

HOMESCHOOL COLLEGE USA

Course Curriculum – HIGH SCHOOL

SOPHOMORE YEAR – COLLEGE PREP

1. Sophomore English (1 credit)

Sophomore English is focused on improving grammar, writing, and critical thinking skills, with a literature component of the in-depth study of four classic novels.

Saylor's English Composition 1 - <http://www.saylor.org/courses/engl001/>

Course Description:

"No matter what career you pursue, you must be able to communicate effectively and clearly if you plan on a successful future. This course will enhance your ability to do so by sharpening your critical thinking and writing skills. We will begin with a unit designed to change the way in which you think about writing. First, you will learn to think of writing not as a solitary act but as a conversation between yourself and an audience. In this light, writing becomes a dynamic, interactive site of creativity rather than a rote practice. You will also begin to value writing as a process—and an admittedly difficult one—rather than a product. You will come to see that writing is an act of discovery rather than a recitation of prefabricated ideas. Because this course is designed specifically for students in a university setting, the second unit will focus on academic writing. We will learn how to respond to an assignment or test question by using the "PWR-Writing" or "Power-Writing" Method (PWR – Pre-Write, Write, Revise) while learning the ins and outs of building a solid thesis and supporting that thesis with evidence. The remaining units will focus on the minutiae of good writing practices from style to citation methodology. Because the goal of this course is to improve your ability to write clear, grammatically-sound expository and persuasive prose, every unit will include a "Grammar Capsule," focusing on a specific grammatical issue."

Literature novel units

1st Quarter: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee

Study Guide - http://www.glencoe.com/sec/literature/litlibrary/pdf/to_kill_mockingbird.pdf

2nd Quarter: *The Red Badge of Courage*, by Stephen Crane

Study Guide - http://www.glencoe.com/sec/literature/litlibrary/pdf/red_badge_of_courage.pdf

3rd Quarter: *A Separate Peace*, by John Knowles

Study Guide - http://www.glencoe.com/sec/literature/litlibrary/pdf/separate_peace.pdf

4th Quarter: *My Antonia*, by Willa Cather

Study Guide - http://www.glencoe.com/sec/literature/litlibrary/pdf/my_antonia.pdf

2. Geometry (1 credit)

Saylor's Geometry - <http://www.saylor.org/courses/rwm103/>

Course Description:

"Geometry is the study of space and the relationships of objects contained inside. This course focuses on the main ideas of geometry that are the foundation of applications of geometry used everywhere. Topics covered include area and volume of shapes, angles and triangles, proofs, basic trigonometry, properties of circles, and coordinate geometry. "

Additional practice worksheets - <http://www.kutasoftware.com/freeige.html>

3. Biology with Lab (1 credit)

Carnegie-Mellon University's Introduction to Biology - <http://oli.cmu.edu/courses/free-open/cc-oli-biology-course-details/>

Course Description:

"This course defines biology and its relationship to other sciences. We examine the overarching theories of life from biological research and also explore the fundamental concepts and principles of the study of living organisms and their interaction with the environment. We will examine how life is organized into hierarchical levels; how living organisms use and produce energy; how life grows, develops, and reproduces; how life responds to the environment to maintain internal stability; and how life evolves and adapts to the environment."

Lab Activities -

http://glencoe.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0003292010/student_view0/virtual_labs.html

Glencoe Virtual Lab activities, covering a variety of experiments such as plant root development, protein synthesis, and gene technology.

4. US History 2 (1 credit)

Saylor's Introduction to United States History: Reconstruction to the Present - <http://www.saylor.org/courses/hist212/>

Course Description:

"This course will introduce you to United States history from the end of the Civil War in 1865 through the first decade of the twenty-first century. You will learn about the major political, economic, and social changes that took place in America during this nearly 150-year period. The course will be structured chronologically, with each unit focusing on a significant historical subject. The units will include representative primary-source documents that illustrate important overarching political, economic, and social themes, such as the growth and expansion of political representation and civil rights in America, industrial development and economic change, race and ethnicity in American society, and cultural change over time. These primary documents offer you insights into the thinking of people who directly witnessed and experienced these historical developments. By the end of the course, you will understand how the United States grew from a relatively weak and divided agricultural nation into a cohesive military and industrial superpower by the beginning of the twenty-first century."

5. American Government (½ credit)

Saylor's Introduction to American Politics - <http://www.saylor.org/courses/polsc231/>

Course Description:

"This course will serve as an introduction to American government and politics. We will focus on several major themes. In the first unit, "American Political Foundations," we will consider the core concepts and theoretical underpinnings of the American system of government: American political culture, the Constitution, and federalism. In the second unit, "American Political Behavior," we will examine the key components of "politics" in the American system, including public opinion, the mass media, political parties, interest groups, campaigns, elections, and electoral participation. In the third unit, "American Institutions," we will analyze the major governing bodies in the United States: Congress, the Presidency and the Bureaucracy, and the Courts.

Unit Four, "Civil Rights and Civil Liberties in America," will highlight how American government shapes and influences the individual freedoms and rights of its citizenship. In our final unit, "Making Policy in the American Political System," we will take a close look at social, economic, and foreign policy and the ways in which the broad themes of constitutional principles, political behavior, and governmental institutions have intersected to shape it."

6. Economics (½ credit)

Saylor's Principles of Microeconomics - <http://www.saylor.org/courses/econ101/>

Course Description:

"The purpose of this course is to provide you with a basic understanding of the principles of microeconomics. At its core, the study of economics deals with the choices and decisions that have to be made in order to manage scarce resources available to us. Microeconomics is the branch of economics that pertains to decisions made at the individual level, i.e. by individual consumers or individual firms, after evaluating resources, costs, and tradeoffs. When we talk about "the economy," then, we are referring to the marketplace or system in which these choices interact with one another. In this course, we will learn how and why these decisions are made and how they affect one another in the economy."

7. French 1 (1 credit)

Carnegie-Mellon University's Elementary French 1 - <http://oli.cmu.edu/courses/free-open/french-i-course-details/>

Course Description:

"Elementary French I is a carefully sequenced and highly interactive presentation of French language and culture in a media-rich course environment including new video shot in France and Québec with young professional actors. It is designed to be used as a full course of study."

