



MERCY HIGH
SCHOOL
COURSE CATALOG
2017-2018
GRADES 10-12



**COURSE CATALOG - GRADES 10-12
2017-18**

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Cheryl Delaney Kreger, Ed.D, President
 Carolyn Witte, Principal
 Laurence Baker, Associate Principal/Operations
 Colleen McMaster Rozman, Associate Principal/Academic Affairs
 Eleasha Tarplin, Dean of Students & Student Life Director

MERCY HIGH SCHOOL
 29300 Eleven Mile Road
 Farmington Hills, MI 48336-1409
 248-476-8020

Mercy High School was founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1945 and is sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, West-Midwest Community.

MERCY HIGH SCHOOL admits female students of any race, national or ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded to students. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin or sex in the administration of its hiring and personnel policies in compliance with the terms of Title IX of the Education Act of 1972, Public Law 92-318 (as amended by Public Law 93-568).

COURSE PLANNING GUIDE

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Mercy High School is a college preparatory school and thus strongly suggests that students plan their course of studies carefully. A total of **24 credits** and 8 semesters of full enrollment (**6** classes per semester) are required for graduation. One semester course earns .5 credit.

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These 24 credits include:

4 credits English

3 credits Social Studies include:

Two semesters of World History

One semester of American Government

Two semesters of American History

One semester of Economics

4 credits Mathematics include:

Two semesters of Algebra I

Two semesters of Geometry

Two semesters of Algebra II

Two semesters of Additional Math or Math-Related Elective (one semester senior year)

3 credits Laboratory Science include:

Two semesters of Biology

Two semesters of Chemistry or Physics

2 credits of one World Language

3.5 credits Religious Studies

1 credit Visual, Performing and Applied Arts

.5 credit Design Foundations (Beginning Class of 2016)

.5 credit Speech

.5 credit Physical Education/Swim

.5 credit Health

1.5 credits Electives

****All students must complete a minimum of 40 service hours (see student handbook)

***Note: a single course may not be used to fulfill a dual credit

*****Class of 2018 – Please pay special attention to the following information: Seniors gain the privilege of released time. They do not gain a guarantee as to when their unscheduled time will occur. Their course requests are the priority. REQUESTS BY STUDENTS OR PARENTS FOR AN UNSCHEDULED SEVENTH HOUR WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED. We cannot accommodate the time requests from seniors for after school job responsibilities, sibling care or assistance needed at a family business. Please make arrangements that allow for a 2:35 pm dismissal.**

Grade Point Average:

Grade Point Average (GPA) is used for college transcripts, scholarship recommendations, etc. GPA is calculated each semester and is based on all grades earned. Mercy High School does not rank students.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT

The Advanced Placement [AP] program includes college-level courses and exams given to secondary students as an opportunity to gain advanced placement and/or credit in college. More than 90 percent of the colleges attended by advanced placement candidates grant credit and/or placement to students whose exam grades are considered acceptable. Advanced Placement courses are special college-level learning experiences that most often take a full academic year. These courses explore subjects in greater depth, and compared to other high school courses, are more challenging and stimulating.

Mercy High School offers full year Advanced Placement courses in **World History, American History, American Government and Politics, English Literature and Composition, Calculus AB, Biology, Chemistry, Physics AB, French Language, Latin Language and Spanish Language**. Past students have successfully completed Advanced Placement tests in the following subject areas: **Studio Art, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science, English Literature and Composition, Economics, French Language, European History, American History, Calculus, and Spanish Language**. All AP exams (except Studio Art) contain both multiple choice and free-response questions that require essay writing, problem solving, and other skills. Most of the examinations are three hours long. They are given every year during two weeks in May. The fee for each exam in May 2017 was \$93. **All students enrolled in an AP Course for the 2017-18 school year will be expected to take the AP Exam in May 2018. Tuition accounts will be charged for this exam fee.**

HONORS / ADVANCED PLACEMENT REGISTRATION

In selecting an Honors or Advanced Placement course, 10th, 11th and 12th graders and parents will make a minimum commitment for one full semester. Completion of a signed agreement, which specifies such a commitment, will be necessary to finalize the registration process. This agreement will be part of the course verification materials that are mailed home after registration is completed in school. Any request to drop the course or transfer to another course will not be considered until the end of the first semester. These courses are, by design, more rigorous. The learning will be challenging and stimulating and likely move at a faster pace than the average class. As such, when students register for these courses and we provide the staffing, ever mindful of class size and teacher load, the student cannot make a different choice after the fact. Such requests negatively impact class size and staffing decisions already made.

COURSE FEES

A number of courses have associated course fees. These fees generally cover the cost of materials / supplies used in class (Art classes), are in place of a text (Art classes, Actor's Workshop). The following fees are applied to the course specified:

Course	Fee	Course	Fee
Design Foundations	\$50	Ceramics 1	\$75
Communication Design	\$15	Ceramics 2	\$75
Jewelry 1	\$75	Physical Education/Swim	\$45-\$75
Jewelry 2	\$75	Nutrition and Exercise	\$25
Sculpture	\$75	Lifetime Fitness	\$25
Drawing 1	\$75	Swim	\$20-\$50
Drawing 2	\$75	Fitness Swim	\$20-\$50
Painting 1	\$120	Lifeguard Training	\$80-85
Painting 2	\$120	Actor's Workshop	\$25
Fibers	\$75	Directing	\$25
Photo, Film & Animation	\$25	Mercyaires Honor Choir	\$225

FINE ARTS REQUIREMENT

Each student is required to take two semesters in any of the fine or performing arts areas sometime during her four years at Mercy. All Art and Performing Arts classes fulfill the Fine Arts requirement. Yearbook Design, Yearbook Production and Advanced Journalism (Newsprint) will also fulfill the Fine Arts Requirement.

SERVICE REQUIREMENT FOR GRADUATION

A Mercy Community Action Program (MCAP) service obligation is required of all students who graduate from Mercy High School. Forty hours of community volunteer service is required of all students sometime during their attendance. Community volunteer service must be outside of Mercy through an agency, church, community center, hospital or other organization. Students are supervised and work is evaluated. It is preferable that the service experience be continuous with one agency on a regular basis for a given period of time (i.e. semester, year). Components of the MCAP program include the following: the service experience and regular reflection with the MCAP Coordinator regarding selection of service, performance, progress, learning self-evaluation, completion of service and a final written evaluation/summary of the experience. Students meet with the MCAP Coordinator on a regular basis during their unscheduled time to complete these components.

Students register for MCAP by contacting the MCAP Coordinator and completing an initial application indicating the type of service in which they want to become involved. Students are encouraged to make their own arrangements for service opportunities with the assistance of their parents, through their youth groups, churches and other connections. If students need further assistance in finding a service opportunity guidance will be given by the MCAP Coordinator. The service requirement may be accomplished during the summer months. Students who wish to do this should see the MCAP Coordinator before the end of school in the spring. Seniors involved in MCAP must have all components of the program completed by Easter break of senior year.

TECHNICAL CENTER - LIVONIA

Courses at the Livonia Career Technical Center are open to Juniors and Seniors. **There is no Livonia residency requirement; Mercy students, however, must provide their own transportation both to and from the center.** There is no additional cost for participation in this curriculum. There are both one and two year programs. Counselors will help the students make decisions regarding course selections at the center as well as scheduling their course selections at Mercy. Students still satisfy the graduation requirements from Mercy without difficulty.

Parents and prospective students are encouraged to call and/or visit the Livonia Career Technical Center (734 744-2816) to investigate any program of interest. Further information and descriptive brochures are available in Mercy's counseling office. There may be a limited number of openings for Mercy students in particular programs. Courses offered include: Visual Communications, Website Design & Administration, CISCO Systems, Network Administration/Computer Technician, Architectural Technology, Engineering Technology (CAD), Criminal Justice, Health Occupations, Medical Assistant, Sports Medicine, Fashion Merchandising, Cosmetology (meets off site from center), Culinary Arts (meets at Franklin High School, Livonia).

TECHNICAL CENTER - OAKLAND

The Technical Center Program is open to Juniors and Seniors who live in Oakland County. There is no additional cost for participation in this curriculum. There are one and two year programs. We recommend that one year courses be taken in the Senior year so that skills learned can lead to employment after high school.

Students receive three credits per year for this Technical Program. They leave Harrison High School at 7:30am each morning on a Farmington school bus. They are returned to our school about 11:15am. This means that students can enroll in 3 or 4 classes at Mercy in the afternoon. Their program will be individually scheduled. There is no problem completing required coursework for graduation from Mercy High School.

Counselors will help students make these decisions. Parents and prospective students are encouraged to visit the Oakland Technical Center to investigate any program of interest. A student makes a commitment for the entire year. Further information and descriptive brochures are available in the counseling office. There are only a limited number of openings for Mercy students.

Seventeen different programs are offered at the Technical Center. The following courses may be of interest:

Auto Body Repair; Automotive Technology; Automated Office; Computer Aided Design - Architectural; Computer Aided Design - Engineering; Computer Information Systems; Cosmetology; Dental Assisting; Desktop Publishing; Electronics Technology; Floral Design & Sales; Greenhouse Management & Landscaping; Heavy Equipment & Truck Technology; Machine Technology; Medical Assisting; Visual Merchandising; Welding & Fabricating.

ART

While the art curriculum provides a four-year program designed for the college-bound art major, it also remains flexible to meet the elective needs of all students. Design Foundations is a 9th grade requirement. All other classes are open to 9-12th grades. All classes are semester classes. Most classes are offered yearly. Sculpture and Fibers are offered every other year. Photo, Film, and Animation Class and Communication Design Class are also rotated. Classes focus on studio art production. Lessons in art history, art criticism, aesthetics, art careers, studio etiquette, and technology are also integrated.

***Design Foundations**

Design Foundations offers all students an opportunity to discover their own creativity while acquiring knowledge and skill in both fine art and computer art techniques. Students will learn the basic elements of art (line, shape, form, space, color, texture) and the principles of design (balance, emphasis, movement, pattern, repetition, proportion, rhythm, variety, and unity). The Design Foundations requirement acknowledges that we live in a visual world and the ability to communicate effectively in visual mediums is increasingly important. Instruction in these early skills becomes the basis of the student's technology integration experience in high school. It also serves as a prerequisite for other art department courses. Students complete assignments in the areas of photography, video, animation, web page creation, drawing, and painting. (one semester)

Course fee: \$50

***Photography, Film, and Animation**

Students will further their knowledge of composition and camera use for both still photography and video. They will advance their editing skills in Adobe Photoshop and Final Cut Pro. Animation will be explored using modeling clay and iStop Motion. **This class is offered every other school year. It will be offered in 2018-2019 and 2020-2021.** (one semester)

Prerequisite: Design Foundations Course fee: \$25

***Communication Design (formerly called Graphic, Product & Web Design)**

This course will build upon the visual communication concepts introduced in the Design Foundations class. Composition in digital mediums will be further explored through the study of art created for commercial creative fields or other practical purposes. Students will create computer generated artwork such as logos, letterhead, business cards, greeting cards, book layouts, book illustrations, signage, digital collages, and digital paintings. Students will utilize the Adobe Creative Suite and other CAD software. **This class is offered every other school year. It will be offered in 2017-2018 and 2019-2020.** (one semester)

Prerequisite: Design Foundations Course fee: \$15

***Jewelry 1**

Jewelry 1 is an introduction to three-dimensional design and metalworking techniques. Techniques include piercing, sawing, soldering and riveting. Possible pieces include rings, pendants and bracelets. (one semester)

Prerequisite: Design Foundations Course fee: \$75

***Jewelry 2**

Students in Jewelry 2 use basic techniques in new ways and explore advanced jewelry-making and metalworking techniques such as lost wax casting, forging, doming and hollow form construction. The students further develop their design skills and work towards a more individualized and expressive direction in their jewelry making. (one semester)

Prerequisite: Design Foundations and Jewelry 1 Course fee: \$75

***Sculpture**

Students in Sculpture learn basic techniques to create both relief sculptures and sculptures in the round. The study of form, shape, and space will be emphasized as students use materials as varied as clay, plaster, foam board, and paper. The practice of mold making is also covered. **This class is offered every other school year. It will be offered in 2017-2018 and 2019-2020.** (one semester)

Prerequisite: Design Foundations Course fee: \$75

***Drawing 1**

Students in Drawing acquire knowledge and perceptual skills to draw objects realistically. They learn to transfer three-dimensional objects to a two-dimensional picture plane. Basic concepts of drawing such as line, negative space, proportion, perspective, and value are covered. A variety of subjects are drawn in pencil including interiors, portraits and still-life. (one semester)

Prerequisite: Design Foundations Course fee: \$75

***Drawing 2**

In Drawing 2, students study the human skeletal structure to draw portraits and the human figure in proportion. Students build upon the basic skills acquired in Design Foundations and Drawing 1. Materials include pencil, charcoal, ink and pastel. This course is of great value to any student who may consider a major in art. (one semester)

Prerequisite: Design Foundations and Drawing 1 Course fee: \$75

***Painting 1**

Students in Painting 1 further their knowledge and skill in art through various painting techniques. Students continue to build upon the skills acquired in Design Foundations and Drawing 1. Subject matter includes still-life, people, and landscapes. Materials include acrylic and watercolor paint. (one semester)

Prerequisite: Design Foundations and Drawing 1 Course fee: \$120

***Painting 2**

Students in Painting 2 further their knowledge and skill in art through the principles of design (balance, emphasis, movement, pattern, repetition, proportion, rhythm, variety, and unity). Students continue to build upon the skills acquired in Design Foundations, Drawing 1, and Painting 1. Subject matter includes still-life, architecture, landscape, and figure. Materials include oil and watercolor paint. (one semester)

Prerequisite: Design Foundations and Drawing 1 and Painting 1 Course fee: \$120

***Fibers**

Fibers class is an introduction to three-dimensional design as it relates to any material that can be stitched, woven or dyed. Possibilities for both functional and nonfunctional pieces are explored. Fabric dyeing, on-loom weaving, and off-loom weaving such as felting and basketry are some of the techniques covered. **This class is offered every other school year. It will be offered in 2018-2019 and 2020-2021.** (one semester)

Prerequisite: Design Foundations Course fee: \$75

***Ceramics 1**

Students learn basic hand forming techniques and three-dimensional design. Possibilities for both functional and nonfunctional pieces are explored by working with pinch, coil, slab and a combination of these methods. (one semester)

Prerequisite: Design Foundations Course fee: \$75

***Ceramics 2**

Studio work in Ceramics 2 focuses on improving technique and skill level. Projects include use of the potter's wheel, press molds, slabs, and coils to further students' knowledge of the ceramic medium and the principles of three-dimensional design. Advanced surface design methods will also be explored. Students may learn how to load and fire kilns and are expected to recycle clay. Projects incorporate both functional and sculptural clay work. (one semester)

Prerequisite: Design Foundations and Ceramics 1 Course fee: \$75

Art Department Course Fees

In lieu of using a textbook, art students use a variety of supplies and materials as they participate in the artistic process. For the convenience of parents, all supplies are purchased in bulk by the art department and are distributed in class. Parents are asked to reimburse the art department by paying a course fee, which is assessed with tuition. The art department has acquired purchasing power through many years of negotiating with a variety of vendors. Discounts are reflected in the course fees. With the fee, students obtain a variety of supplies. Some are lasting tools such as pencils, paintbrushes and portfolios, which the students own and take with them beyond the class. Some supplies are shared class supplies such as large bottles of paint or boxes of clay. In the case of shared supplies, students are charged for the average portion used per student. The supplies provided vary depending on the media emphasized in each class. For example, course fees in Jewelry 2 pay for sterling silver while course fees in Communication Design pay for specialty papers and ink. Students receive information regarding supplies from the art instructor upon beginning the course. If a student must drop an art course, she will be charged a portion of the course fee for materials. No refund of any portion of course fees will be made after the withdrawal deadline. Students pursuing the AP Studio portfolio track may be charged an additional fee depending upon the scope of her concentration projects and the materials used.

Information for the College Bound Art Major

A student who applies to a college art program may need to submit a portfolio of her high school art during the admissions process. The student will absolutely need a portfolio to be considered for art merit scholarships and advanced placement opportunities. Portfolio size requirements vary from ten to thirty pieces, depending on the situation. For an Advanced Placement Studio Art exam, a student needs to submit twenty to twenty-nine pieces.

The art instructors provide guidance for portfolio development. It is imperative, however, that a student map her four-year curriculum in the art department to allow time to develop as a student artist and to create the volume of work needed for a quality portfolio. A college-bound art student should register for Drawing 1, Drawing 2, Painting 1, at least one three-dimensional class, and other visual art electives of her choice from the list above.

The student will begin a web portfolio in the 9th grade Design Foundations class. Proper procedure for photographing and editing photos of fine art is demonstrated in Design Foundations. A student is expected to photograph her best artwork from each class, edit the files in Photoshop, archive the files, and post art to her web portfolio each semester. The Mercy Art Department utilizes digital SLR cameras and Adobe Photoshop CS6 to accomplish this task. A student will also mat pieces with the help of the instructor as needed.

Strong portfolios contain the following three components:

1. Pieces that showcase craftsmanship. This includes the ability to draw from life. The College Board calls these pieces "quality" pieces and asks that at least five be submitted for the Advanced Placement Studio Art exam.

2. Pieces that show students have experienced a variety of subjects, design topics and media. This includes pieces that show an understanding of the elements of art (line, shape, form, space, color, texture) and the principles of design (balance, emphasis, movement, pattern, repetition, proportion, rhythm, variety, and unity). The College Board calls these pieces “breadth” pieces and asks that twelve be submitted for the Advanced Placement Studio Art exam.

3. Pieces that show the development of a compositional theme in both concept and media. The College Board calls these pieces “concentration” pieces and asks that eight to twelve be submitted for the Advanced Placement Studio Art exam. Creating concentration pieces requires a large time commitment on the part of the student. These pieces are above and beyond the art curriculum of any particular class.

Advanced Placement Studio Art Exams

A senior art student has the opportunity to take Advanced Placement studio art exams in two-dimensional design, three-dimensional design, and drawing. These exams involve the submission of an extensive portfolio to the College Board for jurying around May 1st. The art department sponsors workshops to guide students through the submission process. Examples of assignments that are of AP caliber are provided in each class. Students interested in AP exams will need to go beyond the minimum class requirements to complete the AP concentration pieces. For example, if a student is interested in taking the three-dimensional exam with a concentration in clay, she needs to register for Ceramics 1, Ceramics 2 and create extra pieces beyond the regular class curriculum in consultation with her Mercy ceramics instructor.

BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY

Most Business Courses are taught by the Math Department.

***Accounting 1**

This is an essential elective for students planning to major in Business in college!

Accounting 1 is an introduction to the fundamental accounting concepts (debits, credits, journals, ledgers, worksheets, reconciling a bank statement, etc.) using manual and computerized records for recording data. This course also includes managing credit and career exploration. This course will fulfill a senior math requirement. (one semester)

***Entrepreneurship, Marketing, and Media - (Essentials of Owning Your Own Business)**

Anyone who dreams of owning her own business should take this class! In this course, students choose their own business and create a comprehensive business plan along with marketing and advertising materials to promote their business. Students draw on a variety of business and technology skills including presentation and communication skills, desktop publishing, graphic design, word processing, spreadsheets, internet research, web design, planning and decision making, as well as business ethics and values. Students will learn how to start and run their own business and culminate with their own professional business plan. (one semester)

***Life Skills and Personal Finance**

This course includes essential skills for all young adults. Learn important independent living skills including all aspects of banking, managing and maintaining good credit, taxes, insurance, budgeting, and money management. Also explore the cost of a car, an apartment, and other items needed for daily living. Learn to create a resume and business letter as well as important interview skills. Also complete a college and career project. Along with the financial and business aspects of life, learn car maintenance, simple sewing skills, and women’s self-defense. This course is a must for all young ladies getting ready to leave high school and enter the world of college and employment! This course will fulfill a senior math requirement. (one semester)

***Introduction to Coding**

This course is designed for students who are interesting in exploring computer science and coding. Students will develop a basic understanding of coding structures and use their new skills to solve complex programming problems. By the conclusion of the course, students will be able to create programs and applications of their own. (one semester)

ENGLISH

Honors/AP Overview

Honors English classes differ from other college prep English courses in their faster pace, which allows time for additional reading and more sophisticated analysis and research. Honors students should require less repetition to learn new concepts, are able to rapidly retain and apply new information, and are diligent about deadlines and responsibilities.

Applying for Honors English does not guarantee a place in the course, nor does placement in Honors English guarantee a place in subsequent honors or Advanced Placement courses. All students who aspire to the next year's honors class should excel in their English class and make their ambitions clear to their teachers. Honors freshmen are selected by entrance exam scores but do not receive preference for the sophomore course. This reflects a desire to neither track nor limit students.

English teachers evaluate potential honors students based on: work ethic, intellectual engagement, ability, active class participation and grades. Students may be asked to respond to a writing prompt in order to allow for a more informed decision about their ability to analyze and write at an advanced level. All students will be placed in the course where they can best develop their writing and critical thinking skills for college success.

***British Literature Honors**

Sophomores in the semester-long Honors Studies in British Literature class will read more extensively and write more intensively than will other sophomores. They will analyze texts closely, participate in discussions Socratically, view films thematically and cinematically--all while learning to see underlying connections among disparate works (for example, the dynamic between monarchs and subjects, the centrality of religion, the hierarchy of social class, women's historical roles and their responses to those societal expectations, the challenges posed by love, the growth and collapse of the Empire, and the values embodied by "ladies" and "gentlemen"). The class may also require summer reading.

***AP English Literature and Composition**

AP English Literature & Composition is a year-long, advanced-level course for seniors only that is designed to provide students with an academic experience similar to that of a college level literature course. Using major American and World literary works from the 16th century to the present, students will focus on close reading of a variety of genres, including poetry, essays, short stories, novels and plays. Students will actively participate in class discussions and complete numerous oral, written and research assignments that critically analyze the challenging reading material. The class may also require summer reading. All students are expected to take the College Board AP English Literature & Composition Exam upon completion of the course.

Sophomore English

English 10 – Composition

In the first semester of sophomore English, students will build upon English 9 writing skills by focusing on the writer's purpose, style, audience, and context. The class will emphasize the process of writing -- planning, drafting, revising, and editing. Students will complete various writing assignments by responding to a range of texts and prompts, both informational and literary.

English 10 -- British Literature

In this second semester of sophomore English, students will explore various forms of British literature including poetry, short stories, a Shakespeare play, and other narrative works. A variety of writing experiences will provide the opportunity to continue the development of composition skills.

In addition to the required sophomore English program, sophomores may participate in the Journalism or Yearbook Design program but only if recommended by their 9th grade English teacher. **Yearbook Design, Yearbook Production and Advanced Journalism (Newsprint) will also fulfill the Fine Arts Requirement.**

JUNIOR-SENIOR ELECTIVES

A student designs her choice of literature, writing and publications experiences in the Junior-Senior Elective program. These one-semester courses extend the learning experiences of the previous years. It is recommended that a student plan her choices in order to experience a wide range of literature during the four semesters. **An English course is required each semester. Because of the heavy workload in junior-senior literature courses, the English Department strongly discourages students from taking two junior-senior literature courses in the same semester.**

CREATIVE WRITING COURSE

***Poetry Writing and Analysis**

This course examines the structure and meaning of poetry as an art form with its own lexicon of literary devices. Students will analyze a variety of metrical poetry and free verse from the Romantic, Victorian, and Modern periods. Students will not only be required to imitate the characteristic writing styles of well-known authors but will also create their own poetic forms with careful attention to an objective audience. Students who are self-disciplined and self-motivated with strong language analysis skills are recommended for this course. Publication opportunities will be made available (one semester).

LITERATURE COURSES

All literature courses require written work such as take-home essay exams, in-class essay exams, creative writing and body paragraph assignments. In addition, the multi-paragraph literary essay (or a substantive media project with necessary written accompaniment—e.g., a 7-10 minute film with annotated screenplay) will be a requirement in all elective literature courses.

American Literature

American Authors: Colonial Period to the Jazz Age (2016-17)
20th Century American Literature (2017-18)
Race Relations in American Literature (2016-17)
Literature of the American South (2017-18)

World Literature

Literature to Film
Myth, Tale and Legend
Shakespeare
Studies in Short Fiction
Women and Literature
World Cultures in Literature

***American Authors: Colonial Period to the Jazz Age**

American Authors presents a survey of significant writers of the past. The primary focus on works from the 19th and early 20th centuries will include the study of novels, short stories, poetry as well as possible non-fiction. Students will consider the contributions of these early writers to the American experience of both the past and present. Works by some of the following may be included: Hawthorne, Melville, Cather, Twain, Poe, Dickinson, Hurston, Steinbeck, Faulkner and Fitzgerald. **Note: This course is offered every other year.** (2018-19) (one semester)

***20th Century American Literature**

America's history is a unique experiment. Its literature expresses hope, ideals, conflicts, and contradictions. In this course students will consider vital issues woven into the fabric of American life in the second half of the twentieth century: civil rights and women's rights movements and the backlash against these; ideals and realities in war zones; diversity and disenfranchisement, the work ethic and the success myth, rural life and urban life, the Lost Generation and the Greatest Generation, to name a few. We will survey works by poets, novelists, essayists, playwrights, and short fiction writers. **Note: This class is offered every other year.** (2017-18) (one semester)

***Race Relations in American Literature**

Race Relations will use literature to explore the ongoing dilemma faced by each American generation--the relationship between two races whose histories, for better and for worse, have twined together since 1619. How both these races have conducted themselves during the long period of contact and conflict with the tribes native to this land also will be covered. The historical underpinnings of the literary study will derive from Joel Williamson's The Crucible of Race and George Fredrickson's White Supremacy. **Note: This class is offered every other year.** (2018-19) (one semester)

***Literature of the American South**

Literature of the American South offers an introduction to the life and culture of the American South - that region once known as the Old Confederacy. Even today, people there share a host of different values and traditions, beliefs and rituals. Sentiments about history and family and religion, caste and class, sex and race and the land will provide a focus for study of some distinguished Southern literature. **Note: This class is offered every other year.** (2017-18) (one semester)

***Literature to Film**

Students will read and analyze major works of literature and then view and analyze the films based on those literary works. Through discussion, composition, and filmmaking, students will demonstrate an understanding of the challenges involved in successfully translating literature into cinema. (one semester)

***Myth Tale and Legend**

Myth Tale and Legend will acquaint the student with traditional forms of folk literature. Aside from reading some classical literature from various world cultures, students will read a sampling of formal written literature (novels, short stories, scripts, poetry) which depends on characters, symbols and motifs from specific myths, tales and legends. Writing activities will be diversified, including some formal expository writing (critical papers, literary papers, impromptu writing) as well as some creative writing (i.e. writing a myth). The object of the course is to not only expose students to more classical literature but to show the relationship of it to modern written expression and to get them to draw some of their own conclusions about those relationships. (one semester)

***Shakespeare**

Students sample the comedies, histories, tragedies, romances and sonnets of an author whose impact on the English language is equaled only by the King James' translation of the Bible. Shakespeare's plays are brought to life through readings, audio recordings, films, and live productions (when available). The course's goal is to give students an appreciation for Shakespeare's immense contribution to our theatrical and literary culture. (one semester)

Studies in Short Fiction

Studies in Short Fiction will explore the art of the short story—both the little gems that can stand on their own and those masterwork collections by a single author (in which each story thematically enhances the others). Students should expect to read a story per class, on average, as they look at writers of note such as Sherwood Anderson, Eudora Welty, Ernest Hemingway, William Faulkner, Flannery O'Connor, Gloria Naylor, Henry James, Richard Wright, and others. (one semester)

***Women and Literature**

This semester elective will explore a variety of literary genres largely written by and about women. Feminine perspectives on issues particular to women, specifically difficulties in establishing their own identities apart from men, their relationships with each other and their relationships with men will be studied. The course will attempt to investigate how women are portrayed in literature as being disempowered or empowered as they continue to develop and define their own voice. (one semester)

***World Cultures in Literature**

Certain experiences have emerged across world literature: generational conflicts, socio-political adversity, the personal fight for one's dignity, the struggle of the individual against society, coming of age, the question of war, and difficulties in maintaining human relationships. In this course students learn about various world cultures through literature in order to discuss and write about experiences that are woven into the fabric of a common humanity. Course selections will include literature from such cultures as East Indian, Japanese, Greek, Hungarian, Canadian, and Russian. (one semester)

Journalism

Yearbook Production and Advanced Journalism (Newsprint) will also fulfill the Fine Arts Requirement.

***Journalism**

This semester-long course explores what makes good journalism, both in terms of writing and policies/ethics. Students will study the implications of the First Amendment, the “watchdog” role of a journalist, biased reporting and “fake news”, as well as the evolving world of both print and online journalism. Students will learn what it means to write journalistically by completing numerous assignments including: news articles, feature stories, editorials, reviews, etc. The art of interviewing, peer editing, and copyediting will also be emphasized. If time permits, some basic photography and newspaper design elements will also be examined. **The best qualified students from the class will be invited to join the Advanced Journalism class the following year to produce *Newsprint*, Mercy High School’s student newspaper. Open to grades 10-12.**

***Advanced Journalism** -- Students in Advanced Journalism must apply for this course and are chosen based on their performance in Journalism. After learning and demonstrating a thorough understanding of the principles and ethics involved in writing journalistically, students put these skills to work in a real world environment by creating and producing *Newsprint*, Mercy High School’s student newspaper, and newsprintnow.net, the online news web site for this publication. Staff members of *Newsprint* are responsible for: generating story ideas; reporting, writing, interviewing, and editing a variety of articles, columns and editorials; submitting publication-quality photography and video to accompany stories; and designing creative pages that appeal to readers. (year) **This course can be used as a Fine Art. Open to grades 11-12.**
Prerequisite: Journalism

***Yearbook Design**

Yearbook Design prepares the student for producing the yearbook by studying skills required to create artistic yearbook pages. The student will learn the basic techniques of lay-out and design, copywriting, photography and theme presentation, as well as the responsibilities of various staff positions. Students are accepted into Yearbook Design in sophomore year only.. Upon completion of the class, the student may staff the school’s yearbook, *Lore*. (one semester) **The best qualified students from this class will be invited to the Yearbook Production class for *Lore*. This course can be used to as a Fine Art. Open to grades 10-12.**

***Yearbook Production**

Students who are invited to this course will be responsible for all aspects of the school’s yearbook, *Lore*. They make a commitment to meet deadlines and sell advertising to finance the book. (year) **This course can be used to as a Fine Art. Open to grades 11-12.**
Prerequisite: Yearbook Design)

MATHEMATICS

The Mathematics Department offers a variety of course selections to accommodate the various interests and needs of the students. Four years of math are required for all students. Suggested sequences are shown below. Crossing from one sequence to another is certainly possible and the recommendations for each course are given with its description. In order for a student to perform her best, placement in the course that corresponds to her present ability is very important. The Math Department assists students in their placement.

NOTE: Students may elect to take more than one course per semester. Electives are available to all students who meet course prerequisites.

CORE COURSES: (year classes)

Regular Sequences			Honors Sequences	
Concepts of Algebra I	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra I Honors	Geometry Honors
Applied Geometry	Geometry	Algebra II	Geometry Honors	Algebra II Trig Honors
Concepts of Algebra II	Algebra II	Pre-Calculus	Algebra II Trig Honors	Pre-Calculus Honors
Senior Math Probability and Statistics College Algebra	Pre-Calculus or Senior Math	Calculus or AP Calculus	Pre-Calculus Honors	Calculus or AP Calculus

Core Classes:

*Applied Geometry

This course is designed for the student who has had difficulty with Math in the past. It focuses on the key topics that provide a strong foundation in the essentials of Geometry. Emphasis is placed on understanding and applying the fundamentals of Euclidean Geometry. Students will gain an understanding of segments, angles, lines, polygons, circles, trigonometry, deductive proofs and geometric constructions in a clear, straightforward manner. Special emphasis will be placed on practicing algebraic skills.

*Geometry

Euclidean Geometry includes the concepts of angle relationships, parallel lines, planes, congruence, similarity and circles. This course is designed to give the student a better understanding of a mathematical system, to improve spatial visualization, to strengthen logical reasoning skills and to apply algebraic concepts. Formal mathematical proof will be introduced.

Recommended: Algebra I

*Geometry Honors

Honors Geometry is the study of Euclidean geometry with a strong emphasis on multi-step problem solving and formal proof. Students will solve geometric problems using algebraic techniques and geometric definitions, theorems and postulates. Therefore, students are expected to have a thorough understanding of algebraic processes and applications. The course is designed for students who are highly motivated independent learners who want to be challenged. This course moves much faster than the regular geometry course and has more challenging problems.

Recommended: Solid Algebra I Honors skills

*Concepts of Algebra II

This class is designed to help students who need extra guidance with Algebra II concepts. The classes are designed to be small with more individual attention given to the student. Concepts of Algebra II are for those students that have had difficulty with math in the past. Topics include the properties of real numbers, factoring, complex numbers, linear and quadratic equations, polynomial functions, conic sections, and sequences and series.

***Algebra II**

Topics include the properties of real numbers and applications of linear and quadratic equations, polynomial functions, factoring, complex numbers, conic sections, sequences and series.

Recommended: Solid Algebra I and Geometry skills

***Algebra II - Trigonometry Honors**

Topics include all those of Algebra II as well as exponential functions, logarithms, trigonometric functions and identities, circular functions and their graphs.

Recommended: Solid Algebra I Honors and Geometry Honors skills

***Pre-Calculus**

Emphasis is placed on the theory and application of the mathematics using an analytical approach. Topics for this class include: relations and functions, exponential functions, logarithms, trigonometric and circular functions and their applications. Elementary calculus topics – vectors, derivatives and limits are introduced.

Recommended: Solid Algebra II skills

***Pre-Calculus Honors**

Preparation for calculus is the purpose of this class. Theory, critical and analytical thinking are emphasized. The concept of functions is central to the course. The following topics are emphasized: algebra of functions, curve sketching and elementary calculus: limits, continuity and the derivative. Also included are topics such as conic sections, circular functions and trigonometry. Students coming into this course should have a background with trigonometric functions.

Recommended: Solid Algebra II/Trig Honors skills

***Calculus**

This calculus course is designed specifically for business, economics, or life/social sciences majors. The text is written for high school students and fosters understanding and mastery. The course emphasizes integrated and engaging applications that show students the real-world relevance of topics and concepts. Applied problems drawn from government sources, industry, current events, and other disciplines provide well-rounded examples. The curriculum will include differentiation and application of the derivative for a variety of functions, as well as integration and applications for a variety of functions. Many techniques of integration for a variety of functions will be studied as well as differential equations.

Recommended: Solid Pre-Calculus or Pre-Calculus Honors skills

***AP Calculus**

Topics for this college level course include the following: limits, derivatives of algebraic functions and applications, integration and applications, plane analytic geometry, transcendental functions and applications of the integral. This class is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement exam in May that is required of students electing this course.

Recommended: Strong Pre-Calculus Honors skills

Math Elective Classes (One semester)

***Probability and Statistics**

Students will learn to analyze data using frequency distributions, measures of center, z-scores, scatter plots, stem-and-leaf, box plots, correlation and regression. In addition, students will study probability including addition and multiplication rules and binomial probability distribution. The class will enhance instruction through the use of graphing calculators and spreadsheets. Students will design and complete several research projects during the semester. A calculator of the TI-83 or TI-84 family is required.

***College Algebra**

This course is intended to ease the transition from Algebra 2 into the study of college mathematics for students interested in a non-math oriented major. The curriculum will include the study of parent functions, composite functions, rational functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, mathematical modeling and linear programming. The incorporation of technology through the use of graphing calculators will be emphasized to facilitate a deeper understanding of higher level mathematics. This course is not for college credit but is designed to prepare students for success in a college algebra course. **Not recommended for students in Algebra II - Trigonometry Honors or Pre-Calculus.**

MEDIA CENTER

***Student Library Aide**

Earn ¼ credit (3 days/cycle) or ½ credit (6 days/cycle) per semester (CR/NCR). Learn library organization and operation, Dewey Classification, OPAC Catalog and Mercy's library collection. Duties require aide to process new books/magazines, shelve materials, reconcile returns and assist students with computer problems. Student aides provide general assistance for library staff.

PERFORMING ARTS

The Performing Arts Department offers a broad scope of musical and theater experiences.

MUSIC: For any student who is interested in music, Choral and/or Orchestra classes may be taken one or both semesters each year up to a maximum of 8 semester, all four years.

***Glee**

Glee is a non-audition music class open to all grade levels as a basic choral class. Students learn the basic elements of good vocal production, sight reading, rhythm and music theory and are exposed to many styles of music for listening and appreciation. They study a wide variety of music literature and have the opportunity to perform throughout the school year. Individual students may enter the Solo and Ensemble Festival. Emphasis is on performance and presentation. Attendance is mandatory at all performances, including Pizza, Jams and Jeans (Fall Semester), Choral Festival (Winter Semester) and the Christmas/Spring Concerts. This course may be elected for two semesters.

***Advanced Glee**

This class is an intermediate level choral class that addresses the technical needs of the changing voice as well as more advanced literature for the purpose of performing. Listening and analyzing skills are strengthened through in-class and out-of-class activities. Music theory, sight reading and rhythm are explored in more depth. This choir attends the District Choral Festival in the spring and individual students may enter the Solo and Ensemble Festival. Emphasis is on performance and presentation. Attendance is mandatory at all performances including Pizza, Jams and Jeans, Choral Festival, and the Christmas/Spring Concerts. This course may be elected for two semesters.

Pre-requisite: Glee or permission of the music director.

***Mercyaires Honor Choir**

This honors choir will audition in mid-February for the following year and is open to tenth, eleventh and twelfth graders. Students perform advanced literature of many styles and countries and build on sight-reading skills. This choir attends the District Choral Festival in the spring and individual students may enter the Solo and Ensemble Festival in the winter. Emphasis is on performance and presentation. Attendance is mandatory at all performances, including Pizza, Jams and Jeans, Choral Festival and the Christmas and Spring Concerts. This group tours locally and serves as ambassadors for Mercy High School ** **Note: Students must register for both fall and spring semesters and attend a week long camp in mid-August. This ensemble group has a participation fee of \$225 which covers all costs.**

ORCHESTRA: The Mercy Instrumental music program is open to string and wind (woodwind and brass) players demonstrating at least an intermediate level of ability. Students should have a minimum of two years of playing experience and be able to read music. Private lessons are strongly recommended. The orchestra classes perform at all major concerts as well as their own chamber recitals. Students learn a variety of music and gain instruction in theory and history. Orchestra students are encouraged to participate in the Michigan Solo and Ensemble Festival. Attendance is mandatory at the Christmas and Spring Concerts. Students may elect this course for two semesters each year.

***Orchestra**

Orchestra is comprised of students studying strings and woodwind instruments to improve their musical skills and gain experience and knowledge of more difficult selections.

***Advanced Orchestra**

Advanced Orchestra is for advanced orchestra students. The orchestra is comprised of strings, woodwinds and brass instruments. Students in the class learn a variety of musical styles and work on rhythmic studies, intonation improvement and blending of the group.

THEATER: The theater program begins with Speech, a one-semester course required of all freshmen, as the building block of presentation and performance. Students may then elect to take any of the other offerings in the program. The three acting classes are sequential and should be taken in order. After Acting II, students may audition to participate in the Mercy Mimes, a troupe that performs for school activities and community events. The department also presents a fall play and a spring musical. Students, electing Oral Interpretation, may compete in the Detroit Catholic Forensic League tournaments. For eligible students, the department sponsors Troupe 5693 of the International Thespian Society.

THEATER COURSES

Freshmen	Sophomores	Juniors/Seniors
<u>Requirement:</u> Speech <u>Electives:</u> Semester I: Acting I Semester II: Acting I Acting II	<u>Electives:</u> Semester I: Acting I Oral Interpretation Acting II Theater Production Broadcasting Semester II: Acting I Acting II Broadcasting	<u>Electives:</u> Semester I: Acting I Acting II Broadcasting Oral Interpretation Theater Production Video Production Semester II: Acting I Acting II Broadcasting Set Design (2018-2019) Actors Workshop (2018-19) Directing (2017-2018) Video Production (2017-2018)

***Speech**

Speech, required of all ninth graders, enables the students to gain confidence and to recognize the importance of speech in daily life. Through a variety of assignments, the students develop vocal and physical qualities necessary in public speaking. The students learn to choose appealing topics, ranging from informative to persuasive, to outline these speeches for greater effectiveness, and to deliver them to an audience. The class will also focus on camera work and a Keynote presentation. (one semester)

***Acting I**

Acting introduces students to the basic skills of performing. Besides studying stage terminology, the students develop their powers of observation and imagination to create different characters and emotions. The students work with their peers to present assignments for analysis. (one semester)

***Acting II**

Acting skills are developed further through the performances of mime, improvisations and monologues. Concentration on character motivation is stressed. The student's monologue is used as an audition piece to cast roles in one-act plays that are presented at An Evening of Acting in mid-May. The second quarter of the class is spent in rehearsal for this project. One day after school in December or May (depending on the semester taken) is required for a dress rehearsal and performance. Open to Freshmen. (one semester)

Prerequisites: Acting I

***Theater Production**

Theater Production introduces students to various technical aspects of the production of a play. Areas of study include the fundamentals of acting and the technical elements of scenery, lighting and sound. The course also focuses on make-up and costume design. The final project in the class is a student prompt book, integrating the material learned. (one semester)

Prerequisite: Acting I

***Broadcasting**

Broadcasting introduces the elements of broadcasting found in the radio and television studios. The first quarter looks at the responsibilities of a radio broadcaster. Areas of study include equipment operation and presentation of a disc jockey program. The second quarter focuses on the different aspects of television production, beginning with a study of equipment and camera operations and continuing with computer video editing. The class culminates with the production of a short video. (one semester)

Prerequisite: sophomore/junior/senior status with preference given to seniors

***Oral Interpretation**

Oral Interpretation introduces the student to the dramatic interpretation of literature. Students learn how to select material in order to prepare a manuscript for presentation. Emphasis is placed on training the student to read aloud with bodily actions and vocal expression. The areas of study include humorous and serious readings, poetry, dramatic interpretation, dramatic duo interpretation, and storytelling. The class will also focus on the public speaking events of Oratorical Declamation, Original Oratory and Extemporaneous Speaking. Students electing this course may compete in the Detroit Catholic Forensic League. (one semester)

***Video Production** (2017-2018)

Video Production is an advanced class in communications that expands and builds upon the knowledge of Radio and Television Broadcasting. Students will create videos for the school such as video announcements, the auction video, and commercials for sports and clubs in the school. This project-based course allows students to enhance their script writing, filming, and video editing skills to produce videos for Mercy.

This class is offered every other year. (one semester)

Prerequisite: Radio and Television Broadcasting and junior or senior status

***Set Design** (2018-2019)

Set Design is an advanced class in technical theater that expands and builds upon the knowledge of Theater Production. Students will study scenic painting techniques, set design, computer skills, using a CAD software, and 3D model building. This project-based course allows students to choose a play and become the set designer by designing a 2D floor plan and front elevations and then bringing them to life with a 3D model. The course is suited to students interested in technical theater, interior design, and architecture. This course will fulfill a senior math requirement and is a great option for students interested in interior design.

This class is offered every other year. (one semester)

Prerequisite: Acting I, Theatre Production and junior or senior status.

***Directing (2017-2018)**

Directing examines the director’s role in the theater and then delves into the total production process of a play. Students will learn about royalties, ordering scripts, auditioning and casting, planning a rehearsal schedule, blocking and designing materials for publicity. The students will select a one-act play and plan all aspects of the production which include rendering a set design, blocking a prompt book, casting and directing a scene for presentation and analysis. There are required rehearsals after school March-May and a required full day on a Saturday in May for the Festival of One Acts.

This class is offered every other year. (one semester)

Prerequisite: Acting II and junior or senior status.

Course Fee: \$35.00 for royalty fee.

***Actor's Workshop (2018-2019)**

Actor’s Workshop gives students practical experience in the areas of acting, directing, make-up, and costuming as they participate in a Children’s Company that visits elementary schools in the area. One day after school in May is required for a performance at An Evening of Acting.

This class is offered every other year. (one semester)

Prerequisite: Acting I, Acting II and junior or senior status.

Course Fee: \$25.00 for costume rental and script.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education has a unique, but not exclusive role in the education of individuals. This role is twofold: to enhance an individual’s physical fitness and well-being and to teach her a wide variety of motor skills. Through its activities and experiences, Physical Education contributes to the shared goals of education -- self-direction, self-esteem and cooperative behavior. Physical Education should also be enjoyable.

CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

One semester of Health (sophomore year) plus one semester of Physical Education/Swim or one semester of Health plus one semester of Swim and one semester of Physical Education

Semester Courses	Requirement
¼ Swim/ ¼ Physical Education	Meets Physical Education and Swim
Fitness Swim & Weight Training	Meets Physical Education and Swim
Nutrition and Exercise	Physical Education only
Lifetime Fitness	Physical Education only
Lifeguard Training	Swim only
Health	Required by all Sophomores

All students (grades 9-12) participating in Gym or Swim classes must have a current physical (April 15th or after of the previous school year) and proof of insurance form on file. Due to the fact that health problems may suddenly develop in any person, we feel that this is necessary. Gym uniforms must be purchased through the department. Swimsuits, caps, and goggles may be purchased through the department or brought from home, per department approval. Physicals and insurance forms must be on file by the end of the first week of school and uniforms must be obtained by the end of the first week of the semester in which the class meets.

***Health (Required of all sophomores)**

The Health Class uses a holistic approach to discussing the important issues of today’s teenagers. The class is designed to increase the students’ awareness and knowledge of today’s most critical health issues for teenagers. Good health does not just happen. One must know and understand the issues and how one can best apply the resources to a lifestyle. There is a need to know what one can do to promote one’s own good health and to prevent illness and disease, now and in the years to come. (one semester)

***Swim/Physical Ed:** The swimming portion of this class is structured for those who have little or no experience with water through those who want to improve their basic knowledge of the strokes. This class would suit those whose interests include learning the basic strokes of freestyle and backstroke as well as diving and some water fitness. The physical education portion of this class is structured for students who desire to participate in fitness and conditioning on a regular basis. This class will focus on a variety of aerobic activities as well as strength training and games. The class will prepare and encourage students to include fitness as a part of their daily lives.

Course Fee: \$24-43 (swimsuit, cap, goggles, gym shorts, top and lock)

***Fitness Swim/Weight Training:** The swimming portion of this class is structured for those who have significant experience in the water. Students taking this class should be proficient in freestyle and backstroke, be able to swim eight (8) lengths of the pool (200 yards) without stopping or resting and be able to tread water for 3 minutes without stopping or resting. The first day of the course, students will be asked to demonstrate the above tasks to ensure their safety while taking this course. This course will be endurance swimming based, and students will learn all four of the basic strokes. They will also become proficient in both diving and flip turns. Students will learn in- water exercise that promotes life-long activity. The weight training portion is designed to allow students to develop an individualized weight training program to best suit their needs, goals and body types. The focus will be on total body conditioning while gaining knowledge of the muscular system.

Course Fee: \$24-43 (swimsuit, cap, goggles, gym shorts, top and lock)

***Nutrition and Exercise**

Nutrition and Exercise is a physical education course designed to educate students on the importance behind proper nutrition and exercise. This course takes place both in the classroom (nutrition component) and in the gym (exercise component) for a full semester.

Course Fee: \$24 (required P.E. uniform, lock) \$20 (Required classroom book)

***Lifetime Fitness**

The Lifetime Fitness class is structured for those students who desire to participate in fitness and conditioning activities on a regular basis. The class will focus on aerobic/anaerobic activities through gym activities and pool activities (approximately 4-5 days per semester). This class will prepare and encourage students to develop a personal fitness program that can become part of their lifestyle. (one semester)

Course Fee: \$25-43 (required P.E. uniform and lock, swim suit, cap, goggles)

Lifeguarding will fulfill the swimming requirement.

***Lifeguard Training**

The Lifeguard Training class is for those students who have an advanced knowledge of the strokes as well as a fair amount of swimming endurance ability. The class would lead to certification after successful testing in American Red Cross Lifeguard Training, with First Aid and CPR certification. The requirement to take this class is a minimum age of 15 and the following Red Cross test:

- 1) Swim 300 yards continuously using these strokes in the following order (No time limit)
 - 100 freestyle using rhythmic breathing and a stabilizing kick . Rhythmic breathing can be to the front or the side
 - 100 yards breaststroke using a kick, pull, glide sequence
 - 100 yards of either freestyle or breaststroke
- 2.) Starting in the water, swim 20 yards using freestyle, surface dive 7-10 feet retrieve a 10 lb brick, return to the surface and swim 20 yards on back to the starting point with the object on chest, above water, and then exit the pool in 1:40 seconds
(one semester)

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation

Course Fee: Approximately \$80-85 (swimsuit, cap, lock and textbook)

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

The Religious Studies Department offers ten semester courses that address the interests and backgrounds of a diverse student population. These courses provide the opportunity for a solid foundation in Catholic Christianity. Students are also exposed to the contributions of the other Christian churches and to other religious traditions.

The program in Religious Studies begins with Introductory Theology, the required ninth grade semester course. In Sophomore year students study Christian moral teaching and are introduced to Scripture. Later, students choose a theology course and three other electives to complete the seven-semester graduation requirement. A variety of electives introduce students to aspects of Christian and Catholic practices and beliefs

An underlying goal of the entire program is to strengthen and deepen the spirituality, the religious commitment and the faith life of every student. The roles and contributions of women will be highlighted in the various courses.

In planning your future Religious Studies course selections, it is important to consider the following:

- Juniors or Seniors must choose either Christian Tradition or Catholic Theology
- Catholic Theology is recommended for Catholic students, but all are welcome.

Religious Studies

Required Courses (10th):	One required (11th or 12th)	Elective Courses (11th-12th):
Christian Morality	Christian Tradition	Justice and Peace
The Bible	Catholic Theology	Women in the Bible
		Prayer and Spirituality
		Relationships
		World Religions

Required for all sophomores: (one each semester)

*Christian Morality

Principles of Christian conscience formation are presented as well as the process of responsible decision-making. These principles are applied to a guided study of various moral problems. (one semester)

*The Bible

This course is an introduction to the Scriptures looking at the cultural traditions that were the basis for the Old Testament and the lives of the early prophets, and the life and message of Jesus Christ as expressed in the New Testament gospels. (one semester)

The **Bible course is required of any new students entering Mercy High School who have not fulfilled a Scripture requirement.

Junior and Senior Electives: (one is required each semester)

*Justice and Peace

Justice and Peace challenges students to relate Scripture and the teachings of Church to the struggles for justice and peace in our world today. Timely topics to be explored through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching include poverty, worker rights, prejudice, the environment and peacemaking. (one semester)

***Relationships**

This course considers how one can better relate to others through the study of such areas as one's self-concept, personality, friendships, infatuation, love, dating, sexuality, communication and marriage as a sacrament. (one semester)

***Women in the Bible**

The stories of women in both Testaments carry pertinent messages. Through the reading of these stories as well as an examination of historical, contextual and source criticisms, students can gain insights into their message today. (one semester)

***Christian Tradition**

Students in Christian Tradition learn about the beliefs, practices and structures of the Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant religions. These three Christian traditions are studied in the historical context in which they developed. (one semester)

***Catholic Theology**

Catholic Theology studies Catholic beliefs and practices on a more advanced level. It includes topics such as the nature of theology, God and revelation, the Bible, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and Trinity, sin and grace, church, sacraments, various forms of service / ministry, death and new life. (one semester)

***World Religions**

This is a study of the nature of all religions and the role it plays in the lives of millions of people throughout the world. Religious traditions examined include Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Judaism and Islam. (one semester)

***Prayer and Spirituality**

The Prayer and Spirituality class is built around the belief that God is at the center of the human spirit. Accordingly, the study of and experiences of various kinds of prayer are designed especially for students interested in getting in touch with and developing their spiritual self. (one semester)

SCIENCE

In selecting a Science Advanced Placement course, 10th, 11th and 12th graders and parents will make a minimum commitment for one full semester. Completion of a signed agreement, which specifies such a commitment, will be necessary to finalize the registration process. This agreement will be part of the course verification materials that are mailed home after registration is completed in school. Any request to drop the course or transfer to another course will not be considered until the end of the first semester. These courses are, by design, more rigorous. The learning will be challenging and stimulating and likely move at a faster pace than the average class. As such, when students register for these courses and we provide the staffing, ever mindful of class size and teacher load, the student cannot make a different choice after the fact. Such requests negatively impact class size and staffing decisions already made.

The Science Department provides the opportunity for a four year program. Three years of science fulfills the science requirements for graduation. It is possible for Juniors and Seniors to carry two sciences, allowing them to take advantage of advanced courses in science.

The main goals of the Science Department are to:

- provide for individual differences in interest areas through a wide range of course offerings,
- provide the most up-to-date, comprehensive and reliable knowledge of science,
- integrate the sciences with other disciplines in order to give the student an adequate foundation for life in modern and future society.

Michigan Department of Education requires three years of science for all students: Biology, one lab science (Chemistry or Physics) and one additional year of science.

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11 and 12
Biology Biology Honors	Biology Biology Honors	ChemCom Chemistry Chemistry Honors AP Chemistry
	Chemistry Chemistry Honors ChemCom	Practical Physics Physics AP Physics 1
	Practical Physics	Anatomy & Physiology
		Microbiology
		AP Biology

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Biology is the beginning course in the science student's curriculum.
2. **Biology, Chemistry and Physics are strongly recommended for all college bound students. These three courses give students a well-rounded background in the basic sciences and will best prepare them for various career choices.**

All science classes are year courses but students may switch teachers at the semester due to scheduling.

***Biology**

This course is an introductory inquiry into the principles of college prep life sciences. Topics covered include, but are not limited to, the scientific method, general chemistry, biochemical concepts, the cell theory, energetics, cellular respiration, photosynthesis, inheritance, DNA, human genetics and evolutionary theory. Second semester of this year-long course moves into plant and animal sciences, especially the human systems. Lab experimentation supplements course work (at least, one experiment per chapter.)

Co-requisite: Algebra I or higher

***Biology Honors**

Honors Biology is an accelerated first year course that gives students a basic understanding of the concepts of biology and their connections to our living world. This course takes a molecular approach to illustrate an important theme in biology called emergent properties. This course also emphasizes the molecular basis of life, use of energy and matter, inheritance, and microevolution as related to living things. Topics will be covered at a significantly deeper level than in the traditional first year biology course. Laboratory work will focus on inquiry, experimental design and critical thinking skills. Students can expect daily practice in analysis and discussion, a quick pace, and independent reading.

Co-requisite/Prerequisite: Algebra I or higher

***Anatomy and Physiology**

This is a study of the structure and function of the human body. It is medically oriented and is intended to assist students interested in various medical fields as well as those interested in a broader knowledge of biology as it applies to humans. There is significant independent reading and use of interactive tools to aid learning and understanding of the visual and functional components of the human body. Lab includes dissection(s) of mammalian specimens.

Prerequisite: one year of Biology and one year of a Chemistry class **Lab Materials Fee: \$15.00**

***AP Biology**

Advanced Placement Biology is equivalent to a two-semester introductory college Biology course. AP Biology studies central themes in biology including genetic change over time, energy and matter use in organisms, communication and information transfer in organisms, and interactions within biological systems. This course requires the application and analysis of enduring understandings and key concepts in Biology, rather than factual recall. Inquiry-based, student-designed labs and classroom experiences help to improve critical thinking skills while students are preparing for the AP Biology Exam that is required of students electing this course.

Prerequisite: one year of Biology and one year of a Chemistry class

***Microbiology**

This is a study of the biology of microorganisms: bacteria, viruses, protozoans and fungi. Topics will include microbial anatomy, growth and reproduction, microbial biochemistry, bacterial genetics, virology, sterilization and disinfection procedures and pathogenic microbes and disease. Laboratory work in this course is designed to illustrate the principles discussed in the lecture, and employ diagnostic and identification techniques unique to microbiology. This course has an extensive independent reading component.

Prerequisite: one year of Biology and one year of a Chemistry class

***ChemCom - Chemistry in the Community**

ChemCom is a student centered, activity based, issues oriented chemistry curriculum that has been developed by the American Chemical Society. This course is designed primarily for the college bound student who does not plan to pursue a science career. Each of ChemCom's eight units center on a chemistry related technological issue now confronting our society and the world. The eight units include the major concepts, basic vocabulary, and intellectual and laboratory skills expected in any introductory chemistry course.

Prerequisite: one year of Biology

***Chemistry**

Chemistry is an intensive course which integrates laboratory experience and chemical theory. Emphasis is placed upon ability to apply critical scientific thinking in solving problems. This course is intended for students who may be preparing for college in fields which will require a strong background in chemistry. **Prerequisite: One year of Biology**

***Chemistry Honors**

Honors Chemistry is an accelerated first-year chemistry course designed to cover the major topics one would expect in a college preparatory program. These topics are essentially the same as in the regular chemistry course, but with some additions and the material is covered in greater detail. The laboratory work is also more sophisticated and the techniques taught are more advanced. The number, type and level of difficulty of the problems assigned are higher in complexity, as the course is for select tenth and eleventh graders. More emphasis is placed on problem solving skills and scientific thought throughout the course.

Prerequisite: Honors Biology or teacher recommendation

Prerequisite or co-requisite: Honors Algebra, Algebra 2, or equivalent level in math

***AP Chemistry**

Advanced Placement Chemistry is equivalent to a two-semester introductory college Chemistry course. Topics such as the structure of matter, kinetic theory of gases, chemical equilibria, chemical kinetics, and the basic concepts of thermodynamics will be presented in considerable depth. Students will be required to perform inquiry-based, student-designed experiments. The course also emphasizes chemical calculations and mathematical formulation of principles. One primary goal of the course is to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Exam in May that is required of students electing this course.

Prerequisite: one year of Biology and one year of Chemistry

***Practical Physics**

This is an introductory concept-based Physics course covering motion, forces, energy, sound, light, and electricity. This course is activity/lab based and offers numerous opportunities for application of the concepts learned.

Prerequisite or Co-requisite: Geometry or higher

***Physics**

Physics is a study of motion and measurement, heat, light, sound, electricity, and energy. The main emphasis is on principles and problem solving. A college prep course for students who may be pursuing engineering and other science related fields in college. This course can fulfill a senior math requirement if taken as a fourth science.

Recommended: Algebra II, Biology and Chemistry

***AP Physics 1**

Advanced Placement Physics is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course that explores topics such as Newtonian mechanics (including rotational motion); work, energy, and power; mechanical waves and sound; and introductory, simple circuits. Through inquiry-based learning, students will develop critical thinking and reasoning skills. The course will prepare the students to take the AP Physics 1 Exam that is required of students electing this course. Physics is not a prerequisite for this class. This course can fulfill a senior math requirement if taken as a fourth science.

Recommended: Biology and Chemistry

Prerequisite or Co-requisite: Algebra II or equivalent level in math

SOCIAL STUDIES

In selecting a Social Studies Advanced Placement course, 10th, 11th and 12th graders and parents will make a minimum commitment for one full semester. Completion of a signed agreement, which specifies such a commitment, will be necessary to finalize the registration process. This agreement will be part of the course verification materials that are mailed home after registration is completed in school. Any request to drop the course or transfer to another course will not be considered until the end of the first semester. These courses are, by design, more rigorous. The learning will be challenging and stimulating and likely move at a faster pace than the average class. As such, when students register for these courses and we provide the staffing, ever mindful of class size and teacher load, the student cannot make a different choice after the fact. Such requests negatively impact class size and staffing decisions already made.

The primary goal of the Social Studies Department is to help develop in each student a person who is aware of the dignity of all persons and of her global responsibilities. Michigan Department of Education requires all students take a year of World History and American History and a semester each of American Government and Economics. The chart below reflects those requirements. Other electives in Social Studies are also available.

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grades 11-12	Grade 12
Required Courses:	World History	American Government	American History <u>or</u> AP American History Economics (may be taken junior or senior year)	Economics
Electives:		AP World History	AP World History Psychology Law in Action Contemporary Issues	AP United States Government and Politics AP World History

The following course is **required of all freshman and any new students entering Mercy High School who have not fulfilled a World History Requirement.**

***World History (Required)**

World History has been evolving since the beginning of time. It is the human story of people all around the globe. This course begins with an overview of history prior to the 19th century and then begins in earnest with the focus of the Era of European Imperialism (1800 AD) and traces events up to the present so that students might better understand current history and the events that have shaped it. The course continually strives to make connections between the past and the present in order to enhance the student's understanding of our world today.

The following course is **required of all Sophomores** and any new students entering Mercy High School after Sophomore year.

***American Government**

Democracy demands of its citizens responsibility during times of peace and crisis. In this class students will study Constitutional questions and decisions. They will examine the role of citizenship as it relates to the Legislative, Judicial and Executive branches of our government. State and local government is also reviewed. Present day politics are also tied into the semester as students make connections to why things in government happen the way they do, who is involved and why. (one semester)

The following course is open to Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors and is an elective:

***AP World History**

Advanced Placement World History is a challenging full-year course that explores the expansive history of the human world. This course, which develops a greater understanding of global processes, encounters, and interactions that have shaped human history since 8000 B.C.E., will involve the study of primary source material, writing of critical essays on historical themes, and self-motivated/independent work. AP World History has a three-fold purpose: First, it is designed to prepare students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands similar to those of a full-year college survey course. Second, it is designed to develop skills of analysis and critical thinking in order to prepare students for success in the twenty-first century. Finally, it is the intent of this class to make the learning of world history an enjoyable experience. Students will ultimately show their mastery of the course goals by taking part in the College Board AP World History Exam in May.

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

The following courses are open to Juniors and Seniors only:

One of the American History Courses listed below is required for graduation:

***American History**

His story (or her story) is what history is all about: stories of events, people, places, and cultures. We will have an overview of the human element which includes hearing personal stories of those who lived through the changing times. We will try to see and experience it through their eyes. We will look at the relevance of history by finding a connection between past and present to see where it will take us in the future. (year)

***AP American History**

This course is intended to prepare students for the American History Advanced Placement exam in May. It covers the major themes of American History using a college level textbook. Primary source material is studied. Writing critical essays on historical themes is an important requirement of this course. This course is definitely for the self-motivated student who will read extensively on her own and be prepared for class. This two semester course does fulfill the American History graduation requirement. Taking the AP exam is required of students electing this course.

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

Required for graduation:

***Economics**

This is an introductory course in the study of Economics. The goal is to help students develop an understanding of our economy at home and abroad. In this every changing global community, our economies are all tightly connected. Students will be required to think critically in order to analyze, synthesize, evaluate, compare and contrast, as well as argue with well-balanced data and evidence. It will help students develop reasoning skills to think objectively, rationally and with some degree of sophistication about current economic issues in our rapidly changing world. Some of the many topics to be studied will include: Market Economy; Competitive Markets; Supply and Demand; The Role of the National Government; International Economies; Trade and a section on Personal Finance. This course also provides an experience in both macro and micro economics. (one semester)

Social Studies Electives:

***Law in Action**

This semester course is designed to give students an in-depth look into individual rights and challenges to those rights through the Supreme Court. It will also look at teen rights, crime, torts and community. And lastly it will look at the more recent type of crime in electronic monitoring, computer crime, employee rights and invasion of privacy and whistle-blowing to mention a few. A close look at Supreme Court cases, you be the judge cases, media and primary sources will be some of the formats used to bring law into action in the classroom. This course also will deal with business law such as contract law, marriage and divorce laws, and wills and trusts, just to name a few.

***Psychology**

This is an introductory course that provides a solid foundation in basic theories and principles of psychology. Also stressed is the dignity of each person and her potential for self-understanding and growth in her uniqueness. Personality, learning, intelligence, motivation, abnormality and adjustment are also explored. (one semester)

***Contemporary Issues**

This course will be dedicated to the discussion, analysis and comparison of events that happen around the world and the lives of those they touch. The content will be driven by current issues, but will also encompass recent past issues. The course will stress the interconnectedness of all issues and solutions with the critical concerns of the Sisters of Mercy. (one semester)

The following course is open to Seniors only:

***AP United States Government and Politics**

This class provides students with a thorough and systematic comprehension of U.S. government. Students are guided to use specific information critically in order to evaluate general propositions about government and politics as well as to analyze political relationships between people and different institutions. Students also are required to interpret and utilize basic data relevant to government and politics in sustained written arguments. Taking the AP exam is required of students electing this course. (year)

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

WORLD LANGUAGES

We believe that learning a foreign language is not only an essential factor in a well-rounded education but also a necessary requirement for college preparation, career training / job marketability and a greater international / global awareness. A four year sequence in at least one language is very highly recommended as an integral part of the student's total curriculum. This four year sequence is usually begun in the ninth grade. Students interested in taking more than one language are encouraged to do so.

French	Latin	Spanish
French 1	Latin 1	Spanish 1
French 2	Latin 2	Spanish 2
French 3	Latin 3	Spanish 3
AP French - Language and Culture	AP Latin	Spanish 4 or AP Spanish - Language and Culture

FRENCH OFFERINGS

*French 1

This class is an introduction to the French language and culture with emphasis on developing proficiency in the skills of speaking and listening. Students become acquainted with reading and writing. France, Canada and Africa and other regions of the francophone world are an integral part of cultural studies and activities.

*French 2

The basic proficiency skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing continue to be developed. Emphasis is given to communicative activities based on authentic tasks and everyday situations. Students study more in depth the French culture, including the Francophone world.

Prerequisite: one year of French or its equivalent.

*French 3

This course is designed to help students become more proficient in speaking, listening, reading and writing in French. The Francophone world and its diverse cultures are extensively integrated and explored (Belgium, Switzerland and French Africa) in this higher level of coursework.

Prerequisite: two years of French or its equivalent.

*AP French Language and Culture

The AP French Language and Culture course emphasizes communication by applying interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational skills in real-life situations. This includes grammar and vocabulary usage, language control, communication strategies and cultural awareness. This course engages students in an exploration of culture in both contemporary and historical contexts through a variety of authentic resources, which include audio, visual and print. Themes include: Beauty and Aesthetics, Contemporary Life, Families and Communities, Global Challenges, Personal and Public Identities, and Science and Technology. The student is required to take the AP exam. Course is taught almost exclusively in French.

Prerequisite: 3 years of high school French or its equivalent

LATIN OFFERINGS

*Latin 1

Latin 1 introduces reading and understanding authentic Latin passages at sight. Students learn pronunciation, grammar, syntax, vocabulary, and English derivations. Culture is integrated into the course.

*Latin 2

In Latin 2 students continue to develop an understanding of the grammar and syntax components of the language. Students increase their ability to read and to comprehend authentic Latin at sight. Students continue to understand the impact of Roman history and culture on Europe and the West.

Prerequisite: one year of Latin.

*Latin 3

In Latin 3 the emphasis is the comprehension, analysis and appreciation of the writings of various prose and poetry selections of Latin authors from the Classical and Silver periods.

Prerequisite: two years of Latin

*AP Latin

In this class, students read, understand, translate and analyze Latin poetry and prose, both from course readings (Vergil's Aeneid and Caesar's Gallic War) and from sight-reading passages. Additionally, students will be expected to describe and analyze Latin grammar, syntax, and style and to connect the texts that they read with the people, practices and events that shaped the ancient Roman world. The student is required to take the AP Exam.

Prerequisite: three years of Latin

SPANISH OFFERINGS

***Spanish 1**

This class is an introduction to the Spanish language with an emphasis on developing proficiency in the skills of speaking and listening. Students become acquainted with reading and writing. Hispanic culture and activities are included.

***Spanish 2**

The basic proficiency skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing continue to be developed. Emphasis is given to communicative activities based on everyday situations. Hispanic culture and activities are included.

Prerequisite: one year of Spanish or its equivalent.

***Spanish 3**

This course is designed to help students become more proficient in speaking, listening, reading and writing in Spanish. The Hispanic world and its diverse cultures are extensively integrated and explored in this higher level of coursework.

Prerequisite: two years of Spanish or its equivalent.

***Spanish 4**

Development of language skills occur on a more advanced level through a variety of activities stressing the application of grammatical structures, oral expression of ideas and culture as integral parts of the course.

Prerequisite: three years of Spanish or its equivalent

***AP Spanish Language and Culture**

The AP Spanish Language and Culture course emphasizes communication by applying interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational skills in real-life situations. This includes grammar and vocabulary usage, language control, communication strategies and cultural awareness. This course engages students in an exploration of culture in both contemporary and historical contexts through a variety of authentic resources, which include audio, visual and print. Themes include: Beauty and Aesthetics, Contemporary Life, Families and Communities, Global Challenges, Personal and Public Identities, and Science and Technology. The student is required to take the AP exam. Course is taught almost exclusively in Spanish.

Prerequisite: 3 years of high school Spanish or its equivalent.

CHINESE OFFERINGS

Chinese (Mandarin) is taught at Mercy High School by a University of Detroit Mercy professor. The course is offered as a dual enrollment course. Freshman and sophomores students earn high school and Juniors and Seniors can earn high school and college credit. Since college credit is earned the academic rigor of the course is at the college level

***Chinese I**

An introduction to the language includes learning sounds, writing system, vocabulary and structure. Students will experience the four skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing in a practical scenario with individualized attention. Cultural business themes will be incorporated into instruction. Students will develop an understanding of and critically examine the complexity of elements important to another culture in relation to its history, values, politics, economy, institutions, economy, beliefs and its products, practices and perspectives.

***Chinese II**

A continuation of Introductory/1100, this course builds on previously acquired language fluency and aims at augmenting vocabulary and structure in a practical context. Increasing attention will be devoted to individual student practice and needs. Emphasis will continue to include culture. Students will develop an understanding of and critically examine the complexity of elements important to another culture in relation to its history, values, politics, economy, institutions, economy, beliefs and its products, practices and perspectives.

***Chinese III**

A third level of language permits the student to utilize the target language in increasingly complex ways and in more rapid speech patterns. Continued exposure to the cultural heritage of the native speakers of the language will be stressed. Students will develop an understanding of and critically examine the complexity of elements important to another culture in relation to its history, values, politics, economy, institutions, economy, beliefs and its products, practices and perspectives.

***Chinese IV**

In the fourth level of language students will learn to integrate past vocabulary and structures into new and more sophisticated forms of speaking and enhanced listening comprehension. Students will develop an understanding of and critically examine the complexity of elements important to another culture in relation to its history, values, politics, economy, institutions, economy, beliefs and its products, practices and perspectives. Additionally, they will increase their understanding of the cultures of the countries in which the target language is spoken.