

2015-16 CURRICULUM GUIDE

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

4 credits in Religion

4 credits in English

4 credits in Mathematics

3 credits in Science (Biology & Chemistry required)

3 credits in Social Studies (Civics, World History & United States History required)

3 credits in Foreign Language**

1 credit in Physical Education

.5 credit in Fine Arts

.5 credit in Computer Essentials

****Those College Prep students recommended for two years of Study Skills have a two-year requirement for Foreign Language.**

Freshmen, sophomores & juniors take a 7-credit course load. Most freshmen will take a semester of Physical Well-Being and a semester of Computer Essentials. Seniors must take a minimum of 6 credits.

Participation in the Freshman, Sophomore & Junior Service Hours Programs, the Freshman Retreat Program, the Sophomore Saturday Retreat Program, and the Senior Service Program are also mandatory requirements for graduation.

RELIGION DEPARTMENT

Philosophy: Flowing from Xavier High School's mission statement, the Religion Department's philosophy centers itself on the teachings of Jesus Christ and His Church. The department strives to help its students grow intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually by demonstrating that the Church is alive and working in today's world. The department encourages and emphasizes the importance of prayer, Sacraments, and living the Catholic/Christian traditions. Religion classes encompass the experiential as well as the academic pursuit of religion and its values.

THE SACRED SCRIPTURES - The Story of Salvation (Course #110, Full Year, 1 Credit, All Freshmen)

The Introductory Unit: *Introduction to Catholicism* has been designed to provide an overview of essential and rudimentary Roman Catholic Teachings. In part one of this course, students will delve into the Old Testament focusing first on Biblical literacy, the stories of the Creation and God's covenants with man. God's saving power is seen by the students through the Exodus and the giving of the Law. Students learn the trials and tribulations of Israel's early monarchy, the prophetic legacy, the exile and the restoration, as a prelude to the coming of the Messiah. The spiritual values of the Xaverian Charism are highlighted throughout the course in the retelling of the Biblical stories. In part two of this course, students will delve into the New Testament focusing on the Paschal Mystery: the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the spread of His Word and the development of the early Church. Freshmen Retreat Day includes a morning of community service. In addition, a drug education program is provided with outside resources.

CHRIST'S CHURCH AND HER SACRAMENTS (Course #120, Full Year, 1 Credit, All Sophomores)

During the first semester, the discussion will focus on the history of the Church with a special focus on those events that directly pertain to sacramental practice and development and their roots in Christ. Starting with the foundation of the Church and the establishment of the Sacraments in the Apostolic times, moving forward into the Church Fathers, the Medieval Monastic and University movements, the Reformation and the Council of Trent, and finally the Second Vatican Council and the contemporary age. The focus then shifts to an in depth look at the Sacraments themselves in contemporary practice, starting with an overview of the Sacraments and the liturgy, and moving on to the individual Sacraments themselves. The emphasis will remain on Christ as the person we receive and meet in the Sacraments. Throughout the course, connections are made with regard to the importance of living a sacramental life within the Church and its effect on human development-particularly with regard to one's relationship with God, other persons and one's sexuality. This culminates with the study of the vocational sacraments of Holy Orders and Matrimony. This should allow each student to experience a greater and more complete understanding of themselves as a human person, one who is part of a larger community. In addition, a drug education program is provided with outside resources.

FOUNDATIONS OF CATHOLIC MORAL & SOCIAL THEOLOGY (Course #134, Semester Course, .5 Credit, All Juniors)

In part one of this course, the Biblical and ecclesial foundations as well as the fundamental principles of Catholic morality and social justice are presented in a discussion format – supplemented with input from the teacher and other sources such as audio-visuals and outside readings. The course attempts to help students to understand the nature and meaning of life, particularly, what it means to be truly human – through the logical use of reason and as members of human society – as well as what Jesus demonstrated and explained as the best way to express that humanity. The purpose of this course is to develop in the student an understanding of moral thought and social action so that they might have a positive effect on the society in which they live.

APPLICATIONS OF CATHOLIC MORAL & SOCIAL THEOLOGY (Course #136, Semester Course, .5 Credit, All Juniors)

In part two of this course students will examine the practical application of the principles discussed in the first part of the course – with particular emphasis on the 10 Commandments – as essential to living a truly just and moral life in Christ. Students will study the call of the Gospel and Church teachings to choose life, to serve the least among us and to hunger and thirst for justice. Finally, the students will be able to appreciate their personal call to build the Kingdom of God. This is achieved by taking as its standard, Christ's command to love God and neighbor, thereby leading to a holistic expression of the Christian life.

CHRISTIAN LIFE: A CALL TO HOLINESS (Course #143, Semester Course, .5 Credit, All Seniors)

In this one semester course, students will examine the lifestyles to which we are called by virtue of our baptism – the single life, ordained ministry, vowed religious life, and marriage. Attention is placed on personal development and life-long skills including the concepts of love, friendship, sexuality and communication as well as the topics of suffering, change and failure in our lives. Students will be able to demonstrate the principles for effective decision making based on a set of core beliefs and values centered on a tradition that is both Christian and Xaverian. Finally, students will be able to appreciate and value the unique contributions of each lifestyle to our common vocation to bear witness to the Gospel in our world today.

CATHOLIC APOLOGETICS (Course #151, Semester Course, .5 Credit, Seniors)

Apologetics is a one semester senior elective. Students will learn some of the logical, Biblical, theological and historical methods used to defend the Catholic faith. Consequently, students will gain the tools necessary for discerning the truth when faced with challenges, questions or doubts about the Catholic faith. “Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope” (1Peter3:1).

The first part will examine natural apologetics (i.e. the relationship between faith and reason, the existence of God, etc.). The second part will explore Christian apologetics (i.e. the Divinity of Christ, the reality of the Resurrection, etc.). The third part will focus on Catholic apologetics (i.e. Mary, Saints, the Pope, Eucharist, etc). Incorporating parts 1-3, the final part of this course will examine how to respond to people of other faiths/beliefs who lack an understanding of these fundamental Catholic truths.

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY (Course #152, Semester Course, .5 Credit, Seniors)

Using a great mix of stories, real-life examples, activities, prayers, and relevant references to the culture, *Theology of the Body* goes beyond traditional religion courses by connecting the two biggest topics on the planet-God and sex. With Saint John Paul II’s compelling vision for love and life, and a language they understand, *Theology of the Body* answers the questions teens have about their own bodies, issues on sexual morality, and how they are uniquely created for greatness.

WORLD RELIGIONS (Course #153, Semester Course, .5 Credit, Seniors)

The purpose of this course is to help the students understand the manner in which the Catholic Church relates to non-Catholic Christians as well as to other religions of the world. Building on the foundational truth that Jesus Christ established the Catholic Church and entrusted to her the fullness of God’s Revelation, the course is intended to help students recognize the ways in which important spiritual truths can also be found in non-Catholic Christian churches and ecclesial communities as well as in non-Christian religions. It is also intended to help them to recognize the ways in which other systems of belief and practice differ from the Catholic faith.

PEACE AND JUSTICE (Course #154, Semester Course, .5 Credit, Seniors)

As followers of Jesus, we must live justice and peace. The mandate to put Catholic Social Teaching into practice is rooted in Jesus’ call to participate in the Kingdom of God, a vision introduced in the book of Genesis and described by the prophets. To live justice is to build a life of justice rather than simply learn about justice. In service to others we are living Jesus’ Word. By performing the actions of Jesus we too become liberators of the poor and vulnerable. In this way we are able to bring about positive change and peace in our world.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Philosophy: The English Department aims to develop the reading, writing, thinking and speaking skills necessary for success both in collegiate work and in life, while at the same time fostering a genuine, life-long love of knowledge and an appreciation for the great drama, poetry and prose of authors from around the world. By the end of their time at Xavier High School, students should be able to evaluate text critically and perform the type of research required in collegiate courses in the humanities. Along with literature and writing, students study vocabulary each year and develop the grammatical skills necessary for effective written and spoken communication.

HONORS INTRO TO LITERATURE (Course #211, Full Year, 1 Credit, Freshmen)

This honors course integrates the study of grammar, writing, literature and vocabulary in a course designed for advanced students in terms of pace and depth. The literature component includes a study of mythology and introduces students to all the major genres of literature; during the year, students build skills related to the interpretation and analysis of such works. The literary works also provide the foundation for the development of writing skills. Grammar and vocabulary study are also included.

ACCELERATED & COLLEGE PREP INTRO TO LITERATURE (Courses #212 & 213, Full Year, 1 Credit, Freshmen)

Using anthologies and several novels, these survey courses focus on an introduction to literary genres; during their study, students learn the effective reading strategies for each genre and lay the foundation for the analytical skills that will be furthered in future courses. In addition, students will study mythology, master the fundamentals of grammar, and develop skills in expository writing.

COLLEGE PREP STUDY SKILLS 9 & 10 (Courses #219 & 229, Full Year, 1 Credit, Freshmen & Sophomores)

The Study Skills course is designed to teach students how to learn through direct instruction of study skills and strategies. These skills and strategies will be applied to the students' current classes. Students will become organized learners who have positive study habits. They will develop note-taking, test-taking, reading, writing, and research skills. The class is intended to prepare students for academic success in future coursework.

HONORS WORLD LITERATURE (Course #221 Full Year, 1 Credit, Sophomores)

Presented chronologically, this World Literature course focuses on major authors and literary periods, as well as recurrent themes and values. In terms of writing, Honors World Literature develops skills in paraphrasing, introduces the critical essay and builds extensively on the writing and grammar skills developed in the freshman year.

ACCELERATED & COLLEGE PREP WORLD LITERATURE (Courses #226 & 227, Full Year, 1 Credit, Sophomores)

Using a World Literature anthology and several other selected works to expose students to the diversity of literature across cultures and continents, the sophomore literature curriculum focuses on the critical analysis and interpretation of many literary genres. Building on the foundation established in the freshman year, the sophomores continue studying grammar and vocabulary, as well as advance their critical thinking, speaking and writing skills. Students develop facility with different sentence structures and patterns, refine paraphrasing skills, and write longer essays.

HONORS AMERICAN LITERATURE (Course #235, Full Year, 1 Credit, Juniors)

Presented chronologically, this American Literature course focuses on major authors and literary periods, as well as recurrent themes and values. Through the use of full texts, the fast-paced course hones students' skills in close reading and fosters class discussion. Honors American Literature refines students' understanding of the critical essay and builds on the writing and grammar skills developed in the freshmen and sophomore years.

ACCELERATED AND COLLEGE PREP AMERICAN LITERATURE (Courses #232 & 233, Full Year, 1 Credit, Juniors)

Taken concurrently with the student's study of American History, these courses focus on the recurrent themes and values expressed in American literary works, using both an anthology and several supplementary works. Students will demonstrate critical and analytical skills both orally and in writing, and a major research paper is a significant part of the second semester's work. Advanced grammar and vocabulary study continues.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH-LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION (Course #238, Full year, 1 Credit, Juniors)

This course provides an intensive study of selected authors, periods and themes in American Literature. The course continues the development of critical thinking and writing skills, including interpretation and evaluation. Library research skills are developed and used in writing a research paper. Higher level grammar and vocabulary study continues. Because this course prepares students for the AP English Language and Composition Exam, it includes a more intensive writing component. **Prerequisite: Successful completion of Course #221 & approval by the Department Chairperson and Academic Dean.**

HONORS BRITISH LITERATURE (Course #240, Full Year, 1 Credit, Seniors)

Using several full-text works, this course provides an intensive study of selected authors, periods and themes in British Literature. The course emphasizes the development of critical thinking skills, especially as they relate to interpretation and evaluation, and includes an intensive writing and research component. **This class currently earns 4 credits through the Early College Experience program at the University of Connecticut.**

ACCELERATED & COLLEGE PREP BRITISH LITERATURE (Course #242 & 247, Full Year, 1 Credit, Seniors)

Using a British Literature anthology and several other works, this course explores the values, ideas and recurring themes in British culture. Work on critical reading and writing skills continues and is demonstrated in a variety of oral and written assignments, including a major research paper.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH-LITERATURE & COMPOSITION (Course #248, Full year, 1 Credit, Seniors) In this course, students sharpen their analytical and critical skills by studying selected major authors in world literature. In addition to deepening their understanding, students will receive much instruction and practice in the written explication of many and varied novels, poems, plays, short stories and non-fiction prose pieces, as the course prepares students for the AP English Literature and Composition Exam. The class also participates in the Humanities Seminar offered by Wesleyan University. **Prerequisites: Successful completion of Course #235 or 238 & approval by the Department Chairperson and Academic Dean.**

CP FILM SURVEY (Course #2043, Semester Course, .5 Credit, Seniors)

In Film Survey, students will study American and International cinema, drawing from both classic and contemporary films. Class discussion and student assessments will address film techniques, writing and plot development, and visual styles across multiple genres.

ACCELERATED SPEECH (Course #246, Semester Course, .5 Credit, Seniors)

This semester course focuses on the theory and practice of effective speech communication. Students will learn effective methods of communicating on three interpersonal levels: one-on-one, within groups, and in a public situation. In addition to learning the theories behind the methods, students will practice and critique their speech-writing and oratorical skills using role play and by delivering informative and persuasive speeches.

ACCELERATED NEWS WRITING AND REPORTING (Course #2440, Semester Course, .5 Credit, Juniors & Seniors)

News Writing and Reporting provides students with the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of information gathering and journalistic writing. During the course, students will learn to identify newsworthy events, gather facts from a variety of sources, conduct productive interviews, compose a variety of article types, develop editing skills, meet deadlines, and articulate the laws pertaining to freedom of information and ethics in reporting. Student work will be published in the school newsletter, *The Kestrel*.

SAT REVIEW (Course #0301, Semester Course, .5 Credit, Juniors)

SAT Review is a one-semester course that provides juniors with the opportunity to prepare intensively for both the verbal and math sections of the SAT. In the course, students are introduced to the content of the test, learn fundamental test-taking strategies and are provided with ample opportunity to implement these strategies by taking practice tests. The English portion of the SAT addresses sentence completion strategies, approaches to the reading passages, a review of basic grammar addressed on the test, and the components of the timed essay. Each unit of study includes instruction on the given topic, followed by guided practice and, finally, individual completion of practice tests.

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

Philosophy: The Mathematics Department accepts as a responsibility the preparation of our students as they pursue the goals and challenges of their individual career choices. A curriculum consisting of college preparatory courses in Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus and AP Calculus has been developed to achieve this purpose. **Graphing calculators are required for all students which also fulfills the Science Department calculator requirement.**

HONORS GEOMETRY (Course #310, Full Year, 1 Credit, Freshmen)

This course is intended as an exploration of the properties, measurement, and relations of lines, angles, surfaces, and solids. Topics included in the course are the study of logic through deductive proof, angle relationships, right triangles, circles, the concepts of area and volume, and parallel line relationships. The degree to which deductive proof is emphasized is determined by the needs and abilities of the students in the class. **Prerequisite: Algebra Placement Exam in May and approval by Department Chairperson.**

HONORS ALGEBRA I (Course #311, Full Year, 1 Credit, Freshmen)

This course is a study of the foundation rules of higher mathematics. Topics include the real number system, its properties, linear equations in one variable, functions and graphs, systems of open sentences in two variables, factoring, operations on polynomial and rational expressions, and solutions of quadratic and radical equations. Topics are covered to a greater depth than in the accelerated course and are integrated with word problems and exercises adaptable to the graphing calculator, which is required.

ACCELERATED ALGEBRA I (Course #312, Full Year, 1 Credit, Freshmen)

This course is a study of the foundation rules of higher mathematics. Topics include the real number system, its properties, solving equations in one variable, operations on polynomials, factoring, simplifying rational expressions, solving systems in two variables, functions and graphing linear equations, inequalities, and solving quadratic equations. Where appropriate, emphasis on solution of word problems and calculator applications are included.

COLLEGE PREP ALGEBRA I (Course #313, Full Year, 1 Credit, Freshmen)

This course introduces the student to the concepts and skills of Algebra to prepare him for future courses in Geometry, Algebra II, and Trigonometry. Topics include operations with real numbers, solving linear equations and inequalities, factoring, algebraic fractions, fractional equations and functions.

COLLEGE PREP PRE-ALGEBRA (Course #314, Full Year, 1 Credit, Freshmen)

Pre-Algebra is a course custom-fitted for freshmen who score substantially below average on the entrance exam. The aim of this course is to give the student sufficient enrichment and background to be able to complete successfully the mathematics curriculum (Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II). **Placement based on placement exam and recommendation of summer school teacher.**

HONORS ALGEBRA II (Course #320, Full Year, 1 Credit, Sophomores)

The purpose of this course is two-fold: to expand and clarify the basic concepts of Algebra I and to introduce new topics which broaden the students' background in the field of algebra and more sophisticated functions. Topics covered include operations on polynomials, rational quadratic and radical expressions and equations, functions, systems of linear and quadratic equations, exponents, and complex numbers. The remainder of the course is devoted to new concepts and algebraic relations. A graphing calculator is required. **Prerequisite: Course # 310**

HONORS GEOMETRY (Course #321, Full Year, 1 Credit, Sophomores)

This course is intended as an exploration of the properties, measurement, and relations of lines, angles, surfaces, and solids. Topics included in the course are the study of logic through deductive proof, angle relationships, right triangles, circles, the concepts of area and volume, and parallel lines relationships. The degree to which deductive proof is emphasized is determined by the needs and abilities of the students in the class.

ACCELERATED GEOMETRY (Course #322, Full Year, 1 Credit, Sophomores)

This course examines the properties, measurement, and relation of lines, angles, surfaces, and solids. Intuitive thought and the development of logical thought are emphasized and reinforced. Topics included are deductive proof, angle relationships, parallel lines, right triangles, congruent and similar triangles, circles, and area of volume. Emphasis on deductive proof is left to teacher discretion through evaluation of the class.

COLLEGE PREP GEOMETRY (Course #323, Full Year, 1 Credit, Sophomores)

The principle objective of this course is to introduce the student to the basic concepts of geometry and correlate formal geometric theorems with the student's practical experience with the world around him. Students are introduced to formal logical reasoning. Emphasis is placed on working with diagrams such as parallel lines, right triangles, congruent and similar triangles and circles, and discovering the relationships involved. Algebraic skills are reviewed and used to solve problems on a regular basis.

COLLEGE PREP ALGEBRA I (Course #324, Full Year, 1 Credit, Sophomores)

This course introduces the student to the concepts and skills of Algebra to prepare him for future courses in Geometry and Algebra II. Topics include operations with real numbers, solving linear equations and inequalities, factoring, algebraic fractions, fractional equations, and functions. This course is offered for those sophomores who took pre-algebra as freshmen.

HONORS PRE-CALCULUS (Course #330, Full Year, 1 Credit, Juniors)

This course is a preparation for the study of calculus. It is a study of functions including circular functions, trigonometric functions and their applications, algebraic functions, exponential functions and logarithmic functions. Limits are studied through the examination of sequences, series, and functions. This course also includes the study of analytic geometry.

HONORS ALGEBRA II (Course #331, Full Year, 1 Credit, Sophomores & Juniors)

The purpose of this course is two-fold: to expand and clarify the basic concepts of Algebra I and to introduce new topics which broaden the students' background in the field of algebra and more sophisticated functions. Topics covered include operations on polynomials, rational, quadratic and radical expressions and equations, functions, systems of linear and quadratic equations, exponents, and complex numbers. The remainder of the course is devoted to new concepts and algebraic relations. **If a sophomore has earned a grade of B or higher in Honors Algebra I and wants the opportunity to take Honors Calculus his senior year, he make take this course concurrently with Honors Geometry during his sophomore year.**

ACCELERATED ALGEBRA II (Course #332, Full Year, 1 Credit, Juniors)

Beginning with an in-depth review of the techniques related to operations on polynomials, rational, quadratic and radical expressions and equations, this course proceeds to a deeper study of the fundamental ideas of functions and relations, analytic geometry, systems of linear and quadratic equations, exponents and logarithms, and complex numbers.

COLLEGE PREP ALGEBRA II (Course #333, Full Year, 1 Credit, Juniors)

After a thorough review of the topics covered in Algebra I, especially those related to the simplification of polynomial, rational, and radical expressions and the solution of polynomial, quadratic, rational, and radical equations, the course proceeds to a deeper look at the notions of functions and relations, analytic geometry, systems of linear and quadratic equations, exponents and logarithms and complex numbers. Elementary trigonometry is also included.

COLLEGE PREP GEOMETRY (Course #334, Full Year, 1 Credit, Juniors)

The principle objective of this course, offered to juniors who took algebra I as sophomores, is to introduce the student to the basic concepts of geometry and correlate formal geometric theorems with the student's practical experience with the world around him. Students are introduced to formal logical reasoning. Emphasis is placed on working with diagrams such as parallel lines, right triangles, congruent and similar triangles and circles, and discovering the relationships involved. Algebraic skills are reviewed and used to solve problems on a regular basis.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT CALCULUS (Course #340, Full Year, 1 Credit, Seniors)

This course prepares the student to take the AB Advanced Placement Test in May. Special topics can be included to allow the students to take the BC Test. The course will require the student to be very familiar with the TI-83 graphing calculator, as the text reflects the most recent revisions to the calculus curriculum, integrating technology with traditional problems. Topics covered include functions and limits, derivatives and their applications, and integrals and their applications. **Pre-requisite: Approval by Department Chairperson and Academic Dean.**

HONORS CALCULUS (Course #345, Full Year, 1 Credit, Seniors)

Students cover the topics run through during a typical first semester of college Calculus. Topics include: Review of Functions, Limits, and Continuity; Higher and Lower order Derivatives; Exponential, Logarithmic, and Trigonometric Derivatives; and basic Integration. Heavy emphasis will be placed on solving application problems involving derivatives. A TI-83 calculator (or similar) is required.

HONORS PRE-CALCULUS (Course #341, Full Year, 1 Credit, Seniors)

This course is a preparation for the study of calculus. It is a study of functions including circular, algebraic, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions and applications. Limits are studied through the examination of sequences, series, and functions. A study of analytic geometry is included.

ACCELERATED PRE-CALCULUS (Course # 344, Full Year, 1 Credit, Seniors)

This course is a preparation for the study of calculus by seniors in the Accelerated Program looking to take Calculus during their freshman year of college. It is the study of functions including circular, algebraic, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions and applications. Limits are studied through the examination of sequences, series, and functions. A study of analytic geometry is included. **Pre-requisite: Approval by Department Chairperson and a B average from Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2.**

ACCELERATED TRIGONOMETRY (Course #342, Full Year, 1 Credit, Seniors)

This course is a preparation for the study of pre-calculus or calculus in college. It is a study of the trigonometric functions and their graphs, trigonometric identities, and the trigonometry of triangles. Inverse functions, circular functions, complex numbers, polar graphing, and vectors are also studied.

COLLEGE PREP TRIGONOMETRY (Course #3431, Full Year, 1 Credit, Seniors)

Basic Trigonometry begins with a review of Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II topics in preparation for the SAT. The course continues with the study of the trigonometric functions using coordinate geometry and right triangle relationships. Included in the course are the Law of Sines and the Law of Cosines, applications, and the graphs of the functions.

COLLEGE PREP ALGEBRA II (Course #343, Full Year, 1 Credit, Seniors)

After a thorough review of the topics covered in Algebra I, especially those related to the simplification of polynomial, rational, and radical expressions and the solution of polynomial, quadratic, rational, and rational equations, the course proceeds to a deeper look at the notions of functions and relations, analytic geometry, systems of linear and quadratic equations, exponents and logarithms and complex numbers. Elementary trigonometry is also included. **This course is for students who took Geometry in Junior year.**

ADVANCED PLACEMENT STATISTICS (Course #3455, Full Year, 1 Credit, Seniors)

AP Statistics involves the study of, exploratory analysis, probability, planning a study, and statistical inference. The AP Statistics course is taught with activity-based learning in which students actively construct their own understanding of the concepts and techniques of statistics through simulations and mathematical labs. The final assessment for the course will be the creation of an original study with the variable(s) clearly identified, the collection of pertinent data and appropriate statistical compilations. Students will also need to present the findings of the study in a clear and understandable manner. **This class currently earns 4 credits through the Early College Experience program at the University of Connecticut.**

SAT REVIEW (Course #0301, Semester Course, .5 Credit, Juniors)

SAT Review is a one-semester course that provides juniors with opportunity to prepare intensively for both the verbal and math sections of the SAT. In the course, students are introduced to the content of the test, learn fundamental test-taking strategies and are provided with ample opportunity to implement these strategies by taking practice tests. The Math portion of the SAT course will provide test taking strategies for multiple choice problems as well as open answer questions. The four major topics covered in this course are: Numbers and Operations, Algebra and Functions, Geometry and Measurement, and Data Analysis, Statistics and Probability. Each unit of study includes instruction on the given topic, followed by guided practice and, finally, individual completion of practice tests. Grading is done on a pass-fail basis, based on a student's effort, attentiveness and involvement during each class period.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

This department actively promotes scientific literacy, and the understanding of the unifying scientific principles that govern the physical and biological disciplines. Scientific literacy is demonstrated through effective problem solving, along with informed, responsible and ethical decision making. Students gain a comprehensive understanding of the natural world utilizing the scientific method. To this end, the curriculum fosters students' curiosity as they learn to phrase scientific questions, construct testable hypotheses, and efficiently gather data. Students analyze data quantitatively, effectively communicate their findings, and justify their conclusions.

HONORS PHYSICS 9 (Course #410, Full Year, 1 Credit, Freshmen)

Conceptual Physics provides an overview of some key topics in physics. This is not a math intensive course. Basic algebra will be used with a brief introduction to trigonometry. However, the emphasis will be on mastering the concepts. Topics covered include: Mechanics, waves and sound, light, and electricity and magnetism. Demonstrations and labs are an integral part of the course. Placement is restricted to students enrolled in the Freshmen Honors Program. It is strongly recommended that all students in the Honors Physics 9 class have a strong foundation in Algebra I having already taken a full year course in eighth grade. All students who wish to enroll in Honors Physics 9 must take Xavier's Algebra Placement Exam.

ACCELERATED PHYSICAL SCIENCE (Course #413, Full Year, 1 Credit, Freshmen)

Accelerated Physical Science seeks to give all students a beginning knowledge of physics and chemistry principles and to offer insight into the means by which scientific knowledge is acquired. Topics studied in the course include Newton's Laws of Motion, inertia and momentum, gravity, satellite and projectile motion, electricity and magnetism, chemical reactions, and atomic structure and bonding. Students also acquire laboratory skills through experimentation, the use of various pieces of instrumentation, and keeping a laboratory notebook.

COLLEGE PREP INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL SCIENCE (Course #414, Full Year, 1 Credit, Freshmen)

The Introductory Physical Science (College Prep IPS) course of study is designed to guide all students to knowledge of physical science and the way scientific knowledge is acquired. Inquiry and guided reasoning based on the results of student experiments are used to achieve learning outcomes. Students acquire laboratory skills, reasoning skills, and the ability to communicate by participating in a cooperative learning process. Students will investigate concepts in general science, basic chemistry, and the fundamentals of physics. The goal of the course is to prepare all students for the rigor of more advanced chemistry and physics curriculum.

HONORS PRE-ENGINEERING I (Course #420, Full Year, 1 Credit, Sophomores)

This engineering course is designed to introduce students to the vast fields of engineering. Students are required to have some background in physics, as well as a strong mathematical foundation. Throughout the course, students will study a variety of topics ranging from the nature and history of engineering to specific fields of engineering such as structural or chemical engineering. Hands-on projects are applied whenever possible to help understand the engineering design process. This course is designed to cultivate students' natural problem solving ability. **Prerequisite: Students enrolled in this course must be enrolled in Honors Algebra II and have approval of Academic Dean.**

HONORS CHEMISTRY (Course #421, Full Year, 1 Credit, Sophomores)

The Honors Chemistry course will focus on the study of matter – its structure, properties, and composition, and the changes it undergoes. Students will be introduced to atomic structure, the Periodic Table, stoichiometry, solutions, kinetics, gas laws, equilibrium, acids, bases, salts, redox, and electrochemistry. The material will be presented through both a theoretical study and a hands-on laboratory experience with some offering an open-ended approach to the solving of a problem. Through the lab program, students will be introduced to technology used in the collection of data. As a result of the labs, students will have experience with the collection, interpretation and presentation of data in a scientific setting.

ACCELERATED CHEMISTRY (Course #422, Full Year, 1 Credit, Sophomores)

The Accelerated Chemistry course focuses on the study of matter – its structure, properties, and composition, and the changes it undergoes. Students are introduced to atomic structure, the states of matter, the Periodic Table, nomenclature and chemical formulas, ionic and covalent bonding, chemical equations, stoichiometry, thermochemistry, solutions, gas laws, acids, bases, salts, redox, and electrochemistry. The material is presented through both a theoretical study and a hands-on laboratory experience. Through the lab program, students are introduced to technology used in the collection of data. As a result of the labs, students gain experience with the collection, interpretation and presentation of data in a scientific setting.

COLLEGE PREP CHEMISTRY (Course #425, Full Year, 1 Credit, Sophomores)

This is an introductory course in basic chemical principles with a great deal of emphasis on laboratory activities. Topics covered are matter and its classification, Atomic Theory, bonding reactions and equations, acids and bases, environmental chemistry and nuclear chemistry. These topics are presented through class activities, lab work, and theoretical study.

HONORS PRE-ENGINEERING II (Course #4300, Full Year, 1 Credit, Juniors)

Engineering Mechanics: Statics, deal with the study of systems that are in a state of rest or uniform motion. This is a fundamental engineering course with concepts that serve as the building blocks for future courses in engineering, especially for mechanics of solids. **Pre-requisite: Successful completion of Course #420 and approval of the Academic Dean.**

ADVANCED PLACEMENT CHEMISTRY (Course #431, Full Year, 1 Credit, Juniors)

The AP Chemistry course is designed to be the equivalent of the general chemistry course usually taken during the first college year. Students should deepen their understanding of fundamentals and gain a reasonable competence in solving chemical problems. This course contributes to the development of the student's abilities to think clearly and logically as well as express their ideas, orally and in writing, with clarity. AP Chemistry is a more in-depth mathematical study of stoichiometry, kinetics, acids and bases, redox, equilibrium, thermodynamics, atomic and molecular structure, and electrochemistry. Laboratory experiments are an integral part of the course and will be a combination of investigations along with real life problem solving scenarios that will further expose students to available research technology. **Pre-requisite: Completion of prior chemistry course or aptitude shown through passing achievement exam as well as approval by the Department Chairperson and Academic Dean.**

HONORS BIOLOGY (Course #435, Full Year, 1 Credit, Juniors)

In this introductory biology course, students explore the following core concepts: biochemistry, the cell, respiration and photosynthesis, genetics, evolution, plant and animal form and function, and ecology. Laboratory work is an integral part of the course and, given the basic methodology, students will have a hand in designing some of their own experiments. Means of student assessment will include exams, lab reports, and quizzes on daily readings.

ACCELERATED BIOLOGY (Course #436, Full Year, 1 Credit, Juniors)

This introductory biology course is offered to those students who have taken a one-year chemistry course. Topics covered during the year include the nature of life, ecology, cells, genetics, evolution, and the human body. The course also includes inquiry activities, labs, data analysis, and problem solving to help the student develop a scientific thought process as well as laboratory techniques. One of the goals of this course is to prepare the student to meet the challenges of an ever-changing scientific environment. Assessments include quizzes, lab reports, research papers and tests.

COLLEGE PREP BIOLOGY (Course #439, Full Year, 1 Credit, Juniors)

Biology is the scientific study of life. Life can be studied on scales ranging from the macroscopic (large) to the microscopic (small). In this course students will be studying the structure, function, growth, origin, evolution, and distribution of living things on earth. This includes studying how different kinds of living things interact with each other and with their environment. There are four major topics that unify all parts of the biological world from the large to the small including cell theory, evolution by natural selection, genetics, and homeostasis. In addition to lecture, various labs will be performed in order to help you better understand important biological and scientific concepts. This course is intended to prepare college prep students for future coursework in college and/or a career.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT BIOLOGY (Course #441, Full Year, 1 Credit, Seniors, UCONN ECE Course)

The AP/UConn ECE Biology Lecture course (441) must be taken concurrently with the AP/UConn ECE Biology Laboratory course (4441L). Together, these comprise the equivalent of two semesters of introductory college biology. As prescribed by the UConn Early College Experience (ECE) Handbook for Biology 1107 & 1108, the curriculum embodies a two-fold goal: first, to enable the student to develop a conceptual framework for an understanding of modern biology. This framework includes cell biology and biochemistry, genetics, genomics, bioinformatics and proteomics, and animal form and function for Biology 1107, and evolutionary biology, biological diversity, plant form and function, and ecology for Biology 1108. Secondly, the course enables the student to gain an appreciation of science as a process through hands-on inquiry and descriptive observations. In addition to following the prescribed UConn ECE requirements, the combined lecture/lab courses also fulfill the College Board's Advanced Placement

(AP) curriculum learning objectives. Four “Big Ideas” form the core of the revised AP Biology curriculum framework, weaving connections across the lecture/lab courses: (1) Evolution (2) How biological systems utilize free energy and molecular building blocks to grow, to reproduce, and to maintain dynamic homeostasis. (3) How living systems store, retrieve, transmit, and respond to information essential to life processes. (4) How biological systems interact. **This class currently earns 8 credits through the Early College Experience Program at the University of Connecticut. Pre-requisite: Approval by the Department Chairperson and Academic Dean.**

ADVANCED PLACEMENT BIOLOGY LAB (Course #4441L, Full Year, 1 Credit, Seniors, UCONN ECE Course)

The AP/UConn ECE Biology Lab Course (4441L) must be taken concurrently with the AP/UConn ECE Biology (lecture) course (441). Together, these comprise the equivalent of two semesters of introductory college biology (UConn Early College Experience (ECE) Principles of Biology 1107 & 1108). This lab course enables the student to gain an appreciation of science as an investigative process through hands-on, student-designed, open-ended inquiry (a requirement of the redesigned AP Biology curriculum) as well as through descriptive observations. In addition to conducting each of the AP Biology framework’s thirteen investigative labs, the student will also conduct lab exercises that fulfill the UConn ECE Biology 1107/1108 curriculum requirements.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT PHYSICS 1 (Course #4425, Full Year, 1 Credit, Seniors)

AP Physics 1 is an algebra-based course in general physics that meets for 45 minutes each day for the entire school year. General physics topics presented during the course closely follow those outlined by the College Board and also mirrors an introductory level university physics course. AP Physics 1 is organized around six big ideas that bring together the fundamental science principles and theories of general physics. These big ideas are intended to encourage students to think about physics concepts as interconnected pieces of a puzzle. The solution to the puzzle is how the real world around them actually works. The students will participate in inquiry-based explorations of these topics to gain a more conceptual understanding of these physics concepts. Students will spend less of their time in traditional formula-based learning and more of their effort will be directed to developing critical thinking and reasoning skills.

This course provides a systematic introduction to the main principles of physics and emphasizes the development of conceptual understanding and problem solving ability using algebra and trigonometry. In most colleges this is a one-year terminal course. The course includes topics in both classical and modern physics (Newtonian Mechanics, Fluid Mechanics and Thermal Physics, Electricity and Magnetism, Waves and Optics, and Atomic and Nuclear Physics). **Pre-requisite: Approval by the Department Chairperson and Academic Dean.**

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (Course #4452, Full Year, 1 Credit, Seniors, UCONN ECE Course)

In this AP Environmental Science (APES) course, students have the opportunity to develop and use models that relate to the study of ecological systems and to quantitatively analyze some of their own impacts on the environment. They design and carry out lab investigations on variables that can influence natural systems. Students learn to identify and analyze environmental problems that may arise when local and global ecosystems are disturbed. Additionally, students participate in an interdisciplinary examination of the cultural, social, and economic dimensions of environmental problems and policies. An important goal of the course is to equip students with the skills necessary to assess their own environmental choices as consumers, voters and inhabitants of planet Earth. The course syllabus prepares the student to take the required AP Environmental Science Exam in early May. **Students additionally earn three UConn credits through its ECE Program by fulfilling course requirements set by the university. Pre-requisite: Approval by the Department Chairperson and Academic Dean.**

HONORS PRE-ENGINEERING III (Course #4400, Full Year, 1 Credit, Seniors)

Pre-Engineering III further develops the skills learned in Pre-Engineering II (Engineering Statistics) while exploring new topics pertaining to the mechanics of materials (Strength of materials). In the study of mechanics of materials, students learn how different structural members will be affected by stress and strain. Students are given the opportunity to individually explore a variety of topics in the vast field of engineering.

ACCELERATED CONCEPTUAL PHYSICS (Course #443, Full Year, 1 Credit, Seniors)

Conceptual Physics provides an overview of some key topics in physics. As the title indicates, this is not a math intensive course. Basic algebra will be used with a brief introduction to trigonometry. However, the emphasis will be on mastering the concepts. Topics covered include: Mechanics, waves and sound, light, and electricity and magnetism. Demonstrations and labs are an integral part of the course.

ACCELERATED ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY (Course #4440, Semester Course, .5 Credit, Juniors & Seniors)

Anatomy and Physiology is designed as a continuation of an accelerated high school biology course. The course outline follows a level of organization approach which includes the major systems of the body as well as newest advances in biochemistry and medical research. Both text work and laboratory work center on the principles of homeostasis.

ACCELERATED MICROBIOLOGY (Course #449, Semester Course, .5 Credit, Juniors & Seniors)

This one semester elective is offered to juniors and seniors who have completed biology and chemistry. The course will serve as an introduction as well as an expanded look at the structure and life cycles of organisms. Clinical as well as everyday applications and uses of microorganisms will be the target of information; this will give the students a better understanding of the effect these creatures have on our world. The course will be based around lectures with lab requirements and a final research project giving each student the opportunity to research a disease and its microbial cause. Microbiology is a must for any student interested in clinical or medical sciences.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Philosophy: The foreign language curriculum at Xavier High School strives to incorporate the "Five C's" of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign languages: communication, cultures, connections, comparisons and communities. Beginning in the first year of study, the emphasis on a strong grammatical underpinning serves as the foundation for students' ability to employ their target language in written and spoken interpersonal communication. As students continue on through their second and third years, that emphasis on grammar expands to include the examination of and comparison with target cultures through the use of authentic written, visual and interactive media. At the highest levels of language study students are exposed to excerpted and full-length literature and film in their language of choice.

HONORS FRENCH I (Course #511, Full Year, 1 Credit, Freshmen)

French I is an introductory course to the French language. It is taught under the assumption that all students are new to both French and to foreign language study in general. The class focuses on the acquisition of fundamental vocabulary and grammar, and on developing basic proficiencies in reading, writing, speaking and general comprehension. In covering the first half of our textbook, we will move through such topics as the characteristics of nouns and pronouns, qualities and conjugations of regular and irregular verbs, prepositions, adjectives, adverbs, and both the present and past tenses.

HONORS FRENCH II (Course #521, Full Year, 1 Credit, Sophomores)

Honors French II continues the establishment of fundamental grammar, syntax and vocabulary from the first year course. After an initial review of the most essential introductory topics the course moves on to focus largely on student use of the two primary past tenses, object pronouns, adverbs, and both the simple future and conditional tenses. There is a substantial emphasis placed on expanding proficiencies in reading and writing, and speaking practice is emphasized in both small projects and daily classroom exchanges. This course is conducted roughly 50% or more in the target language, depending on the makeup of the class.

HONORS FRENCH III (Course #531, Full Year, 1 Credit, Juniors)

Honors French III transitions students away from a strictly grammar- and vocabulary-oriented curriculum to a curriculum that is more inclusive of culture and comprehension, in anticipation of a full immersion in French IV. All major grammar topics from the preceding two years are reviewed and examined in greater depth, and more advanced concepts are introduced. Language structures are reviewed in the context of intermediate-level dialogue and narrative in the target language throughout the course of the year. Students are introduced to various characters and are forced to examine the events of the story with the gradual addition of new syntax. Whereas previous years' vocabulary encouraged more general themes along the elementary and limited-proficiency levels, vocabulary in French III pushes students at times into the realm of academic and professional vocabulary as each new chapter of the story dictates. Throughout, students are asked to produce both writing and prepared/rehearsed speech that demonstrates their grasp on general language proficiency. The majority of the class is conducted in French, and students are expected to attempt responses in unrehearsed, spontaneous French.

AP FRENCH LANGUAGE & CULTURE (Course #555, Full Year, 1 Credit, Seniors)

This course is designed as a culmination of students' French studies in high school. At this point, they have already learned the structures necessary to communicate in French. In AP French, students review and refine those grammatical structures while learning new vocabulary to communicate in French of a variety of topics. AP French emphasizes all aspects of language: listening, speaking, reading, writing and culture. All activities in this class are examined through the lenses of the six themes for all AP language courses. This course is designed to prepare students for the AP French language and Culture examination in May. AP French is conducted exclusively in French. Registration in this course requires approval of the Foreign Language Chairman.

HONORS LATIN I (Course #510, Full Year, 1 Credit, Freshmen)

Latin I is an introduction to the Latin Language. The course will consist primarily in the study of the study of vocabulary (with emphasis on English derivatives of Latin words), Latin forms/grammar, and Latin sentence structure. Multiple aspects of Greco/ Roman Culture will be studied. The major aim of the course is that the student will develop a basic fluency in the reading/translation of Latin texts.

HONORS LATIN II (Course #520, Full Year, 1 Credit, Sophomores)

Latin II continues the building of skills started in Latin I. The course will consist of the study of vocabulary (with emphasis on English derivatives of Latin words), Latin forms, and Latin sentence structure. The aim of the course is that the student will develop a fluency in the reading/translation of Latin texts. At the end of the school year, the student should be able to read Caesar and other selected Latin authors.

HONORS LATIN III (Course #530, Full Year, 1 Credit, Juniors)

Latin III continues the building of skills started in Latin I and Latin II. The course will consist of the study of vocabulary (with emphasis on English derivatives of Latin words), Latin forms, and Latin sentence structure. The aim of the course is that the student will develop a fluency in the reading/translation of Latin texts. At the end of the school year, the student should have developed sufficient competency to translate adequately Cicero, Caesar and other selected Latin literature. The course will emphasize the reading of Caesar and begin the study of Latin poetry with the reading of Ovid. Literary figures and the mechanics of poetry will be studied in-depth. The course will cover the Advanced Placement curriculum relative to the reading of Caesar's *Gallic War*

AP LATIN (Course #540, Full Year, 1 Credit, Seniors)

AP Latin Literature (Latin IV) continues the building of skills started in the first three years of Latin study. The course will consist of the study of vocabulary (with emphasis on English derivatives of Latin words), Latin forms, Latin sentence structure, and the mechanics of Latin poetry. The aim of the course is that the student will develop a fluency in the reading/translation of Latin texts. At the end of the school year, the student should be sufficiently knowledgeable to read Vergil, Caesar and other selected Latin literature. The student should also have an in-depth knowledge of the mechanics of Latin poetry. The student should develop a critical, historical, and literary sensitivity to the Latin Literature studied.

HONORS SPANISH I (Course #512, Full Year, 1 Credit, Freshmen)

This full year course in Spanish I at the Honors level is structured for students who have demonstrated a preexisting proficiency in basic written and spoken Spanish. Class pacing will be much faster than in other levels. Target language use will be significantly higher than in other levels, particularly in simple teacher-student interactions. Students will move beyond work in the present tense and into the use of the preterit past tense.

ACCELERATED SPANISH I (Course #514, Full Year, 1 Credit, Freshmen)

This full year course in Spanish I at the Accelerated level is designed to provide a strong foundation for language study and establish an appropriate level of proficiency in the target language. Particular focus will be given to expression in the present tense and near future. Both teacher and students make use of the target language throughout the instructional process via the many type of activities, such as conversation, listening, and reading. Students are exposed to a variety of experiences, lessons, and information which provide topics of culture, society and the Hispanic heritage.

COLLEGE PREP SPANISH I (Course #516/517, Full Year, 1 Credit, Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors)

The first year course at the College Prep level is designed to introduce basic grammar and vocabulary of the target language. There is a considerable emphasis given to the present tense throughout the entirety of the course. Material such as asking and answering basic questions, introductions and descriptions, daily routine, and verb conjugations become a foundation for students before beginning the second level course. Students will begin to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the target language through simple speaking, writing, listening, and reading activities. Also, throughout the course, there will be an emphasis on establishing proper study skills and organizational skills.

HONORS SPANISH II (Course #518/522, Full Year, 1 Credit, Freshmen, Sophomores)

The second year course in Honors Spanish is designed to build upon the foundation of the language established in the previous year. Skills are reinforced, cultural themes revisited and grammar reviewed in the opening weeks of the year's program. Vocabulary study focuses upon relevant and current words and expressions which are part of everyday life in these modern time. Students advance their knowledge of grammar and study new tenses enabling them to speak, write and read on a much higher level.

ACCELERATED SPANISH II (Course #524, Full Year, 1 Credit, Sophomores)

The second year course in Accelerated Spanish II is designed to build upon the foundation of the language established in the previous year making use of the target language more real to students as their knowledge of Spanish develops. Students will concentrate a great deal on the preterit tense with regular and irregular verbs as well as direct, indirect, and double object pronouns, imperfect tense, and other topics.

COLLEGE PREP SPANISH II (Course #526/527, Full Year, 1 Credit, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors)

The second year course at the College Prep level is designed for students to continue building upon the foundation established in the first year course. As the student's understanding and knowledge of the language increases a focus will be placed on the use of material learned in the target language. Students will continue to concentrate on the present tense however many new verbs, including irregulars, will be introduced. The present progressive tense, reflexive verbs, direct, indirect, and double object pronouns will also become a focus throughout the entirety of the course. Throughout this course, students will demonstrate their understanding of the target language through speaking, reading, listening, and writing skills.

HONORS SPANISH III (Course #528/532, Full Year, 1 Credit, Sophomores, Juniors)

This intensive full year course is designed to continue to develop a strong foundation for all students studying the Spanish language. Communicative skills are further reinforced and refined, cultural themes are further expanded upon, and previous grammatical concepts and vocabulary are reviewed. Students will also be introduced to new

vocabulary and grammatical and syntactical concepts. Grammatical concepts covered this year will include: future, conditional, present subjunctive, imperfect subjunctive, and the perfect tenses. The overall goal is for students to demonstrate fluency in the target language through their speaking, reading, listening, and writing skills.

ACCELERATED SPANISH III (Course #534, Full Year, 1 Credit, Juniors)

This third year course is designed to continue to develop a strong foundation for all students studying the Spanish language. Students will examine and create complex sentence structures, learn advanced grammatical concepts, expand their vocabulary, and speak the target language in class. A major goal of this course is proficiency of the components of the target language. Students will also demonstrate fluency in the target language through their speaking, reading, listening, and writing skills.

COLLEGE PREP SPANISH III (Course #536, Full Year, 1 Credit, Juniors, Seniors)

This third year College Prep course is designed to continue to provide a strong foundation for all students studying the Spanish language. Students will examine and construct complex sentence structures, further their knowledge of advanced grammatical concepts, expand their vocabulary, and speak the target language in class. The overall goal of this course is for the students to develop better proficiency in all components of the target language.

HONORS SPANISH IV (Course #538/542, Full Year, 1 Credit, Juniors, Seniors)

Honors Spanish IV focuses on bringing together students' previous, grammar-based language studies and combining them into a literature- and culture- based seminar-style course. This advanced level Spanish Language course is taught exclusively in the target language. As a consequence, the expectation is that students enrolled are capable of meeting the various requirements of the course program while making use of the target language exclusively on a daily basis. Since all students have learned the major components of Spanish grammar, grammatical emphasis will be on an "as needed" basis; throughout the year a variety of learning activities will be utilized in order to develop the four language skills. These include but are not limited to level-appropriate authentic readings, listening activities, oral presentations in Spanish, and the use of technology. Homework assignments as well as active class participation in Spanish are integral parts of this course.

ACCELERATED SPANISH IV (Course #548, Full Year, 1 Credit, Seniors)

This fourth year course is designed to reinforce the material learned in previous years of Spanish. It continues developing the fundamental language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing, but places more emphasis on incorporating concepts previously learned. Students are also introduced to new vocabulary, syntax and complex grammar which is always presented in context and compared and contrast with previous material. The main emphasis of the course is to improve the communication skills of the students as well as their reading comprehension and listening skills. Students will have to read and talk about news in Spanish, specific topics and literature in the target language. Students will also practice listening activities on a regular basis. This course is conducted roughly in Spanish with constant Spanish interaction between the teacher and the students and among the students themselves.

AP SPANISH LANGUAGE & CULTURE (Course #556, Full Year, 1 Credit, Seniors)

This course is a fully-immersive Advanced Placement Spanish class that focuses on the areas of proficiency set forth by the College Board. The curriculum is arranged around six essential themes: Beauty and Aesthetics, Contemporary Life, Families and Communities, Global Challenges, Personal and Public Challenges, and Science and Technology. Students work on establishing advanced written and oral communication skills in a variety of contexts, including digital media. Emphasis is placed on awareness of Spanish-speaking cultures, and the ability to make comparisons between these cultures and the students' own is essential. Students are also expected to synthesize material taken from a range of authentic, target-language sources and produce high-quality presentations and class discussions in Spanish. **Enrollment in this course requires departmental approval.**

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Philosophy: The Social Studies Department exists to assist students in accomplishing each of the following during their years of study: to develop a perception of the self and the role of the individual in society; to understand the beliefs of a democratic society in order to become active and responsible citizens; to develop verbal and written expression skills, research skills, and thinking and evaluation skills that can be used in the political environment in which they live; and to enjoy academic success in any Social Studies course they may take at the collegiate level. To this end the department has created a curriculum sequence that satisfies the needs of its students. Xavier adheres to the recommendations of the State of Connecticut regarding offerings in the social studies areas. Subsequently it requires three years of social studies courses of all its students.

HONORS, ACCELERATED & COLLEGE PREP CIVICS (Courses #611, 612, 613, Full Year, 1 Credit, All Freshmen)

This is a survey course in American government at all levels - federal, state, and local. Students study the origins of the American political system, the institutions that American politics has fostered such as the Presidency and political parties, the methods of making public policy, political ideology, and the electoral process. Emphasis is placed on the development of reading comprehension skills along with writing and public speaking skills. Cooperative (group) learning projects are also used to actively engage students in our American Democracy.

HONORS, ACCELERATED & COLLEGE PREP WORLD HISTORY (Course #621, 622, 623, Full year, 1 Credit, Sophomores)

This one-year survey course studies the major personalities, places, events, and movements that encompass the panorama of World History. The academic year is divided into two semesters. The fall semester focuses on non-western civilization while the spring semester serves as a study of western civilization. The emphasis of instruction is "historical understanding" which is defined as the ability of students to recount and analyze human aspirations in the five spheres of human activity: social, political, scientific/technological, economic, and cultural. In order to enhance their analytical and critical thinking skills, students will be asked to complete a variety of assessment tasks, including quizzes, tests and essays, as well as individual and cooperative learning projects.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT WORLD HISTORY (Course #620, Full year, 1 Credit, Sophomores)

AP World History is a two-semester survey of developments in global history from the outset of civilization to the present. The course is taught at a first-year college level to students in the tenth grade. The course emphasizes comparative development of all world civilizations and prepares students for the AP test in World History offered by the College Board. Students are expected to analyze and synthesize historical data in innovative ways. The course demands students demonstrate critical thinking skill and advanced writing capability. **Students are selected for this course by an application process, which includes recommendations from members of the Social Studies and Guidance Departments and approval by the Academic Dean. Previous grades in Civics as well as an examination of writing samples are additional criteria used to determine acceptance.**

HONORS, ACCELERATED, & COLLEGE PREP UNITED STATES HISTORY (Courses #634, 632, 633, Full year, 1 Credit, Juniors) (Course #634 is a UCONN ECE Course. This class currently earns 6 credits through the Early College Experience Program at the University of Connecticut.)

United States History is a basic survey course which is separated into two semesters. The first semester begins with discussions on the European settlement of the New World. From this point students examine topics which include the American Revolution, the early federal nation, the emergence of sectionalism, and the drama of the Civil War. The second half of the year begins with the construction of the modern union in the Industrial Age and the evolution of the United States as a world power. The second semester concludes with an analysis of the key triumphs and tragedies of the 20th century American experience.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT UNITED STATES HISTORY (Course #631, Full Year, 1 Credit, Juniors, UCONN ECE Course)

This course is a two-semester survey of American history from the age of exploration and discovery to the present. It provides students with the opportunity to analyze topics and events in U.S. history at an undergraduate college level. Because of this expectation, students will be asked to do extensive reading and writing throughout the course of the year. Emphasis is placed on critical and evaluative thinking skills, essay writing, and interpretation of original documents. **This class currently earns 6 credits through the Early College Experience program at the University of Connecticut. Students are selected for this course by an application process, which includes recommendation from members of the Social Studies and Guidance Departments and the Academic Dean. Previous grades in Civics and World History, as well as an examination of writing samples, are additional criteria used to determine acceptance.**

ADVANCED PLACEMENT AMERICAN POLITICS (Course #6523, Full Year, 1 Credit, Seniors)

This course provides students with an understanding of the operation of American government. Topics that are examined in this one year course of study include pre-constitutional convention politics, the Constitutional Convention, Congress and lawmaking, the role of lobbyists and the media in national politics, campaigns, primaries and elections, political participation and voting behavior, the history of political parties, partisanship and political ideology, the evolution of the Presidency and its powers, civil liberties and civil rights, and significant Supreme Court decisions.

Students are selected for this course by an application process, which includes recommendations from members of the Social Studies and Guidance Departments and approval by the Academic Dean. Previous grades in Social Studies courses, as well as an examination of writing samples, are additional criteria used to determine acceptance.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY (Course #654, Full Year, 1 Credit, Seniors, UCONN ECE Course)

In this course students explore the contours of Modern European history from roughly 1300 to the present. After brief stops in ancient Greece and Rome and the early Middle Ages, we examine in detail other topics including the Renaissance and Reformation, the vibrant eighteenth century, the French Revolution, nationalism, socialism and the intellectual currents of the nineteenth century, and wars and political crises of the twentieth century. Political, diplomatic, social, economic, cultural, and intellectual trends will be examined. Since this is an Advanced Placement course, research, analysis, writing, and document-based assessments are central. **This class currently earns 3 credits through the Early College Experience program at the University of Connecticut. Pre-requisite: Approval by the Department Chairperson and Academic Dean.**

HONORS WESTERN CIVILIZATIONS I (Course #6481, Semester Course, .5 Credit, Seniors, UCONN ECE Course)

This course covers Mediterranean and European history from the earliest civilizations until roughly the 16th century. We will survey the societies of Egypt, Mesopotamia, the Hebrews, Greece, Rome, and Medieval Europe. Students will be introduced to cultures, societies, beliefs, and intellectual traditions that have shaped our civilization, with a particular focus on primary sources in philosophy, literature and art. Special attention will be paid to the rise of Christianity and the development of the Catholic Church; however, religious traditions such as Judaism and Islam will be explored as well. **This class currently earns 3 credits through the Early College Experience program at the University of Connecticut. Pre-requisite: Approval by the Department Chairperson and Academic Dean.**

HONORS ECONOMICS (Course# 661, Full Year, 1 Credit, Seniors)

This course is an Honors level introduction to the many concepts and principles of Economics. It is designed to familiarize students with the language of economics, its discipline, and its way of seeing the world. Among the

discussion of current events and trends, students will come to understand the following; **Micro-economics Topics:** Scarcity and Production Possibility Curves, Supply and Demand Schedules, Factors involved in Production, Production Costs, Firms and outsourcing, Market Organization, International Trade, Income Inequality, Wealth and Poverty; **Macro-Economics Topics:** Taxes, Monetary Policy, Fiscal Policy, Debt and Deficits, Inflation, Downturns and Recessions. **This class currently earns 3 credits through the Early College Experience program at the University of Connecticut.**

COLLEGE PREP GEOGRAPHY (Course #6381, Semester Course, .5 Credit, Seniors)

This course is a survey of key topics in geography. Areas of study include earth formations, locations (latitude and longitude), ecosystems, weather and climate, and cultural geography. Students are assessed through tests, quizzes, written assignments and projects.

COLLEGE PREP NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE & HISTORY (Course #6391, Semester Course, .5 Credit, Seniors)

This course explores the history of Native American peoples. Topics to be covered include Native American cultures of the Northeast, Southeast, Great Plains, Southwest, and Western/Northwestern Coast of North America. The course also focuses on the relationship between the environment and cultural evolution (folklore, spirituality, subsistence patterns, etc.) of the major tribes, a brief history of the respective tribes (including contact with Euro-American settlers), as well as the American Indian Movement of the 1970's. The rebirth of the Connecticut based Mashantucket Pequot tribe is also investigated.

ACCELERATED LAW IN AMERICA (Course #6611, Semester Course, .5 Credit, Seniors)

This course provides students with the opportunity to analyze historical and contemporary issues in our American legal system. Topics covered in this course include Constitutional Law, the Litigation Process, Tort Law, Contract Law, and Criminal Law. Students will be assessed through homework, tests and essays, as well as legal debates. Students will also participate in a mock trial during the course.

ACCELERATED SOCIOLOGY (Course #6631, Semester Course, .5 Credit, Seniors)

This course examines the relationships between various groups in human society, particularly those that exist in America. Students study the socialization process and how human beings shape and redefine their culture. In this context, students explore topics such as social class, race and ethnicity, sex and gender, age and the elderly and family relationships, as well as educational, religious and political institutions. The course concludes with an analysis of deviant/criminal behavior and how it affects society.

ACCELERATED LEADERSHIP IN THE MODERN WORLD (Course #6641, Semester Course, .5 Credit, Seniors)

The main focus of this course is a study of the philosophical foundations needed for leadership and the connection to public service. Included is the study of fundamental leadership principles as a foundation for a moral life and moral decision making using the principle centered leadership method. This course will explore the lives of historical and current leaders from a wide range of backgrounds including the military, politics, sports, media and our own community. The objective of this course is for students to understand the historical roots of our conceptions of leadership and what it takes to make a difference in the world as servants of the common good and leaders of social progress.

ACCELERATED PSYCHOLOGY (Course #6651, Semester Course, .5 Credit, Seniors)

This course explores the history and scientific methods of psychology, particularly the contributions of Wilhelm Wundt, Charles Darwin, William James, Ivan Pavlov, Sigmund Freud, John B. Watson, B.F. Skinner, Erik Erickson, and Carl Rogers. Within this framework, students examine topics including personality and human

development, the physiology of the brain and the nervous system, sensation and perception, cognitive processes, intelligence, creativity, emotion, stress, normal and abnormal social behavior. Careers in psychology will also be explored.

ACCELERATED MODERN U.S. HISTORY: 1945-PRESENT (Course #6663, Semester Course, .5 Credit, Seniors)

This course closely examines United States History from the end of World War II in 1945 to the present. Major themes include the affluence and conformity of the 1950's, the social and political turbulence of the 1960's, the Cold War, the Vietnam War, civil rights, the Great Society, Watergate, the Reagan years, the Clinton White House as well as the challenges of the post-Cold War world, the increasing global community, and various expressions of popular culture. Students will be evaluated using tests, quizzes, cooperative (group) projects and papers.

ACCELERATED MILITARY HISTORY (Course #6692, Semester Course, .5 Credit, Seniors)

Military History provides an overview of the history of warfare and its influence on human history and human political, social and cultural institutions. Particular attention is paid to warfare in the context of Western Civilization and further focuses on the Catholic church's response to the idea of warfare in the world. There is a strong focus on the intellectual traditions that have emerged from various cultures to explain and to justify warfare; in particular, Catholic Just War doctrine and the history of warfare within the Catholic Tradition will be discussed extensively.

COMPUTER AND BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

Philosophy: The department's philosophy is not only to carry on the philosophy of the school to teach as Jesus taught but to help prepare our students for the academic and business world. We do this by teaching marketable business skills and by emphasizing both honesty and integrity in a variety of business and computer course offerings. We seek not only to prepare the students for college but for the working world as well.

COMPUTER ESSENTIALS (Course #711, Semester Course, .5 Credit, All Grades)

This course begins with an intensive six-week keyboarding segment, which emphasizes the touch-type method to improve word processing skills. Web-based software is utilized to enhance and reinforce previously learned skills, while at the same time improving both speed and accuracy. Students are also taught skills such as accessing student email, using One Drive, as well as other school related software products. The second part of the course familiarizes students with several of the Microsoft Office products. Students will utilize Microsoft Word to learn standardized formatting techniques of research papers and business letters. Students will create effective presentations with the use of Microsoft PowerPoint software, as well as be exposed to spreadsheet functions and charting techniques with the use of Microsoft Excel.

H VISUAL BASIC (Course #730, Semester Course, .5 Credit, Juniors & Seniors)

This course teaches the fundamentals of programming with Microsoft Visual Basic. The objectives are to teach the basic concepts and methods of object-oriented design, to code and understand variables, to create programs and databases, to understand ActiveX database control and SQL, to learn Windows Common Control and MDI and class module programming.

PROGRAMMING IN JAVA (Course #731, Semester Course, .5 Credit, Juniors & Seniors)

This is an introductory programming course in Java than emphasizes the development of good problem-solving and programming skills. The course emphasizes fundamental concepts including variables, conditional control structures, loops, strings, methods, classes, arrays, and files.

ACCELERATED ACCOUNTING (Course #741, Full Year 1 Credit, Seniors)

This course is designed to introduce students to accounting concepts and practices. Class members learn the complete accounting cycle for a service business organized as a sole proprietorship as well as a merchandising businesses organized as a corporation. Students analyze business transactions into debit and credit parts, journalize transactions, post to a general ledger, and prepare financial statements. The course culminates with students enhancing their skills by completing a major business simulation accounting project. Students are also introduced to accounting software for computer-based applications throughout the course.

COLLEGE PREP BUSINESS MANAGEMENT (Course #742, Semester Course, .5 Credit, Seniors)

This course deals primarily with a history of small businesses in America, well known entrepreneurs, how to start and operate a business, the pros and cons of sole proprietorships, partnerships, corporations and franchises, and the legal and accounting aspects of operating a small business. Students select a hypothetical small business endeavor in order to explore the feasibility of owning/operating their own business. Students learn not only from the classroom, but from area business persons who are invited into class to share their expertise and experiences.

ACCELERATED MARKETING (Course #743, Semester Course, .5 Credit, Seniors)

This course is designed to provide students with the fundamental concepts, principles, skills, and attitudes common to the fields of marketing, merchandising, distribution, and retailing. Instruction will emphasize applications directly involved with marketing areas such as advertising, sales, research, and promotions. Students will also explore the increasing role that the internet and E-commerce play in marketing.

COLLEGE PREP PERSONAL FINANCE (Course #744, Semester Course, .5 Credit, Seniors)

This course explains the basics of financial literacy, including such life skills as money management, career planning, saving and investing, personal risk management, credit management, and retirement planning. These strategies are designed to help students learn how to grow and protect wealth as they prepare themselves for their financial futures. As part of the course, students are introduced to the world of investing by actively participating in the Stock Market Game sponsored by the Hartford Courant.

ACCELERATED STOCK MARKET (Course #745, Semester Course, .5 Credit, Seniors)

Stock Market is a one semester course designed to introduce students to the world of financial investments. Students gain a basic understanding of several investment options such as savings accounts, cd's, stocks, bonds, and mutual funds while gaining a fundamental understanding of the stock market exchanges. Throughout the course, students actively participate in the internet based Stock Market Game to simulate the real-world investment environment. Students develop positive money management habits to be better prepared for a successful financial future.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Philosophy: Physical Well-Being for Life has been created based upon the “Healthy and Balanced Living Curriculum Framework”. Through a variety of different units, students will receive in-class instruction that focuses on the core concepts of accessing health information, self-management of healthy behaviors, analyzing internal and external influences, communication skills, decision-making, goal-setting skills and advocacy. In addition, students participate in physical fitness and team-related activities that encourage the learning of basic skills, techniques, rules and regulations of each activity, communication, sportsmanship, teamwork, diversity and

leadership skills. The wide variety of experiences offered is designed to allow each student the opportunity to experience activities that would benefit him in the present and in the future. Alternating in two week increments, students rotate between the Health Education in the classroom and Physical education in the gymnasium, weight room and outside.

PHYSICAL WELL-BEING FOR LIFE I (Course #810, Semester Course, .5 Credit, Freshmen)

The in-class segment of this course comprises an understanding of what comprises a healthy foundation, the importance of physical activity and nutrition, the workings of the specific body systems and the value of personal body care. The Physical Education segment will cover basic skills and techniques of various sports related to activity as well as the basic rules and regulations of each activity

PHYSICAL WELL-BEING FOR LIFE II (Course # 820, Semester Course, .5 Credit, Sophomores)

The in-class segment of this course focuses on the dangers of tobacco, alcohol and drug abuse, as well as the source of various diseases both communicable and non-communicable. The Physical Education segment will cover the basic skills and techniques of a variety of life-long leisure type activities to enjoy and participate in. Students participate in and experience the benefits of various types of exercise routines.

ACCELERATED INTRODUCTION TO COACHING (Course #840, Semester Course, .5 Credit, Juniors & Seniors)

This course allows students to explore the skills, knowledge, and understanding of coaching team sports as a head coach and as an assistant coach. Primary emphasis is placed on philosophy, program organization, liability, practice organization, player development, sports specific strategy, leadership and training.

ACCELERATED STRENGTH & CONDITIONING (Course #841, Semester Course, .5 Credit, Juniors & Seniors)

This course actively involves students in a fourteen week weight training and conditioning program. The course begins with a one week overview and study of the actual program. Emphasis will be placed on specific body parts and movements. Weightlifting exercises will be explained and demonstrated. Student progress will be monitored through weekly improvement charts. The active part of the class will take place in the school's new and improved strength and conditioning facility. Speed improvement, agility, and plyometrics will comprise the conditioning segment of this course.

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

ART

BASIC DRAWING (Course #9611, Semester Course, .5 Credit, All Grades)

This elective course is designed for the student who wishes to fulfill a .5 Fine Arts elective and who may not necessarily be interested in pursuing a future program of art courses. Drawing lessons and assignments will offer variety in terms of media forms and subject themes. Materials such as pencil, charcoal, pen & ink will be employed, and subject themes may vary from nature drawing to design. **Prerequisite: None**

FOUNDATIONS OF ART (Course #9510, Full year, 1 Credit, Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors & Seniors)

This challenging full-year course is designed for the serious art student who is interested in continuing with future courses in visual arts. The curriculum is based upon the Elements of Art and Principles of Design. Students become knowledgeable of these concepts via lessons in basic drawing principles, exploration of a great variety of media, and insight into varied subject themes and styles/methods of creating art. Students keep a sketchbook/journal for not only

their assigned homework drawings but for use with the development of classroom studio concepts. While all successful artwork incorporates both aspects of Elements of Art and Principles of Design, each of those categories respectively is organized into the first and second semesters of the course. Likewise, most of the work in the first semester is simplified by dominantly being created in black and white, reserving extensive use of color for the second semester. This course provides the necessary fundamentals needed for any student interested in the AP Studio Art course. **Pre-requisite: Approval of the Art Instructor.**

LANDSCAPE PAINTING (Course #9621, Semester Course, .5 Credit, Sophomores, Juniors & Seniors)

Students in this elective work in three types of media – watercolors, acrylics, and oils. Students will complete many pieces in watercolors and acrylics; oils will be presented toward the end of the course. At the onset, students will be reminded of the need to recall basic drawing skills for planning compositions. Occasional slide presentations will be offered of some noteworthy masterworks in the landscape/seascape. Techniques and methods of the Great Masters will be incorporated when deemed appropriate by medium at hand and students' level of proficiency. **Pre-requisite: Basic Drawing or Foundations of Art.**

COLOR AND DESIGN (Course #9631, Semester Course, .5 Credit, Sophomores, Juniors & Seniors)

This course is designed for the serious art student who is interested in creating designs and studying Color Theory. Knowledge of the Principles of Design is important and necessary for students to be able to successfully complete the assigned projects. Thought, creativity and originality of ideas are the keys to success for this course and an absolute necessity. An overview of the Great Masters of the 19th and 20th centuries provides background and insight into the use and interpretation of color. Students work in a variety of media such as paint, marker, fabric and color papers, as well as various paint and drawing surfaces. **Pre-requisite: Basic Drawing or Foundations of Art.**

ILLUSTRATION AND THE FIGURE (Course #9641, Semester Course, .5 Credit, Sophomores, Juniors & Seniors)

This elective course is designed for the serious art student who is comfortable with figure drawing and has a strong interest in that subject theme. Art students who have refined skills and a high level of proficiency with pen and ink drawing, incorporation of color ink washes, color pencil drawing and the printmaking process would experience great personal artistic development in this course. Oftentimes the student works in a semi-independent study format which requires both self-discipline and self-direction. **Pre-requisite: Basic Drawing or Foundations of Art**

GRAPHIC DESIGN (Course #9651, Semester Course, .5 Credit, Sophomores, Juniors & Seniors)

This elective course is designed for the serious art student who is essentially very creative and idea-oriented. This aspect of visual arts necessitates the need for the artist to be inventive in terms of art concepts and the use of color vs. black and white elements. "Design" projects involve elements of stylized drawing, dynamic composition, eye-catching elements and striking aspects of color. **Pre-requisite: Basic Drawing or Foundations of Art.**

ART APPRECIATION (Course #9711, Semester Course, .5 Credit, Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors & Seniors)

This course provides an overview of the study of art history and art appreciation. Students are exposed to basic art forms and techniques used by the masters and recognized as great works over the past centuries. Approximately ten units of study are presented which range from Prehistoric Art to Post-Impressionism. The use of a textbook, slide presentations, lecture/class discussion and related videos and online materials provide the basis for this program of study. **Prerequisite: None**

ADVANCED PLACEMENT STUDIO ART: DRAWING portfolio (Course #9671, Full Year, 1 Credit, Juniors & Seniors)

This course is designed for the most serious of art students whose intention is to pursue art education on the college or university level following graduation from high school. Based on the information provided both online and in printed format from the College Board, students choose their favorite art topic or theme to pursue for a portion of this

program. Presently students at Xavier have been most successful in pursuing the Drawing Portfolio as it lends itself to all methods of drawing and painting. In addition to completing all requirements of this rigorous full-year course, students are required to take the AP exam in the spring, which means the production of the specialized portfolio packet as required by the College Board. **Prerequisite: Foundations of Art and two academic years of art courses at Xavier High School.**

ADVANCED PLACEMENT STUDIO ART & 2 DIMENSIONAL DESIGN PORTFOLIO (Course #9681, Full Year, 1 Credit, Seniors)

This course is designed for the serious art student who is knowledgeable and competent in working with the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design. The 2-D Design student would also be developing this portfolio production course in the senior year. The focus of the year long program is the exploration, discovery and development of a design “idea” chosen by the individual student. The pieces within this program must exhibit competency and proficiency in working with design principles. Art work is submitted via 35mm slide format to the College Board program at the conclusion of the year via the portfolio produced. This portfolio consists of 24 slides and 5 pieces of actual art work and constitutes the AP exam for this course. **Prerequisite: Foundations of Art and 2 full academic years of visual arts courses at Xavier High School.**

MUSIC

UNDERSTANDING MUSIC (Course #9101, Semester Course, .5 Credit. Sophomores, Juniors & Seniors)

This one semester course traces the history of American popular music from its beginnings in mid-19th century America to today. Beginning with Stephen Foster and minstrelsy, students will learn how the various genres of music unfolded decade by decade, and in addition, they will trace the development of the modern music business and copyright law. **Prerequisite: None**

GUITAR (Course #9110, Semester Course, .5 Credit, Sophomores, Juniors & Seniors)

Guitar class is a one semester course that introduces the fundamentals of music and guitar playing to students with little or no experience. Students will learn to tune their instruments, read various types of music notation, play melodies and chords, and will play both individually and with other classmates. Students interested in taking this class must provide their own acoustic guitar. **Prerequisite: None**

CONCERT BAND (Course #9122, Full Year, 1 Credit, All Grades)

The concert band is Xavier’s largest performing ensemble, open to any and all woodwind, brass and percussion students. The concert band performs 3 concerts a year in December, March and May. This ensemble also performs along with the jazz band members as the Football Band in the stands at home football games. In addition to local performances, the concert band travels to a festival competition every other year with our 3 other performing ensembles. The concert band is open to all levels of performers from beginner to experienced. **Prerequisite: None**

JAZZ ENSEMBLE (Course #9124, Full Year, 1 Credit, All Grades)

The jazz ensemble is one of Xavier’s premier performing ensembles. This group studies, rehearses, and plays various jazz styles with an emphasis on improvisation and ensemble playing. In addition to 3 school concerts and other Xavier functions, the jazz ensemble also participates in regional jazz festival competitions and travels to a music festival every other year with our 3 other performing ensembles. This ensemble also performs along with

the concert band members as the Football Band in the stands at home football games. Students in this group are expected to perform at a high level of musicianship and be prepared for class every day. **Prerequisites: Audition and approval of Music Director.**

STRING ENSEMBLE (Course #9129, Full Year, 1 Credit, All Grades)

The string ensemble is comprised of all classical string instruments: violin, viola, cello and string bass. This ensemble performs 3 concerts a year in December, March and May. Additionally, the string ensemble travels to festival competition every other year. The string ensemble is open to all levels of performers from beginner to experienced. **Prerequisite: None**

AP MUSIC THEORY (Course #9130, Full Year, 1 Credit, Juniors & Seniors)

The AP Music Theory class covers all of the building blocks of music from simple notation to full 4-part writing. The class is split into two components: a writing component, which involves composition and analysis; an aural component which involves sight-singing and ear training. **Prerequisite: Acceptance into the AP Theory class is handled on a case-by-case basis, and it is highly recommended that the student have a prerequisite of prior music ensemble experience here at Xavier.**

CHORUS (Course # 9132, Full Year, 1 Credit, All Grades)

The chorus studies and sings vocal music of all periods and styles. Through daily singing, students will gain greater vocal technique and musicianship. Open to all students, the chorus performs 3 concerts a year in December, March and May, and provides liturgical music for the Xavier Community throughout the year. In addition to school performances, the chorus travels to a festival competition every other year with our 3 other performing ensembles. **Prerequisite: Some music experience is encouraged but not required.**

PERFORMING ARTS

PERFORMING ARTS (Course #9311, Semester Course, .5 Credit, Sophomores, Juniors & Seniors)

This one semester course will explore the role of theater and other performing arts as they influence our times and culture. The exposure to plays, musicals, opera and film will define the role these performing arts have in our lives in the new millennium as well as define the sense of character, time, and place. This overview of the many aspects of performing arts will help the student to become a more discerning critic of our culture's forms of entertainment.