

West Nairobi High School



**Course Descriptions
for 2009-2010**



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Procedures

1. Be aware of the graduation requirements.
2. Freshmen and new students should develop a Four-Year Plan.
3. Read the course descriptions and check the prerequisites carefully.
4. Select classes to fill seven periods per day.
5. In classes where enrollment is limited, preference will be given to upperclassmen.
6. If there is insufficient demand for certain courses, they may not be taught. In these cases students will choose another course.

***All courses marked with an asterisk (*) are semester credit courses. Students are given one-half credit for semester courses and one credit for year-length courses.**

24 credits are required for a College Preparatory Diploma. Each semester represents one-half credit satisfactorily completed.

Subject	English	Social Studies	Math	Science	Bible
Credits Required	4	4	3	3	3
World Language	Fine Arts: Art & Music	Physical Education	Information Technology	Electives	
2	1	1	1	2	

Bible

Introduction to the Christian Faith – This course is taken by all 9th grade students. Students will study the essentials of Christian doctrine including: exegesis, hermeneutics, theology, apologetics, and a practical, cerebral approach to living the Christian life.

Survey of the Old/New Testament – This course is taken by all 10th grade students. This course covers both Old Testament History and Literature in one semester and a survey of the New Testament in the next. A number of themes run through out the course: the role of prophecy, the Bible as an accurate historical book, the character of God, and the validity of the Bible today.

Upper Division Bible Electives – Students are required to take at least one course per year

***Knowing God[†]** – With an emphasis on promoting an understanding of the doctrine of God as the foundation for the rest of one’s theology and practice, this course seeks to strengthen students’ faith, guide their worship and service, and determine how each person should meet and deal with the challenges and trials of life. The first part of this course will examine the doctrine of God in depth. The second part of the course will consider various issues challenging a Biblical understanding of God and the Gospel.

***Decision Making and the Will of God[†]** – Christian living is decision making. Any teaching on the lifestyle of the believer which separates the “Christian life” from the realm of every day decisions

denies what being a new person in Jesus Christ is all about. This course seeks to help students further develop a Biblical world view and form habits of Biblical decision making in all areas of life that will honor the Lord Jesus Christ. Some of the topics will include cultural challenges to a Biblical ethic, developing spiritual discernment, principles of Christian liberty, and developing God-honoring interpersonal relationships.

***Questions of the Faith** – Focused on giving an answer to all who ask hard questions, the intent of this course is to equip and prepare students to answer the difficult questions of the Christian faith. Students will have influence over which topics are addressed. There will be an emphasis on practical, real-world applications.

***Christians and Media** – At no other time in history have worldviews been so dominated by the media as today. Students will examine various forms of media and learn a process by which to think critically about each. An emphasis will be placed on sifting for truth and identifying falsehood in various media.

***Marriage & the Family** – 12th grade students are given priority for this course. Students will discover the composition of a healthy marriage and family in this semester length course. This is a practical, hands-on experience that includes the topics of love, finances, the role of sex, child-raising, and various other aspects.

***The Gospel of John** – The Gospel of John is the most profound exposition of the theology of the person and work of Christ of all the Gospels. The stated purpose of John is, “These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.” The course will make an in depth examination of John for the purpose of deepening the student’s understanding and relationship with Jesus Christ as well as providing a Biblical apologetic for His deity and work.

***The Whole Person** – 12th grade students are given priority for this course. Each gender will take a look at the key issues which lead to a healthy person who is complete in Christ. Students will take a journey using Biblical principles to discover how the events of their past have affected them to this point and attempt to discover the person God wants them to be in the future.

† All 11th and 12th Grade students are required to take one of these courses at some time during the course of those two years.

English

English 9 – 9th grade English is a survey of contemporary and classic literature. Students will be exposed to Edgar Allan Poe, Greek Mythology, Charles Dickens and Shakespeare, as well as reading novels of their choice from more contemporary sources. The goal is to keep the students reading and looking for literary elements that were/are used by the author. Students will be exposed to research methods, the five paragraph essay and the short story.

English 10 – 10th grade English is a mix of cultural literature and classical Western literature. African authors, American authors and British authors will be studied for their take on racism, social class and other pertinent social issues. Students will write responses to Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird* and Chinua Achebe’s *Things Fall Apart*. The students will be encouraged to assess current social issues in their own writing. Literary elements such as theme, characters and point of view will be discussed at length in regard to the novels/literature studied. The students will also be exposed to non-fiction works of literature.

English 11 – 11th grade English is focused on American Literature. Studying Mark Twain, John Steinbeck, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Nathaniel Hawthorn will help the students see the unique style of American authors. Literary elements that were invented by American writers will be studied intensely. The class will study colloquialism, symbolism, characterization and theme while learning to write a persuasive essay from a point of view not necessarily held by them. The students will explore the American genres of the Harlem Renaissance, Transcendentalism, and folk writing.

English 12 – 12th grade English is focused on World Literature. Studying various authors from multiple contexts and genres will provide a challenging interest to students. Students will also be learning techniques for college essay writing and creating a journal of their high school experiences. This course will also prepare them for their Senior project and paper which will culminate in a presentation at the end of the year.

AP English – This fourth year of English is intended to prepare students for the AP exam in May. It is rigorous and is the equivalent of a first-year college English course. This course will also prepare them for their Senior project and paper which will culminate in a presentation at the end of the year.

***Journalism** - This course is an elective for 11th & 12th grade students. The students will be involved in a production of a school newspaper/brochure. The students will learn the principles of interviewing, reporting and design. Some collaboration with the Yearbook course may occur with the writing assignments.

Fine Arts – Art

***Advanced Drawing/Painting** – The principles of drawing and painting will be discussed. Students will further their understanding of the concepts of perspective, shading and cross-hatching or will further their understanding of the techniques appropriate to stylized painting. An emphasis will be placed on the different mediums available for drawing and painting.

***Art I** – Typically taken during 10th grade, this introductory Art course contains a fundamental overview of media such drawing, painting and sculpture. Students will be given the opportunity to study Art from various cultural perspectives as well as different periods.

***Ceramics** – This course is an elective for 11th-12th grade students covering basic ceramics techniques including slabwork, pinchpots, coilwork, carving, throwing, and glazing. Students will gain an understanding of the development and uses of ceramics in various cultures.

***Graphic Design** – In Graphic Design students will learn how to capture an audience through the art of computer graphics. Students will learn the principles of design and apply those to a brochure and CD cover that they will create themselves. Logos and their significance in reaching a target audience will be discussed. Students will be introduced to the Adobe Computer Software known as Creative Suite 4. This course can be taken for either fine arts credit or computer credit, but not both.

***Photography** – This course is an elective for 11th-12th grade students. The student will learn the principles of composition. The students will be taken to see the workings of a photography lab. They will be required to produce photos (printed out). The students will learn Adobe Photoshop. Each student must have their own digital camera in order to participate in this class.

Fine Arts – Music/Other

Band – Students will further their understanding of how to play in concert with other performance in this course. Students will develop their sight reading abilities as well as their understanding of music theory. Each semester will culminate in a performance for the school or community

Drama – Drama is offered as an elective for 9th-12th grade students. In Drama, the students will be introduced to the principles of presentation, speech and oral communication, the origins of drama, principles of performance, backstage, set-design and an actual performance of a play. The students will be required to be involved in a dramatic performance at the end of the year, whether they are onstage or backstage.

Information and Communication Technology

***Computer Applications** – 9th grade computer is a practical course that takes the students through Microsoft Office Access and PowerPoint. Students will be introduced to the principles of presentation and database usage. They will be required to ‘set-up a business’ that will use both programs. The students are required to have taken Computer 8-Word and Excel.

***Yearbook** – Yearbook is an elective offered to 9th-12th grade students. In Yearbook, the students will learn the principles of layout, design and photography, as well as computer programs that will help to produce the final product: the yearbook. Students will have an opportunity to observe a working printing press and will be able to see the process of a print job from beginning to ending stages.

***Graphic Design** - In Graphic Design students will learn how to capture an audience through the art of computer graphics. Students will learn the principles of design and apply those to a brochure and CD cover that they will create themselves. Logos and their significance in reaching a target audience will be discussed. Students will be introduced to the Adobe Computer Software known as Creative Suite 4. This course can be taken for either fine arts credit or computer credit, but not both.

Math

Algebra I – This course serves as a foundation for all higher level mathematics courses. It focuses on the development of functions and the understanding of functional relationships. Students investigate Algebra through problem-solving in real-world situations. Students will participate in developing tables, coordinate graphing, algebraic analysis and linear and quadratic equations and their graphs.

Geometry – This course emphasizes logical thinking and its application in the informal justification and formal proof of conjectures. Students solve problems by synthetic, coordinate, and transformational methods. Problem solving applies the Algebra previously learned, emphasizes connections, and involves non-routine applications.

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Algebra II – This course is an extension of the study of the real number field. Rational, irrational, and complex number sets, matrices including sequences and series, polynomial functions, and conics are studied.

Prerequisites: Algebra I and Geometry

Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus – This course includes development of higher-level mathematics skills. Trigonometric functions, vectors and matrices, complex numbers, functions and their graphs, infinite series, conic sections, and limits are stressed in this course.

Prerequisites: Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II

AP Calculus – This course includes applications of limits and derivatives, integration, special functions, and infinite series. It is an introductory course in college with elementary functions. Emphasis will be given to preparing for the AP exam. All students who take the course will be expected to take the AP exam in May.

Prerequisite: an “A” in Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus and/or Teacher Approval

Physical Education

***Health Education** – Health Education covers 5 aspects of health (mental, social, physical, emotional and spiritual) that should be balanced in one's life. Students will gain understanding of what it means to be “fit” and will display their results in a portfolio demonstrating where they are and areas of improvement. This class will cover 5 aspects of health as mentioned above by providing the student with a basic understanding of 1) decision making 2) nutrition principles 3) physical fitness 4) diseases and disorders 5) self-esteem 6) managing stress 7) drugs and alcohol 8) adolescence and adulthood 9) sex education

#Fitness – Students will learn how to establish a quality, life-long fitness into their daily routine. Each student will develop coordination, flexibility, endurance, strength, speed by being introduced to proper resistance training, plyometrics and other strength building exercises/activities. The class will also cover safety procedures such as injury prevention.

#American (Flag) Football – Students will learn the basic skills needed to play American flag football game including passing, running, blocking, special teams' play and conditioning. They will also learn the rules of tackle football and display their knowledge in written test format.

#Slow-pitch Softball - Students will learn the basic skills needed to play slow-pitch softball/baseball including fielding, hitting, base-running, special situational plays and conditioning. Rules of the game will also be taught and each student will have the opportunity to coach a team. Differences in softball and baseball along with slow-pitch and fast-pitch will be discussed.

***Team Sports** – Students who participate in any one of the following inter-scholastic sports will receive one-half credit in physical education. Seasons are divided into 3 terms with Term 1 offering Boys' Football, Girls' Basketball and Mixed Tennis, Term 2 offering Girls' Football, Boys' Basketball, Mixed Swimming, and Term 3 offering Boys' Rugby, Girls' Volleyball. Students are welcome to participate in team sports all four years, but cannot apply more than two credits of P.E. towards their graduation requirements.

Several of these may be combined into a semester-length course based on student interest and staff availability.

Science

Biology – Typically taken during 9th grade year. This course covers the essential elements to the study of life including microbiology (macromolecules, organelles, and cells) and macrobiology (kingdoms, ecology and the origins of life).

Prerequisites: None

Chemistry – Typically taken during 10th grade year. Involves the study of matter and the changes it undergoes. Topics to be covered in the class include: types of matter, the atom, molecules, chemical reactions, bonding, solutions, acids and bases, reduction and oxidation and nuclear chemistry.

Prerequisites: Biology, Algebra I

Human Anatomy and Physiology – Typically taken during 11th or 12th grade. Students in this class will study the different systems of the body and how they interact to make the whole person. This course is recommended for students interested in the medical profession.

Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry

Physics – Typically taken during 11th or 12th grade. Physics looks at the fundamental forces by which the physical universe functions. This class is helpful for those who are considering a career in math or engineering.

Prerequisites: Chemistry and Algebra II

Advanced Placement Biology – This second year of Biology is a college-level course. Students will study all aspects of this life science in depth. All students who take this course will be expected to take the Advanced Placement exam in May.

Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry completed at an “A” level and/or Teacher Approval

Social Studies

World History 1 – Required for all 9th grade students. This World History course develops chronological and thematic elements from the origin of man to the Enlightenment movement in the 18th Century. Major themes to be studied in this course include: origin of man, Greco-Roman culture and impact, European Renaissance and Reformation, French Revolution, and the origins of the Americas. Other great cultures such as China, India, and Japan are also studied. Students broaden their historical perspectives as they examine way societies dealt with great issues of war and peace, internal stability, and the perpetuation of their societal institutions.

***World History 2** – Typically taken during 10th grade, this course picks up the chronological and thematic elements from World History I. Beginning with the Industrial Movement of the 18th Century and continuing to the present, students will learn about major events including: Age of Industrialization, rise of nationalism, World War I and II, goals and impact of imperialism, and issues in the contemporary world. As students examine the historical roots of significant events, ideas, movements, and phenomena, they encounter the contributions and patterns of living of civilizations around the world. Emphasis is placed on the emergence of Europe as a major world player and the consequences of European competition for world domination on history. Special attention will be given to unique African cultures.

History of the United States of America – Typically take during 11th grade, this class is required for all students who plan to attend college or university in the United States. The aim of this class is to provide students with an understanding of the ideas, events, and people that have shaped the United States of America. The text presents a chronological narrative of American History from the earliest civilizations to the present. Students are taught to view history as the evidence of God’s sovereignty at work in the lives of men to bring about His plan. The course is integrated by a number of themes and issues that have marked American History: forging a national identity from a diverse population, strengthening democratic institutions, building a strong economy, managing and respecting the environment, and developing a global perspective. At the same time a major goal is to develop social studies skills: reading for understanding, effective note-taking and study techniques, interpreting maps and graphs, evaluating and discussing primary source material, and writing essays and research papers.

Advanced Placement U.S. History – This in-depth at the history of the United States is a college-level course. Students will study all aspects of the above course in greater depth. Emphasis will be placed on use of primary sources and research techniques. All students who take this course will be expected to take the Advanced Placement exam in May.

Prerequisites: World History I and II completed at an “A” level or Teacher Approval

Comparative Governments /Current Issues – Typically taken during 12th grade, this course covers several major government structures and integrating current events and economic theory throughout the year. The legal foundations and the major institutions of each nation, considering different types of government, will be examined. Different governments from democracies to dictatorships will be

studied as well as the constitutions, laws, economic composition, and officials unique to each. As students learn about government, they will acquire information from a variety of sources and use that information to arrive at decisions, solve problems, and create plans of action. By examining issues and institutions from various points of view, they perceive how others view the world and thus decrease stereotypes in their own perspectives. Students of government become more skilled in dealing with conflict and uncertainty as they learn about the conflicts and ambiguities that are an integral part of any political system. Finally, as they engage in collaborative group work and in action projects, they practice those skills of civic participation so essential to democratic societies.

***Art History and World Cultures** – An advanced look at the origin and progression of Art through the ages. An emphasis will be given to the various periods of Art and the way that Christianity has shaped artistic expression. This course is also both an exposure to Art in various cultures as well as experiencing the techniques used to produce it. African Art will be given particular emphasis.

***Church History** – Offered as a social studies elective, this course focuses around the rise of the evangelical church by studying its foundations. The course will delve into important interactions between the church and states, influential individuals, fundamental church councils, and important church literature. This course will also focus on the creation of several of the major denominations of the evangelical church and the different and similar aspects of each.

***Comparative Religions** – Offered as a social studies elective, this course focuses on the six other major religions of the world (Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Atheism and Secular Humanism) and their sects as well as the cults of Christianity. Students will study the historical beginnings, important figures and writings, and essential doctrines of each with the end goal of being better informed as to the best way to share the Gospel with people of that religion.

World Language

French I, II, III, IV/AP – Students will learn the principles necessary for spoken and written communication in French. Each year will be built on the previous year's learning, with the goal of producing proficient communication. Students will learn about the culture, history, geography and literature of French-speaking countries.

Spanish I, II, III, IV/AP – Students will learn the principles necessary for spoken and written communication in Spanish. Each year will be built on the previous year's learning, with the goal of producing proficient communication. Students will learn about the culture, history, geography and literature of Spanish-speaking countries.

Other Electives

***Teacher's Assistant** – By tacit agreement with select teachers, students in 11th or 12th grade may provide school service by rendering assistance to a teacher for a semester. Students may do this only once per semester and only if they show satisfactory progress toward graduation.

***Study Hall** – This course confers no credit, but allows students showing satisfactory progress toward graduation an opportunity for more time to work on their existing coursework.