will discover the joy of ensemble performance in various venues, including at least two concerts during the school year.

Chorale II-III-IV

Level: 9-12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Chorale I or by audition

Description: The student must have had one year of chorale or comparable experience. Focussing on increased vocal confidence, improving singing technique and learning a

variety of repertoire, students will also study basic music theory and sight-singing and will be expected to learn repertoire at home, complete occasional theory and listening assignments outside of class. Occasional performance opportunities in addition to two yearly school concerts are expected and students purchase a traditional chorale dress.

Chorale III-Honors Ensemble

Level: 11-12

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: **Audition/teacher approval required**

Description: This auditioned ensemble will continue the development of vocal technique and ensemble practice through exploration of a wide variety of musical styles and genres, including a cappella, jazz and choreographed performance styles. As honors designees, students will study more advanced theory and sight-reading, complete occasional assignments in music history and vocal history, tackle more advanced repertoire and smaller ensemble pieces, learn basic conducting technique, do independent listening assignments, and be expected to attend a second musical concert during the year. Besides the two concerts at school, students perform for occasional functions and outside engagements and participate in a music festival in the spring. Purchase of a performing dress is required.

NEW! Beginning Guitar

Level: 9-12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Pending

Prerequisite: None

Description: Beginning guitar is a one-year course offering beginning instruction for the guitar. Students will learn open chords, power chords, moveable chords, accompaniment techniques and a variety of playing techniques and styles. It also includes music fundamentals, theory, songs, performing, listening, composing, improvisation, analyzing, and learning how to read standard notation and tablature. Students may provide their own guitar or rent a guitar for the course duration.

Dance I

Level: 9-12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: None

Description: Dance I is a course that encompasses the beginning exploration of modern dance, jazz dance, basic ballet, African-based dance styles such as African, Swing and other contemporary dances. Students learn and practice beginning level dance techniques, focusing primarily on the principles of center strength, coordination, balance and flexibility. Dance history, vocabulary and dance appreciation introduce the student to a wide variety of dance forms as they occur in world cultures. Students learn and rehearse choreography, culminating in formal dance performances at the end of each semester.

Dance II

Level: 9-12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Completion of Dance I with a B or by audition.

Description: Dance II is a continuation of the study of intermediate and advanced techniques of modern dance, jazz dance, ballet, African dance, tap and other contemporary dance styles. Students increase their skills through practice of more challenging and complex movement patterns. Students begin their study of the choreography by solving improvisation and composition problems. Dance history and vocabulary are also a focus of the course, and readings of current dance periodicals and viewing dance on film familiarize students with the current dance trends. Dance II culminates in formal dance performances at the end of each semester.

Dance III Honors

Level: 9-12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Completion of Dance II with a B or by audition.

Description: Dance III Honors is a continuation of the study of intermediate and advanced techniques of modern dance, jazz dance, ballet, and African-based styles of tap and contemporary dance. Students learn more challenging and complex movement skills, which focus on the principles of center strength, correct body alignment, balance, and flexibility. Students are also challenged to create their own dance works through the choreographic principles of composition and improvisation and will choreograph dances for performance as their skills progress. Dance history and vocabulary continue to be a focus of the course, and there are frequent reading, dance viewing, and writing components, enabling students to develop critical thinking skills through writing about dance. Dance III Honors culminates in formal dance performances at the end of each semester, as well as other performances in a wide variety of venues.

Dance IV Honors

Level: 9-12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Not submitted

Prerequisite: Completion of Dance III with a B or by audition

Description: Dance 4 is a course that encompasses masterful daily physical exploration of modern dance, jazz dance, ballet, and African-based dance styles, and continues the study of modern and jazz dance history as well as the choreographic principles of composition and improvisation. Students engage in independent study of dance outside the classroom in the form of additional classes and independent readings. Students develop leadership qualities by leading classroom activities, sharing ideas, initiating student-led activities, and engaging in peer dialogues with others. Weekly scholarly reading and writing are a requirement. The culminating activity of the course will be that students choreograph their own dance works for formal performance, as well as perform in other dance venues as they present themselves.

Dance V Honors

the class requires teachers permission. Dancers will continue to build strength and learn steps specific to tap dancing as well as advanced turning sequence. Turn sequence will include cramp roll turns and maxiford turns with pickups. Students will also learn tricks such as single and double wings, toe stands, rolling toe-stands and much much more. Combinations will increase in difficulty as the year progresses. Dancers are required to take a technique class concurrently. This is a 1 semester technique class.

Floor Barre

Level: 9-12 Semester 5 credits

UC/CSU Approval: No

Prerequisite: Completion of Fitness with a B or higher.

Description: This class is a great supplement to dancers who want more ballet or athletes looking for an advanced workout! Through yoga, Pilates, and floor barre exercises, students will build core strength, find and maintain their balance, and increase their flexibility. Thera-bands, weights, and rollers are used in class. This class is highly recommended for the serious dancer, as well as, for the competitive athlete looking to increase their strength and flexibility. This is a 1 semester class.

Drama I

Level: 9-12 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: None

Description: Introduction to Performing Arts (Drama I) is a full-year course emphasizing the development in the skills of the dramatic arts. Drama 1 will promote the development of the basic skills and techniques of acting, including increased sensory awareness, ensemble performing, character analysis, and script analysis. Emphasis will be placed on the mechanics of voice, body, emotion, and analysis as tools for the actor. Students are required to participate in a series of acting exercises and performances. The goal is to provide an opportunity for students to explore the world of the stage, and in the process, develop a more confident sense of self.

NEW! Drama II

Level: 10-12 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Drama I

Description: This course is a general survey of intermediate theatre topics, including the exploration of dramatic literature, theory, and criticism; production arts, skills, and crafts; and theater history from 500 BC to the present. It is designed to provide an overview of theatrical elements, tools, and applications. As a result, the course requires good reading and writing skills, and a willingness to tap into one's own creative instincts. It is designed to build upon the skills developed in Introduction to Theatre. The focus the course is on the scripted word, and how the actor interprets and presents the words of others on stage.

Photography

Level: 9-12 **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: None

Description: This is a beginning level, non-darkroom, art photography course intended to help students develop the ability to take, manipulate, print, alter, and blend their photography through their understanding of visual perception and personal experience. Using digital cameras and professional photo editing software, students learn the basic elements of art photography, develop observational skills and the ability to discuss and critique their experience. Through the year, students will study the world of art photography, its place in art history, and its importance in society. Students will complete written assignments as well as a portfolio of their work. Students supply their own digital cameras. Text required: Focus on Photography.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The Physical Education classes are designed to help students develop awareness and appreciation for physical fitness, sports, lifetime activities, and physical wellness, and to apply the principles of those activities to their daily living. Students are expected to purchase Mercy PE clothes and to dress and participate every day. There is ample class time for practicing the skills needed for each activity and for learning written materials. Students are provided with Current Health Magazine for the study of health and wellness issues.

Health & Wellness

Level: 10 (required) **Semester** **5 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Not applicable.

Prerequisite: None

Description: Health & Wellness is a one semester required course for all sophomore students. The course helps students develop knowledge and learn essential skills to facilitate decision making for a healthy and fulfilling life. During the semester students will utilize journaling, discussion, and role-playing to engage in a variety of topics related to their physical, intellectual, emotional, and social well-being. The topics covered include substance use and abuse, sleep, stress, adolescent brain development, emotions, body image, peer pressure, physical activity, technology usage, healthy relationships, effective coping, self-care, healthy eating, and boundary setting. Students are encouraged to examine their own lifestyle choices and explore different perspectives as they formulate opinions about the healthy choices they want to make in their own lives.

Fitness Conditioning

Level: 10-12 **Semester** **5 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Not applicable

Prerequisite: None

Description: Fitness Conditioning is a semester class designed to help students improve their personal fitness levels. Activities include swimming, power walking, trail jogging, Pilates, aerobic dance, jumping rope, and strength training. Fitness principles of cardio-respiratory endurance, flexibility, muscular strength and muscular endurance are taught and applied, as well as studying health, wellness and nutrition.

Yoga

Level: 10-12 Semester 5 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Not applicable

Prerequisite: None

Description: Yoga is a movement class that presents for study beginning Hatha Yoga in order to promote strength, flexibility, vitality, self-awareness, and personal well being. Students will learn and practice physical postures, breathing techniques, meditation, and relaxation in order to foster the body-mind connection. Study of basic anatomy and kinesiology are also included, as well as the cultural and philosophical aspects of yoga.

NON-DEPARTMENT ELECTIVES

Internship

Level: 11-12 Semester 5 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Not applicable

Prerequisite: None

Description: Students may register for a course called “Student Intern.” Student Interns earn valuable work experience and excellent references for college applications, letters of recommendation, and job resumes. Students provide service to the school while earning 5 elective credits. Students are assigned a course grade, but this grade is not averaged into the GPA. Students should register as an intern and meet with the teacher or participating staff member (who will act as her supervisor) to arrange for the internship. The student will obtain the paperwork in the guidance department or front office which you will sign agreeing to be her supervisor. In addition to assisting teachers, students may apply to intern in the Guidance Department, Library, Advancement Office, Main Office, Arts Department, Athletics Department and Technology Department. *May be repeated for credit.*

TRI-SCHOOL OFFERINGS 2015-2016

Notre Dame High School, Belmont Classes

Orchestra TRI SCHOOL

Level: 9-12 Year 10 credits

Time: Zero Period

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Intermediate playing ability

Description: This Tri-School class is a performance-oriented course offered for students who play violin, viola, cello, bass, or harp with at least an intermediate playing ability. Students must provide their own instruments except for Bass and Harp. Performances are mandatory. This class may be taken all four years.

Dance V -- In-Step Performance Company/Partnering Techniques (TRI-SCHOOL)

Level: 9-12 **Year** **10 credits**
Time: Block 1 and overflow Block 2
UC/CSU Approval: Yes
Prerequisite: Membership and enrollment in the Dance V – In-Step Performance Company/Partnering Techniques class is by audition for Notre Dame/Mercy students. Auditions are not required for Serra students. Auditions are held at the end of Spring semester every year. Students who make In-Step Performance Company and Partnering Techniques class are not required to audition again.

Description: This class combines body conditioning, stretching and strengthening, acrobatics, dance, and movement techniques for advanced performance. Serra students train with members of the In-Step Dance Company learning partnering stunts, lifting techniques, and movement styles (hip hop, acrobatic moves) appropriate to their level of ability and athleticism. Serra/Mercy students will participate in the fall and spring dance showcases at Notre Dame High School. Serra/Mercy students train during the Tri-School time slot and join Notre Dame students during a regular portion of their class time.

Attire Requirements: Notre Dame and Mercy students are required to provide their own dance footwear, undergarments, and dancewear appropriate for advanced performance.

A Place at the Table: The Minority Experience in America TRI SCHOOL

Level: 11-12 **Semester** **5 credits**
Time: Block 2 (Fall)
UC/CSU Approval: Yes
Prerequisite: None.

Please note that this course is taught almost exclusively online.

During the semester there will be a few face-to-face meetings and several mandatory virtual class meetings.

Description: As the “great melting pot”, America has always been a harbor for immigrants. Unfortunately they have not always been welcomed. This course will cover the major immigrant waves in our nation’s history, emphasizing the different groups who comprised each wave and the reasons that brought them to America. In addition, we will look at the contributions that both groups and individuals have made to the American tapestry by studying famous (and some infamous) immigrants as well as analyzing the cultural contributions that are accepted as “American” today. The semester will culminate with a final project that will allow you to investigate your own family immigrant experience.

Junipero Serra High School Classes

Advanced Band TRI SCHOOL

Level: 9-12 **Year** **10 credits**

Time: first period Serra High School

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: Approval of the instructor

Description: A Tri-School performance course offered for music students with some experience in ensemble playing and at least intermediate playing ability on one or more instruments. Members of the Advanced Band form the nucleus of the Symphonic Band and Pep Band. Students must provide their own instruments (some exceptions). Performances (including football and basketball games, concerts, etc.) are mandatory.

Jazz Band TRI SCHOOL

Level: 9-12 **Year** **10 credits**

Time: zero period Serra High School

UC/CSU Approval: Yes Fulfills VPA Requirement

Prerequisite: Approval of the instructor

Description: This course will teach visual recognition of modern and traditional jazz and rock melodies and rhythms, beginning to intermediate improvisation techniques and numerous performance practices that are peculiar to the medium. There will be an opportunity for small and large group performance. Performances include festivals and concerts. All performances are mandatory. Students must take this course in addition to Advanced Band unless they play guitar, bass or piano.

This class meets *Monday to Thursday*, zero period.

AP Computer Science A TRI SCHOOL

Level: 10-12 **Year** **10 credits**

Time: period 2 Serra High School

UC/CSU: Yes Fulfills Mathematics

Prerequisites: 1. 95% in Algebra 2 or B average in Algebra 2 Honors or 95% in Honors Geometry AND Departmental Approval 2. Completion of AP Contract.

Description: This course emphasizes object-oriented programming methodology with a concentration on problem-solving and algorithm development and is meant to be the equivalent of a first semester college-level course in Computer Science. It also includes an introduction to the study of data structures, design, documentation, and abstraction. This course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Examination administered by the College Board in May. Students are expected to take the Computer Science A Advanced Placement exam. Previous experience in computer programming is helpful.

Architectural Design TRI SCHOOL

Level: 10-12 **Year** **10 credits**

Time: Period 1 at Serra High School

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course will explore the principles of art and design and their relationship to architecture. Students will learn the techniques necessary to draw freehand and with instruments. The history of Art and of Architecture will be presented. Students will also design, draw and build a model of a vacation home. Students will need to purchase drawing supplies and modeling supplies (approximate cost - \$60).

Mandarin 1-2 TRI SCHOOL

Level: 9 Year 10 credits

Time: Period 1 at Serra High School

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: None

Description: This is the first level of Mandarin study for secondary school beginners who will develop the basic skills in Mandarin Chinese, such as useful conversation for daily life. Students will also learn to read, write, speak and understand basic Mandarin Chinese characters and pinyin. Students will be exposed to a variety of Mandarin speaking cultures in Mainland China, Taiwan, Singapore and more. This course fulfills the UC/CSU requirement for World Languages.

Mandarin 3-4 TRI SCHOOL

Level: 10-12 Year 10 credits

Time: Period 2 Serra High School

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: C- in Mandarin 2

Description: This is a second year course of Mandarin. A continuation of Mandarin 1-2, this course maintains and develops oral competency, reading skills, writing skills and cultural awareness of the historical issues and influence of Mandarin-speaking cultures

Mandarin 5 TRI SCHOOL

Level: 10-12 Semester 5 credits

Time: Period 3 Serra High School

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: C average in Mandarin 4

Description: This is a third year course of Mandarin that builds on the material and skills developed in the first two years of Mandarin. The course reinforces previous material as well as continues to expand in the areas of grammar, vocabulary and conversation. Increased speaking of the target language with cultural accuracy is an important aspect of this course.

Mandarin 6 TRI SCHOOL

Level: 10-12 Semester 5 credits

Time: Period 3 Serra High School

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: C average in Mandarin 5

Description: This course is a continuation of Mandarin 5. Content and themes of the first semester are expanded and enhanced.

Mandarin 7 TRI SCHOOL

Level: 10-12 **Semester** 5 credits

Time: Period 3 Serra High School

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: B- average in Mandarin 6

Description: This is a fourth year course of Mandarin. Students will continue to develop the skills necessary to carry on extended conversations in Chinese, expressing their opinions on issues related to current events, Chinese society, politics, economics, education, and Chinese culture. Students will be able to produce and present their own viewpoints of events by using the Chinese language in both spoken and written form. The class will be conducted entirely in Mandarin with an emphasis on active student participation in the target language.

Mandarin 8 TRI SCHOOL

Level: 10-12 **Semester** 5 credits

Time: Period 3 Serra High School

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: B- average in Mandarin 7

Description: This course is a continuation of Mandarin 7. Content and themes of the first semester are expanded and enhanced.

German 1-2 TRI SCHOOL

Level 9-12 **Year** 10 credits

Time: Period 2 Serra High School

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: None

Description: This is a first year course of German Language and culture. In this course, the basic principles of listening, speaking, reading and writing are introduced to the students.

German 3-4 TRI SCHOOL

Level 9-12 **Year** 10 credits

Time: Period 1 Serra High School

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisite: C- average in German 2

This is a second year course of German. A continuation of German 1-2, this course further develops the four major areas of language learning: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Cultural aspects of the German-speaking world are also emphasized.

German 5 TRI SCHOOL

Level 9-12 **Year** 10 credits

Time: Period 3 Serra High School
UC/CSU Approval: Yes
Prerequisite: C- average in German 2

This is a third year course of German. Subject matter in this course is selected on a two-year basis so that students do not duplicate work completed the previous year. Grammar is reinforced as needed with special emphasis on the subjunctive. The four basic skills are stressed with emphasis on oral presentations, analysis and cultural studies such as music and art.

Virtual Enterprise TRI SCHOOL

Level 10-12 **Year** **10 credits**

Time: Period 1 Serra High School

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisites: None

Description: In this course, students set up and run a simulated business to prepare them for real-world business environments. Students begin by developing the nature of their business, its product and services. They learn entrepreneurship skills and link to a global business network, where they can work with other businesses set up in similar programs at other schools as trade/business partners. They learn how to develop a management structure and engage in the daily operations of running a business, using current business software, communications and the Internet for business transactions. While involved in the simulated business environment, students focus on career preparation standards such as oral and written communication skills, employment literacy/professional growth, interpersonal skills, group dynamics, conflict resolution, personal skills and lifelong learning, and both creative and critical thinking, reasoning and problem-solving skills.

Intro to Business: Entrepreneurship TRI SCHOOL

Level 10-12 **Semester** **5 credits**

Time: Period 2 fall semester, Serra High School

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisites: None

Description: This is a survey course designed to introduce students to the principles and functions of business from an entrepreneurial perspective. Business will be studied as part of the social, political, and economic environment. Students will look at real-world entrepreneurial topics influencing business today and interpret current business trends by studying relevant and interesting business content throughout the course. Themes of the course will include Business History, International Business, Ethics/Social Responsibility, Business Ownership/Organization leading into the Entrepreneurship area. Concepts of Business Law and Business Communication will be present throughout the semester. May be taken in conjunction with Intro to Business: Marketing or as a standalone course.

Intro to Business: Marketing TRI SCHOOL

Level **10-12** **Semester** **5 credits**

Time: Period 2 spring semester, Serra High School

UC/CSU Approval: Yes

Prerequisites: None

Description: This is a survey course is designed to provide students with an introductory perspective into the management and marketing functions of operating a business. Business will be studied as part of the social, political, and economic environment. Students will look at real-world marketing and management topics influencing business today and interpret current business trends by studying relevant and interesting business content throughout the course. Themes of this course will include: Business Finance, Business Management/Leadership, Marketing, and E-Commerce/Business Technology. Concepts of Business Law and Business Communication will be present throughout the semester. May be taken in conjunction with Intro to Business: Entrepreneurship or as a standalone course.

Mercy High School

The following courses will be offered at Mercy as Tri-school. Please see the course description for more information.

Anatomy and Physiology Honors (zero period)

Anatomy and Physiology (zero period)

Forensics (first period)

AP Psychology (first period)

Photography (first period)

ONLINE SCHOOL FOR GIRLS OFFERINGS 2015-2016

Online School for Girls classes are offered through Mercy High School. The classes are taken online during a designated class period. A fee of \$1449 must be paid to Mercy High School in order to register. Please see the Mercy High School/Online School for Girls Policy for more information.

AP® Art History--Online School for Girls

Level: **11-12** **Year** **10 credits**

UC/CSU Approval: Yes -- G Elective

Prerequisite: Successful completion of one year of high school history

Students enrolled in the AP Art History course will examine and critically analyze major forms of artistic expression from a variety of cultures spanning 32,000 years of art. Beginning with global prehistory and ending with global contemporary art, students will consider influential forces like patronage, politics, class, belief, gender, and ethnicity in their analysis of art forms. Students will become active participants in the global art world, engaging with its forms and content, as they experience, research, discuss, read, and write about art, artists, art making, and responses to and interpretations of art. By investigating a specific image set of 250 works of art characterized by diverse artistic traditions from prehistory to the present, the course fosters an in-depth, holistic

understanding of the history of art from a global perspective.

Introduction to Engineering---Online School for Girls

Level: 10-12 Year 10 credits

UC/CSU Approval: Yes -- G Elective

Prerequisite: Successful completion of one year of high school level science

Engineers create things. They are the designers of the modern world. The works they create drive society forward. Introduction to Engineering will introduce students introduced to many areas of engineering, including: civil/structural, chemical, mechanical, electrical, and biomedical engineering. In addition, students will learn the engineering design process used by practicing engineers. Specific topics in this course will include structural integrity with egg contraptions, chair and bridge building projects, engineering ethics, heat transfer and home heating, energy transmission, and alternative energy research with specific case studies in solar and fuel cell cars. This course will assist students to develop an array of specific skills including: applying the engineering design process to a specific problem; working effectively and collaboratively with other members of the class; demonstrating originality and inventiveness in your work; reflecting critically in order to improve creative efforts in problem solving; and viewing success as a cyclical process. Through active problem solving in the context of specific case studies, this course addresses concepts and skills relevant to a career in engineering. A culminating project will require students to apply much of what they have learned in the course.