

COVENANT DAY SCHOOL

FRESHMEN COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Updated 2/2007

LANGUAGE ARTS 9

All of the general areas in Language Arts -- literature, composition, vocabulary, and grammar -- are covered in Language Arts 9. Study focuses upon world literature and the philosophies and social theories of the world that influence the creators of works both classic and current. Discussions focus on an analysis of worldview, and allusions from one culture to another are noted and compared. Genres studied include short stories, poetry, drama, mythology, novels, and nonfiction. Reading and writing include Christian perspective and application using the Bible as the standard for absolute truth.

Prerequisite: None

Credits: 1.0 GPA scale: 4.0

HONORS LANGUAGE ARTS 9

All of the general areas in Language Arts -- literature, composition, vocabulary, and grammar -- are covered in Honors Language Arts 9. Study focuses upon world literature and the philosophies and social theories of the world that influence the creators of works both classic and current. Discussions focus on an analysis of worldview, and allusions from one culture to another are noted and compared. Genres studied include short stories, poetry, drama, mythology, novels, and nonfiction. Reading and writing include Christian perspective and application using the Bible as the standard for absolute truth.

The honors section of this course differs in the expectations, intensity, and depth of study. Students will read additional books and complete more complex writing assignments. It is expected that students' thoughts and writing will show advanced skills of analysis and expression. Their work will be evaluated accordingly.

Prerequisite: "B" average or higher in 8th grade English & teacher approval

Credits: 1.0 GPA scale: 5.0

ALGEBRA I

Algebra I is a transitional math course, which develops the student's ability to think in abstract terms. This will allow the student a glimpse of the need to understand God and His created reality and to use that understanding in exercising his dominion over the creation in which we live. The course begins with a review of previous material and then develops new concepts and skills such as simplifying algebraic expressions; solving linear, quadratic, rational, and radical equations; graphing linear equations; solving inequalities; solving systems of linear equations; factoring quadratic and polynomial expressions; and working with relations and functions. These concepts are then formulated so that the students may be able to interpret their significance in light of knowledge from other disciplines. The student successful in Algebra I will have the foundation to continue with all other high school math courses.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Pre-Algebra
Credits: 1.0 GPA scale: 4.0

GEOMETRY

Geometry is the branch of mathematics that is most easily witnessed in God's creation. Careful examination of His creation from the intricacies of nature to the expanses of the universe reveals the evidence of number, form and shape, order, symmetry, harmony, and accuracy. In this course, students will develop an appreciation and understanding of the works of God as they learn the underlying principles of geometry. Regular Geometry will develop the students' critical thinking skills by introducing geometric concepts and studying practical applications. Emphasis will be on the mastery of the basic concepts while incorporating Algebra I skills to solve problems. Regular Geometry should adequately prepare these students for Algebra II and help lay the foundation for more advanced courses.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I
Credits: 1.0 GPA scale: 4.0

HONORS GEOMETRY

Geometry is the branch of mathematics that is most easily witnessed in God's creation. Careful examination of His creation from the intricacies of nature to the expanses of the universe reveals the evidence of number, form and shape, order, symmetry, harmony, and accuracy. In this course, students will develop an appreciation and understanding of the works of God as they learn the underlying principles of geometry. Students' critical thinking skills will be enhanced by introducing geometric concepts and studying practical applications. Emphasis will be on the mastery of the basic concepts while incorporating Algebra I skills to solve problems.

The honors section of this course covers the same content as Regular Geometry. However, the students in this class will have a higher concentration on two-column proofs and be asked to do more individual and group investigations than those students in the regular class. The topics

will be discussed in greater depth and the pace of the class is faster. Honors Geometry will prepare these students for the more rigorous Algebra II Honors and other advanced math courses.

Prerequisite: “B” average or higher in Algebra I and teacher approval

Credits: 1.0 GPA scale: 5.0

ALGEBRA II

Algebra II is a course that builds on the basic skills acquired in Algebra I and the logic skills and spatial relationships attained in Geometry. The development of abstract thinking continues as the course examines functions through multiple representations such as graphs, tables, and symbolic notation. Extensive work with transformations in each function family helps to prepare students for advanced courses where an extensive knowledge of functions is necessary. The use of a graphing calculator is integral to this course for presenting, understanding, and reinforcing concepts. This tool also makes it possible to use “real” data in exercises and application problems. Throughout the course, emphasis is given to understanding the relationship between God and His created world as described in mathematics and the natural sciences. Also, as students develop the rational thinking necessary to understand algebra, they are encouraged to use this same rational thinking in formulating theological arguments and defending their faith.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Geometry

Credits: 1.0 GPA scale: 4.0

HONORS ALGEBRA II

Honors Algebra II is a course that builds on the basic skills acquired in Algebra I and the logic skills and spatial relationships attained in Geometry. Abstract thinking continues to be developed as the course examines functions through multiple representations such as graphs, tables, and symbolic notation. Extensive work with transformations in each function family helps to prepare students for advanced courses where an extensive knowledge of functions is necessary. The use of a graphing calculator is integral to this course for presenting, understanding, and reinforcing concepts. This tool also makes it possible to use “real” data in exercises and application problems. The Honors section of this course includes additional topics such as conic sections and trigonometry to prepare students for a full Pre-Calculus class the following year. Throughout the course, emphasis is given to understanding the relationship between God and His created world as described in mathematics and the natural sciences. Also, as students develop the rational thinking necessary to understand algebra, they are encouraged to use this same rational thinking in formulating theological arguments and defending their faith.

Prerequisite: “B” average in Honors Geometry (or A in Geometry) & teacher approval

Credits: 1.0 GPA scale: 5.0

WORLD HISTORY 9

The aim of this class is to provide students with an understanding of the events of world history within the context of and as they relate to a Biblical worldview. The text presents a chronological narrative of world history from the earliest civilizations to modern history. Students are taught to view history as the evidence of God's sovereignty at work in the lives of men to bring about His plan. Emphasis is placed on studying how the beliefs of man affect the manner in which he lives. The themes that form the patterns of civilization are integrated into this study. Another major goal is to develop social studies skills: reading for understanding, effective note-taking and study techniques, interpreting maps and graphs, evaluating and discussing primary source material, and writing effective essays and proper research writing. The scope of this course is very broad which allows students to take a step back and view the big picture, and the aim of this course is to encourage students to think critically and Biblically about the events of history.

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 1.0 GPA scale: 4.0

HONORS WORLD HISTORY 9

The aim of this class is to provide students with an understanding of the events of world history within the context of and as they relate to a Biblical worldview. The text presents a chronological narrative of world history from the earliest civilizations to modern history. Students are taught to view history as the evidence of God's sovereignty at work in the lives of men to bring about His plan. Emphasis is placed on studying how the beliefs of man affect the manner in which he lives. The themes that form the patterns of civilization are integrated into this study. Another major goal is to develop social studies skills: reading for understanding, effective note-taking and study techniques, interpreting maps and graphs, evaluating and discussing primary source material, and writing effective essays and proper research writing. The scope of this course is very broad which allows students to take a step back and view the big picture, and the aim of this course is to encourage students to think critically and Biblically about the events of history.

The honors section of this course covers the same content as World History 9. However, it differs in the expectations, intensity, and depth of study. Students will do additional research, and writings will be more complex in their content. It will be expected that students' thoughts and writing will show advanced skills of analysis and expression. Their work will be evaluated accordingly.

Prerequisite: "B" average or higher in 8th grade history & teacher approval

Credits: 1.0 GPA scale: 5.0

BIOLOGY

Biology is a survey course that covers the system of thought and knowledge concerning the living world. Students are taught to view the biological concepts through the eyes of Christian faith. The Biblical messages of creation and dominion are explored in depth, and these concepts are applied to the interactions of biology with society in medicine, genetics, and the environment. Students are exposed to all major areas of the biological sciences including biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, microbiology, botany, zoology, and ecology. The course is designed to give all students an appreciation for the majesty of the Creator and knowledge about His creation.

Prerequisite: None

Credits: 1.0 GPA scale: 4.0

HONORS BIOLOGY

Biology is a survey course that covers the system of thought and knowledge concerning the living world. Students are taught to view the biological concepts through the eyes of Christian faith. The Biblical messages of creation and dominion are explored in depth, and these concepts are applied to the interactions of biology with society in medicine, genetics, and the environment. Students are exposed to all major areas of the biological sciences including biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, microbiology, botany, zoology, and ecology. The course is designed to give all students an appreciation for the majesty of the Creator and knowledge about His creation.

The Honors Biology student will investigate more thoroughly concepts through readings, discussion, and writing. All honors students will read an additional book to supplement their learning of a chosen topic.

Prerequisite: "B" average or higher in 8th grade science & teacher approval

Credits: 1.0 GPA scale: 5.0

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

In Physical Education, students will develop and refine team and dual sports as well as health-related fitness activities. We will approach physical education from the perspective that our bodies are a temple of the Holy Spirit and we have a responsibility for our personal fitness.

Prerequisite: None. This is a required course for all 9th graders.

Credits: 0.5 GPA scale: 4.0

BIBLE 9

Bible 9 will be a one-semester survey of the Old Testament. Old Testament Survey is a study of God's plan for redemption and how it evidences itself in the books of the Old Testament. The course is designed to acquaint students with the structure, authors, and major ideas of the Scriptures. Students will not only study the stories of the Old Testament, but they will also see how they impact their personal lives. This class also provides the basis for better understanding and integrating the teaching of the Old Testament with the New Testament.

Prerequisite: None. This is a required course for all 9th graders.
Credits: 0.5 GPA scale: 4.0

FRENCH I

The text *Discovering French Nouveau! Bleu* is part of a carefully articulated three-level sequence of French instruction. Each level has its own special focus which builds in a spiraling progression across levels. The first level, *Bleu*, teaches basic communication with learned phrases, simple questions and answers, descriptions of people and things, narrations in the present tense (with an introduction to past narration), and explanations as to why something is done. Focus will be on themes dealing with basic communication and fundamental life skills.

With the school's Christian mission in mind, some familiar Bible passages are presented in French as an introduction to theological vocabulary and as a reminder that the Word was sent to all people. Critical thinking from a Biblical worldview is encouraged particularly in the area of cultural comparisons.

In the spring, students participate in the National French Exam (Le Grand Concours) sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of French. This nationally-recognized exam represents a reliable assessment of achievement, comparing thousands of American students yearly.

Prerequisite: None
Credits: 1.0 GPA scale: 4.0

LATIN I

Instruction is built around a narrative of the daily lives of a Roman family and thus integrates cultural, historical, and geographical material into Latin readings. Latin I covers basic information about Latin nouns, adjectives, and adverbs. All conjugations of verbs are presented, in all tenses and in the active. Grammar is clearly presented but always in conjunction with how it is used to convey content in readings. Since the long-term goal in the study of a classical language is to develop reading fluency, special attention is paid to developing a reading strategy by addressing the different levels of discourse, the various basic sentence types, and the integration of grammar with vocabulary.

The study of Latin lends itself to a discussion of how the historical and geographical context of the Roman Empire affected the development of the Christian church, as well as how the use of Latin has shaped theological language and our understanding of the Incarnation. Latin students take the National Latin Exam and the Medusa Mythology Exam, two nationally-given exams, and medals and certificates are awarded for high scores in each. In April, students attend the North Carolina Junior Classical League Convention for which they are required to prepare a project or oral presentation, as well as a pre-convention creative writing piece on a classical theme. CDS also competes in NCJCL Certamen, a general-knowledge contest sponsored by JCL.

Prerequisite: “B” average or higher in 8th grade English

Credits: 1.0 GPA scale: 4.0

LATIN II

Students continue in the *Ecce Romani* series, and instruction continues around a narrative of the daily lives of a Roman family to integrate additional cultural, historical, and geographical material into the Latin readings. These become more complex, utilizing all declensions and all conjugations as well as subordinate clauses of most kinds. Students are introduced to the subjunctive and to reported speech. The course includes some authentic Latin texts, both secular and theological. The study of Latin lends itself to a discussion of how the historical and geographical context of the Roman Empire affected the development of the Christian church, as well as how the use of Latin has shaped theological language and our understanding of the Incarnation.

Latin students take the National Latin Exam and the Medusa Mythology Exam, two nationally-given exams, and medals and certificates are awarded for high scores in each. In April, students attend the North Carolina Junior Classical League Convention for which they are required to prepare a project or oral presentation, as well as a pre-convention creative writing piece on a classical theme. CDS also competes in NCJCL Certamen, a general-knowledge contest sponsored by JCL.

Prerequisite: “B” average in Latin I (or in 8th Grade Latin at CDS) and teacher approval

Credits: 1.0 GPA scale: 4.0

SPANISH I

The purpose of the Spanish I option at Covenant Day School is to provide a classroom experience that combines reading, writing, and speaking the language with elements of the Hispanic culture. The text, *Paso a Paso*, is designed to provide both oral and written communication with vocabulary and grammar. With its basic subjects and experiences that occur in everyday life, this book provides a context to which students relate. Each chapter includes vocabulary coordinated with one or more grammar objectives. Students are encouraged to use new vocabulary in both previously learned and unfamiliar grammatical contexts, thus

creating a spiral curriculum. Class time focuses on practicing listening comprehension and reading comprehension as well as oral and written exercises. Much of the class is conducted in Spanish, but grammatical concepts are taught in English.

With the school's Christian mission in mind, some familiar Bible passages will be read and memorized in Spanish as an introduction to theological vocabulary and as a reminder that the Word was sent to all people.

Prerequisite: None

Credits: 1.0 GPA scale: 4.0

CLASS OF 2011

CDS High School Graduation Requirements:

A student must accumulate the following Carnegie Units (CUs) to graduate from Covenant Day School: 24 credits (CUs) - 4 units of Math, 4 units of Language Arts, 3 units of Social Studies, 3 units of Science, 3 units of Bible (must be enrolled in a Bible course each year at CDS), ½ unit of PE, ½ unit of Health, 6 elective units (1 of which must be a fine arts credit). A student must also complete a total of 100 service hours during the high school years. (Note: Admission to most colleges requires a minimum of 2 years of the same foreign language.)

9th Grade Elective Options

one-credit electives:

- **Advanced Computer Science** – This course requires completion of Introduction and Intermediate computer classes or special permission, and students should have a basic understanding of Microsoft Excel. Consisting of lectures and labs, the class begins with an introduction to basic networking for the purpose of training students to perform basic diagnostics on a laptop computer. The course continues with an introduction to Visual Basic (VB) programming, and students will develop programs in VB using Excel as the database for their programs. A portion of the class will be dedicated towards learning about computer hardware components and their functions. An introduction to the JAVA programming language will also be provided.
- ***Art I** – This course is designed to introduce the beginning artist to various techniques of creating artworks and exploring how God’s beauty is reflected in our world every day. The basic elements of design, composition, and color-theory are introduced. Artworks are produced through drawing, painting, mixed-media, and sculpture.
- ***Band I** – Students will begin to learn an instrument. This is for students with limited or no prior band experience.
- ***Band II** – Students will review basic skills of scales, rhythms, and theory. The main focus will be learning, reading, and performing traditional band literature. Musicianship and technical skills are emphasized and applied through ensemble performance. (Prerequisite: Band in 2006-07)
- ***Chapel Preparation** – This class is designed for students to plan of weekly chapel times as well as practice with the worship team.
- ***Choir** – Students will become members of the Covenant Day School high school choir and will learn and perform a variety of vocal music.
- **Debate** – Students will research topics, formulate logical arguments, and present and debate issues.
- **Newspaper** – Students will learn journalistic techniques and will be involved in the process of publishing a student newspaper.
- **Science Exploration** – Any students interested in furthering their skills in science exploration will enjoy this elective. Students enrolled in this course will be required to participate in the Science Olympiad competition in the spring.
- ***Theatre** – Students interested in theatre will study the basic elements of acting, make-up, costuming, set designing, and set construction.
- **Yearbook** - Students who choose this elective will publish the school yearbook. Students are required to submit two teacher recommendations (one from this year’s English teacher) and a writing sample to the yearbook adviser.

half-credit electives:

- **Peer Study/Study Hall** – Students will receive tutoring from another high school student in specific areas. This is designed to assist students in either a specific subject area or with organizational skills. Specific responsibilities will vary depending on the student and the arranged pupil/tutor contracts. (Please indicate area need or concentration.)
- **Student Services/Study Hall** – Students will be given the opportunity to be an aide to a faculty or staff member within the school or to a staff person in another ministry of the church.
- **Study Skills/Study Hall** – Students will receive instruction on organizational skills, note-taking skills, and strategies to engage more effectively in the classroom. Emphasis will be given to daily planning and time management.