

Plaza Heights Christian Academy

High School Course Descriptions

ENGLISH

Grammar & Composition/Literature ENG101 (1 Unit, Grade 9, 2 semesters)

This course includes a review of grammar skills acquired in seventh and eighth grade and students will be expected to properly use these skills in writing. Students will begin writing compare and contrast papers, opinion papers, personal experience and analytical essays, and understand how to effectively find and organize information for a research paper. Students will also study selections from fiction, non-fiction, poetry, biography and autobiography, and drama.

World Literature/Grammar & Composition ENG201 (1 Unit, Grade 10, 2 semesters)

Prerequisite: Grammar & Composition/Literature

World literature is explored through guided reading of short stories, poetry, essays, drama, biographies and a novel. Analytical and critical thinking is enhanced by examining the author's use of literary techniques and devices. Students have practical writing experience in the form of essays, reading response, journal writing, and research-based skills. Portfolio compilation is begun and continued throughout.

American Literature/Grammar & Composition ENG301 (1 Unit, Grade 11, 2 semesters)

Prerequisite: World Literature/Grammar & Composition

The American experience is examined historically and ethically through a variety of genres and authors. Students will have opportunity to make judgments, draw conclusions, and develop cultural and ethnic sensitivity. There is frequent use of class discussion, oral reporting of outside reading, oral presentations, and analysis of modern American writers of interest. The novel study is chosen according to class needs or the availability of a local live theatre presentation of high quality; often a Shakespeare play. Mass media analysis, writing of a one act play, short story, reading or media writing response, and portfolio development are guided, displayed or performed. Strong emphasis on peer review and integrating foreign exchange students creates a natural man-cultured emphasis to the course. Remedial grammar is added, as indicated by student needs, through text work and on-line exercises. Additional research skills are enhanced.

English Literature/Grammar & Composition ENG401 (1 Unit, Grade 12, 2 semesters)

Prerequisite: American Literature/Grammar & Composition

English Literature and its historical significance are studied ranging from Beowulf, to Shakespeare, to modern writers of interest. Novel studies may include the works of C.S. Lewis, Charles Dickens and Jane Austin. Types of literature analyzed include poetry, essays, short stories, drama, novels, and film. Research papers are based on English literature topics. College prep skills, experience with word processing and multimedia presentations are developed along with a refining of writing strategies and completion of the student's high school writing portfolio.

SOCIAL SCIENCE

World Geography SOC101 (1 Unit, Grade 9, 2 semester)

This Semester course requires students to identify continental and national features of physical and cultural geography and to view earth and everything in it as a creation of God. Some attention is given to interdependence of physical and cultural geography. Skills of map reading and location are emphasized, and identification of climatic and environmental issues are also analyzed.

World History SOC201 (1 Unit, Grade 10, 2 semesters)

World History surveys social studies concepts from a Christian world-view perspective and within the context of narrative history by requiring students to analyze historical primary and secondary source documents. A more mature view of historical process is sought by giving students the freedom to research and present areas of personal interest and by requiring students to master a body of knowledge involving, but not limited to, historical agency and human motives. Students are expected to demonstrate writing skills that defend a historical position. The scope of the course includes human history from earliest river valley civilizations to the present.

American History SOC301 (1 Unit, Grade 11, 2 semesters)

This social, political and economic survey approaches national history from a biblical perspective. It is designed to impart a body of knowledge in United States history from European colonization to the present. It requires students to analyze, evaluate and synthesize historical information through document analysis, research and writing. Students are expected to do some outside reading in areas of their choosing and to attack and defend historical viewpoints both in writing and in oral presentation.

American Government SOC401 (1/2 Unit, Grade 12, 1 semester)

United States Government is taught from a perspective that places Judeo-Christian values at the center of the national political community's understanding. It surveys the origins of the nation's political institution and the nature of American Federalism, the role of pressure groups, the media, and ethics. The course attempts to involve students in the application of political training by discussing/debating current political issues and perhaps by involving students in political activism.

Economics SOC403 (1/2 Unit, Grade 12, 1 semester)

This course covers the benefits of free enterprise capitalism and the importance of personal responsibility. It covers basic economic terms and laws, supply and demand, factors of production, saving, the use of money, the Federal Reserve, types of economies, and the current global economy.

Psychology PSY101 (1 Unit, Grade 11-12, 2 semesters)

This course includes coverage of the traditional topical areas of psychology – such as the biological foundations of behavior, sensation and perception, learning, cognition, development, personality, abnormal behavior, and the social psychological foundations of behavior.

Sociology SOC401 (1 Unit, Grade 11-12, 2 semesters)

This course is a study of human relationships taught from a Christian perspective. Students will explore the influences and consequences of social behavior. Topics covered include: culture, socialization, social stratification, gender and society, aging, marriage and family, and social problems.

State History STH401 (1/2 Unit, Grade 9-12, 1 semester)

State History is a self-study online course about a state's birth, history, and growth within the United States. The student has a choice of studying any of the 50 states. This course teaches the unique and various differences of the individual state, giving a focused look at the state chosen in detail. This course will enhance writing skills, applying math skills, and learning about businesses and resources.

US Constitution USC101 (1/2 Unit, Grade 9-12, 1 semester)

This class covers the steps that led to the birth and development of the United States Constitution. Emphasis will be given to the events and people which influenced the writing of the US Constitution, the principles of the constitution and how those principles apply to everyday life. Included is an in-depth look at the Amendments.

World Religions WOR401 (1Unit, Grade 11-12, 2 semesters)

This course covers the historical background and development, major tenets, founders and leaders, significant holidays, and holy writings of the world's major religions. Students will explore how religion has shaped thought in various societies, world governments and political systems.

MATHEMATICS

Algebra 1 MAT101 (1 Unit, Grade 8-9, 2 semesters)

Algebra 1 covers all topics in a first-year algebra course, from proofs, statistics and probability to algebra-based real-world problems. Students study data, patterns, and relations and express their findings through equations and functions. Students begin developing the more complex understanding required for advanced mathematics. This course should be followed by Geometry and students may later wish to consider advanced mathematics courses.

Geometry MAT201 (1 Unit, Grade 9-12, 2 semesters)

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Geometry is the study of relationships between points, lines and planes covering both two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes. Substantial skill-building practice is given in a logical development of proofs using number properties, sets, congruencies and similarities.

Algebra II MAT301 (1 Unit, Grade 10-12, 2 semesters)

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Algebra II reviews and builds upon the topics covered in Algebra I. It includes the study of functions, quadratic equations, irrational numbers, logarithms, and binomial expansion, as well as a considerable amount of geometry. In fact, students completing Algebra II will have studied the equivalent of one semester of informal geometry. Ample time is spent developing geometrical concepts and writing proof outlines. Real-world problems are included along with applications to other subjects such as physics and chemistry.

Advanced Math MAT401 (1 Unit, Grade 11-12, 2 semesters)

Prerequisite: Algebra II and teacher recommendation

Advanced Mathematics fully integrates topics from algebra, geometry, trigonometry, discrete mathematics and mathematical analysis. Word problems are developed throughout the problem sets and become progressively more elaborate. Regular practice is provided which will enable students to solve challenging problems such as rate problems and problems involving abstract quantities.

Conceptually oriented problems help prepare students for college entrance exams such as the ACT and SAT.

Statistics MAT402 (1/2 Unit, Grade 11-12, 1 semester)

Prerequisite: Algebra II

This course is designed to cover in depth the study of probability. Units to be discussed include permutations and combinations, the binomial distribution, the Markov process and probability in life.

Trigonometry MAT403 (1/2 Unit, Grade 11-12, 1 semester)

Prerequisite: Algebra II

Topics covered in this course include defining, evaluating and graphing trigonometric functions, developing trigonometric identities, solving triangles, and studying applications in engineering, navigation, etc. Calculators are used for computational and graphing purposes.

Honors Pre-Calculus MAT403 (1 Unit Grade 11-12, 2 semester)

Prerequisite: Algebra II

Pre-Calculus is designed to prepare those students interested in engineering, computer science, physics, business, or life sciences. This course contains an intensive review of the algebra, trigonometry, and geometry topics necessary for success in calculus. Units include studies of sequence and series, functions, slope fields, and parametric equations.

Calculus MAT404 (1 Unit, Grade 12, 2 semesters)

Prerequisite: Advanced Math

Calculus is designed for prospective mathematics majors and students interested in engineering, computer science, physics, business or the life sciences. Instruction takes full advantage of graphing calculators, using them for visual demonstrations of concepts and confirming calculations.

Essentials of Math MAT303 (1 Unit, Grade 9-12, 2 semesters)

The Essentials of Math course is designed to cover number sense, statistics and data, Algebra and functions, Geometry, and mathematical reasoning.

NATURAL/PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Physical Science SCI101 (1 Unit, Grade 9, 2 semesters)

This course focuses on the fundamental concepts of geology, chemistry, and physics. Areas of study and activities include laboratory skills and problem solving, scientific method, scientific measurement, basic atomic theory, chemical reactions, forces, motion, waves, Earth's matter, rocks and plate tectonics.

Biology I SCI201 (1 Unit, Grade 10, 2 semesters)

This course studies life and the study of God's creation. This course covers topics ranging from cell study to complex interactions. There is a focus on cell biology, genetics, structure and function of the human body, classification and structure and function of plants. A variety of laboratory equipment will be used such as microscopes, dissection equipment, laboratory glassware, and a variety of models.

Chemistry I SCI301 (1 Unit, Grade 11, 2 semesters)

This course is a study of the materials in God's creation and the changes that they undergo when they interact. This course covers atomic structure, the periodic table, molecular structure, nomenclature,

chemical reactions, stoichiometry, solids, liquids, and gases. Laboratory work will be used to help illustrate these principles.

Honors Physics SCI401 (1 Unit, Grade 12, 2 semesters)

Prerequisite: Chemistry I

This course provides a systematic introduction to the main principles of physics while practicing and developing problem-solving skills and doing analysis in the laboratory. The main areas of study include motion, energy, electricity and magnetism, heat and thermal energy, sound, light, and optics.

Biology II SCI402 (1 Unit, Grade 11-12, 2 semesters)

Prerequisite: Biology I

This course is designed for students interested in going further into the fields covered in Biology I. This class has an increased focus on organic chemistry, cell biology, genetics and ecology, and some anatomy through dissection of a small mammal.

Chemistry II SCI403 (1 Unit, Grade 12, 2 semesters)

Prerequisite: Chemistry I

This class is for students who enjoyed Chemistry I and may need a solid Chemistry background for their college major or career. Topics to be covered include: stoichiometry, gas laws, thermo chemistry, equilibrium, kinetics, electrochemistry and organic chemistry.

PRACTICAL ARTS

Keyboarding COM101 (1 Unit, Grade 9-12, 2 semesters)

This course is designed to teach students proper typing technique and general computer usage. The goal is to increase accuracy and words-per-minute rate.

Computer Applications COM201 (1 Unit, Grade 9-12, 2 semesters)

Prerequisite: Keyboarding

Computer Applications I is a course designed to train students using the Microsoft Suite of products; Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, and PowerPoint. Students do projects utilizing basic computer skills and then apply those same skills to personal projects. For example, students will learn how to design a resume, make a personalized newsletter, etc.

Computer Applications II COM301 (1 Unit, Grade 9-12, 2 semesters)

Prerequisite: Computer Applications I

This course takes the basic knowledge learned in Computer Applications I and builds on that knowledge by adding projects including more data, cross-software projects, and more.

Home Economics ECO101 (1/2 Unit, Grade 9-12, 1 semester)

This is a two-semester course open to all students in grades 9-12. The godly principles of work within the home apply to both males and females. Many of these concepts come from Proverbs 31. Units covered in the course include Home Management and Safety, Foods and Nutrition, Cooking Labs, Fabrics and Sewing Construction Basics, Sewing Labs, and Childcare and Child Development.

Video Production and Editing VID101 (1/2 Unit, Grade 9-12, 1 semester)

Students learn filming, editing, writing, and production techniques while working on personal and school projects. The year culminates by combining a literature class adaptation of a story, writing it in *Final Draft* and producing it in *Pinnacle*. Students go out on location for filming and the project is viewed by the student body on the last day of school.

Digital Arts DIG101 (1/2 unit, Grade 9-12, 1 semester; 1 Unit, Grade 9-12 2 semesters)

Digital Arts is designed to provide computer science students with an introduction to visualization-graphics programming on computers. To equip students for today's digitally driven lifestyle, this course focuses on using a digital camera and the practical application of digital imaging and editing programs. Additionally, students will work with audio-editing programs, and will also examine 3D technology and cinematography.

FINE ARTS

Choir CHO101 (1/2 Unit, Grade 9-12, 1 semester)

Choir is a performing group which explores all aspects of singing together, including the physical process of vocal production as well as the study of sacred and secular literature, music theory, and music appreciation. This group is expected to perform in various programs and district music competitions.

Music Appreciation MUS101 (1/2 Unit, Grade 9-12, 1 semester)

This course studies many different aspects of music including history, composers, theory, various compositions, musical instruments, and current trends in music.

Band BAN101 (1/2 Unit, Grade 9-12, 1 semester)

Band is a performing group made up of woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. Instrumentalists work on technical studies geared for their particular instruments. A variety of music literature is learned. This group is expected to perform in various programs and district music competitions.

Speech and Drama DRA101 (1 Unit, Grade 9-12, 2 semesters)

Various types of speeches are performed with forensics competitions a highlight of the year. One major production develops students' abilities in acting, stage presence, music, teamwork, commitment and technical skills. Improvisation, comedy techniques, pantomimes, auditioning, and acting techniques are a few of the content areas explored. The course can be taken multiple times with new material and focus each year.

Art I ART101 (1/2 Unit, Grade 9-12, 1 semesters)

This class is designed to introduce the students to a variety of art skills including painting, drawing, and sculpting. They also learn shading techniques and paint-mixing techniques.

Art II ART201 (1/2 Unit, Grade 10-12, 1 semesters)

Prerequisite: Art I

In this course the students deepen their level of skills in the areas of painting and drawing. Instead of many small projects they will focus on a few larger, more detailed projects. The style of art is higher-level

Photography PHA101 (1/2 Unit, Grade 9-12, 1 semester)

This course covers basic terms used in photography such as shutter speed and f-stop, the impact of lighting, depth of field, and composition. Point and shoot and SLR cameras are compared with an emphasis on how to take similar photographs with either type. Cameras are required for hands on application.

Dual Credit Art Appreciation HU-AR 10 (.5 high school credit, 2 credits of college credit from Central Christian)

Visual images are one of the largest stimuli to the human brain given the visual education of the current generation via television, internet, movies, picture books, photography, and video games. Along with hearing and speaking, this method of learning needs to be effectively used to communicate a message to the masses. Art history, Art works, and artists used by God to represent and illustrate Christian principles to the next generation are vitally important to communication in general and for the spread of the Gospel. Experimentation with a variety of media and techniques used by artists provides an appreciation of thought, labor, and results in creating an artwork.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

Girls PE GPE101 (1/2 Unit, Grade 9-12, 1 semester)

This course is designed to cover basic sports and skills. Units include basketball, volleyball, football, soccer, hockey, and personal fitness.

Boys PE BPE101 (1/2 Unit, Grade 9-12, 1 semester)

This course is designed to promote physical fitness and coordination in the students. This is an introduction to football, soccer, basketball, volleyball, and hockey.

Weight Training WTG101 (1/2 Unit, Grade 9-12, 1 semester)

In this course the students learn the major muscle groups and how to develop each set of muscles. We also cover weight training safety and lifting techniques.

Health HEA101 (1/2 Unit, Grade 9, 1 semester)

This course focuses on total health covering the eleven systems of the body, disease, emotional and spiritual health, and safety.

BIBLE

New Testament Survey BIB402 (1 Unit, Grade 9-12, 2 semesters)

This course explores many books of the New Testament and focuses on the history behind the text, the authors, and real world application.

Foundations for Living BIB??? (1 Unit, Grade 9-12, 2 semesters)

Foundations for Living explores the idea of a Biblical worldview, doctrine of the Bible, the Bible and marriage, dating, Christian education, art, music, and politics.

New Testament BIB403 (1/2 Unit, Grade 9-12, 1 Semester; 1 Unit 9-12, 2 semesters)

New Testament Survey provides a developmental and in-depth academic study of the teachings of the New Testament from the Intertestamental period (prior to the birth of Christ) to the book of Revelation. The survey emphasizes the most important people, places, and events in the development and expansion of the Church. The course also includes material on Christian suffering, witnessing, and the will of God. New Testament Survey targets four major strands: theology, biblical literature, biblical background, and Christian growth.

Let God Be God BIB101 (1 unit Grade 9, 2 semesters)

In this class the major emphasis is the attributes of God. The students will learn theological terms and verses to show who God is. They also memorize Bible verses to match each topic.

Mastering Bible Study Skills BIB101, BIB201 (1 Unit Grade 9-10, 2 semesters)

This course emphasizes the necessity of accurate Bible study. Study tools, plans, and interpretation skills are covered in this class. It also includes lessons on how to use cross-references and a concordance.

Journeying With God BIB301 & BIB401 (1 unit Grade 11 and 12, 2 semesters)

This course presents an overview of the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament. Exercises, discussion, and enrichment activities will be used to help students see the “big-picture” with regards to how God has worked through his people and carried out His plan of salvation.

Understanding the Times BIB301 & BIB401 (1 unit Grade 11 and 12)

This course presents the Biblical Christian worldview in contrast to the humanist worldviews of Secular Humanism, Marxism/Leninism, and Cosmic Humanism. The supremacy of Christ and the Christian worldview is presented as the point of integration for all of the following areas of study: theology, philosophy, ethics, biology, psychology, sociology, law, politics, economics, and history.

Missio Dei: Joining God on the Adventure of a Lifetime BIB301 & BIB401 (1 unit Grade 11 and 12)

This course is designed to help students understand God’s mission and see it as the lens through which we relate to others cross-culturally, as the centerpiece of history, and as the driving force for living “missionally” in whatever context we find ourselves. Personal application is emphasized alongside new concepts, with the goal of challenging and inspiring students to understand and adopt deeper levels of living out their faith.

Old Testament Survey BIB403 (1 Unit, Grade 9-12, 2 semesters)

This course explores many books of the Old Testament and focuses on the history behind the text, the authors, and real-world application.

Doctrine and Application BIB404 (1 Unit, Grade 9-12, 2 semesters)

Bible Doctrine and Application includes a review of Romans, study on the faithfulness of God, the doctrine of Jesus Christ, a study on the nation of Israel, exploring the pursuit of happiness, and apologetics.

Christian Faith and Living BIB 405 (1 Unit, Grade 9-12, 2 semesters)

Christian Faith and Living is a course designed to explore Christian ministries, compare religions, study the epistles of James and John, and offers wisdom for today’s youth.

ADDITIONAL CLASSES

Spanish I SPA101 (1 Unit, Grade 9-12, 2 semesters)

Students will acquire the basic skills needed in speaking, listening, comprehending, reading and writing Spanish. These skills include the basic knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, and conversation. Students will also learn about and appreciate Spanish speaking cultures.

Spanish II SPA201 (1 Unit, Grade 10-12, 2 semesters)

Prerequisite: Spanish I

This course is a continuation of the skills acquired in Spanish I. Focus will be given specifically to improving writing skills and the knowledge of more complex grammar and vocabulary.

Spanish III SPA301 (1 Unit, Grade 11-12, 2 semesters)

Prerequisite: Spanish II

In this course, students will further develop conversation skills. This course covers advanced grammatical skills, vocabulary skills, and skills needed to develop a proficient ability to read and write in Spanish.

French I FRE101 (1 Unit, Grade 9-12, 2 semesters)

Students will acquire the basic skills needed in speaking, listening, comprehending, reading and writing French. These skills include the basic knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, and conversation. Students will also learn about and appreciate French speaking cultures.

French II FRE201 (1Unit, Grade 10-12, 2 semesters)

Prerequisite: French I

This course is a continuation of the skills acquired in French I. Focus will be primarily on improving writing skills and the knowledge of more complex grammar and vocabulary.

Senior Seminar SEN401 (1/2 Unit, Grade 12, 1 semester)

This is a one-semester course that aims at helping seniors think about life after high school from God's perspective. This course will challenge young adults with the biblical concept of career stewardship and give them the resources to begin building their own career plan wisely and faithfully. Students will be encouraged to examine their motives and to discover what talents they have to invest. They will also examine God's principles for decision making.

Personal Finance SEN402 (1/2 Unit, Grade 12, 1 semester)

This is a one-semester course for seniors that prepares students to make wise financial decisions. The curriculum instructs students about credit card charges, taxes, interest on loans and savings, taxes, personal banking, cost of expenses while living on their own. The curriculum follows National Standards for Financial Literacy.

Essentials of Communication ELE204 (1 Unit, Grade 9-12, 2 semesters)

The Essentials of Communication course is a study of communication, the characteristics of language, and public speaking.

College Planner SEN404 (1 Unit, Grade 9-12, 2 semesters)

College Planner focuses on preparing students for college with emphasis on college selection, essay writing, financial aid, and standardized testing.

Yearbook YEA101 (1/2 Unit, Grade 9-12, 1 Semester; 1 Unit 9-12, 2 semesters)

The UPROAR is produced online with Jostens publishing and support. The all-color hardcover book features kindergarten through high school and has a fall delivery date ensuring all events are covered. Class members chose their areas of interest and become photo-journalists for those classes and events.

ACT/SAT Prep ACT101 (1/2 Unit, Grade 11-12, 1 Semester)

This course uses the *Real ACT Prep Guide*. We also use materials provided by the PSAT and SAT. The course covers strategies for taking each of the tests, practice on each type, and college planning tools.

Consumer Math PFT302 (1 Unit, Grade 9-12, 2 semesters)

This elective course focuses on the real-world application of math. Areas of study include personal finance, statistics, taxes and insurance, banking services, and job-related services.