

Alternative School Course Descriptions

Language Arts

Freshmen Language Arts: (Semester Course, ½ credit for English, ISCS: 01001A000)

Students will read, interpret, analyze, and evaluate various forms of literature that is appropriate at the freshman level of study. Students will also be required to write compositions/essays based on the interpretation of the literature as well as other forms of personal and public writing for a variety of audiences. Comprehension of literary terms and vocabulary will be stressed to expand and improve the student's skills.

The major topics studied in this course: character, plot, theme, symbolism, listening skills, grammar skills, analyzing literary themes, vocabulary development, mood and flashbacks, chronological transitions, debate, writing skills and development, technical writing, elements of research, critiquing ideas, metaphors, similes, puns, synonyms, antonyms and satire.

Freshman Language Arts II: (Semester Course, ½ credit for English, ISCS: 01001A000)

This course is the second semester and continuation of the Freshman Language Arts course. Students will continue to read, interpret, and analyze various forms of literature that is appropriate at the freshman level of study. Emphasis will be placed on research activities and the various forms of written expression throughout this course.

The major topics covered in this course: elements of drama, connecting reading and writing, idioms, imagery, persuasive writing, technical writing, vocabulary development, personification suspense, metaphors, poetry, planning, drafting and revising a written report.

Sophomore Language Arts: (Semester Course, ½ credit for English, ISCS: 01002A000)

Students will read, interpret, analyze, and evaluate various forms of literature that is appropriate at the sophomore level of study. Students will also be required to write compositions/essays based on the interpretation of the literature as well as other forms of personal and public writing for a variety of audiences. Comprehension of literary terms and vocabulary will be stressed to expand and improve the student's skills.

The major topics covered in this course: elements of fiction, flashback, analyzing literary contrast, identifying mood, critiquing ideas and impressions, using active reading skills, grammar review, elements of nonfiction, developing outlines, applying listening skills, figurative language, verbal and nonverbal messages, descriptive language, conflict and resolution, elements of poetry, examining imagery, examining rhyme, elements of an autobiography, identifying theme, persuasive speaking and writing, technical writing, autobiographical essays, development of a narrative essay and writing editorials.

Sophomore Language Arts II: (Semester Course, ½ credit for English, ISCS: 01002A000)

This course is the second semester and continuation of the Sophomore Language Arts course. Students will continue to read, interpret, and analyze various forms of literature that are appropriate at the sophomore level of study. Emphasis will be placed on research activities and the various forms of written expression throughout this course.

The major topics covered in this course: delivering a persuasive speech, research skills, irony, active listening skills, synonyms, satire, active reading skills, interpersonal conflict, communication anxiety, exposition, primary and secondary sources, analogies, foreshadowing, reading with fluency and accuracy, farce, stereotype, revising, editing, publishing, technical writing, suspense, development of a research paper, thesis statement, presentations, one-act plays and first-person narrative.

American Literature: (Semester Course, ½ credit for English, ISCS: 01054A000)

This course is the study of American literature and famous authors from its beginnings to the present. Students will also be required to write compositions/essays based on the interpretation of the literature as well as other forms of personal and public writing for a variety of audiences. Comprehension of literary terms and vocabulary will be stressed to expand and improve the student's skills.

The major topics to be covered in this course: author expression, Puritan Tradition, sequence events, use of Time Lines, persuasive writing, literary interpretation, life philosophies, impromptu speaking, technical writing, gothic style, historical issues, oral literature and folk tales.

American Literature II: (Semester Course, ½ credit for English, ISCS: 01054A000)

This course is the second semester and continuation of the first semester American Literature course. Students will continue to study the literature and famous authors of the 19th and 20th centuries. Students will be required to write compositions/essays based on the interpretation of the literature as well as other forms of personal and public writing for a variety of audiences. Comprehension of literary terms and vocabulary will continue to be stressed to expand and improve the student's skills.

The major topics to be covered in this course: poetry, public speaking, monologue, communication skills, technical writing, Black literature, literary interpretation, revolution, evaluating oral messages, research skills, dramatic irony and structure, questioning information, thesis, tragic hero, cause and effect and use of charts.

World Literature: (Semester Course, ½ credit for English, ISCS: 01058A000)

This course is the study of World and British literature and famous authors from its beginnings to the present. Students will also be required to write compositions/essays based on the interpretation of the literature as well as other forms of personal and public writing for a variety of audiences. Comprehension of literary terms and vocabulary will be stressed to expand and improve the student's skills.

The major topics to be covered in this course: synonyms, simile, Canterbury Tales, plays, metaphor, English Renaissance, poetry, persuasive techniques, technical writing, improvisation, Enlightenment, developing a thesis, Romanticism and milestones in British Literature.

World Literature II: (Semester Course, ½ credit for English, ISCS: 01058A000)

This course is the second semester and continuation of the first World Literature course. Students will continue to study the World and British literature of the 19th and 20th centuries. Students will be required to write compositions/essays based on the interpretation of the literature as well as other forms of personal and public writing for a variety of audiences.

Comprehension of literary terms and vocabulary will continue to be stressed to expand and improve the student's skills.

The major topics to be covered in this course: meter, mood, and soliloquy, research plan, communication processes, technical writing, Dickens, Victorian poetry, satire, cluster diagrams, poetry, foreshadowing, emerging modernism, humor, surveys, idioms, imagery and documentaries.

Math

Intro to HS Algebra: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Math, ISCS: 02051A000)

This course is designed to introduce students to the basics of algebra and review and expand basic math skills.

The major topics studied in this course: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of integers, polynomials, introduction of variables, expression and scientific notation, basic equations and formulas, factoring, the metric system, measurement, interpreting and drawing graphs, linear equations, introduction to geometric figures.

Algebra I: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Math, ISCS: 02052A000)

This course is a continuation of Intro to Algebra. Review and mastery of basic math skills will continue to be emphasized along with the skills necessary for the study of algebra.

The major topics studied in this course: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of fractions, ratios, proportions, percents, radicals, perimeter area of polygons, circumference and area of circles, graphing equations and inequalities, rational expressions, probability and statistics.

Intro to HS Geometry: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Math, ISCS: 02071A000)

This course is designed to introduce students to the basic concepts necessary for the study of geometry. Emphasis is placed on the study of geometric terms, theorems and postulates that are the basic building blocks for understanding geometry.

The major topics studied in this course: perimeter, points, lines, angles, planes, square roots, properties of triangles and polygons, triangle relationships and the introduction of geometric proofs.

Geometry I: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Math, ISCS: 02072A000)

This course is a continuation of Introduction to Geometry. This course will place more of an emphasis on logical thinking and applying the algebraic and geometric concepts learned in the 1st semester to geometric figures.

The major topics studied in this course: proofs, area of rectangles, parallelograms, triangles, trapezoids and circles, similar and congruent polygons, surface area and volume of solids, coordinate plane, parallel and perpendicular lines.

Jr. Math, Practical Math Applications I: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Math, ISCS: 02152A000)

This course is designed for students to build on their basic understanding of math and algebraic concepts. A major emphasis will be placed on applying algebra concepts to real-world situations.

The major topics studied in this course: integers, rational and real numbers, right triangles, functions and their graphs, equations, inequalities, graphing and writing linear equations.

Jr. Math, Practical Math Applications II: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Math, ISCS: 02152A000)

This course is a continuation of Practical Applications I. A major emphasis will be placed on applying algebra concepts to real-world situations.

The major topics studied in this course: systems of equations and inequalities, quadratic equations and functions, exponents and exponential functions, right triangles, radical expressions, polynomials and rational expressions and functions.

Sr. Math I, Consumer Math Applications I: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Math, ISCS: 02157A000)

This course is designed for the students to be able to apply math fundamentals to real-world situations. Students will be expected to provide real data to solve interesting math problems as they relate to real-world situations.

The major topics studied in this course: math problems relating to full-time employment, recreation/sports, basic purchases, checking/savings, budgeting, credit and automobile expenses.

Sr. Math II, Consumer Math Applications II: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Math, ISCS: 02157A000)

This is a continuation of Sr. Math I. Students will be provided the opportunity to learn mathematical concepts by investigating situations in group activities.

The major topics studied in this course: math problems as relating to taxes, housing, investments, probability and equations.

Science

Physical Science: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Science, ISCS: 03159A000)

This course is designed to provide students with the basic concepts of physical science and fulfills the science requirements for Illinois high school students. The major areas of study are applied to contemporary uses and issues.

Major topics covered in this course: scientific method, matter, velocity, motion, energy, force, work and machines, heat, electricity, magnetism, types of waves, Newton's Laws, power, thermal energy and computers.

Technological Sciences: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Science, ISCS: 03211A000)

This course is designed to build upon the concepts studied in first semesters Physical Science course and continue to focus on contemporary uses of scientific concepts and the effect on current advances in technology.

Major topics covered in this course: sound, light, lenses and lasers, matter, periodic table of elements, compounds and bonding, water and solutions, simple machines, chemical reactions, acids, energy sources and energy concerns.

Biology: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Science, ISCS: 03051A000)

This course is designed as an interdisciplinary science and health course that focuses on the major concepts and theories of the Life Sciences, Biology and Health.

Major topics covered in this course: scientific method, branches of Biology, properties of matter, cell theories, organ systems, photosynthesis, glycolysis, genetics, heredity, aquatic biomes, population growth, healthy food choices, environmental effects on health, circulatory system, fighting diseases, respiratory system, viruses, ecosystems, first aid.

Biology II: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Science, ISCS: 03051A000)

This course is the second semester and continuation of the first semester Biology course. This course is designed as an interdisciplinary science and health course that focuses on the major concepts and theories of the Life Sciences, Biology and Health.

Major topics covered in this course: genetic engineering, DNA, life processes, plant growth, instincts and survival, human anatomy, digestive system, immune system, prevention of AIDS, drug and alcohol abuse, tobacco, air and water pollution, endangered species, conservation, transmission of blood diseases, hormones, balanced diet, nutrients, cancer and treatments.

Earth Science: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Science, ISCS: 03001A000)

This course is designed to provide students with the basic concepts of the four Earth Sciences: Astronomy, Geology, Meteorology and Oceanography. Each of these is brought into focus by using topics that are relevant to contemporary issues relevant to planet Earth.

Major topics covered in this course: scientific method, research skills, maps, longitude and latitude, Earth's rotation and revolution, the moon, Earth's chemistry, rocks and minerals, plate tectonics, earthquakes and volcanoes, clocks and time zones, instrumentation, weathering and erosion, energy resources conservation and acid rain.

Earth Science II: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Science, ISCS: 03001A000)

This course is the second semester and continuation of Earth Science. Continued emphasis is placed upon the relevance of scientific concepts and their effects on current issues and concerns.

Major topics covered in this course: Earth's history, scientific writing, atmosphere and wind, weather and climate, the ocean, water resources, the continents, constellations, global warming, the solar system, the moon, meteors, asteroids and calendars.

Environmental Science: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Science, ISCS: 03003A000)

This course is designed to address the major issues occurring in the environment. It stresses the importance of understanding environmental problems and gaining insight into how organisms, including humans interact with the environment.

Major topics covered in this course: a global perspective of the environment, living things in ecosystems, interrelationships, how ecosystems work, types of ecosystems, water resources, water pollution, air pollution, the atmosphere and climate.

Environmental Science II: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Science, ISCS: 03003A000)

This course is the second semester and continuation of Environmental Science. It continues to address the major issues in the environment. It deals with public policy concerning environmental issues, both in the United States and abroad.

Major topics covered in this course: land use, feeding the world's population, pest control, biodiversity, energy issues, renewable and nonrenewable energy resources, solar energy, waste disposal, composting, storm water, population growth, current and future environmental policies.

Social Studies

World History & Geography: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Social Studies, ISCS: 04052A000)

This course provides students with an overview of the history of human society from the pre-historical world up to the European culture of the late Middle Ages. This course examines political, economic, social, religious, military, scientific, and cultural developments. In addition, World History and Geography provides an overview of world geography with a focus on increased national concern regarding the importance of geography, and an exploration of geographical concepts.

World History & Geography II: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Social Studies, ISCS: 04052A000)

This course provides students with an overview of the history of human society from the African civilizations (500-1500) into 20th century affairs. The course examines political, economic, social, religious, military, scientific, and cultural developments. In addition, World History and Geography provides an overview of world geography with a focus on increased national concern regarding the importance of geography, and an exploration of geographical concepts.

Contemporary World Issues: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Social Studies and the state Constitution requirement completed, ISCS: 04064A000)

This course enables students to study political, economic, and social issues facing the world. The course focuses on current issues in which students examine selected issues, events & regions throughout the 20th century up to today and look at historical causes or possible solutions.

Early US History: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Social Studies and the state Constitution requirement completed, ISCS: 04102A000)

This course examines the history of the United States from the pre-colonial period to the Civil War. This course is a historical overview of political, geographical, military, scientific, and social developments from that era.

Modern US History: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Social Studies, ISCS: 04103A000)

This course examines the history of the United States from the Civil War or Reconstruction era through the present time. This course will include a historical review of political, military, scientific, and social developments.

Contemporary US Issues: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Social Studies, ISCS: 04106A000)

This course studies the political, economic, and social issues facing the United States, with emphasis on state and local issues. This course will focus on issues that span throughout the 20th century to the present.

US & Illinois Government: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Social Studies and fulfills the state Constitution requirement, ISCS: 04151A000)

This course is designed to help students understand the background, operation and organization of our local, state and national governments. A major emphasis will be placed on the study of state and national constitutions emphasizing the role, duties and responsibilities of the American citizen.

The major topics studied in this course: Bill of Rights, due process, comparative governments, civil rights movement, interest groups, voting process, branches of government, federal court system, economic systems, Illinois government and local government.

Civics: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Social Studies, ISCS: 04161A000)

This course examines the general structure and functions of American systems of government, the roles and responsibilities of citizens to participate in the political process, and the relationship of the individual to the law and legal system. These courses do not typically delve into the same degree of detail on constitutional principles or the role of political parties and interest groups as do comprehensive courses in U.S. Government.

Sociology: (Semester Course, ½ credit for Social Studies, ISCS: 04258A000)

This course is design to let students discover the meaning behind behavior and society's impact on the individual.

Major topics include: current social issues, cultural diversity, social structure, racial and ethnic relations, tolerance, adolescents and adult in society, decision making, logical thinking, and the family.

Vocational

Career Ready Skills: (Semester Course, ½ credit per semester for Business Education, ISCS: 22152A000)

This course will help students identify their personality, learning style, and career ready skills. Career Ready Skills focuses on how a student's personal qualities impact their career interests and aptitudes. Students will also assess their own career ready skills.

Professional Communication: (Semester Course, ½ credit per semester for Business Education, ISCS: 12009A000)

This course will help students to develop an understanding and appreciation for effective communication in business situations and environments. Emphasis is placed on written, verbal, and non-verbal communication.

Diversified Occupations I: (Semester Course, ½ Credit per semester for Business Education, ISCS: 22153A000)

This course will help students enter the workforce through the development of positive work attitudes and work-related skills. Topics include the following: motivation, leadership, ethics, teamwork, active listening, and problem solving.

Diversified Occupations II: (Semester Course, ½ Credit per semester for Business Education, ISCS: 22153A000)

This course will expose students to various sources of information on career and training options for careers in the Agriculture Education Cluster, Technology and Engineering Clusters, and the Health Science Cluster.

Career Exploration I: (Semester Course, ½ Credit per semester for Business Education, ISCS: 22151A000)

This course will expose students to various sources of information on career and training options for careers in the Business, Marketing, and Computer Education Clusters and the Family and Consumer Science Education Clusters.

Career Exploration II: (Semester Course, ½ Credit per semester for Business Education, ISCS: 22151A000)

This course will expose students to various sources of information on career and training options for careers in the Agriculture Education Cluster, Technology and Engineering Clusters, and the Health Science Cluster.

Community Service: (Semester Course, ½ Credit per semester for community service experience, ISCS: 22104A000)

Students will complete a variety of community service projects throughout each semester they are enrolled with Regional Alternative School. These activities are documented and turned in to the staff on a weekly basis. Students may receive ½ academic credit for completing an average of 10 hours per week.

Cooperative Education: (Semester Course, 1 Credit per semester for work, ISCS: 22153A001)

This course is designed to provide students the opportunity to receive credit for obtaining work experience at an approved job or community service site. Students may receive 1 academic credit for working an average of 15 hours per week.