



**SAINT JOHN VIANNY HIGH SCHOOL**  
**FRESHMAN COURSE OF STUDIES**  
**2010 - 2011**

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES 9**

This introductory course is designed for ninth graders, most of whom enter the course of studies from diverse religious backgrounds and faith experiences. Subject matter is presented with sensitivity to the unique developmental needs of adolescents. Service opportunities are offered.

*CATHOLIC VALUES & ETHICS:* Identity and development is grounded in a moral and ethical approach based on the 10 Commandments, as well as the teachings of Jesus and the New Testament. This enables students to identify and reinforce existing beliefs and provides an outlet for reflecting on the precepts of faith.

*SURVEY OF BASIC DOCTRINE:* This segment serves as a foundation and introduction to the religious studies curriculum. It is an integrated survey of basic doctrinal beliefs, communal worship and moral principles of Roman Catholicism.

*BIBLE SKILLS:* Bible skills are taught to enable the students to feel confident in using Sacred Scriptures for study purposes, as well as personal reflection and spiritual growth.

*LITURGICAL LIFE:* The primary purpose of this course segment is to invite students to connect their ongoing parish participation in the sacramental life of the Church with the signs, symbols, practices and rituals of the liturgical seasons.

*HUMAN SEXUALITY:* In compliance with diocesan guidelines, this course includes a unit on catholic moral principles and behaviors that are appropriate to human persons created in the image and likeness of God.

**BUSINESS/TECHNOLOGY**

**COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY**

This course emphasizes the new skills required to use the Tablet PC with SJV's network. Keyboarding techniques, word processing (including MLA format for term paper production), presentation, and spreadsheet software are taught. Use of computer peripherals and the safe use of Internet for library/media research projects are included.

**ENGLISH**

**ENGLISH COMPOSITION (TERM 1)**

**Prerequisite\***

**\*Required for in-coming freshmen who are recommended by Department Chairperson for Intro to Literary Genres.**

This course is designed for first year students who wish to gain an edge by further developing their basic writing and composition skills. While placing a great emphasis on the fundamentals of grammar, students will be trained to develop crisp, clear sentences and powerfully direct paragraphs. These, of course, serve as the foundation for the writing of strong compositions, essays, and reports.

**INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY**

**GENRES (TERM 2) Prerequisite\***

**\*Recommended by Department Chairperson for in-coming freshmen whose most recent standardized test scores in reading comprehension, vocabulary, and written expression fall into the low proficiency area or below.**

This course focuses on reading improvement and comprehension, literary genres, and composition suited to the needs and abilities of the student. Major emphasis is given to vocabulary skills and word recognition and

meaning, instruction in grammar and speech is also provided.

## **EFFECTIVE & CREATIVE WRITING**

### **Open to grades 9 and 10 ONLY**

This course focuses on multiple paragraph development, use of transitions, various expository writing styles, and formal and informal writing (letters, resumes, etc.). Students will also explore various creative writing styles. The course offers students an avenue to writing enhancement outside of formal literature study.

**LITERARY GENRES**      **Prerequisite\***  
**\*Recommended by Department Chairperson based on in-coming freshmen standardized test scores.**

This course includes an introduction to basic literary genres and the criteria for evaluating them. Writing and reading skills are developed in coordination with the literature. Students will demonstrate successfully their ability to generate a thesis paper upon completion of the course. Grammar and vocabulary skills are stressed and enhanced through the use of a variety of resources.

## **HONORS LITERARY GENRES**

**Prerequisite\***  
**\*Recommended by Department Chairperson; student must demonstrate high proficiency in the areas of reading, comprehension and written expression on their most recent standardized test scores.**

This course provides an in-depth study of various literary genres. The curriculum includes a meticulous literary analysis of the novel, the development of critical thinking skills, and expository writing. After a review of basic grammar concepts, students will demonstrate their ability to generate a thesis paper upon completion of the course. Vocabulary enrichment is provided through the use of a variety of resources.

## **FINE ARTS**

### **ART FUNDAMENTALS**

This course will be divided into two segments: developing drawing skills, and developing painting skills. Self-discipline and self-motivation will be developed and encouraged.

## **CHORUS**

The SJV Chorus is a mixed choral group, singing every genre of music from classical to contemporary. They perform in and out of school, singing both secular and liturgical music. Students are taught how to sing properly, so they can keep their voices in top shape. Beginners are welcome, and, although helpful, students do not need to know how to read music, as basic music theory is also taught.

## **CONCERT BAND**

The SJV Concert Band performs both in and out of school, and at assemblies, pep rallies, and athletic events and festivals. Basic music theory is taught, as well as performance preparation. Beginners are welcome.

## **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC - GUITAR**

This course is an entry level music class. Basic skills include holding the instrument, proper positioning of the hands, and proper playing techniques. Students are taught to read music, execute proper technique, play chords, and read tab. Students are expected to practice what is taught in class at least thirty minutes a day at home.

## **INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC**

Students gain a deeper appreciation of music through this course. Topics taught include the history of music, world music study, basic music theory, music appreciation, and genres of contemporary music. By learning how to critique music, the students will also hone their reading and listening skills.

## **SPEECH & THEATER**

This course is designed for students who wish to improve their public speaking skills and acquire a working knowledge of play production and presentation. Students will learn to research, outline, and write a variety of speeches for delivery. They will have the opportunity to develop performance skills through the application of dramatic technique to scene analysis.

## **MATHEMATICS**

**PRE-ALGEBRA**      **Prerequisite\***  
**\*Based on Placement Test score**

This course is for the student who has had little exposure to Algebra in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade. In an environment which fosters the development of every student's mathematical literacy and power, this introductory algebra course will develop understandings of

numbers, their operations, and the connections among ideas. Also covered in the course are the rules and applications of variables and signed numbers, equations, and inequalities, ratios, rates, percents, and function concepts, including linear function applications.

### **ALGEBRA I Prerequisites\***

#### **\*Based on Placement Test score**

This course focuses on the concept of a function as a unifying theme. Using well defined functions, students apply the properties of real numbers in simple expressions, polynomials, and rational and irrational expressions. Students solve all types of linear equations and inequalities, rational equations, and quadratic equations. They explore their properties by means of their graphical representations. They learn to detect algebraic concepts in real world situations and to describe and resolve such situations algebraically.

### **HONORS ALGEBRA I Prerequisites\***

#### **\*Grade 9 – Qualifying Score on Placement and Departmental Tests with Department Chair approval**

This course is designed to provide students with an in-depth study of Algebra I. It includes the basic properties of real numbers, solving equations and inequalities and their applications, all operations of polynomials, rational and irrational numbers and their operations, linear functions and their graphs, systems of linear equations and inequalities, and quadratic functions and their graphs. The concept of function plays a pre-eminent role in instruction and learning.

### **BASIC GEOMETRY/TRIGONOMETRY**

#### **Prerequisite\***

#### **\*Algebra I**

#### **NB – This course replaces Basic Geometry**

This course has been designed for those students who might experience difficulty with a standard course in Plane Geometry. It covers all the fundamentals of Plane Euclidean Geometry. Right triangle trigonometry will be infused into this course.

### **PLANE GEOMETRY/TRIGONOMETRY**

#### **Prerequisites\***

#### **\*Open to students in Grades 9 and 10**

#### **\*Teacher recommendation**

#### **NB – This course replaces Plane Geometry**

This course defines the elements of Geometry and introduces the various types of reasoning and principles of logic. Plane

Euclidean Geometry is developed with postulates, theorems, and two-column proofs. Students will complete units on perpendicular and parallel lines; applications of congruency and similarity of triangles and polygons; circles; solution of right triangle with a brief introduction to trigonometry; coordinate geometry; area and volume. Right triangle trigonometry will also be infused into this course.

### **HONORS**

### **GEOMETRY/TRIGONOMETRY**

#### **Prerequisites\*\***

#### **Grade of B or better in Honors Algebra I**

This accelerated course is designed for students who have a strong background in Algebra. It embodies the Plane Geometry course and extends the Trigonometric Functions, Law of Sines and Cosines, and introduces radian measure and Trigonometric graphs.

### **ALGEBRA II/TRIGONOMETRY**

#### **Prerequisite\***

#### **\*Grade of C- or better in Algebra I and Plane Geometry/Trigonometry**

#### **NB – This course replaces Algebra II**

The course reviews Algebra I and continues with an in-depth study of linear equations and inequalities of one and two variables, solving verbal problems, properties of polynomials, rational expressions, the concept of irrational numbers, and development of functions, emphasizing linear and quadratic functions. Circular trigonometry will also be infused into this course.

### **HONORS ALGEBRA**

### **II/TRIGONOMETRY Prerequisite\***

**\*This course is for the freshman who scores a qualifying score on the Placement Test and Department Chair approval or Teacher recommendation from Plane or Honors Geometry/Trigonometry.**

#### **NB – This course replaces Honors Algebra II**

This course presents a modern integrated course in intermediate algebra and trigonometry, including a thorough review of elementary algebra. It stresses broad, basic, and unifying concepts of functions, including linear, piecewise, absolute value, quadratic, polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, trigonometric and inverse functions. Additional units of study include matrices, complex numbers, types of variation, binomial theorem, systems of equations involving three variables and trigonometric graphs, identities, and equations.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Through the use of exercise, team sports, and fitness testing, the students will get a chance to develop their skeletal and cardiovascular systems. Certain activities will offer the students social contacts that help to foster social growth and the development of a positive self-image.

Students will sign up for the Physical Education activity of their choice. Students will take four activities in a term. Physical Education activities are based on student interests.

### **HEALTH-WELLNESS, FITNESS & NUTRITION**

This course is intended to give the students the tools to achieve optimum wellness. Emphasis will be on fitness nutrition and positive self-image, with some time devoted to safety and stress management. Students will learn how to set up a personalized exercise program, as well as learn how to check their pulses and engage in such activities as the Harvard Step Test.

## SCIENCE

### **BIOLOGY AND LAB**

This is the study of all living things and life processes. Students will study the major concepts and principles of general biology. Topics will include cell structure and function, cell division, cell environment, microscopes (use and care), cell biochemistry, ATP, respiration, photosynthesis, reproduction, genetics, evolution, classification, and a description of the major phyla.

### **HONORS BIOLOGY AND LAB**

#### **Prerequisites\***

**\*Open to students in Grades 9 or Grade 10**

**\*Qualifying Score on Placement Test and Department Chairperson recommendation**

This is the study of living things and life processes. Students will study the major concepts and principles of biology. Students will complete topics on communities of living things, scientific method, cell biochemistry, cell structure and function, cell environment, microscopes (use and care), ATP, cellular respiration, leaf structure and function, photosynthesis, cell division, heredity, DNA, reproduction, evolution, classification and a survey of the major phyla.

## **HONORS CHEMISTRY AND LAB**

#### **Prerequisites\***

**\*Grade 9: Honors Grade 9 Math (may be concurrent) and Department Chairperson recommendation**

**\*Grade 10: Honors Biology/Honors Math, B- or better in each**

This course is for students who have demonstrated good math and science skills and are concerned with the history of chemistry and the fundamental properties of matter, beginning with units of matter, atoms, and proceeding to how they behave. Students will complete units on matter and energy, chemical shorthand and nomenclature, bonding, stoichiometry and the mole, atomic structure, quantum mechanics, periodic law, kinetic theory, acids, bases and salts, and descriptive chemistry of the elements.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

### **WORLD HISTORY/CULTURES**

In this course, the students will examine World History from the earliest civilizations to the present. The aim of this course is to relate the physical geography of the globe to the cultural, economic, political, historical, and social aspects of human activity. Current events are incorporated.

### **HONORS WORLD**

#### **HISTORY/CULTURES Prerequisites\***

**\*Qualifying score on entrance Placement Test and Department Chairperson approval**

This course will examine World History and Cultures from the earliest civilizations through the present day. The course is designed to develop students' analytical and critical thinking skills as they examine events in World History and the inter-relationship of world cultures. Emphasis will be placed on cause-effect relationships and developing the ability to present ideas clearly and persuasively in a written format. Current events are incorporated.

#### **A.P. WORLD HISTORY Prerequisites\***

**\*Grade 9: Department Chairperson recommendation**

**\*Grade 10: Recommendation of World History Teacher and Department Chairperson with a minimum of an A average in Honors World History and Honors English for Grade 9.**

**\*Grades 11 and 12: Honors World History with a grade of B or better, or World History with a grade of A or better,**

**plus a Minimum Verbal PSAT or SAT Score of 500.**

This course is intended for students with excellent backgrounds in social studies, reading, and writing. The course emphasizes factual knowledge used in conjunction with interpretive issues and types of historical evidence. Focus of the course will be on the last 1,000 years of global experience. The course will highlight the nature of changes in international orders and their causes and consequences, as well as comparisons among major societies. Students will be prepared to take the AP World History exam.

## WORLD LANGUAGES

### **FRENCH I**

This course is directed toward the development of basic communication skills in French. Structure is presented through various oral, written and visual activities, as well as through abbreviated readings. Cultural content is integrated through the use of basic skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Audio and video, maps, and games are utilized.

### **FRENCH II**

**Prerequisite\***

**\*French I**

In this course more complex grammatical structures are studied. There is an emphasis on communication skills and attainment of some degree of oral fluency and good pronunciation. Readings high in cultural content are studied. Audio and video are utilized.

### **FRENCH III**

**Prerequisite\***

**\*French II with at least a C- average**

In this course reading is intensive and extensive. Audio-lingual activity is integrated with reading and structure. Advanced grammatical structures are studied, along with controlled composition and conversation while basic grammar is reviewed. Cultural content includes important features of daily life and modern concepts, as well as features of past French civilization, and introduces the student to some of France's literary heritage.

### **ITALIAN I**

This course is a comprehensive program for beginning Italian that presents all fundamental grammar structures in an authentic Italian context. It is designed to develop and encourage oral and written communication, as well as reading and

listening skills, in Italian. The rich culture of Italy will be explored with CD's and video.

### **ITALIAN II**

**Prerequisite\***

**\*Completion of Italian I**

In this course, students will build upon the skills they acquired in Italian I. More complex grammatical structures will be studied, and students' span of vocabulary will be further enhanced. A strong emphasis will be placed on conversational and comprehension skills as the students learn to expand upon their speaking, listening, reading, and writing abilities. To enhance the course, CD's and video will be used.

### **ITALIAN III**

**Prerequisite\***

**\*Italian II with at least a C- average**

The purpose of this course is to expand upon comprehension and communication skills. In this course, full communication is developed in Italian. Advanced grammatical structures will be studied and integrated with writing, and conversational skills. Cultural aspects will be explored, as well as the introduction of short stories. To enhance the course, CD's and videos will be used.

### **LATIN I**

This course will focus on the principals of Latin grammar, a comparative study of Latin versus English grammar, and the acquisition of vocabulary and culture. Various selected readings develop proficiency in translation.

### **LATIN II**

**Prerequisite\***

**\*Latin I**

The purpose of this course will be to have students build on the skills they have acquired in Latin I. More complex grammatical structures will be studied and more emphasis will be placed on comprehension and translation skills. There will be a continuation of the study of the Roman Empire.

### **MANDARIN CHINESE I**

This course is a comprehensive program for beginners in the Chinese language and is directed toward the development of basic communication skills in Mandarin Chinese. Structure is presented through various oral, written and visual activities, as well as through the use of all basic skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

**MANDARIN CHINESE II Prerequisite\*****\*Mandarin Chinese I**

In this course students will build upon the skills they have acquired in Mandarin Chinese I. More complex grammar points will be addressed as well. Structure will continue to be presented through various oral, written, and visual activities and through reading and culture.

**SPANISH I**

This course is directed toward the development of language competence in Spanish. Structure, as well as culture, is presented through various oral and written exercises, directed dialogue, and abbreviated readings. Cultural content is integrated through the use of all basic skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. CD's accompany each unit.

**SPANISH II****Prerequisite\*****\*Spanish I**

In this course, more complex grammatical structures are studied. Emphasis is placed on maintaining oral fluency while introducing readings rich in cultural content. CD's accompany each unit.

**SPANISH III****Prerequisite\*****\*Spanish II with at least a C- average**

In this course, full communication in Spanish is developed. Instruction includes the integration of the listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. The introduction of advanced vocabulary and grammar enhances the student's ability to communicate. CD's accompany each unit.



