

HIGH SCHOOL COURSE CATALOG 2024-2025



Divine Savior Academy
— SANTA RITA RANCH —

course catalog

CORE CURRICULAR COURSES

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

English 1

ELA1001

Credit: One (1) Credit

English I is a course that will reflect on the interconnected nature of reading, writing, listening, speaking, and thinking. The students will highlight these areas through language workshops, close reading, writing workshops, and assessments. The students will analyze texts; create evidence-based writing; apply higher-order questioning; and use given guidelines to create academic conversations. Keeping God's Word at the forefront of our education, we will look at the texts with the mindset of a Christian while exploring other worldly views in literature and writing. We will adhere to the words given in Colossians 3:23 "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

Prerequisite: 8th Grade English or equivalent

English 2

ELA1002

Credit: One (1) Credit

English 2 builds upon the skills learned in English 1. Students use fiction and nonfiction texts to further their understanding of the English language and how authors use writing to communicate to various audiences. Each quarter, students explore a different topic or question and use various texts, critical thinking and discussion, and writing to formulate an application or answer.

Prerequisite: English 1 or 9th grade equivalent

Speech

ELA1003

Credit: Half (0.5) Credit

In this course, students examine and practice the art of public speaking. Public speaking is one of the most desired traits for a new employee to have in today's workforce. Why? In today's digital world, it is becoming more and more difficult to find someone who has the skills to *verbally* communicate clearly, concisely, and in an engaging way. Technology is robbing us of one of the most influential skills known to mankind. Students will learn both delivery and listening skills in order to get the most from either being in the audience or being the one presenting the information.

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 10-12

American Literature

ELA1004

Credit: Half (0.5) Credit

This one semester course of American Literature will contain some of America's most treasured authors. Remembering our past and its' diversity, students will read a variety of American short stories, poetry, and novels. A major part of this class will be critically analyzing literature; discussing literary terms and historical background; writing critically in essays; applying a Christian worldview; and completing a culminating project.

Prerequisite: English 2 or 10th grade equivalent

AP English Language & Composition

ELA4001

Credit: One (1) Credit

The AP English Language Arts and Composition course aligns with an introductory college-level rhetoric and writing course. It focuses on the development and revision of evidence-based analytic and argumentative writing, the rhetorical analysis of nonfiction texts, and the decisions writers make as they compose and revise. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Additionally, they will read and analyze

rhetorical elements and their effects in nonfiction texts—including images as text forms—from various disciplines and historical periods. College-level thinking and writing will be the primary focus of this class.

Prerequisite: 83% or better in English 2, department approval, and successful completion of summer work

Grade Level: 11-12

MATHEMATICS

Algebra 1

MAT1001

Credit: One (1) Credit

In Algebra 1, students are given an instruction that provides the necessary building blocks to continue math at the High School level. Students are given instruction in algebraic foundations and will have a mastery of such material. Course content includes complex use of arithmetic operations, graphs, number sets, equations and functions, measurement and conversions, ratios, exponents and roots, statistics, as well as applications to life through real-world story problems. Through successful completion of this course, students will be prepared to advance to Geometry, Algebra 2 or an equivalent course.

Prerequisite: 73% or better in Pre-Algebra/Math for Future Success or equivalent class

Geometry

MAT1002

Credit: One (1) Credit

Geometry is an integral part of every high school mathematics curriculum. Course content includes perspective, space, dimension, application and calculation of measurements, and an introduction to trigonometry. Students will use their own logic along with key geometry theorems to create proofs and constructions. Through successful completion of this course, students will be prepared to advance to Algebra II or Pre-Calculus (if Algebra II has already been successfully completed).

Prerequisite: 73% or better in Algebra 1

Algebra 2 and Pre-Trigonometry

MAT1003

Credit: One (1) Credit

A mastery of advanced algebraic concepts is critical for success in mathematics at a more advanced level. In this course, students will complete mathematics instruction at the algebraic level. Course content includes work with graphs, number sets, and various modes of measurement and conversions, as well as statistics and probability. In addition, students develop mastery in the areas of simplifying expressions, solving equations, and geometric manipulations.

Algebra 2 focuses heavily on the use of the quadratic formula, logarithms, trigonometry, and making connections to everyday life through real-world story problems. Through successful completion of this course, students will be prepared to advance to Geometry, Honors Pre-Calculus and Trigonometry, or an equivalent course.

Prerequisite: 73% or better in Geometry/Honors Geometry

Pre-Calculus

MAT2004

Credit: One (1) Credit

This course fully integrates topics from algebra, geometry, trigonometry, discrete mathematics, mathematical analysis, and calculus. Word problems are developed throughout the problem sets and become progressively more elaborate. With regular practice, students will be able to solve challenging problems such as rate problems and problems involving abstract quantities. Conceptually oriented problems help prepare students for college entrance exams such as the ACT and SAT. This course will prepare students to enroll in AP level courses such as calculus and/or statistics.

Prerequisite: 73% or better in Algebra 2 & Pre-Trigonometry

SCIENCE

Biology

SCI1001

Credit: One (1) Credit

Biology 1 is a high school course designed to provide exploratory experience, laboratory investigations, and real-life applications in the field of the Biological Sciences. The students will study a variety of different topics such as the nature of life, ecology, cells, genetics, microorganisms, plants, animals, and the human body. In addition to these topics, we will also study the secular world view of evolution in light of our Biblical World View. Through the completion of this course students will better understand, appreciate, and utilize God's creation to make God-pleasing decisions that will benefit the spiritual, moral, and emotional welfare of all people on earth.

Prerequisite: None

Chemistry

SCI1002

Credit: One (1) Credit

Chemistry is the study of the structure of matter and the changes it undergoes. This course provides students with the fundamentals of modern chemical theory and emphasizes the wisdom of God in creating matter, the complexity and order of His Creation, and how human beings have applied his understanding to solve problems and use materials in modern society. Topics include modern atomic theory, stoichiometry, thermodynamics, equilibrium, and nuclear chemistry. The utilization of scientific inquiry, interactive experiences, higher order thinking, collaborative projects, real world application through labs, and a variety of assessments all aid students in ultimately demonstrating a deeper understanding of the importance of chemistry in the world around them.

Prerequisite: Biology

Physics

SCI1003

Credit: One (1) Credit

This course provides students with a modern view of the fundamental concepts of physics. Students learn essential concepts of physics through demonstrations, laboratory work, and discussion. Careful gathering and analysis of quantitative data is stressed. Some of the topics covered in this course are mechanics, electricity and magnetism, sound, and light. The course stresses God's preeminence over his creation and demonstrates the order of his work.

Prerequisite: Chemistry

Human Anatomy & Physiology

SCI2001

Credit: One (1) Credit

Human Anatomy and Physiology is a full year course designed to study the human body in a systematic way. Students will learn about starting from cells, through tissues and finally a study of the different organ systems of the body. As this course is designed to be an introduction to other anatomy science courses offered in college, students must be willing to engage in several dissections that expand hands on knowledge in the course content offered. This is an advanced science course, so students are expected to spend a greater amount of time on reading and memorization outside of class. As they complete the course, students will have the opportunity to appreciate the complexity of the human body and recognize the incredible gift God has given us.

Prerequisite: Biology

Grade Level: 11-12

Earth & Space Science

SCI2002

Credit: Half (0.5) Credit

Earth and Space Science is a full year course that covers a broad range of topics involving the Earth's interior, surface, and atmosphere. It also includes topics about the sun, moon, planets, and the stars outside our solar system. Students will apply physics, chemistry and mathematics to the physical phenomena that surround us. The final goal of this course is to explore God's creation with respect and wonder.

Prerequisite: Biology

Grade Level: 11-12

SOCIAL STUDIES

World History

SCS1001

Credit: One (1) Credit

This course traces the development of society today from ancient civilizations through present day in a thematic structure. Emphasis will be placed on historical reasoning skills and making connections through time. Students will be led through a series of units that examine the connections between time periods based on topics such as economics, wars, society, and world religions. Though primarily a course in global history, this class will draw upon materials and pedagogical approaches from other disciplines, such as geography, literature, political science, and art.

Prerequisite: None

United States History

SCS1002

Credit: One (1) Credit

The purpose of this course is to expand the knowledge of the students pertaining to United States history. Content includes a comprehensive review of early United States history at the beginning of the course. The primary emphasis for this class is the study of United States history from Reconstruction to the present day. Students will be exposed to the historical, geographic, political, economic, and sociological events which influenced the development of the United States and impacted world history. Students will be exposed and engaged in higher-level critical thinking skills throughout the course while taking a detailed look at a variety of important political, social, and economic issues encountered in the United States, both past and present.

Prerequisite: World History or equivalent class

United States Government

SCS1003

Credit: Half (0.5) Credit

United States Government is a one-semester course. Its goal is to foster the development of civic competence and civic participation for all students. In this course, students use both knowledge and analytical thinking skills to focus on the origins, structure, and functions of government at all levels in the nation. Emphasis is placed on intellectual factors that influenced the development of a republic based on the rule of law, freedom of opportunity, individual liberty, and representative democracy. The course also includes studying the Constitution of the United States and its provisions. Students in this course will engage in analysis of primary sources, including those specific to the founding of the United States, speeches, landmark Supreme Court cases, and relevant political commentaries.

Prerequisite: United States History or equivalent class

Economics

SCS1004

Credit: Half (0.5) Credit

Economic decisions affect all people. Understanding economics means thinking about how scarcity, or limited resources, requires people to make choices and evaluate one option against others. In this course, students will recognize examples of economics in their daily lives. Students will see how the economic choices of larger groups, like businesses and governments, affect themselves and others. As students progress through the course, they will recognize that the costs and benefits of choices connect individuals and groups around the world. The purpose of this course is to help students become a smart consumer who understands the flow of an economy between individuals, businesses, governments, and the rest of the world.

Prerequisite: United States History or equivalent class

AP Human Geography

SCS4005

Credit: One (1) Credit

AP Human Geography is a rigorous, college-level course designed for students to explore geography, culture, and modern topics. Students will emphasize the development of analytical and writing skills necessary for success on a collegiate level. To this end, the course devotes considerable time to the critical evaluation of data, and other primary and secondary sources. A special emphasis will be given to preparation for the National AP Exam, including writing thorough essays.

Prerequisite: 83% or better in previous Social Studies course, department approval, and successful completion of summer work

THEOLOGY

The Gospel: The Word Became Flesh

THE1001

Credit: One (1) Credit

A study of the Gospel of John using the author's "pictures" of Christ (e.g. Great Physician, Servant) to reveal Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God. The course also includes foundational units examining the authority and reliability of the Bible, the birth of Christ, and the meaning of sin, grace, truth, love, and life. It concludes with the formation and growth of the New Testament church in the Book of Acts.

Prerequisite: None

Old Testament: In the Beginning

THE1002

Credit: One (1) Credit

A study of the Old Testament, which focuses on God's plan of salvation rooted in human history, from Genesis to Daniel. The study also includes a survey of Psalms and Proverbs, with an overview of Old Testament worship as it foreshadows the promised Messiah.

Prerequisite: None

Christian Doctrine: Grace and Truth

THE1003

Credit: One (1) Credit

This course explores the most important doctrines/beliefs of Christianity, drawing predominantly from the New Testament Epistles. The purpose of this course is to establish the foundation of the Christian faith and a framework for Biblical thinking. These doctrines include but are not limited to God, humanity, Christ, justification, vocation, and end times.

Prerequisite: None

Practical Christianity: Apologetics

THE1004

Credit: One (1) Credit

Using Christian apologetics and Biblical worldview, the course prepares students to live, defend, and share the Word of God in a postmodern and pluralistic society. The course focuses on applying the Biblical knowledge gained in previous theology classes through class discussions, writing, presentations, and projects.

Prerequisite: None

ELECTIVE COURSES

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education 9

PEH1001

Credit: Half (0.5) Credit

Physical Education 9 is designed to have students test the physical limits of their bodies through a variety of exercises, workouts, and fitness activities. Students will use the five components of fitness as a basis for what we do and why we do it. We will also discuss the benefits and risks that exist when participating in strenuous physical activities. The goal of this course is to create knowledgeable teens who understand the benefits of daily physical activity to live a healthy lifestyle well beyond their schooling years.

Prerequisite: None

Health

PEH1002

Credit: Half (0.5) Credit

This course is an overview of health and wellness as it relates to an individual and his/her behaviors. The course will lead to a greater appreciation of the marvels of the human body and an understanding of how to treat those bodies as "temples of the Holy Spirit." In addition, students will explore the many issues facing them as young adults which will impact them as they grow into adulthood. The importance of decision-making and responsibility will be discussed as it relates to unit topics which include healthy living, mental health, stress, personal fitness, nutrition, weight management, alcohol and other drug abuse, and tobacco. This course is an overview of health and wellness as it relates to an individual and his/her behaviors. It is a life skills course and will teach students the importance of leading a healthy and active lifestyle.

Prerequisite: None

WORLD LANGUAGES

Spanish 1

LAN2001

Credit: One (1) Credit

This course provides basic Spanish language skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing within a cultural framework. Students will acquire the vocabulary and grammatical structures necessary to communicate and comprehend at the beginner level. Through successful completion of this course, students will be prepared to advance to Spanish 2.

Prerequisite: None

Spanish 2

LAN2002

Credit: One (1) Credit

This course provides continued development of basic Spanish language skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing within a cultural framework. Students will acquire the vocabulary and grammatical structures necessary to communicate and comprehend at the high beginner to low intermediate level. Through successful completion of this course, students will be prepared to advance to Spanish 3.

Prerequisite: Spanish I

DIVINE SAVIOR ACADEMY

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

ADVANCED LEVEL COURSES POLICY

The prerequisite for all Advanced Level courses at DSA is at least an 83% cumulative grade in the previous course within the department. Additionally, the department will evaluate the student's work ethic, classroom leadership, desire to be challenged, and (when applicable) accountability in taking previous online courses, when recommending students for Advanced Level courses.

Due to the increased level of rigor of these courses, DSA limits the number of Advanced Level courses a student may take. The principal, in counsel with the teachers and department chairs, determine the number of Advanced Level courses a student may take.

Students in Advanced Level courses will receive a grade point average (GPA) boost only if the cumulative grade in the course is a 70% or higher. All Honors courses receive a .5 GPA boost.