

ACADEMY OF MOUNT ST. URSULA

Course Selection Booklet

2019-2020



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PROGRAM OF STUDIES AND COURSE CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

FOR GRADUATION FROM AMSU: At the end of senior year, 24 units plus physical education courses, guidance and service hours are required. Of these 24 units, the following units must be taken in the designated disciplines:

TOTAL

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Religious Studies | 2 |
| English | 4 |
| Social Studies | 4 |
| Mathematics | 3 |
| Science | 3 |
| Modern Language | 3 |
| Computer | ½ |
| Music | ½ |
| Art | ½ |
| Health | ½ |
| Electives | 3 |
| Physical Education | |

| <u>Grade 9</u> | | <u>Grade 10</u> | | <u>Grade 11</u> | | <u>Grade 12</u> | |
|-------------------|---|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|
| Religious Studies | ½ | Religious Studies | ½ | Religious Studies | ½ | Religious Studies | ½ |
| English | 1 | English | 1 | English | 1 | English | 1 |
| Social Studies | 1 | Social Studies | 1 | Social Studies | 1 | Social Studies | 1 |
| Mathematics | 1 | Mathematics | 1 | Mathematics | 1 | Elective Courses | 3 |
| Science | 1 | Science | 1 | Science | 1 | Physical Ed. | |
| Modern Language | 1 | Modern Language | 1 | Modern Language | 1 | Guidance/ College Workshop | |
| Art | ½ | Music | ½ | Health | ½ | | |
| Intro to Computer | ½ | Physical Ed. | | Physical Ed. | | | |
| Physical Ed. | | Guidance/ SAT Prep | | Guidance/ SAT Prep | | | |
| Guidance/SAT Prep | | | | | | | |

DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

NEW YORK STATE REGENTS HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

Regents Courses Offered at AMSU:

| <u>English</u> | <u>Modern Language</u> | <u>Mathematics</u> | <u>Science</u> | <u>Social Studies</u> |
|----------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| English 9 | Spanish I; I; I-II; III | Algebra I/H | Biology/H | Global 9 |
| English 10 | Italian 1.5, 2.5 | Geometry/ H | Chemistry/H | Global 10 |
| English 11 | | Algebra II/H | Earth Science Physics | US History & Gov't. |

Requirements for the New York State Regents High School Diploma:

1. Completion of Basic Course Requirements, as on p.2.
2. Passing of: [all examinations require a score of 65 or above]
 - The Regents examination in English
 - One Regents examinations in Social Studies (Global History or United States History)
 - One Regents examination in Mathematics (Algebra I, Geometry, or Algebra II)
 - One Regents examination in Science (Living Environment, Chemistry, Earth Science or Physics)
 - Three units in a modern language and the FLACS examination in that language (AMSU requirement) or language other than English (LOTE)- Oneida- Herkimer BOCES Spanish or Italian Checkpoint B.

Requirements for the New York State Advanced Regents High School Diploma:

1. Completion of Basic Course Requirements, as on p.2.
2. Passing of: [all examinations require a score of 65 or above]
 - The Regents examination in English
 - The Regents examinations in Global Studies and in United States History and Government
 - Three Regents examinations in Mathematics (Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II)
 - Two Regents examinations in Science (One Life Science and One Physical Science)
 - Three units in a modern language and the FLACS examination in that language (AMSU requirement)

COURSE LEVELS

Since courses vary in degree of academic difficulty, they have been classified on levels for the purpose of determining rank in class. The weighting of courses is as follows:

| | | |
|--------------|-----------|------|
| A.P. | Level I | 1.08 |
| Honors | Level II | 1.06 |
| Regents | Level III | 1.04 |
| Intermediate | Level IV | 1.02 |

RELIGIOUS STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Four years of religious studies are required.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 9

The Revelation: Jesus Christ in Scripture– Semester One (0013) Level III
Required, Freshmen

The purpose of this course is to give students a general knowledge and appreciation of the Sacred Scriptures. Through their study of the Bible, they will come to encounter the living Word of God, Jesus Christ. In the course, they will learn about the Bible, authored by God through Inspiration, and its value to people throughout the world. They will learn how to read the Bible and will become familiar with the major sections of the Bible and the books included in each section. Particular attention will be paid to the Gospels, where students may grow to know and love Jesus Christ more personally.

Who is Jesus Christ? [Christology]– Semester Two (0013) Level III
Required, Freshmen

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the mystery of Jesus Christ, the living Word of God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. In this course, students will understand that Jesus Christ is the ultimate Revelation to us from God. In learning about who he is, the student will also learn who he calls them to be.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 10:

The Mission of Jesus Christ [The Paschal Mystery] – Semester One (0023) Level III
Required, Sophomores

The purpose of this course is to help students understand all that God has done for us through his Son, Jesus Christ. Through this course, students will learn that for all eternity God has planned for us to share eternal happiness with him, which is accomplished through the redemption Christ won for us. Students will learn that they share in this redemption in and through Jesus Christ. They will also be introduced to what it means to be a disciple of Christ and what life as a disciple entails.

Jesus Christ's Mission Continues in the Church [Ecclesiology]– Semester Two (0023) Level III
Required, Sophomores

The purpose of this course is to help the students understand that in and through the Church they encounter the living Jesus Christ. They will be introduced to the fact that the Church was founded by Christ through the Apostles and is sustained by him through the Holy Spirit. The students will come to know that the Church is the living Body of Christ today. This Body has both divine and human elements. In this course, students will learn about the sacred nature of the Church.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 11:

**Sacraments: Privileged Encounters with Jesus Christ–Semester One (0033) Level III
Required, Juniors**

The purpose of this course is to help students understand that they can encounter Christ today in a full and real way in and through the Sacraments, and especially through the Eucharist. Students will examine each of the Sacraments in detail so as to learn how they may encounter Christ throughout life.

**Life in Jesus Christ [Christian Morality]– Semester Two (0033) Level III
Required, Juniors**

The purpose of this course is to help students understand that it is through Christ that they can fully live out God’s plans for their lives. Students will learn the moral concepts and precepts that govern the lives of Christ’s disciples.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 12:

**Christian Lifestyles– Semester One (0043) Level III
Required, Seniors**

This course examines relationships to those in our world, including God, family, friends, and ourselves. Themes pertaining to human development, dating, single life, human sexuality, vocations, and lifestyles are also studied. The class begins by discussing God’s love for us and how, in turn, we can love ourselves and others. Personality traits and disorders are reviewed in the context of finding a compatible life partner. The process of making life-changing decisions regarding careers, lifestyles, vocations, and relationships is considered. The course will also cover the process of becoming engaged and married. The status of marriage as a social institution and as a Sacrament of the Catholic Church are discussed, as well as the preparation and requirements that are involved in the marriage process.

**Peace and Justice– Semester Two (0043) Level III
Required, Seniors**

The aim of this course is to invite students to become more aware of the major social and political issues confronting the world today, and to recognize the responsibility that each individual has to help overcome injustice. The course will use a multi-media approach to examine such issues as global poverty and hunger, homelessness, the threat of nuclear war, racism, and liberation in the developing world. The course will include viewing and analysis of audio-visuals, as well as reading and discussion of articles, Scripture reflection, and discussion of students’ community service.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Students are assigned to courses in freshman year based on test scores and a diagnostic composition. Placement in Honors English is determined by performance, test scores and teacher recommendation. All students will take the English Regents Common Core Examination in January of their junior year. Departmental Literary Analysis/Research Papers are required for all levels of English; passing the senior research paper is a requirement for graduation.

ENGLISH 9: Genre Study (1013) Level III

English 9 is designed as a genre study. In this course, students will be introduced to and will experiment with the genres and sub-genres of literature and writing and will strengthen their understanding of grammar, vocabulary, and literary elements. Additionally, this course focuses on the enhancement of the students' communication skills, with respect to reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (1011) Level III

The English Language Arts course is a course designed to aid students in developing stronger skills in the areas of reading, writing, listening and speaking. Students will be given the opportunity to hone their critical thinking, analytical, discussion, debate, and technology skills. By focusing on these areas, students will become better equipped with the skills, knowledge, and understanding necessary to achieve success in academia, the workplace and everyday life.

ENGLISH 9H: Genre Study Honors (1012) Level II

Assignment to English 9H assumes that the students have strong vocabulary, grammar, and writing skills. The basic skills of literature and language are reviewed, and the emphasis is on the development of critical thinking skills and the enhancement of writing style.

PRE-REQUISITES:

- Placement in English 9H is based on the following: TACHS Examination scores, school grades, and performance on the reading and writing components of the AMSU Placement Examination.

ENGLISH 10: British Literature (1023) Level III

In English 10 students will be exposed to great works of literature written in the British tradition; they will also explore the historical, social, political, and literary climates with which they are associated. As with its prerequisite English 9, this course attends specifically to the enhancement of students' competencies in all areas of English Language Arts.

ENGLISH 10H: British Literature Honors (1022) Level II

This course covers the same subject matter as English 10 but in greater depth. The aim is to solidify the literary insights and skills already acquired. The emphasis is on ordered thinking and disciplined writing.

Pre-Requisites:

- From Honors level to Honors level: Final course average of 88% or above
- From Regents level to Honors level: Final course average of 90% or above

ENGLISH 11: American Literature (1033) Level III

Designed as a chronological survey course within a historical context, English 11 highlights the major literary movements and the works of the major authors of American literature. There is a continuation of the development of critical thinking skills in relation to literary analysis and composition techniques. Vocabulary development, correct usage, and reading and listening skills are reviewed in preparation for the Regents Comprehensive Examination in English, which is taken in January. The passing of this examination is a requirement for graduation.

ENGLISH 11H: American Literature Honors (1032) Level II

This course covers the same subject matter as English 11, but in greater depth. The aim is to deepen the literary insights and sharpen those skills already acquired, while achieving sophistication in writing and literary analysis. The Regents Comprehensive Examination in English is taken in January. The passing of this examination is a requirement for graduation.

PRE-REQUISITES:

- From Honors level to Honors level: Final course average of 88% or above
- From Regents level to Honors level: Final course average of 90% or above

ENGLISH 12: Themes (1043) Level III

As with its pre-requisites, this course will focus on aspects of literature, writing, vocabulary, and grammar. The focal point of literary analysis will be to explore: (1) the universality of themes represented in literature, and (2) the nature of the human condition. This course will emphasize writing as a reflective process, and will provide students with opportunities to engage in authentic writing experiences. The development of vocabulary and grammar skills will be emphasized in an effort to promote a more sophisticated level of writing.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH (1041) Level I

This is a college level course whose goals are to enhance critical thinking, literary analysis, and writing skills. The literary works studied will be analyzed from various historical, moral, and philosophical perspectives. In May of senior year, students will take both the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition examination and the Advanced Placement English Language and Composition examination, for which there is a fee (currently \$94 each, subject to change). Qualified students may apply for a fee reduction. On the basis of her score, a student may earn college credit and/or accelerated placement, in accordance with the policy of each college.

**This course may qualify for the St. John's University College Advantage Program and the Mercy College High School Achievement Program.*

Pre-Requisites:

- (1) A final course average of 90 or above in current English class
- (2) A grade of 85% or above on the English Regents Examination
- (3) Exemplary writing skills, as evidenced on the AP English placement examination

WRITING TEACHER CADET (1053)

Elective, Seniors

Level III

This course is designed for students with strong writing, grammar, and vocabulary skills, and would be available as a second senior English course only. Responsibilities of the writing cadet include:

- assisting teachers with English Regents preparation within 11th grade English classes
- assisting individual students with understanding the essentials of writing, for example, thesis statement formation and essay structure and writing
- assisting individual students in the development of their drafting, editing, and revising skills through peer-conferencing
- planning and executing writing lessons in conjunction with the teacher
- recording observations and ideas about the teaching and learning process through journal writing and periodic self-assessments

Pre-Requisites:

- A 90 average in current English class
- A grade of 85% or higher on the English Regents Examination
- Mastery of basic writing skills, as evidenced on Writing Cadet Placement examination

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Four years of Social Studies are required of each student. New York State requires two years of Global Studies (Grades 9 and 10), a year of American History, and a year of Participation in Government/Economics. Comprehensive Regents Examinations will be given after Global Studies 10 and after U.S. History/Government.

GLOBAL STUDIES 9 (2013) Required, Freshmen Level III

Global Studies 9 examines Global History and Geography chronologically. The grade nine curriculum focuses on the history of civilization beginning with the Paleolithic Era and the development of the first civilizations, continues with an examination of classical societies, and traces the expansion of trade networks and their global impact up to the French Revolution. The course emphasizes the key themes of interaction over time, shifts in political power, and the role of belief systems. Students study the six major themes of Global History: cultural diffusion, trade, migrations, belief systems, conflict, and the establishment of multi-regional empires, as well as the major events and turning points in history.

GLOBAL STUDIES 10 (2023) Sophomores Level III

Global Studies 10 examines Global History and Geography chronologically. The grade ten curriculum focuses on the history of civilization from the French Revolution through current world events. Important historical, geographic, political, and economic characteristics of the societies that developed in each region of the world is studied. Students study the six major themes of Global History: cultural diffusion, trade, migrations, belief systems, conflict, and the establishment of multi-regional empires, as well as the major events and turning points in history. These themes are supported by the emphasis on developing interpretation skills through the use of primary source documents, secondary sources, political cartoons, map reading and chart and graph interpretations in relation to the thematic essay and the document-based essay. This course culminates with the New York State Regents Examination in Global History and Geography.

AP EUROPEAN HISTORY (2021) Sophomores Level I

This course will explore the political, social, economic, cultural, and intellectual developments of European history from the high middle ages to the present. It is comparable to a general college survey course offered in a four-year college program. Students in this course will take the Advanced Placement European History examination in May, for which there is a fee (currently \$94, subject to change). Qualified students may apply for a fee reduction. Students will also be required to take the Global History and Geography Regents examination in June. Students must demonstrate a high level of maturity to be accepted into this course.

PRE-REQUISITES:

- 85% in Global Studies 9
- Departmental approval
- Successful completion of the summer reading assignment

UNITED STATES HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT (2033) Juniors Level III

The eleventh year American History course will concern itself with an overview of United States history in general. One of the major themes is that of recognizing and studying basic constitutional issues and the application of constitutional principles to both historical and contemporary life. Further emphasis will be placed on the United States as an industrial nation and as a nation involved in international affairs. The organization of the course will be chronological. The United States History and Government Regents is required at the conclusion of the course.

**This course may qualify for the St. John's University College Advantage Program and the Mercy College High School Achievement Program.*

AP UNITED STATES HISTORY (2031) Juniors Level I

This course is an historical, political, economic and social survey of American culture from colonial times to the present. It is comparable to a general college survey course offered in a four-year college program. Students in this course will take the AP US History examination in May, for which there is a fee (currently \$94, subject to change). Qualified students may apply for a fee reduction. The U.S. History and Government Regents examination will be taken in June. Students must demonstrate a high level of maturity to be accepted into this course.

**This course may qualify for the St. John's University College Advantage Program and the Mercy College High School Achievement Program.*

PRE-REQUISITES:

- 85% on the NYS Global History Regents examination
- Departmental approval
- Successful completion of the summer reading assignment

PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT/ECONOMICS (2043) Level III
Required, Seniors

Grade 12 Social Studies curriculum is divided into two sub-courses:
(1) Participation in Government and (2) Economics.

(First semester)

Students studying **Participation in Government** take a course designed to emphasize the need to act as a responsible citizen. The American political process will be explored at length. Students will be led through the process of voter registration and choosing political party affiliations. Defining, analyzing, monitoring, and discussing both American domestic and foreign policies are the fundamental participatory activities in this course. Some of the timely topics to be covered include: National and local elections, international terrorism, global economy, reforms in the health care system, and environmental issues.

(Second semester)

The **Economics** course will include basic economic concepts and understandings which all persons need to function effectively and intelligently as citizens and participants in the economy of the USA and the world. The course is designed for all students, emphasizes Keynesian economic theory, and rational decision-making, and encourages students to become wiser consumers as well as better citizens.

ANTHROPOLOGY / SOCIOLOGY (2053) Level III
Elective, Juniors and Seniors

Anthropology - Students today are seeking an understanding of peoples and their culture. They are asking not only who we are, but also what we are, and why we behave the way we do. The study of anthropology can supply the insights and information needed to answer such questions. The course includes physical anthropology (the origin and development of humans) and cultural anthropology (the learned and shared behavior of humans, which helps them to accommodate themselves to society).

Sociology - This is an introduction to the study of human social interaction, focusing on individual social acts, social relationships and social organizations. Both social structures (the family, state or church) and social processes (conflict, change and communication) are included. Methods of research, role-playing and simulation games are some of the techniques utilized. Students do independent research projects on current social phenomena, for example, urban problems, class structure, the movement for equal rights, and problems of modernization.

*This course may qualify for the St. John's College Advantage Program and the Mercy College High School Achievement Program.

PRE-REQUISITE: Passing grade on June U.S. History Regents

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

Three years of mathematics are required. For the required courses, students are assigned based on their prior achievement. Please note: in order for a student to graduate and achieve a Regents diploma, they are required by NYS to pass the Common Core Algebra Regents with a 65.

ALGEBRA I HONORS (3012) Level II

This course follows the NYS Common Core syllabus for the first year of academic high school mathematics: Algebra. The course is integrated with units of geometry, probability, statistics and introductory trigonometry, with emphasis on real world applications. It moves at an accelerated pace and is offered to freshmen in the honors math program. The Algebra I Common Core Regents Examination is required in June. Students must pass the course and the Regents exam with a grade ≥ 65 . (If a student fails the Algebra I Common Core Regents in June, **she must retake the course** and Regents in summer school and pass the Regents in August.)

ALGEBRA I (3013) Level III

This course follows the NYS Common Core syllabus for the first year of academic high school mathematics, Algebra. The course is integrated with units of geometry, probability, statistics and introductory trigonometry, with emphasis on real world applications. The Algebra I Common Core Regents Examination is required in June. Students must pass the course and the Regents exam with a grade ≥ 65 . (If a student fails the Algebra I Common Core Regents in June, **she must retake the course** and Regents in summer school and pass the Regents in August.)

ALGEBRA I S (30132) Level III

This double-period course follows the NYS Common Core syllabus for the first year of academic high school mathematics, Algebra. The class begins at 7:45 am on a daily basis. The course is integrated with units of geometry, probability, statistics and introductory trigonometry, with emphasis on real world applications. The Algebra I Common Core Regents Examination is required in June. Students must pass the course and the Regents exam with a grade ≥ 65 . (If a student fails the Algebra I Common Core Regents in June, **she must retake the course** and Regents in summer school and pass the Regents in August.)

GEOMETRY HONORS (3022) Level II

This course follows the NYS Common Core syllabus for the second year of academic high school mathematics: Geometry. The course includes all the topics in Geometry, with an emphasis on real word applications. It moves at an accelerated pace and is offered to sophomores in the honors math program. The Geometry Common Core Regents examination is required in June.

PRE-REQUISITES:

- A minimum grade of 90% in the Algebra 1 CC course
- A minimum grade of 85% on the Algebra 1 CC Regents
- DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL**

GEOMETRY (3023) Level III

This course follows the NYS Common Core syllabus for the second year of academic high school mathematics: Geometry. The course includes all the topics in Geometry, with an emphasis on real world applications. The Geometry Common Core Regents examination is required in June.

PRE-REQUISITES:

- Passing average in Algebra I course
- Passing grade on the Integrated Algebra Regents or the Algebra I Common Core Regents Examination (If a student fails the Integrated Algebra Regents or the Algebra I Common Core Regents in June, **she must retake the course** and Regents in summer school and pass the Regents in August.)
- DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL**

ALGEBRA II HONORS (30355) Level II

This course follows the NYS Algebra II Common Core syllabus for the third year of academic high school mathematics. It includes topics in Trigonometry, Algebra, Geometry, probability, transformations and statistics, with emphasis on real-world applications. The Algebra II Common Core Regents examinations is required in June.

PRE-REQUISITES:

- A minimum grade of 85% on the Algebra Regents
- A minimum grade of 75% on the Geometry Regents
- DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL**

ALGEBRA II (3035) Level III

This course follows the NYS Algebra II Common Core syllabus for the third year of academic high school mathematics: Algebra II/Trigonometry. It includes topics in Trigonometry, Algebra, Geometry, probability, transformations, and statistics, with emphasis on real-world applications. The Algebra 2 Common Core Regents examination is required in June.

PRE-REQUISITES:

- Passing grade on the Algebra I CC Regents Examination
- A minimum grade of 75% in the Geometry course.
- Passing grade on the Geometry Regents Examination (If a student fails the Geometry Regents in June, **she must retake the course** and Regents in summer school and pass the regents in August, otherwise she will be placed in Intermediate Algebra.)
- An average grade of 90% or higher in Intermediate Algebra and a midterm and final exam grade of 90% or higher.
- DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL**

INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA (3034) Level III

This course is offered to juniors and provides an advanced study of Algebra while reviewing the concepts learned in Algebra I. The primary emphasis is on understanding and applying advanced algebraic concepts. Other topics will include probability and statistics. Although the course carries one unit of credit, it does not qualify a student for the Algebra II Regents in June or a Regents sequence in mathematics.

PRE-REQUISITE:

- Passing average in the Algebra and Geometry courses

PRE-CALCULUS (3032) Level II

This course is offered to juniors and seniors and provides advanced study in Algebra, Trigonometry, and analytic Geometry in preparation for AP Calculus for juniors and college Calculus for seniors. Emphasis will be on functions, graphing and proofs. Topics such as limits and derivatives will be introduced. Students' understanding of the conceptual relationship between graphical and algebraic representations will be enhanced by the use of the graphing calculator.

PRE-REQUISITES:

- A minimum grade of 75% in the Algebra II course
- DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL**

AP CALCULUS (3053) Level I

This course follows the College Board syllabus for Calculus AB. It includes both differential and integral Calculus. Students are required to take the AP exam in May for which there is a testing fee (currently \$94, subject to change). Qualified students may apply for a fee reduction. In addition to the AP exam, a project is assigned to each student. Students are expected to write a technical report detailing the results of their project. Students are encouraged to utilize other resources such as mathematical software programs to help complete their task. This project will count as a final grade.

PRE-REQUISITES:

- A minimum average grade of 85% in both the Algebra II course and on the Algebra II Common Core Regents Examination
- DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL**

APPLIED MATHEMATICS (30342) LEVEL III

This Senior elective course is designed to foster enthusiasm and a greater understanding of mathematics. The first quarter is devoted to SAT preparation. Afterwards, the course topics will include probability, problem solving/critical thinking, set theory, logic and other real world business applications. A group project will be assigned during the fourth quarter.

MATHEMATICS TEACHER CADET (30343) Level III

This course provides an opportunity for the student to actively observe teaching as a profession while assisting a mathematics teacher in the classroom. Through correcting of homework/quizzes, working one-on-one with some students, providing review classes and preparing quizzes, the teacher cadet is gaining valuable experience about the education process while reinforcing her own mathematics skills. This course is designed to help the student realize that: "The art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery." Requirements include maintaining a daily log, completing 20 hours or more of tutoring, and teaching a minimum of 2 classes.

PRE-REQUISITE:

- A minimum passing grade of 85% in Algebra II course and Regents examination
- A passing grade of at least an 80 on all three Regents.
- DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL**

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

BIOLOGY (4013) Level III **Freshmen**

This course follows the NYS Regents syllabus and is concerned with all aspects of modern biology, exposing the students to new scientific discoveries and responsibilities, and to technological advances. Students are required to develop specific laboratory skills. Using these skills, together with computer-assisted laboratory investigations, they develop a better understanding of biological concepts. Passing the Living Environment Regents examination, taken in June, is a course requirement.

HONORS BIOLOGY (4021) Freshmen Level II

This course follows the NYS syllabus and is designed to provide a general understanding of the fundamental principles of biology, to expose the students to new scientific discoveries and responsibilities, and to develop an awareness of modern laboratory techniques and equipment through investigative computer-assisted laboratory exercises. Scientific writing is emphasized. Passing the Living Environment Regents examination, taken in June, is a course requirement.

CHEMISTRY (4023) Sophomores Level III

This course follows the NYS Regents syllabus. Modern theories of atomic structure, bonding, ionization, acids, and bases are some of the topics studied in depth. Passing the Chemistry Regents examination, taken in June, is a course requirement.

PRE-REQUISITES:

- Passing grade in Regents Biology and on the Living Environment Regents examination

HONORS CHEMISTRY (4022) Level II **Sophomores**

This course follows the NYS Regents syllabus. Modern theories of atomic structure, bonding, ionization, acids, and bases are some of the topics studied in depth. This is a highly intensive course and students must demonstrate an exceptional degree of maturity and competency to qualify for this course. Passing the Chemistry Regents examination, taken in June, is a course requirement.

PRE-REQUISITES

- A minimum grade of 85% on the Living Environment Regents Examination
- A minimum grade of 75% on Integrated Algebra/CC Regents Examination

EARTH SCIENCE (4033) Juniors Level III

This course follows the NYS syllabus and is designed to provide a general understanding of the fundamental principles, concepts and processes of Earth Science, exposing students to new scientific discoveries and developing an awareness of laboratory techniques through investigative computer-assisted laboratory exercises. Topics studied include measurements, earth's motion and motion of celestial objects, earth processes, seasons, weather and erosions, among others. Passing the Earth Science Regents examination, taken in June, is a course requirement.

PRE-REQUISITES:

- Passing grade in Biology,
- Passing grade on Living Environment Regents examination
- Passing grade in Algebra and Geometry

PHYSICS (4032) Juniors Level II

This course follows the NYS Regents syllabus and explores topics beyond the syllabus. The course is grouped around four main areas of inquiry: (1) mechanics and dynamics, (2) wave motion and light, (3) electrostatics, electrical properties of matter and magnetism, and (4) nuclear physics. Passing the Physics Regents examination, taken in June, is a course requirement. This is a highly intensive course and students must demonstrate a very high level of maturity and competency to qualify for this course.

PRE-REQUISITES:

- Passing grade in Algebra and Geometry courses.
- A Minimum of 70 % on Chemistry Regents Examination

ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY (40431) Seniors Level II

This course is designed to provide students interested in nursing or other health related fields with a comprehensive study of human anatomy and physiology. All major systems of the human body are studied with special attention given to the skeletal, muscular, nervous, cardiovascular, urinary, reproductive, digestive and endocrine systems and the five senses. The course includes a weekly double period lab. PowerPoint presentation on diseases of these systems and computer-assisted labs are used to enhance objectives.

**This course may qualify for the St. John's University College Advantage Program and the Mercy College High School Achievement Program.*

PRE-REQUISITES:

- Passing grade in Biology course
- Passing grade on Living Environment Regents Examination and passing grade in Chemistry course

AP BIOLOGY (4041) Seniors Level I

This introductory college Biology course emphasizes three major areas: the molecular and cellular; the organismal; the ecological, evolutionary and etiological. The method of presentation is a combination of teacher-student presentation and class discussion. With the use of a modern, fully computerized laboratory, emphasis is placed on using technology to assist students with their work, studies and projects. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement exam in May for which there is a testing fee (currently \$94, subject to change). Qualified students may apply for a fee reduction.

**This course may qualify for the St. John's University College Advantage Program and the Mercy College High School Achievement Program.*

PRE-REQUISITES:

- A minimum grade of 85% on Living Environment Regents Examination
- A minimum grade of 70% on Chemistry Regents Examination

FORENSIC SCIENCE (40432) Seniors Level III

Forensic Science is important in helping the police and other investigative authorities solve crimes. Forensics is a tool that is used every day around the world to find solutions to criminal and other nefarious activities by all people. This course will explore the following aspects of forensic study: collecting, processing, and analyzing crime scene evidence, documenting and reporting analysis results, holding mock trials, postulating theories, and examining mock crime scenes.

PRE-REQUISITE:

- Passing grade in Regents Chemistry course

STEM / ENGINEERING SCIENCE (40433) Seniors Level II

STEM students will be exposed to the engineering design process, by applying math, chemistry, physics and engineering standards to hands-on projects. Students will work in groups to design structures using 3D modeling software such as CADD (3D architecture design software). They will learn the concepts of electrical engineering, electronics, transformers and various aspects of circuitry. AMSU has access to the Fordham Preparatory School's Flight Simulator, for study of flight and space travel, in addition to the ADNY Engineering Tomorrow labs.

Problem solving skills, research and design, collaboration, documentation and presentation skills are all part of this curriculum.

PRE-REQUISITES:

- A passing grade of 75% in the Physics course
- A passing grade of 75% in the Algebra II course

MODERN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

Three years of one Modern Language and passing the FLACS Examination in that language fulfill the Modern Language requirement. It is possible to begin the study of a second language in Junior or Senior years. Due to our global interests and concerns, travel abroad, careers in business and Foreign Service, social service careers in our cities and understanding of varied ethnic groups, the study of other languages is a definite asset.

SPANISH I-II (5012) Level III

This course covers two years of the three-year sequence for Modern Languages. It emphasizes the audio-lingual method and intensive grammar study and forms the foundation for the Spanish III course. It is open to freshmen of Spanish speaking background who have familiarity with Spanish but have never studied it in a formal setting. It is also open as an elective to juniors and seniors who already have their sequence in another language.

PRE-REQUISITE: Demonstration of competency in oral conversation with Department Chairperson.

SPANISH I (5013) Level III

This course is presented in the audio-lingual method. Through dialogues, vocabulary and basic grammar, the student acquires a foundation in Spanish.

SPANISH II (5023) Level III

This course is a sequel to Spanish I. It emphasizes the spoken language through specialized study of grammar. This year the student learns the more detailed aspects of Spanish grammar, applied in conversation, composition, and reading. Spanish culture is studied through reading.

SPANISH III (5033) Level III Sophomores, Juniors & Seniors

This course continues the work of the first two years with special emphasis on listening and reading comprehension skills. Composition work and conversation are also stressed through the study of Spanish culture.

SPANISH IV (5052) Level I Juniors and Seniors

This course is a study of Spanish and Latin American literature and grammar. It aims to provide a solid base for more specialized study of Spanish at the college level. Methods include lectures, research, reporting and discussion in the target language. The AP Spanish Examinations in Language and Literature will be offered in May as an option for students but the exams are not mandatory. There is a College Board testing fee for each examination, currently \$94, subject to change. Qualified students may apply for a fee reduction.

PRE-REQUISITES:

- 85% or above on English Regents Examination
- 85% in current Modern Language Course (either Italian or Spanish)

SPANISH TEACHER CADET (5034) Level III

This course is designed to allow the student to actively participate in instruction and observe teaching as a profession while assisting the Spanish teacher in the classroom. Duties consist of correcting homework and quizzes, providing review classes, working one-on-one with students, and tutoring. The teacher cadet may also prepare quizzes and lessons to teach.

PRE-REQUISITE:

- 90% on the Spanish FLACS Exam
- 85% or above in the Spanish or Italian Course
- Departmental Approval

ITALIAN 1.5 (5112b) Level III

This course covers 1 ½ years of the three-year sequence for Modern Languages. It provides both an introduction to the language and a solid foundation for further study in college or for travel. It is open to upperclassmen and freshmen who scored a minimum of 65% on the reading and writing portions of the TACHS Exam. Freshmen not eligible for a language can take this course as sophomores if they scored an 85% or higher in the ELA course.

ITALIAN 2.5 (5133b) Level III

Italian 2.5 is a continuation of Italian 1.5. The more complex forms of grammar are studied along with intensive listening and reading comprehension skills. The study of Italian culture is continued through reading selections. Passing of the FLACS Examination, taken in June, is a course requirement and is necessary to obtain a NYS Regents or Advanced Regents diploma.

ITALIAN TEACHER CADET (5112C) Level III

This course is designed to allow the student to actively participate in instruction and observe teaching as a profession while assisting the Italian teacher in the classroom. Duties consist of correcting homework and quizzes, providing review classes, working one-on-one with students, and tutoring. The teacher cadet may also prepare quizzes and lessons to teach.

PRE-REQUISITE:

- 90% on the Italian FLACS Exam
- 85% or above the in Italian Course
- DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL

VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT

BASIC ART (7013) Required, Freshmen Level III

Basic art is designed to give 9th graders a fundamental understanding of the disciplined practices of working within the domain of the visual artist. Students are introduced to key concepts or elements of art that the artist uses to communicate visually. The course will center on visual thinking and the students will learn key building blocks or ways of seeing that facilitate learning and visual problem solving that express visual concepts. Basic Art is simply the fundamentals of visual thinking. This is a mandatory course for all freshmen and there are no prerequisite requirements. The course will meet during an assigned period within the school day.

BEGINNING ANIMATION (70526) Elective, Freshmen Level III

Beginning Animation is a half-credit course for 9th graders who are interested in animation. The class will focus on building the drawing skills necessary for hand drawn animation, such as gesture and figure drawing. Students will also learn about character design and storyboarding. The class will meet during Semester 2 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 7:40am-8:20am in Room 209. To enter the course, students must have successfully completed the basic art course or submit a portfolio of their best drawings.

ANIMATION 1 (70525) Elective, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors Level III

Animation 1 is a one credit course. Students in this class will learn the basics of animation and will apply this knowledge to the creation of their own animated shorts. Students will also learn about character design and storyboarding. The class will meet on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 7:40am-8:20am in Room 209. To enter the course, students must submit a portfolio of their best drawings and successfully complete the summer assignment.

ANIMATION 2 (70527) Elective, Juniors and Seniors Level II

Animation 2 is an advanced level, one credit course that is a continuation of the Animation course. The course is open to 11th and 12th graders that have successfully completed Animation 1 and have satisfactorily completed their assigned summer drawing assignments. At the beginning of this course, students will propose their ideas for an extended animation project. Juniors are expected to carry this project over into their Senior year. The class will meet on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 7:40am-8:20am in Room 209.

ANIMATION 3 (70528) Elective, Seniors Level II

Animation 3 is an advanced level, one credit course that is a continuation of the Animation 2 course. The course is open to 12th graders that have successfully completed Animation 2 and have satisfactorily completed their assigned summer drawing assignments. Students in this course will be completing the animations they began in the previous year. These animations should be fluid, story-driven, and polished. The class will meet on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 7:40am-8:20am in Room 209.

STUDIO ART I (70531) Elective, Juniors and Seniors Level III

The Studio Art I course is offered to juniors and seniors who are serious in further studying one or more of the many areas of art. Students are expected to have successfully completed the Basic Art course. Studio activities include learning how to efficiently work in Photoshop, InDesign, and Illustrator to create their graphic design projects. Students must have attained a grade of 85 percent on the basic art final as well as a record of completing all basic art assignments to be able to participate in this advanced course. Students must also indicate an interest in art by submitting a portfolio of visual work. The course will meet during an assigned period within the school day.

PRE-REQUISITE: Portfolio review: Students without a portfolio will have to do an entrance drawing to demonstrate basic skills necessary to pass the advanced course work.

STUDIO ART II (70532) Elective, Seniors Level III

Studio Art II is an advanced art class that builds upon the skills learned in Studio Art 1. The course is project based and emphasizes creative thinking within a set of guidelines similar to client-based work in the field of graphic design. Students in this course will be expected to work together as a design team as opposed to working solely on individual projects. Students must have attained a grade of 85 percent on the basic art final as well as a record of completing all basic art assignments to be able to participate in this advanced course. Students must also indicate an interest in art by submitting a portfolio of visual work. The course will meet during an assigned period within the school day.

PRE-REQUISITE: Satisfactory completion of Studio Art I

MEDIA ARTS AND APPLICATIONS (70533) Level III
Elective, Juniors and Seniors

Media Arts and Applications is a course that focuses on the skills necessary to create a publication as a member of a creative team. Over the course of the year, students will learn the basics of digital photography, learn how to correct and edit photos, photograph school events, and produce the school yearbook. Students will gain proficiency with Jostens Yearbook Avenue website and software, Photoshop, and photography with a DSLR camera. Creativity, organization, and time management are essential to this class, and students will be evaluated on projects according to timeliness, teamwork, and technological competence. Please note that students must be prepared to stay after school on certain days for yearbook photography.

PRE-REQUISITES:

- 85% in Intro to Computers
- 80% in English 11
- 80 in Basic Art

MUSIC AND THEATRE DEPARTMENT

MUSIC (7023) Level III

Required, Sophomores

Throughout world history, music has been an essential means of communicating the emotions, values, and ideals of every culture and society. The goal of this course is to enhance student's appreciation of music both as a discipline and as a medium of human expression by providing students with musical experiences through singing as a group and studying a variety of styles and genres of music. Students will come away with a foundational knowledge of music theory, instrumentation, classical music, jazz, and opera/musical theatre. Students will perform in AMSU's Christmas and spring concerts and will take trips to the Metropolitan Opera and a Broadway show.

VOICE LAB (70540) Level III

Elective, Juniors and Seniors

Voice Lab is designed for students interested in learning the ins and outs of the voice and singing. The goal of this course is to inform students about healthy singing and vocal techniques predominantly of the classical and jazz genre. Students will have the opportunity to work on individual performance repertoire, and be exposed to the art of singing in foreign languages such as German, Italian, French and Latin. Students will come away with foundational knowledge of music theory and the ability to apply it to notated vocal music. Students will also perform together as an ensemble in AMSU's Christmas and spring concerts, and will take a trip to the Bronx Opera.

PRE-REQUISITES:

- A minimum grade of 80% in the Music Level III course
- An audition with a patriotic song, spiritual, or hymn

PIANO LAB (70541) Level III

Elective, Juniors and Seniors

This course provides a solid foundation in the fundamentals of playing the piano. Repertoire will include a range of styles and genres such as folk songs, classical works and popular music. There is no requirement of past experience with playing the piano and the curriculum can be flexible to meet the needs and desires of the students in the class. Students who have past experience playing the piano will be assessed and given appropriate material to match their skill level. This class performs in the Christmas concert and the spring concert, may also prepare an individual solo piece to be performed at an end of the year performance, and may attend outside performances as well.

ACTING/THEATRE 101 (70544) Level III
Elective, Juniors and Seniors

This class is for anyone who wants to know more about acting and theatre and will cover a wide variety of topics such as pantomime, improvisation, vocal projection, stage movement/blocking, theatre history, auditioning, character development, musical theatre, acting methods, the business of theatre, etc. This class also attends two Broadway/off-Broadway performances during the course of the year and will develop playwriting skills weekly with a professional NYC playwright through AMSU's partnership with TDF. Participation in this class will enhance and solidify performance skills for already experienced performers, but would also be very beneficial for anyone who wants to gain confidence, express themselves in new ways, or simply learn more about the process of acting and doing theatre. Participation in AMSU's spring musical production as either an actor or crew is strongly encouraged but not required.

TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS (6013) Level III

Required, Freshmen

This course is designed to provide students with the knowledge required for basic use of computer hardware, software, and the Internet. The goal of this course is to increase students' digital literacy and ensure they have the relevant foundational skills needed in their future academic and career environments. At the end of the course, students will submit a short computer-generated research project.

INTERMEDIATE COMPUTERS (70535) Level III

Elective, Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors

Intermediate Computers is a full-year hybrid independent-study class that expands upon skills learned in Introduction to Computers and introduces students to basic computer science principles. This course highlights the relevance of computers and computer science by studying the impact advances in computing have on people and society. In this course, students will develop problem-solving, business productivity, web design, and programming skills.

PRE-REQUISITES:

- A minimum grade of 80% in Algebra 1 course and 75% in the Algebra 1 Regents
- A minimum grade of 80% in Introduction to Computer and in your current English courses

AP COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES (70534) LEVEL I

(APCSP)

Elective, Juniors and Seniors

AP Computer Science Principles (APCSP) is a class that introduces students to the central ideas of computer science, by developing the computational thinking vital for success across multiple disciplines. The course investigates the impact advances in computing have had on people and society. The course acquaints students with fundamental concepts of programming that can be applied across a variety of coding languages.

Students are required to complete a programming project and an individual research project in addition to taking the Advanced Placement exam in May, for which there is a testing fee (currently \$94, subject to change). Qualified students may apply for a fee reduction. By enrolling in the class, you are agreeing to take the AP exam.

PRE-REQUISITES

- A minimum grade of 80% in Algebra 1 course and 75% in the Algebra 1 Regents
- A minimum grade of 80% in Introduction to Computer and in your current English courses

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH DEPARTMENT

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Basic Concepts / Aerobics (9013)

Required, Freshmen

This course is designed to introduce the student to basic concepts in physical education. A number of ice-breakers and cooperative games are played in the first few sessions. An introduction to individual and team sports is offered. Basic aerobic concepts are presented, whereby students must develop an acceptable aerobics routine to be demonstrated in class.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Team Activities / Exercise Theory/ Sports (9023)

Required, Sophomores

This course develops the philosophy behind team activities and further advances exercise theory and individual and dual sports. Team competition in soccer, volleyball, basketball and floor hockey, including methods of scoring, is required.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Team Competition (9033)

Required, Juniors

This course contains advanced levels of team competition in flag football, volleyball, basketball and floor hockey. Opportunities are afforded each girl to coach and/or officiate in any or all of these sports. Advanced levels of individual and dual sports are taught and an advanced level in aerobic dance is offered.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Multicultural Games / Sports (9043)

Required, Seniors

Students will learn a variety of strategies in cardiovascular endurance activities and team building with an emphasis on developing lifelong habits of fitness. Tournament play of team sports is introduced. Based on their individual interests, students are required to research and effectively present a multicultural game or sport that has not been covered in their previous years of Physical Education.

HEALTH (9133) Level III

Required, Juniors

Concerned with all aspects of Health Education, the students in this course of study are presented with such topics as abuse of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs, emotional development and mental health, nutrition and physical fitness. Through individual and class projects, students are expected to exhibit an understanding of materials presented.

GUIDANCE/SAT PREP DEPARTMENT

GUIDANCE/SAT PREP 9 Required, Freshman

This course will focus on learning various study and time management skills to help facilitate a better transition into high school.

SAT PREP: Students will also begin to prepare for upcoming standardized tests including PSAT, SAT, and ACT by learning and differentiating between question types and utilizing test taking strategies.

GUIDANCE: The guidance counselors will also meet with each freshman student in their caseload on an individual basis during the Fall semester to discuss their personal transition into high school, as well as any other issues or questions that arise. Periodically, the counselors will push-in to the SAT Prep course and discuss diploma requirements and proper course selection, beginning information about college, and answer any questions that the students might have.

As a combination, the course and individual meetings will help each student come to a better understanding and acceptance of herself, her relations with others, and her home and school environment. This experience should aid her in the adjustment to high school and also with managing new problems and demands that can come with the transition to high school.

GUIDANCE/SAT PREP 10 Required, Sophomores

SAT PREP: This course will focus on preparation for upcoming standardized tests including the PSAT, SAT, and ACT by learning and differentiating between question types and utilizing test taking strategies. Students will also explore general college and career readiness skills to aid them in their future success.

GUIDANCE: Periodically, the guidance counselors will push-in to the SAT Prep Course to introduce the sophomores to career exploration. In addition to the course, students will continue to meet with their guidance counselors on an individual basis during the Spring semester to discuss their personal career path and exploration process, and through this they will develop an understanding of their skills, interests, and values in relation to this topic.

INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS: During the individual meetings, Sophomores will be set up with a Naviance Family Connection account, which gives them access to a comprehensive college and career readiness solution for high school students that helps align student strengths and interests to post-secondary goals, and improve student outcomes.

Through interactive assessments, career cluster research tools, and resume builders, sophomores will become more informed about what path they will take in the future and the skills they need to achieve success.

GUIDANCE/SAT PREP 11 Required, Juniors

SAT PREP: This course will focus on preparation for upcoming standardized tests including the PSAT, SAT, and ACT by learning and differentiating between question types and utilizing test taking strategies. Explanation and registration will be completed for the first administration of the SAT during the spring of Junior year.

GUIDANCE: Students will also explore college and career readiness skills to aid them in their future success. In addition to the course, students will continue to meet with their guidance counselors on an individual basis during the Spring semester to discuss their personal college readiness and exploration process through a deeper use of the Naviance Family Connection account, including finding a college that is the “right fit”, as well as the requirements that they will need to be accepted into their desired colleges. Periodically, the guidance counselors will push-in to the SAT Prep course to focus more specifically on the college application process.

Diploma requirements will again be reviewed, with an emphasis on making the appropriate course selections for senior year in preparation for graduation. Students will also have an opportunity to hear presentations from college admissions representatives, to truly get a hands-on feel for this process.

A parent meeting to explain the college process also takes place.

The Guidance Department also sponsors a trip to a NYC-wide College Fair, where juniors will have a chance to meet with admissions representatives from colleges and universities across the country.

COLLEGE WORKSHOP Required, Seniors

This group guidance workshop, held in early October of senior year, is an opportunity for students to gain a wealth of knowledge regarding the official start of their college application process.

A timeline for this process is introduced, as well as specific steps that students must take in order to apply to college.

Representatives from local colleges attend this workshop to give students a sense of the different types of colleges and universities—public versus private, large school versus small school, etc.

In addition to this workshop, students will meet with their guidance counselors on an individual basis in the Fall semester to begin their specific application process.

Students and their families will also have the opportunity to attend College Financial Aid Workshops sponsored by the Guidance Department.