



# Payson Seymour High School 2025-2026 Course Descriptions

## **Payson CUSD #1 Mission Statement**

*Through Respect and Resilience, Payson Seymour Challenges  
Students and Educators To...*

*Contribute Collaboration - Communication - Acceptance -  
Succeed in College, Career, & Community Ready*

## **Vision Statement**

*To Prepare All Students to Compete, Contribute, and World  
Not Yet Created*

## **INTRODUCTION**

This course description is designed to help students plan their 4 year path from the variety of courses offered in Payson Seymour High School.

Students should plan their high school path with the help of their parents, counselors, and teachers. In this course description, each course is described by level of instruction, length of course, specific prerequisite, and credit value.

*Seymour High School ensures equal educational opportunities are offered to students, regardless of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, or handicap.*

## Schedule Changes

Schedule changes will be allowed for the first 5 days of each semester. Acceptable changes include: incomplete schedule, unresolved class conflicts, failure of a class, or prerequisite. All schedule changes will be approved by the counselor.

**Please Note: Classes offered in the master schedule are determined by the largest number of students requesting to take it. The included course criteria are subject to change.**

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## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Number of Credits
4

3	Mathematics
2	Science
2	Social Studies
1/2	Civics
1/2	Resource Management
1/2	Computer Applications
1/2	Health
3 1/2	Physical Education
1	Senior Studies
10 1/2	Electives
<b>28</b>	<b>Total Credits Required</b>

## CONSTITUTION TEST

Receiving a passing grade on the US and Illinois Constitution test is a graduation requirement for the State of Illinois. The constitution tests will be given in Civics.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS (PE)

All students will complete 3 1/2 years of PE. During grades 11 and 12, PE may be replaced by an additional academic course necessary for college enrollment, for making up academic deficiencies, or if you are a student athlete. Students must be involved in two (2) extra-curricular IHSA sports in order to opt out of PE. Students may **not** replace the PE course in order to take weighted classes to advance their GPA.

## EARLY GRADUATION

Students who meet requirements may graduate at the end of First Semester during their Senior year. Students must apply to the principal in order to graduate before the completion of eight (8) semesters. Each request will be handled individually. Students must submit their intent for early graduation by October 31.

## FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)

The State of Illinois requires that all students complete the FAFSA or have a parent opt out letter on file in order to graduate from high school. The FAFSA may be accessed at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>.

# GRADUATION 4 YEAR PLANS

Planning a four-year high school course of study requires very careful consideration of one's present skills, interests, and abilities in light of future educational and occupational plans. During the course of your high school career, your plan may need to be revised based on your changing interests, or occupational goals.

Students should review their records each semester to verify that they are on track with their plan. It is also encouraged to meet with the counselor on a regular basis to ensure that their graduation requirements are being met.

FRESHMAN YEAR	SOPHOMORE YEAR	JUNIOR YEAR	SENIOR YEAR
English (1 credit)	English (1 credit)	English (1 credit)	English (1 credit)
Math (1 credit)	Math (1 credit)	Math (1 credit)	Physical Education ½ credit needed
Lab Science (1 credit)	Lab Science (1 credit)	Resource Management (½ credit)	Senior Studies Class (English IV, Accounting, Spanish II, III or IV, Psy, ) (1 credit)
Physical Education (1 credit)	Physical Education (1 credit)	Physical Education (1 credit)	
History (1 credit)  Drivers Ed (½ credit)/ Computer App (½ credit)	Civics (½ credit) / Health (½ credit)	US History (1 credit)	
Total 8 credits possible	Total 8 credits possible	Total 8 credits possible	Total 8 credits possible



## **Introduction To Agriculture Elective-Grades 9-12 Course Length- One year**

**One Unit of Elective Credit**

This course provides an opportunity for students to learn how the agricultural industry is organized; its major components; the economic influence of agriculture at state, national and international levels; and the scope and types of job opportunities in the agricultural field. Basic concepts in animal science, plant science, soil science, horticulture, natural resources, agribusiness management, and agricultural mechanics, will be presented. Improving computer and workplace skills will be a focus.

## **Agriculture Business Elective-Grades 11&12 Course Length- One Semester**

**½ Unit of Elective Credit**

This course will develop students' understanding of the agricultural industry relating to the United States and World marketplace. Instructional units include: business ownership types, planning and organizing the agribusiness, financing the agribusiness, keeping and using records in an agribusiness, operating the agribusiness, agricultural law, taxes, and developing employability skills.

**This course is offered every other year.**

## **Agriculture Leadership Elective- Grades 11 & 12 Course Length- One Semester**

**½ Unit of Elective Credit**

Students will analyze current agricultural issues, determine how they affect people on all sides of the issue and enhance their written and oral communication skills by presenting their views and opinions to the class through debates, speeches, and interviews in order to be effective leaders in today's society. Students will gain the knowledge and leadership experiences to help them to become successful in life and in the workplace; thus, enhancing their potential for leadership development, personal growth, and career success. **This course is offered every other year.**

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## **Agricultural Biology: Plant Science Elective-Grades 10 -12 Course Length- One Year**

**One Unit of Elective Credit**

**Prerequisite- Introduction to Agriculture**

This course is designed to reinforce and extend students' understanding of science by associating scientific principles and concepts with relevant applications in agriculture. First semester will be spent learning about the soil and its properties. Materials covered in this semester may include soil profiles, texture, formation, and properties. Several hands-on activities will take place over the semester. Second semester, students will examine major phases of plant growth and management in agriculture. Topics of study are in the areas of initiating plant growth – germination, plant sensory mechanisms, and managing plant growth. **This course is offered every other year.**

**Agricultural Biology: Animal Science Elective- Grades 10 - 12 Course Length- One Year**  
**1 Unit of Elective Credit**  
**Prerequisite- Introduction to Agriculture**

This course is designed to reinforce and extend students' understanding of science by associating scientific principles and concepts with relevant applications in agriculture. Throughout the course students will examine major phases of animal agriculture and specific biological science concepts. Topics of study are in the areas of growth and development of animals, species specific characteristics, and nutrition. **This course is offered every other year.**

**Agriculture Construction and Technology I Elective- Grades 10-12 Course Length- One semester**  
**½ Unit of Elective Credit**  
**Prerequisite- Introduction to Agriculture**

This course covers the basics of construction and instruction on using various tools. Students will learn to read a blueprint and build from it. Skills that can be used in the workplace will also be executed throughout the semester

**Agriculture Welding and Fabrications I Elective- Grades 10-12 Course Length- One Semester**  
**½ Unit of Elective Credit**  
**Prerequisite- Introduction to Agriculture**

This course covers the basics of welding and the necessary safety skills. Students will learn and perform various types of welding techniques in the class. Skills that can be used in the workplace will also be taught throughout the semester.

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**Agriculture Construction and Technology II Elective- Grades 10-12 Course Length- One semester**  
**½ Unit of Elective Credit**

**Prerequisite- Introduction to Agriculture and Ag Construction I**

This advanced course focuses on building knowledge and skills off of the previous class. This includes creating blueprints, determining project cost, and working with power tools and hand tools to create several different wood projects. Skills that can be used in the workplace will also be executed throughout the semester

**Agriculture Welding and Fabrications II Elective- Grades 10-12 Course Length- One Semester**  
**½ Unit of Elective Credit**

**Prerequisite- Introduction to Agriculture &  
Ag Welding & Fabrications 1**

This advanced course focuses on building knowledge and skills off of the previous introduction class. This includes creating projects designed by the student using oxyacetylene, stick, and MIG welding. Skills that can be used in the workplace will also be taught throughout the semester.

**Basic Agriculture Mechanics Elective- Grades 10-12 Course Length- One year**

**1 Unit of Elective Credit**

**Prerequisite- Introduction to Agriculture**

This course focuses on the knowledge, hands-on skills, and workplace skills applicable to construction in the agricultural industry. Major units of instruction include: personal safety, hand tools, power tools, basic woodworking skills, plumbing, and electricity. This course will also emphasize the development of basic welding and metalworking skills necessary to succeed in agricultural careers in the agricultural metal fabrication industry. Topics of instruction include: metal identification and properties, metal preparation, use of oxy-acetylene torch, plasma cutting and cutting operations, arc welding and MIG welding

**Horticulture Elective- Grades 10-12 Course Length- One year**

**1 Unit of Elective Credit**

**Prerequisite- Introduction to Agriculture**

This course focuses on the greenhouse management, floral design and related segments of the horticulture industry. Major units of study include floriculture plant identification, greenhouse structures, and the culture of greenhouse crops. Also included are care and handling of cut flowers, principles of art applied to floral design, and the mechanics of floral design. Agribusiness units will be introduced in merchandising, advertising, sales, and operating a retail floral business

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**Natural Resources Management Elective- Grades 10-12 Course Length- One year**

**1 Unit of Elective Credit**

**Prerequisite- Introduction to Agriculture**

This course develops management and conservation skills in understanding the connection between agriculture and natural resources. Student knowledge and skills are developed in: understanding natural resources and its importance; fish, wildlife, and forestry management and conservation; and exploring outdoor recreational enterprises. Hunting and fishing as a sport, growing and managing tree forests, and outdoor safety education will be featured.

**Veterinarian Science Elective- Grades 10-12 Course Length- One year**

**1 Unit of Elective Credit**

**Prerequisite- Introduction to Agriculture**



This course will develop students' understanding of the small and companion animal industry, animal anatomy and physiology, animal ethics and welfare issues, animal health, veterinary medicine, veterinary office practices, and animal services to humans. Career exploration will focus on veterinarian, veterinary lab technicians, office lab assistant, small animal production, research lab assistant, and animal nutrition lab technician.



## ART DEPARTMENT

**Art I Elective- Grades 9-12 Course Length- One year or one semester**

**1 unit or ½ Unit of Elective Credit**

Open to 9th grade through 12th with no prior Art experience necessary. The course includes a two and some three dimensional design. Color, design and fiber arts are explored.

**Art II Elective- Grades 10-12 Course Length- One year or one semester**

**1 unit or ½ Unit of Elective Credit**

**Prerequisite- Art I**

The course revolves around advanced drawing, painting and printmaking (3 colored reproductions) and some sculpture with a variety of mediums used. Basic (acrylic) painting on canvas will be done. Color and design are explored at length in all of the areas.

**Art III, IV Elective- Grade 10-12 Course Length- One year or one semester**

**1 unit or ½ Unit of Elective Credit**

**Prerequisite- Art II and approval of instructor**

Advanced painting, naturally coupled with more design and drawing, becomes the focal point of interest in Art III. Art III and IV involve individual exploration of media and techniques with emphasis on self-motivated, mature problem-solving in the Arts.

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## **BUSINESS DEPARTMENT**

**Computer Application Required- Grade 9 Course Length- One semester**

**½ Unit of Elective Credit**

Students will be working in the Microsoft Office Operating System, covering Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Access. Students will have a review of Microsoft Word and Microsoft PowerPoint. Students are introduced to the spreadsheet application Excel and the database application Access. In Excel, students will cover Excel basics, worksheet appearance, worksheet formulas, making the worksheet

useful, and worksheet charts. In Access, students will cover Access basics, manipulating data, and finding the sorting data.

### **Introduction to Business Elective- Grades 10-12 Course Length- One year**

**One Unit of Elective Credit**

Introduction to Business will give students the knowledge and understanding of the basic structures of the three major types of business: proprietorships, partnerships, and corporations. It will deal with managerial techniques and strategies in running a business ethically and according to acceptable policies/laws. It will give students an opportunity to research and understand the steps in becoming a successful entrepreneur, along with learning theories and techniques.

### **Advanced Technology Elective- Grade 11-12 Course Length: One year or one semester**

**1 or ½ unit of Elective credit**

**Prerequisite- A “C” or better in all previous computer classes**

Students must have taken all previous computer classes that have been offered in the school schedule or recommendation by the teacher. Students will use various computer programs. Emphasis will be placed on video production and web page design as well as investigating new technologies. Students will be required to help and to assist the school district with computer technology. Students will also study ethical behavior, how to interact with others, team building, developing positive work habits, time management and goal setting.

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### **Accounting I Elective-Grade10-12 Course Length- One year**

**One Unit of Elective/Senior Studies Credit**

**Prerequisite- Computer Applications**

The objectives of the course are to contribute to a person's ability to earn a living and provide an understanding of the economic activities of the business world and develop competence in managing business affairs. Career discussions are held concerning bookkeepers and certified public accountants.

### **Graphic Communication I Elective- Grades 10-12 Course Length- One year**

**One Unit of Elective Credit**

**Prerequisite- Computer Applications**

This course provides learning experiences common to all graphic communications occupations. Instruction will include: use of color, balance, and proportion in design; three dimensional visualization, sketching, design procedures, layout, selection of type styles/fonts, selection of appropriate drawing tools and media, and the use of the computer to complete classroom assignments. Planned learning activities will allow students to become knowledgeable of fundamental principles and methods and to develop technical skills related to graphic arts. Students will study the area of communications and digital photography. Commercial art, advertising, composition, printing and graphics, industry, and applying these principles by designing and publishing the yearbook are all parts of the course content.

20 Exploration of the business aspect involves selling commercial ads. Hands-on digital photography requires time outside of class.

**Graphic Communication II (Advanced Graphics) Elective-Grades 11&12 Course Length- One year**

**One Unit of Elective Credit**

**Prerequisite- A "C" or better in Graphic Communication I**

This course provides learning experiences related to the tools, materials, processes and practices utilized in the printing industry. Instruction includes layout, digital paste up and copy preparation. In addition, the course provides the students with learning experiences in the use of cameras, photographic equipment, and photographic editing.

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**Multimedia Elective- Grades 11-12 Course Length- One semester**

**½ Unit of Elective Credit**

**Prerequisite- Computer Applications**

This course provides hands-on experiences with using technology to create different types of media, including but not limited to publications, animations, audio files and interactive media.

**Publication Editing (Yearbook Editor) Elective- Grades 11&12 Course Length- One year**

**One Unit of Elective Credit**

**Prerequisite- Graphic communication I & advisor approval**

This course provides each student with the knowledge and skills necessary to produce the school newspaper, yearbook, literary magazine, or other printed publication. Students may gain experience in several components (writing, editing, layout, production and so on) or may focus on a single aspect while producing the publication. The editor is responsible for working with the entire staff and for creating a plan to produce a quality yearbook on deadline. The editor should have very good leadership qualities. The editor will be personally responsible for the cover, end sheets, and all divider pages as well as completed layouts for the remainder of the yearbook. The editor provides leadership to those working for them. This individual is also responsible for assisting in the teaching where needed, reading all copy and captions on spreads, editing all spreads before they are sent to the printer, reading and correcting all proofs, and getting them returned to the printer on deadline. The

editor is responsible for keeping the advisor informed and for asking for help to get the yearbook done well and with staff morale high. The major qualities which the Yearbook Editor must possess are leadership, commitment, the ability to supervise others, the ability to work with staff and advisors, excellent writing skills, the ability to work independently, and a strong devotion to the yearbook course. He or she needs to be familiar with the Adobe In Design and Adobe Photoshop programs.

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## **DRIVERS EDUCATION**

**Driver's Education Required- Classroom Grade 9 & Driving Grade 10 Course Length- One semester**

**½ Unit of Credit**

**Prerequisite Classroom- Must have passed all classes the semester prior to taking classroom**

**Prerequisite Driving- Must pass the classroom portion with a semester grade of at least a B & must pass all classes this semester prior to driving.**

Discussion focuses on laws of federal, state and local governments. This part of the course is to develop an understanding of the students' need for safety and the responsibilities of owning and driving a car. The driving part of the course (to be done sophomore year) consists of six hours of behind the wheel instruction and observation. Driving skills are developed by driving on gravel roads, black tops, and highways, along with country and city driving. Parking, backing up, and turning around are some of the basic maneuvers. There will be a \$250.00 fee assessed to those students taking this class.



## DUAL CREDIT COURSES

*Listed below are courses that students can take online for college credit (student is responsible for this cost) and high school elective credit simultaneously. You can check with the Counselor to see if additional John Wood Community College or Blessing Reiman courses are available.*

**Elementary Statistics (JWCC MAT 109)-ALEKS Elective- Grades 11-12 Course Length- One Semester**

**$\frac{1}{2}$ Unit of Elective Credit**

**Prerequisite- Algebra II**

Must qualify on the COMPASS test Elementary statistics is designed for the student who has successfully completed Algebra II. Use of the graphing calculator will be part of this course. Other areas of study include box plots, histograms, graphs, calculating measures of center, mean, median, mode, range, standard deviation and variance.

**College Algebra (JWCC MAT 113)-ALEKS Elective- Grades 11-12 Course Length- One semester**

**½ Unit of Elective Credit**

**Prerequisite- Must qualify on the COMPASS test**

Properties of real numbers, exponents, polynomials, equations in one or more variables, linear and quadratic equations, functions and graphs, inverse functions, complex numbers, zeros of polynomial functions, exponential functions, logarithmic functions, systems of equations, linear and nonlinear, 3 dimension graphs.

**Trigonometry (JWCC MAT 114)-ALEKS Elective- Grade 11-12 Course Length- One semester**

**½ Unit of Elective Credit**

**Prerequisite- Elementary Statistics & College Algebra &  
Must qualify on the COMPASS test**

Graphs and functions, rectangular coordinates, circles, inverse functions, trig functions, analytic trigonometry, Law of Sines, Law of Cosines, Right triangle trig.

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Workplace Experience One half year ½ Unit of Credit Elective- 2 nd semester Grade 12 This class will be offered to seniors the second semester. The student has to provide proof of employment and have the workplace complete a checklist once a month provided by the school. \*Seniors seeking work release will have to be approved by the school counselor and principal.

**English I (JWCC ENG 101) Elective- Grade 11&12 Course Length- One semester**

**½ Unit of Elective Credit**

Rhetoric and Composition I An introductory course in writing at the college level with attention to skills needed at each stage of the writing process. Placement in ENG 101 presupposes competence in English grammar, mechanics, punctuation, and spelling.

**English II (JWCC ENG 102) Elective- Grade 11-12 Course Length- One semester**

**½ Unit of Elective Credit**

**Prerequisite- completion of ENG 101 with a grade of at least a “C”**

Rhetoric and Composition II provides further practice in writing at the college level for a variety of purposes and audiences, using both fixed and open or developing forms. Research paper required.  
**This course is a continuation of ENG 101**

**Major World Religions (JWCC PHL 201) Elective- Grade 11-12 Course Length- One Semester**

**½ Unit Of Elective Credit**

A study of the great religions of the world today.

**Psychology (JWCC PSY 101) Elective- Grade 11-12 Course Length- One semester**

**½ Unit of Elective Credit**

Introduction to Psychology Basic introduction to the major areas of psychology--the study of behavior and the mind. Areas of emphasis include human development, personality theory, learning, thinking, stress and motivation, mental illnesses, and biological and social aspects.

**Sociology (JWCC SOC 101) Elective - Grade 11-12 Course Length- One Semester**

**½ Unit of Elective Credit**

This course is an introduction to sociology as a way of understanding the world and how it applies to everyday life. Major theoretical perspectives and concepts are presented including socialization, culture, the social construction of knowledge, social control and deviance, inequality, race and ethnic relations, poverty, and the sociological imaginations.

**Communication for the Healthcare Professional (HSE 462) Elective- Grade 11-12 Course Length- One semester**

**¼ Unit of Elective Credit**

This course will help enhance communications skills to become a healthcare professional. It will focus on verbal and nonverbal communication skills, active listening, and therapeutic approaches to interacting with patients. It also teaches about language and cultural diversity needs and skill development with electronic communication techniques.

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**Medical Terminology (HSE280) Elective- Grade 11-12 Course Length- One semester**

**¼ Unit of Elective Credit**

This course will introduce the background in the language of medicine and health care. It will expose students to a system of learning medical terms from root words, combining forms, prefixes and suffixes. At the completion of the course the student will be able to recognize, build, define, and correctly spell medical terms.

**Fundamentals of Nutrition (NSG201B) Elective- Grade 11-12 Course Length- One semester**

**¼ Unit of Elective Credit**

Covers the fundamental nutritional concepts throughout the lifespan, menu modifications based on dietary and cultural needs, contemporary problems associated with nutrition, and nutrition solutions during health alterations. Students will be able to safely apply basic nutritional concepts to patient care situations related to health promotion and health altering conditions.



**Introduction to Forensic Nursing (NSG282) Elective- Grade 11-12 Course Length- One semester**

**¼ Unit of Elective Credit**

This course is designed to introduce you to this specialty practice area of nursing. Students will learn the history of Forensic Nursing and Forensic Science, careers related to Forensic Science and Nursing, evidence collection, crime scene investigation, and basics of the criminal justice system.

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## **ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

**English I Required- Grade 9 Course Length- One year**

**One Unit of English Credit**

The student will be working in grammar, stressing the parts of speech, parts of the sentence along with modifiers and sentence structure. Literature will introduce the student to some of the classics, including Romeo and Juliet, To Kill a Mockingbird and The Odyssey. Composition will be stressed in

written work in the form of compare/contrast essays, written analysis of fiction and non-fiction worlds as well as a research paper on a chosen topic.

**English II/American Literature Required- Grade 10 Course Length- One year**

**One Unit of English Credit**

English II will be a study of American Literature. Analytical reading will take precedence over the practice of summarization. Students will practice the skills of analytical reading and writing through the study of poetry, short stories, and the novel. Additionally, grammatical rules will be studied through the practice of sentence parsing and diagramming.

**English III/European Literature Required- Grade 11 Course Length- One year**

**One Unit of English Credit**

English III will be a study of European Literature. Students will continue to practice the skills of analytical reading and writing through the study of poetry, short stories, and the novel. Additionally, grammatical rules will be studied through the practice of sentence parsing and diagramming.

**English IV/ World Literature Required- Grade 12 Course Length- One year**

**One Unit of English/Senior Studies Credit**

English IV will be a study of World Literature. Students will practice the skills of analytical reading and writing through the study of poetry, short stories, and the novel. During this year, students will craft an essay that uses multiple works of literature to support a thesis statement they have crafted regarding

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a common theme/message within their chosen text. Additionally, grammatical rules will be studied through the practice of sentence parsing and diagramming

**English IV- College Prep Grade 12 Course Length- One Year \*Weighted Course**

**One Unit of English**

Students that enter into the College Prep course of English IV will find themselves facing a heavy workload of reading, writing, and diagramming. Within the first semester of the course, multiple volumes of literature, philosophy, and social commentary will be covered. These works will need to be read, evaluated, and discussed by the students during the frequent Socratic Seminars in which all classmembers partake. Group work is encouraged throughout the course; however, the individual must strive to excel on their own when the time comes. The second semester of the course will see the addition of the fundamentals of film and its importance to the world of literature and art. Students will view various films from throughout the history of cinema and analyse the elements of creation used to produce such works. The year will culminate with the students completing their senior thesis, which allows them a medium to express themselves on a chosen topic.

**History of the English Language- Grade 12 Course Length- One Semester**

**½ Unit of English Credit**

History of the English Language courses trace the development of English, concentrating on historical and cultural influences and how the language has changed over time. Although language roots, structures, and dialects may be examined, the emphasis remains on the process of language development rather than on morphology.

**Literature- Grade 11/12 Course Length- One Semester**

**½ Unit of English Credit**

Literature courses offer the opportunity for students to study and reflect upon the themes presented in the body of literature. Students improve their critical-thinking skills as they determine the underlying assumptions and values within the reading selection and as they understand how the work reflects society's problems and culture. Oral discussion is an integral part of literature courses, and written compositions are often required. Literature courses may survey representative works, reflect a particular genre or a specific theme, or survey works of a particular time or people.

**Drama Elective- Grades 10-12 Course Length- One Semester**

**½ Unit of English Credit**

**Prerequisite- English III**

Students will become comfortable with the art of performing before a crowd through a variety of mediums and practices. Students will become accustomed to visual and verbal cues given by others, reaction expectations and exceptions, and the importance of presentation pertaining to a message. They will be expected to approach mastery in the art of public presentation.

**Journalism Elective- Grade 12 Course Length- One semester**

**½ Unit of English Credit**

**Prerequisite- English III**

This class presents an overview of the field of journalism and mass communication and teaches students to be consumers of media. Students will study the fundamental principles of gathering, writing, reporting and editing news. Emphasis will be placed on accuracy, brevity, clarity, reportorial responsibility and legal and ethical issues.

**Creative Writing Elective- Grade 12 Course Length- One semester**

**½ Unit of English Credit**

**Prerequisite- English III**

This course focus on different types of creative writing and will require the students to create original writings.

**Speech Elective- Grade 12 Course Length- One semester**

**½ Unit of English Credit**

**Prerequisite- English III**

This course will investigate the different types of speeches and will require the students to create and present original speeches to their peers in the classroom.

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## **ELECTIVES**

**S.T.A.T.-Student Teacher Assistant Training Elective- Grade 11-12 Course Length- One semester**

**½ Unit of Credit**

**Prerequisite- Have an interest in children or teaching**

This course is meant to assist the supervising teacher in achieving teaching objectives by working with individual students or small groups to help them achieve the skill levels of the class as a whole. Daily Logs are required for this course. Semester end projects are also required for this course.

**Quincy Area Vocational Technical School (QAVTC) Elective Grade 11-12 Course Length- One Year**

**Day classes: 2.5 Units of Credit**

**STP classes (night classes): 1.25 Units of Credit**

Quincy Area Vocational Technical Center (QAVTC) is an area Career & Technical School offering courses to the following member school districts: Central, Griggsville-Perry, Liberty, Payson, Pittsfield, Quincy Notre Dame, Quincy Senior High, Southeastern, Unity and Brown County.

The QAVTC campus is located adjacent to the campus of Quincy Senior High School. Our center is equipped with classrooms, a preschool center, a Health Occupations simulation lab, a full Commercial kitchen and shops for Automotive Technology, Construction, Diesel Equipment Technology, Graphic Communications and Welding.

Our programs are designed to provide hands-on learning experiences for students that gives them skills they need for entry level positions in the workforce and/or provides foundational skills they can build upon in post-secondary education.

If you are interested in these types of classes please contact the counselor for more information.



**FAMILY AND CONSUMER  
SCIENCES (HOME EC)  
DEPARTMENT**

### **Introduction to Family & Consumer Science Careers (FACS) Elective Grades 9-12 Course**

**Length- One year**

**One Unit of Elective Credit**

This course introduces students to the field of family and consumer sciences and the many career opportunities available in this broad field. The course includes theory and laboratory experiences in the following content areas: Nutrition and culinary arts, textiles and design, family, career and community leadership development, resource management, human development and life-long learning, facility design, care and management, and interpersonal relationships and life management skills.

\*This course must be completed before any student can take any of the other Home Economics courses.

### **Child Development and Parenting Elective- Grades 10-12 Course Length- One semester**

**½ Unit of Elective Credit**

**Prerequisite: Intro to FACS**

Child Development and Parenting addresses the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors associated with supporting and promoting optimal growth and development of infants and children. The focus is on research-based nurturing and parenting practices and skills, including brain development, that support positive development of children. Students will explore opportunities in human services and education-related careers and develop a career portfolio.

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### **Nutrition and Culinary Arts I Elective- Grades 10-12 Course Length- One year**

**One Unit of Elective Credit**

**Prerequisite: Intro to FACS**

This includes classroom and laboratory experiences needed to develop knowledge and understanding of culinary principles and nutrition for people of all ages. Course content encompasses: food service and preparation management using the decision-making process, meeting basic needs by applying nutrition concepts, meeting health safety and sanitation requirements, maximizing resource when planning/ preparing/ preserving/serving food, applying hospitality skills, analyzing nutritional needs in relation to change, and careers in nutrition and culinary arts, including entrepreneurship investigation.

**Nutrition and Culinary Arts II Elective- Grades 11-12 Course Length- One year**

**One Unit of Elective Credit**

**Prerequisite- Intro FACS and Nutrition and Culinary Arts I**

This course provides principles of application into the hospitality industry, including nutrition, culinary, and entrepreneurial opportunities. Course content includes the following: selection, purchase, preparation and conservation of food, dietary needs and trends, regional and international cuisine, safety and sanitation, and careers in food service industries. All of these concepts can be interpreted through laboratory experiences.

**Nutrition and Wellness Occupations Elective- Grades 12 Course Length: One semester**

**½ Unit of Elective Credit**

**Prerequisite- Intro to FACS, Nutrition and Cul Arts I and II,  
or written permission from the teacher.**

Nutrition and Wellness courses focus on how physical, mental, social, psychological, and emotional wellness are related to food, food selection, and health. Topics typically include dietary needs across one's lifespan, stress management, special dietary issues, and eating disorders as well as societal and genetic health issues that are addressed through the prevention education component of the class. Other topics covered range from healthy food selection, label reading, and diet analysis to understanding additives, making wise food choices, and dealing with food allergies. (Available SY 2021)

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**Textiles and Design I (Sewing) Elective- Grades 10-12 Course Length- One semester**

**½ Unit of Elective Credit**

**Prerequisite- Intro to FACS**

This course is designed to provide basic knowledge and understanding of the design, development, and production of textile products. Through hands-on and project based learning experiences, students will discover fiber characteristics, fiber construction methods, elements of science and design in textiles and apparel, and basic construction skills used in interior furnishings and apparel industries. This course emphasizes awareness and investigation of careers and industry trends in textiles.

**Textiles and Design II (Sewing) Elective- Grades 10-12 Course Length- One semester**

**½ Unit of Elective Credit**

**Prerequisite- Textiles and Design I**

This project-based course focuses on the implementation and recognition of design principles in selection, construction, altering, and remodeling textile products. Project management skills, including efficient use of time, materials, technique, and tools are incorporated throughout the course. Topics include: engineered fabric construction, fiber and textile trends, color theory, principles of design, fabric finishes, industry construction techniques, use of industry tools, equipment, and terminology, knowledge of resources and vendors, research and evaluation of textile products for special needs populations, impacts of technology, construction, alteration and re-design skills, and simple flat pattern design and recognition.

**Interior Design Elective- Grades 10-12 Course Length- One semester**

**½ Unit of Elective Credit**

**Prerequisite- Intro to FACS**

Interior Design courses emphasize applying the fundamental processes of artistic expression to design an interior living or working space. Students analyze and apply a variety of media, techniques, and processes in their interior design. Courses may also include an understanding of aesthetic issues associated with interior design. Students study the art or process of designing the interior of a room or building and focus on enhancing the interiors of a space to achieve a healthy and more aesthetically pleasing environment. Students will study interior designs from historical, contemporary, and world cultures. Students engage in critique of their interior designs, the designs of others, and designs by professional interior designers for the purpose of reflecting on and refining work for presentation.

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**Culinary Arts Specialty Grades 12 Course Length- One year**

**1 Unit of Elective Credit**

**Prerequisite- Intro to FACS, Nutrition and Culinary Arts I and II,  
or written permission from the teacher.**

Culinary Art Specialty courses provide instruction in a particular type of cooking or culinary style. Examples of such specialty fields include baking, creating and decorating wedding cakes, Middle Eastern cuisine, and so on. These courses emphasize skills specific to the type of culinary art being studied.

**Resource Management**

**Required- Grade 11  
Course Length- One semester**



## **½ Unit of Credit**

This Consumer Economics/Personal Finance course provides students with an understanding of the concepts and principles involved in managing one's personal finances. These courses emphasize lifespan goal-setting, individual and family decision making, and consumer rights as well as topics that are commonly associated with personal finances so that one can become a financially responsible consumer. Topics may include savings and investing, credit, insurance, taxes and social security, spending patterns and budget planning, contracts, and consumer protection. These courses may also investigate the effects of the global economy on consumers and the family (Available SY 2021)

**\*\*Alternatively Can Take Ag Business Management.**

## **Cooperative Education Elective- Grade 12**

Cooperative Education is a capstone course designed to assist students in the development of effective skills and attitudes through practical, advanced instruction in school and on the job through cooperative education. Students are released from school for their paid cooperative education work experience and participate in 200 minutes per week of related classroom instruction. Classroom instruction focuses on providing students with job survival skills and career exploration skills related to the job and improving students' abilities to interact positively with others. For skills related to the job, refer to the skill development course sequences, the task list or related occupational skill standard, of the desired occupational program. The course content includes the following broad areas of emphasis: further career education opportunities, planning for the future, job-seeking skills, personal development, human relationships, legal protection and responsibilities, economics and the job, organizations, and job termination. A qualified career and technical education coordinator is responsible for supervision. Written training agreements and individual student training plans are developed and agreed upon by the employer, student and coordinator. The coordinator, student and employer assume compliance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

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## **FOREIGN LANGUAGE**

**Spanish I Elective- Grades 9-11 Course Length- One year**

**One Unit of Elective Credit**

This course is an introductory class to the Spanish language. Any student with at least a B average in the previous year English class may take this elective. We begin the year with vowel and consonant

pronunciation and proceed with formal and informal sentence structure. The course stresses the main components of language learning with focus on speaking, listening, reading and writing. There are also comparisons and contrasts studied during the year over cultural activities between North America and native Spanish speaking countries. The units studied during the year cover family, school and pastime activities. During each quarter, a project will be required relating to an aspect of Spanish culture.

**Spanish II Elective- Grades 10-12 Course Length- One year**

**One Unit of Elective/Senior Studies Credit**

**Prerequisites -Spanish I**

This course is an intermediate class in the Spanish language. Any student with at least a B average in Spanish I may take this elective. We begin the year with a thorough review of grammar, vocabulary, and sentence structure that was learned in Spanish I. We build on these previous year studies with more intense study of the speaking, listening, reading, and writing of the language. The units studied cover foods, clothing, sports and pastime activities. A deeper cultural awareness is also explored with quarterly projects.

**Spanish III Elective- Grades 11-12 Course Length- One year *\*Weighted Course***

**One Unit of Elective/Senior Studies Credit**

**Prerequisite -Spanish I & II**

Spanish III will consist of continued growth in written and spoken skills. Emphasis will be placed upon broadening the vocabulary base, refinement of grammatical skills, introduction to Hispanic literature, and historical events and figures. Cultural activities will be emphasized and expanded above the emphasis given in the beginning courses.

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**Spanish IV Elective- Grades 12 Course Length- One year *\*Weighted Course***

**One Unit of Elective/Senior Studies Credit**

**Prerequisites -Spanish I, II, III**

Spanish IV reviews previously learned concepts while extending pragmatic uses of the language. Discussions and interpretations of various literary genres will be combined with intermittent grammatical study.





## MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

### **Pre-Algebra Required- Grade 9 Course Length- One Year**

**One Unit of Math Credit**

Pre Algebra involves the study of prerequisite concepts that will allow students to advance to Algebra I.

### **Algebra I Required- Grade 9 Course Length: One year**

**One Unit of Math Credit**

***Note: In order to bypass this class in the 9th grade, students must earn at least a B in 8th grade Algebra I & also have teacher approval.***

Algebra 1 involves the study of operations on algebraic expressions, evaluation of algebraic equations, exponent rules and manipulation, polynomials, solving, writing, and graphing linear equations, functions including but not limited to exponential and inverse, solving and graphing one and two-variable inequalities, solving and graphing systems of equations and inequalities, radicals, word problems including real-world situations, solving quadratic equations, and factoring. Students apply transformations to functions and reason about functions and the number and nature of solutions to equations, systems of equations, inequalities, and systems of inequalities. They explore various function types represented algebraically, graphically, numerically in tables, and by verbal descriptions.

### **Geometry Required- Grade 10 Course Length- One year**

**One Unit of Math Credit**

#### **Prerequisite- Algebra I**

Geometry involves the study of plane, solid, and coordinate geometry as they relate to both abstract mathematical concepts as well as real-world problem situations. The course is designed to emphasize the study of the properties and applications of common geometric figures in two and three dimensions. Topics include logic and proof, parallel and perpendicular lines, polygons and circles,

perimeter, area, and circumference analysis, volume and surface area analysis, similarity and congruence, and trigonometry

**Algebra II Required- Grade 11 Course Length- One year**

**One Unit of Math/Senior Studies Credit**

**Prerequisite- Geometry**

Algebra II involves the study of polynomial, rational, logarithmic and trigonometric functions represented algebraically, graphically, numerically in tables and by verbal descriptions. Students write equivalent polynomial, rational, trigonometric and logarithmic expressions to reveal information and key features. Students make geometric constructions and apply geometric concepts and trigonometric ratios to describe, model and solve problems. Students distinguish among sample surveys, experiments and observational studies to determine and interpret data.

**Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus Elective- Grade 11- 12 Course Length- One Year *\*Weighted Course***

**One Unit of Math Credit**

**Prerequisite- College Algebra**

6 Graphs and functions, rectangular coordinates, circles, inverse functions, trig functions, analytic trigonometry, Law of Sines, Law of Cosines, right triangle trig. The course will also include concepts to help students prepare for calculus.

**College Algebra Elective- Grades 11-12 Course Length- One year *\*Weighted Course***

**One Unit of Math Credit**

**Prerequisite- Algebra II**

Properties of real numbers, exponents, polynomials, equations in one or more variables, linear and quadratic equations, functions and graphs, inverse functions, complex numbers, zeros of polynomial functions, exponential functions, logarithmic functions, systems of equations, linear and nonlinear, 3 dimension graphs.

**Calculus Elective- Grades 11-12 Course Length- One year *\*Weighted Course***

**One Unit of Math Credit**

**Prerequisites- College Algebra and Trigonometry**

A course designed to introduce the concepts of derivative, and integral to the student interested in pursuing degrees related to engineering, science or mathematics. Specific topics include functions and graphs, slopes and rates of change, limit theory and continuous functions, formal differentiation, applications of differentiation, and integration.



## MUSIC

### **High School Band Elective- Grades 9-12 Course Length- One Year**

**1 Unit of Elective Credit**

Band is a performance based music class intended for students who play musical instruments. Activities include marching band, pep band, and concert band. Other performance opportunities are also available throughout the year. There will be a \$30.00 fee assessed to those students taking this class.

### **Chorus Elective- Grade 9-12 Course Length- One semester**

**1 Unit of Elective Credit**

Chorus One year One Unit of Credit Elective- Grades 9-12 Chorus is a performance based music class. Activities include contests and concerts. Other performance opportunities are also available throughout the year. There will be a \$30.00 fee assessed to those students taking this class.



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION &

# HEALTH DEPARTMENT

## **Physical Education Elective- Grades 9-12 Course Length- One year**

**One Unit of Elective Credit**

The physical education department offers a comprehensive program with various activities including: soccer, speedball, softball, archery, pickleball, flag football, basketball, volleyball, cageball, weight lifting, gymnastics, bowling, exercising, small games, dance, track and field and tennis. Those activities are intended to provide the individual student with physical exercises and an understanding of how to better use leisure time.

## **Personal Fitness Training Elective- Grades 9-12 Course Length- One year**

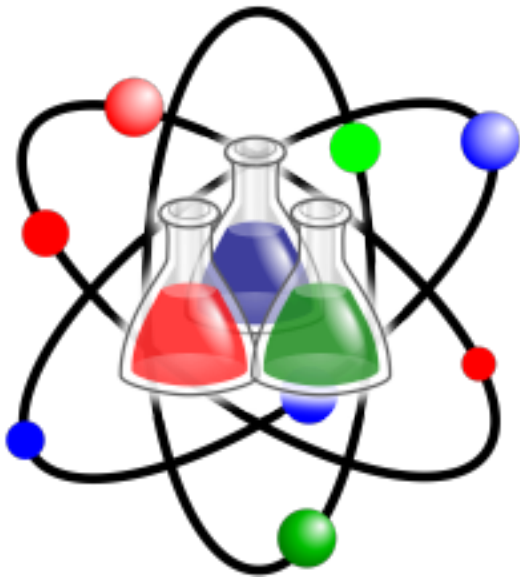
**One Unit of Elective Credit**

A fitness and wellness course designed to give students the opportunity to experience the physical and mental benefits of body conditioning with weights, machines, supplemented cardiovascular, flexibility and other forms of exercise for sport and/or lifelong fitness. Also covered in the course is human anatomy and physiology, nutrition, injury prevention and rehabilitation. Coursework will be both physical and mental based with training and classroom work incorporated weekly.

## **Health Required- Grades 10 Course Length- One semester**

**½ Unit of Elective Credit**

Health education is offered as a semester course and is required of all students before graduation. The areas to be covered are set by legislation of the State of Illinois. The areas are: consumer health education, dental health, drug use, alcohol, human ecology, human growth, mental health, nutrition, safety education and smoking and disease. First aid will be an additional unit.



## SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

### **Biology Required- Grade 9 Course Length- One year**

#### **One Unit of Lab Science Credit**

Biology is the study of living things. It is a laboratory-based course which focuses on the process of scientific investigation. Topics of study include: Themes of biology, chemistry of cells, cell structure, cell transport, photosynthesis, cellular respiration, chromosomes, cell reproduction, meiosis, heredity, DNA, protein synthesis, evolution, classification of organisms, ecosystems, biological communities, and body structure. This course prepares students to take upper level science courses and is designed for all students.

### **Earth and Space Science Elective- Grades 9-12 Course Length- One Year**

#### **One Unit of Elective Credit**

Earth & space science is the study of many physical aspects of the earth, such as rocks & minerals, movement of Earth's natural materials, wind, water, the atmosphere, meteorology, volcanoes, earthquakes, and fossils. It also covers various aspects of astronomy, including planets, moons, stars, and galaxies

### **Anatomy & Physiology I Elective- Grades 11-12 Course Length- One year**

#### **One Unit of Lab Science Credit**

#### **Prerequisite- Biology, Chemistry is useful**

A detailed study of the human body in respect to its structure and function. Topics covered will include: anatomical and medical terminology, levels of structural organization, homeostasis, cytology, histology, and special senses. In addition, this course provides a comprehensive study of the following organ systems: integumentary, skeletal, muscular, and nervous. Upon completion, students will demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the organization, structure, function, and the 31 interrelationships between organ systems of the healthy human body. This is a strenuous course with a project/lab emphasis. Students enrolled should realize that this course requires an extensive amount of time, effort, reading, and memorization.. This course may be useful to those who wish to pursue a career that is health-related or study medicine, nursing, physical therapy, medical



technology, education (life-science or physical), and even art. **This course is offered every other year.**

**Anatomy and Physiology II Elective- Grade 12 Course Length- One year *\*Weighted Course***

**One Unit of Lab Science Credit**

**Prerequisite: Anatomy and Physiology I**

This course is an extension of A&P I, providing a comprehensive study of the following organ systems: endocrine, cardiovascular, lymphatic, respiratory, digestive, urinary, and reproductive. Topics covered will include blood, body defenses, and metabolism. Upon completion, students will demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the organization, structure, function, and the interrelationships between organ systems of the healthy human body. This is a strenuous course with a project/lab emphasis. Students enrolled should realize that this course requires an extensive amount of time, effort, reading, and memorization. Successful completion requires dedication and commitment. This course may be useful to those who wish to pursue a career that is health-related or study medicine, nursing, physical therapy, medical technology, education (life-science or physical), and even art. **This course is offered every other year.**

**Chemistry Elective- Grades 10-12 Course Length- One year**

**One Unit of Lab Science Credit**

**Prerequisite- Algebra**

Chemistry courses involve studying the composition, properties, and reactions of substances. These courses typically explore such concepts as the behaviors of solids, liquids, and gases; oxidation/reduction reactions, and atomic structure. Chemical formulas and equations are also studied.

**Botany Elective- Grades 10-12 Course Length- One year**

**One Unit of Lab Science Credit**

Botany courses provide students with an understanding of plants, their life cycles, and their evolutionary relationships

**Advanced Chemistry Elective-Grade 12 Course Length- One year *\*Weighted Course***

**One Unit of Lab Science Credit**

**Prerequisite- Chemistry**

A science project will be required. We will begin where chemistry leaves off and continue into the study of gasses, intermolecular forces, solutions, reaction rates, acid-bases, salts, electrochemistry, redox reactions, nuclear and organic chemistry. This is a strenuous course with a project/lab emphasis. Students enrolled should realize that this course requires an extensive amount of time, effort, reading, and memorization. Successful completion requires dedication and commitment. **This course is offered every other year.**

**Physics Elective- Grades 11-12 Course Length- One year *\*Weighted Course***

## **One Unit of Lab Science/Senior Studies Credit**

### **Prerequisite- Algebra II**

Physics courses involve the study of forces and laws of nature affecting matter, such as equilibrium, motion, momentum, and the relationships between matter and energy. The study of physics includes examination of sound, light and magnetic and electric phenomena. This is a strenuous course with a project/lab emphasis. Students enrolled should realize that this course requires an extensive amount of time, effort, reading, and memorization. Successful completion requires dedication and commitment. **This course is offered every other year.**

## **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Elective-Grades 10-12 Course Length-**

### **One year**

#### **One Unit of Elective Credit - Unweighted**

#### **One Unit of Lab Science Credit - Weighted**

In Scientific Research and Design courses, students conceive of, design, and complete a project using scientific inquiry and experimentation methodologies. Emphasis is typically placed on safety issues, research protocols, controlling or manipulating variables, data analysis, and a coherent display of the project and its outcome(s). \*Seniors MUST apply for this class in order to be approved to take the course. Only 8 students will be allowed in the class. **STEM is offered as a grade weighted for grades 11-12 and non-grade weighted for grades 10-12**



## **SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT**

### **Civics Required-Grade 10 Course Length- One semester**

**½ Unit of Social Studies Credit**

Civics courses examine 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. This course examines government, the Constitution Of both the United States of America and Illinois, and the proper use and display of the flag.

### **Economics Elective- Grades 11-12 Course Length-One semester**

**½ Unit of Social StudiesCredit**

Economics courses provide students with an overview of economics with primary emphasis on the principles of microeconomics and the U.S. economic system. These courses may also cover topics such as principles of macroeconomics, international economics, and comparative economics. Economic principals may be presented in formal theoretical contexts, applied contexts, or both

### **Modern World History Elective-Grades 11-12 Course Length- One Year**

**One Unit of Social Studies Credit**

Modern History will be a survey course covering history of the world from Renaissance to World War I.

### **Psychology Elective-Grades 11-12 Course Length- One semester**

**½ Unit of Social Studies/Senior Studies Credit**

The main objectives of this course are for the student to have a working knowledge of the concepts and theories in Psychology. Special areas include intelligence and creativity, cycles of life, roots of behavior, self and personality, sleep disorders, and psychological disorders.

### **Sociology Elective-Grades 11-12 Course Length- One semester**

**½ Unit of Social Studies Credit**

Sociology courses introduce students to the study of human behavior in society. This course provides an overview of sociology, generally including (but not limited to) topics such as social institutions and

norms, socialization and social change, and the relationships among individuals and groups in society.

**US History Required-Grades 11 Course Length- One Year**

**One Unit of Social Studies Credit**

During this course, the student will look at the political, economic and social history of the United States. The course presents a survey of US history concentrating on the years following reconstruction to the present.

**World History Elective- Grades 9-12 Course Length- One Year**

**One Unit of Social Studies Credit**

World History will be a survey course covering western civilization from prehistoric to modern times. Each unit will include geography concepts and lessons appropriate to the time and place.

**Contemporary U.S. Issues Elective- Grades 12 Course Length- One Year**

**One Unit of Social Studies/Senior Studies Credit**

Contemporary U.S. Issues courses study the political, economic, and social issues facing the United States, with or without an emphasis on state and local issues. These courses may focus on current issues or may examine selected issues that span throughout the 20th century to the present.