

**Virtual Course Descriptions for RAS**  
**Revised August, 2017**

**Language Arts**

**Freshman Language Arts (Semester Course, ½ Credit for English 9, ISCS: 01001A000)**

This year 9 course builds upon students' prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage, and the mechanics of writing in order to help students develop their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Students will respond in speaking and writing to readings drawn from literary fiction forms (such as epic poems, lyric poems, short stories, and plays) and literary nonfiction forms (such as memoirs, speeches, essays, and popular nonfiction books). Major works include "The Odyssey" and *Night*.

**Freshman Language Arts Semester II (Semester Course, ½ Credit for English 9, ISCS: 01001A000)**

This year 9 course builds upon students' prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage, and the mechanics of writing in order to help students develop their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Students will respond in speaking and writing to readings drawn from literary fiction forms (such as epic poems, lyric poems, short stories, and plays) and literary nonfiction forms (such as memoirs, speeches, essays, and popular nonfiction books). Major works include *Romeo and Juliet* and a student choice non-fiction text.

**Sophomore Language Arts (Semester Course, ½ Credit for English 10, ISCS: 01002A000)**

This year 10 course continues to build upon students' prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage, and the mechanics of writing in order to help students develop their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Students will respond in speaking and writing to readings drawn from literary fiction forms (such as novels, short stories, and poems) and literary nonfiction forms (such as speeches, essays, and popular nonfiction books). Major works include *Of Mice and Men* and *A Long Way Gone*.

**Sophomore Language Arts Semester II (Semester Course, ½ Credit for English 10, ISCS: 01002A000)**

This year 10 course continues to build upon students' prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage, and the mechanics of writing in order to help students develop their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Students will respond in speaking and writing to readings drawn from literary fiction forms (such as novels, short stories, and poems) and literary nonfiction forms (such as speeches, essays, and popular nonfiction books). Major works include *Antigone*, "Letter from Birmingham Jail," and *Outliers*.

**American Literature (Semester Course, ½ Credit for English 11, ISCS: 01054A000)**

This year 11 course focuses upon both commonly known and lesser known American writers and speakers. Students will improve their critical-thinking skills as they learn to interpret selected fiction and nonfiction texts in a sophisticated manner and to understand how these texts reflect the American society in which they were produced. Students will build upon previous writing skills as they write arguments, expositions, informational essays, and narratives for a variety of audiences and purposes. Major works include a student choice novel and *Common Sense*.

**American Literature Semester II (Semester Course, ½ Credit for English 11, ISCS: 01054A000)**

This year 11 course focuses upon both commonly known and lesser known American writers and speakers. Students will improve their critical-thinking skills as they learn to interpret selected fiction and nonfiction texts in a sophisticated manner and to understand how these texts reflect the American society in which they were produced. Students will build upon previous writing skills as they write arguments, expositions, informational essays, and narratives for a variety of audiences and purposes. Major works include *Death of a Salesman*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, and a presidential biography.

**Adventures in the Literature of the British Isles Semester 1 (Semester Course, ½ Credit for English, ISCS: 01056A000)**

This British Literature course is aligned to the ELA Common Core Standards for 11-12 Grades. In addition, it is aligned to the PARCC Framework. Students will read a survey of British literature on selected works that target students' critical-thinking skills through close reading and extensive writing assignments. Major works include *Frankenstein* and *Angela's Ashes*.

**Adventures in the Literature of the British Isles Semester 2 (Semester Course, ½ Credit for English, ISCS: 01056A000)**

This British Literature course is aligned to the ELA Common Core Standards for 11-12 Grades. In addition, it is aligned to the PARCC Framework. Students will read a survey of British literature on selected works that target students' critical-thinking skills through close reading and extensive writing assignments. Major works include *Macbeth* and *A Room of One's Own*.

**IDEA Composition (Semester Course, ½ Credit for English, ISCS: 01103A000)**

This Instruction to Develop Applied and Expository Writing course guides students in grades 9–12 in becoming more articulate and effective writers. Students write personal reflections, definition essays, research essays, persuasive essays, informative essays, and literary analysis essays. Emphasis is placed on reputable research, effective communication, grammar, and style. This is a one-semester course.

**Strategic Reading (Semester Course, ½ Credit for English, ISCS: 01066A000)**

This one-semester course provides instruction on the following comprehension strategies: summarizing, questioning, previewing and predicting, recognizing text structure, visualizing, making inferences, and monitoring understanding with metacognition. Students will improve fluency, improve vocabulary, and take control of their learning.

**Communication and Speech (Semester Course, ½ Credit for English, ISCS: 01155A000)**

This one-semester course has students participate in lectures, interactive activities, explore self-awareness and perception in communication, learn about characteristics of human communication, critique and analyze speeches, and write informative and persuasive speeches. Emphasis is placed on verbal vs. nonverbal messages, cultural differences in communication, gender differences in communication, and interpersonal communication.

## Math

### **Algebra 1 Semester 1 (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Math, ISCS: 02052A000)**

This one-semester, 9th grade Algebra course provides a foundation in algebraic concepts and thinking, as well as equations. Concepts covered include a review of the real number system and the properties of real numbers, the laws of exponents, operations with radicals, multistep equations, one-variable inequalities, absolute value, and linear relationships.

### **Algebra 1 Semester 2 (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Math, ISCS: 02052A000)**

This one-semester, 9th grade Algebra course continues to build a foundation in algebraic concepts and thinking, as well as introductory probability and statistics. Concepts covered include writing linear equations, statistics, probability, polynomial operations, rational expressions, quadratic functions and equations, number patterns, and exponential functions.

### **Geometry Semester 1 (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Math, ISCS: 02072A000)**

This semester-long course provides a solid foundation in geometric concepts and reasoning. Concepts covered include length, angles, congruence, inductive/deductive reasoning, line and angle relationships, triangle relationships, ratio, and proportion. Students are asked to reason, construct and critique arguments, and model with mathematics.

### **Geometry Semester 2 (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Math, ISCS: 02072A000)**

This semester-long course continues to provide a solid foundation in geometric concepts and reasoning, as well as introductory trigonometry, set theory, and probability. Additional concepts include right triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons, circles, surface area/volume, and analytic geometry.

### **Algebra 2 Semester 1 (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Math, ISCS: 02056A000)**

This semester-long course focuses on the four critical areas of the Common Core model pathway for Algebra II: functions, polynomials, periodic phenomena, and collecting and analyzing data. Concepts included this semester are expressions and equations, introduction to functions, quadratics and complex numbers, inequalities and systems, polynomial operations, and polynomial functions. The Common Core practice standards are embedded throughout the course, as students solve novel problems, reason abstractly, and think critically.

### **Algebra 2 Semester 2 (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Math, ISCS: 02056A000)**

This semester-long course continues to focus on the four critical areas of the Common Core model pathway for Algebra II: functions, polynomials, periodic phenomena, and collecting and analyzing data. Concepts included this semester are radical functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, statistics, probability, and trigonometric functions. The Common Core practice standards are embedded throughout the course, as students solve novel problems, reason abstractly, and think critically.

### **Consumer Math (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Math, ISCS: 02157A000)**

This semester-long course connects practical mathematical concepts to personal and business settings. Covered concepts include personal financial planning, budgeting and wise spending, banking, paying taxes, the importance of insurance and long-term investing. This course encourages mastery of math skill sets, including percentages, proportions, data analysis, linear systems, and exponential functions.

### **Consumer Math Semester II (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Math, ISCS: 02157A000)**

This semester-long course continues to connect practical mathematical concepts to personal and business settings. Covered concepts include buying a house, consumer loans, economic principles, traveling abroad, starting a business, and analyzing business data. This course encourages mastery of math skill sets, including percentages, proportions, data analysis, linear systems, and exponential functions.

## **Social Studies**

### **Early U.S. History (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Social Studies, ISCS: 04102A000)**

This semester-long course explores the people, places, and events that shaped United States history from the time of the New World to the Jacksonian Democracy. Students examine the defining moments that paved the way for the United States of today.

### **Early U.S. History Semester II (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Social Studies, ISCS: 04102A000)**

This semester-long course continues to explore the people, places, and events that shaped United States history from the time of the Civil War to the Industrial Revolution. Students examine the defining moments that paved the way for the United States of today. Recurring themes such as territorial expansion, the rise of industrialization, and the significance of slavery will be examined in the context of how these issues contributed to the Civil War and Reconstruction.

### **World Geography (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Social Studies, ISCS: 04002A000)**

Examining current global issues that impact our world today, this semester-long course takes a thematic approach to understanding the development of human systems, human understanding of the world, and human social organization. Students will develop geographic skills, including learning to interpret maps, analyze data, and compare theories. Course content includes an introduction to human and physical geography, the geography of the continents, and population.

### **World Geography Semester II (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Social Studies, ISCS: 04002A000)**

This semester-long course continues the thematic approach to understanding the development of human systems, human understanding of the world, and human social organization. Students will develop geographic skills, including learning to interpret maps, analyze data, and compare theories. Course content includes culture, politics and boundaries, agriculture and land use, industrialization, economic development, urban environment, and economic development.

### **Survey of World History (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Social Studies, ISCS: 04051A000)**

This semester-long course will challenge high school students to learn about the political, economics, and social aspects of world history. Students will explore the major revolutions and social movements that

have influenced different nations and eventually spread throughout the world. This course covers the beginnings of civilization to the first Global Age.

**Survey of World History Semester II (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Social Studies, ISCS: 04051A000)**

This semester-long course will continue to challenge high school students to learn about the political, economics, and social aspects of world history. Students will explore the major revolutions and social movements that have influenced different nations and eventually spread throughout the world. This course covers the Enlightenment to the Modern Age.

**Survey of US History Semester 1 (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Social Studies, ISCS: 04101A000)**

This semester-long course presents a cohesive and comprehensive overview of the history of the United States, surveying the major events and turning points of U.S. history as it moves from the Era of Exploration through the Industrial Revolution. As students examine each era of history, they will analyze primary sources and carefully research events to gain a clearer understanding of the factors that have shaped U.S. history. Students will assess the foundations of U.S. democracy while examining crucial documents. Throughout the course, students will learn the importance of cultural diversity while examining history from different perspectives.

**Survey of US History Semester 2 (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Social Studies, ISCS: 04101A000)**

This semester-long course continues to present a cohesive and comprehensive overview of the history of the United States, surveying the major events and turning points of U.S. history as it moves from World War I through modern times. Students will examine the effects of territorial expansion, the Civil War, and the rise of industrialization as they assess the outcomes of economic trends and the connections between culture and government. As the course draws to a close, students will focus their studies on the causes of cultural and political change in the modern age.

Throughout the course, students will learn the importance of cultural diversity while examining history from different perspectives.

**Modern U.S. History (Semester Course, ½ Credit, ISCS: 04103A000)**

This semester-long course examines the major events and turning points of U.S. history from the Industrial Revolution through the Great Depression. The course leads students toward a clearer understanding of the patterns, processes, and people that have shaped U.S. history. As students progress through each era of modern U.S. history, they will study the impact of dynamic leadership and economic and political change on the United States' rise to global prominence, the influence of social and political movements on societal change, and the importance of modern cultural and political developments. Recurring themes lead students to draw connections between the past and the present, between cultures, and between multiple perspectives.

**Modern U.S. History Semester II (Semester Course, ½ Credit, ISCS: 04103A000)**

This semester-long course examines the major events and turning points of U.S. history from World War II to modern times. The course leads students toward a clearer understanding of the patterns, processes, and people that have shaped U.S. history. As students progress through each era of modern U.S. history, they will study the impact of dynamic leadership and economic and political change on the United States' rise to global prominence, the influence of social and political movements on societal change, and the importance of modern cultural and political developments. Recurring themes lead students to draw connections between the past and the present, between cultures, and between multiple perspectives.

### **Economics (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Social Studies, ISCS: 04201A000)**

This one-semester course provides students with an understanding of the principles of economics. As they become familiar with how markets work, students interact with lessons to apply the key microeconomic concepts of supply and demand as well as the role of prices. This one-semester course targets important aspects of the world economy, including international trade and global economic challenges, and encourages students to apply the economic way of thinking to a variety of situations relevant to their everyday lives.

### **Government (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Social Studies, ISCS: 04151A000)**

This semester-long course provides students with the opportunity to learn about the historical events, philosophers, and topical issues that helped create the democratic foundations of this nation. This first section will introduce high school students to the Founding Fathers and expose them to the ideas that shaped the nation. Course content includes foundations of American government, government participation, the Legislative Branch, the Executive Branch, the Judicial Branch, civil liberties and the law, state and local government, political systems, and economic systems.

## **Science**

### **Physical Science (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Science, ISCS: 03159A000)**

This semester-long course encompasses the branch of science that studies nonliving systems and inspires students to explore key concepts and theories, each of which explains and/or models a particular aspect of the behavior of nature. Course content includes The Nature of Science, Chemical Building Blocks, and Motion, Forces, and Energy.

### **Physical Science Semester II (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Science, ISCS: 03159A000)**

This semester-long course encompasses the branch of science that studies nonliving systems and inspires students to explore key concepts and theories, each of which explains and/or models a particular aspect of the behavior of nature. Course content includes waves, sound, light, electricity, magnetism, our universe, our galaxy, and our Earth.

### **Biology (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Science, ISCS: 03051A000)**

This semester-long course engages students in the study of life and living organisms and examines biology and biochemistry in the real world. Course content includes scientific knowledge, inquiry, cell biology, cell processes, molecular genetics, and heredity.

### **Biology Semester II (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Science, ISCS: 03051A000)**

This semester-long course engages students in the study of life and living organisms and examines biology and biochemistry in the real world. Course content includes scientific communication, the evolution of life, taxonomy, anatomy, and ecology.

### **Environmental Science (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Science, ISCS: 03003A000)**

This semester-long course offers lessons that cover many different aspects of the field: ecology, the biosphere, and land. Through unique activities and material, high school students connect scientific theory and concepts to current, real-world dilemmas, providing them with opportunities for mastery in each of the segments throughout the semester.

## **Environmental Science Semester II(Semester Course, ½ Credit for Science, ISCS: 03003A000)**

This semester-long course offers lessons that cover many different aspects of the field: forests and soil, water, energy and resources, and societies and policy. Through unique activities and material, high school students connect scientific theory and concepts to current, real-world dilemmas, providing them with opportunities for mastery in each of the segments throughout the semester.

### **Electives**

## **Strategies for Academic Success (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Electives, ISCS: 22003A000)**

This one-semester course covers important study skills, such as strategies for taking high-quality notes, memorization techniques, test-taking strategies, benefits of visual aids, and reading techniques. Students complete lessons on motivation, study habits, and learning styles.

## **Career Ready Skills (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Electives, 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.

## **Diversified Occupation: (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Electives, 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. Please note, students may not receive credit for this class while they are receiving credit for the same job placement at their home school.

## **Art History 1 (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Electives, ISCS: 05152A000)**

The course introduces art within historical, social, geographical, political, and religious contexts for understanding art and architecture through the ages. Students enrolled in this one-semester course will cover topics including early Medieval and Romanesque art; art in the 12th, 13th, and 14th centuries; 15th-century art in Europe; 16th-century art in Italy; the master artists; high Renaissance and Baroque art; world art, which includes the art of Asia, Africa, the Americas, and the Pacific cultures; 18th- and 19th-century art in Europe and the Americas; and modern art in Europe and the Americas.

## **Health (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Electives, ISCS: 08051A000)**

This one-semester course encourages students to make responsible, respectful, informed, and capable decisions about topics that affect the well-being of themselves and others. Healthy Living provides students with comprehensive information they can use to develop healthy attitudes and behavior patterns. Course content includes health and wellness, mental and emotional health, family and social health, nutrition, physical activity, growth, development, addiction, diseases, and disorders.

### **Psychology Semester 1 (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Electives, ISCS: 04254A000)**

This one-semester course introduces high school students to the study of psychology and helps them master fundamental concepts in research, theory, and human behavior. Students analyze human growth, learning, personality, and behavior from the perspective of major theories within psychology, including the biological, psychosocial, and cognitive perspectives. From a psychological point of view, students investigate the nature of being human as they build a comprehensive understanding of traditional psychological concepts and contemporary perspectives in the field. Course components include an introduction to the history, perspectives, and research of psychology and an understanding of topics such as the biological aspects of psychology.

### **Psychology Semester 2 (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Electives, ISCS: 04254A000)**

This one-semester course continues to build knowledge for high school students on the study of psychology and helps them master fundamental concepts in research, theory, and human behavior. Students analyze human growth, learning, personality, and behavior from the perspective of major theories within psychology, including the biological, psychosocial, and cognitive perspectives. From a psychological point of view, students investigate the nature of being human as they build a comprehensive understanding of traditional psychological concepts and contemporary perspectives in the field. Course components include the stages of human development; aspects of personality and intelligence; the classification and treatment of psychological disorders; and psychological aspects of social interactions.

### **Sociology (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Electives, ISCS: 04258A000)**

This one-semester course delves into the fundamental concepts of sociology. This interactive course covers cultural diversity and conformity, basic structures of society, individuals and socialization, stages of human development as they relate to sociology, deviance from social norms, social stratification, racial and ethnic interactions, gender roles, family structure, the economic and political aspects of sociology, the sociology of public institutions, and collective human behavior, both historically and in modern times.

### **Spanish 1 Semester 1 (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Electives, ISCS: 06101A000)**

This one-semester course introduces high school students to the Spanish language, provides an overview of core grammatical structures, and introduces the vocabulary necessary for elementary communication. Students are also introduced to the traditions and customs of Spanish-speaking people across the world.

### **Spanish 1 Semester 2 (Semester Course, ½ Credit for Electives, ISCS: 06101A000)**

This one-semester course continues to build skills for high school students to the Spanish language, provides an overview of core grammatical structures, and introduces the vocabulary necessary for elementary communication. Students are also introduced to the traditions and customs of Spanish-speaking people across the world.