

# URSULINE ACADEMY

## Elective Course Descriptions

### 2010-2011

COURSE	DESCRIPTION
<b>ENGLISH</b>	
<b>Advanced Composition</b> ½ credit	In the Advanced Composition course, students will be taught to write essays with clearly stated thesis statements and supporting paragraphs organized in a logical sequence. They will practice pre writing, drafting, revising, and proofreading. They will develop multi-paragraph compositions, with emphasis on expository and persuasive writing. They will learn to write for various purposes, including formal and business letters, job applications, and college entrance essays. Students will review standard rules of grammar and usage as necessary during the course of the semester.
<b>SCIENCE</b>	
<b>Anatomy and Physiology</b>	<u>Prerequisite: Biology I with a grade of 75 or higher.</u> This course is designed for students who are interested in pursuing a career in medicine, allied health services, athletics, or biology. This is an in-depth study of structure and function of the human body. Students will be required to perform an animal dissection as well as complete outside reading and writing. Placement in Biology II will be determined by the Science Department. <b><i>(Lab fee: \$10.00)</i></b>
<b>AP Biology</b>	<u>Prerequisite: Completion of Biology I with a 94 or better or completion of Biology I Honors with a 90 or better.</u> In addition, students enrolling in this course should rank in the top of their class, exhibit exemplary motivation, interest, and enthusiasm for the subject and have the ability to think critically. Recommendations from the student's chemistry teacher, biology teacher, and science department chairperson will be required. Topics in the course include: Molecular and Cellular Biology, Genetics and Heredity, Evolutionary Biology, Taxonomy and Diversity of Organisms, Structure of Plants and Animals, Ecology, and Population Dynamics. At the end of the course, students will take the AP examination in place of an Ursuline final assessment. <b><i>(Lab fee: \$10.00)</i></b>
<b>Chemistry II</b>	<u>Prerequisite: Completion of Chemistry I and Algebra II with at least a B average.</u> Chemistry II is a one-credit course that parallels the material covered in an entry level college chemistry course. After a brief review of Chemistry I topics, major topics in Chemistry II include Chemical Thermodynamics, Chemical Kinetics, Equilibrium, Solubility, Electrochemistry, Acids and Bases, and Organic Chemistry. Students will do an original research project in which they develop and carry out a controlled experiment to test a hypothesis which answers an investigative question on a topic of their choice. They will write a research paper based on the literature search made prior to their experimentation, and communicate their findings by preparing a written report and a display for entry in the Ursuline Science Fair. Lab activities, demonstrations, and problems are used to connect theory to practical application. . Mathematical skills through Algebra II are used in problem solving. <b><i>(Lab fee: \$10.00)</i></b>
<b>Environmental Science</b>	<u>Prerequisite: Successful completion of Biology I and Physical Science.</u> In this course students will investigate the following topics: Ecological Systems and Interactions, Resources and Resource Management, Environmental Awareness and Protection, Personal Choices and Responsible Actions. Outside readings as well as a research project will be required. Placement in Environmental Science will be determined by the Science Department. <b><i>(Lab fee: \$10.00)</i></b>
<b>Physics I</b>	<u>Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra II and chemistry with at least a 75 average.</u> Mechanics, heat, sound, light, electricity, magnetism, and nuclear energy are studied from a conceptual perspective. Mathematical relationships of fundamental scientific principles and concepts are studied. A TI-83+/84 graphing calculator is required. Placement in Physics I will be determined by the Science Department. <b><i>(Lab fee: \$10.00)</i></b>

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<b>Physics I Honors</b>	<u>Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra II Honors and Chemistry I Honors with at least an 86 or Algebra II and Chemistry I with at least a 94.</u> Must have completed Advanced Math or be taking a senior level math course concurrently with physics. Traditional Physics topics such as force and motion, forms of energy and their transformations, conservation of energy, and interactions of energy and matter are discussed. Contemporary applications are illustrated through laboratory procedures and mathematical skills are used in problem solving. A TI-83+/84 graphing calculator and outside project are required. Honors students will participate in a VEX robotics competition. Placement in Physics I honors will be determined by the Science Department. <i>(Lab fee: \$10.00)</i>
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b>	
<b>Psychology 1 credit</b>	This is a general survey course covering basic topics of psychology, including a history of psychology, notable psychologists, child and adolescent psychology, memory and thought, personality theories, normal and abnormal psychology, learning theories, and new directions in psychology. It is designed for students who are interested in pursuing a career in psychology. The course will expand on the topics covered in Psychology I and will also cover adolescence, adulthood, psychological testing, stress and health, adjustment in society, therapy and change, and present and future psychology
<b>Psychology II ½ credit</b>	<u>Prerequisite: Successful completion of Psychology I.</u> This course is designed for students who are interested in pursuing a career in psychology. The course will expand on the topics covered in Psychology I and will also cover adolescence, adulthood, psychological testing, stress and health, adjustment in society, therapy and change, and present and future psychology.
<b>Law Studies ½ credit</b>	In this course students will be exposed to the various areas of the law. Numerous issues that foster awareness and understanding of how each student is a part of our legal society will be studied. Many guest speakers from the community will add to the development of this course. Students are required to prepare for and to participate in a mock trial.
<b>TECHNOLOGY</b>	
<b>Computer Applications II ½ credit</b>	This course is designed to build further on the students' understanding of their computer application skills. The course will stress: the entire Microsoft Office 2003 suite of integrated application techniques, further preparing students for today's business world.
<b>Digital Graphics and Animation ½ credit</b>	This course is designed for students to use graphics, images, and/or video to create content oriented productions. The media used within these productions will be designed and edited by the students. Final projects should reflect multimedia elements, knowledge of design theory, and effective use of productivity tools, and the conveyance of content rich information.
<b>Publications I ½ credit</b>	This course instructs students in the basic concepts and skills necessary to handle graphics, text, and objects in Adobe InDesign and Adobe Photoshop with an emphasis on creating a print publication (i.e. Yearbook and Newspaper). Assignments in the course will include: choosing photos, designing the layout, selecting fonts and formatting the text for yearbook pages. All students enrolled in the course will also be expected to attend weekly yearbook meetings after school in addition to class time. In order to be nominated for an elected position in the Yearbook or Newspaper staff, students must be enrolled in this course.

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<b>Web Mastering</b> ½ credit	<u>Prerequisite: Teacher approval or Computer Applications II with 70 or higher</u> The course will provide an introduction to Web Page Development. Students will design, develop, and maintain web pages using appropriate current editors and/or tagging languages. Throughout instruction, the learner will examine and demonstrate elements of the World Wide Web page development. The design of the course will include but is not limited to the following topics: design, copyright issues, HTML editor, resources, and varied tools for web page publication. Career possibilities related to the Internet and web design will be explored.
<b>FOREIGN LANGUAGE</b>	
<b>French I</b>	This course is designed to introduce students to the French language and the culture of French-speaking countries. Listening, conversational, and reading skills are emphasized. <i>(Testing Fee: \$6.00)</i>
<b>French II</b>	<u>Prerequisite: successful completion of French I</u> This course continues the first year's study of basic French grammar, culture, and vocabulary. Listening, conversational, and reading skills are emphasized. <i>(Testing Fee: \$6.00)</i>
<b>French III Honors</b>	<u>Prerequisites: B or higher in French II</u> This course deepens the student's knowledge of the written and spoken language. Emphasis is on listening comprehension, oral fluency, advanced writing skills, and cultural awareness. An introduction to short stories, poems, and selected short essays is included. Placement in French III honors will be determined by the Foreign Language Department. <i>(Testing Fee: \$6.00)</i>
<b>French IV Honors</b>	<u>Prerequisites: B or higher in French III</u> Practice in the language will include conversations, oral discussions, interpretations, and reports. Students are expected to build upon their knowledge of grammar and vocabulary within the context of everyday life. Placement in French IV honors will be determined by the Foreign Language Department. <i>(Testing Fee: \$6.00)</i>
<b>Spanish I</b>	This course is designed to introduce students to the Spanish language and the culture of Spanish-speaking countries. Listening, conversational, and reading skills are emphasized. <i>(Testing Fee: \$6.00)</i>
<b>Spanish II</b>	<u>Prerequisite: successful completion of Spanish I</u> This course continues the first year's study of basic Spanish grammar, culture, and vocabulary. Listening, conversational, and reading skills are emphasized. <i>(Testing Fee: \$6.00)</i>
<b>Spanish III Honors</b>	<u>Prerequisites: Completion of Spanish II with B or higher</u> This course deepens the student's knowledge of written and spoken language. Emphasis is on listening comprehension, oral fluency, advanced writing skills, and cultural awareness. An introduction to short stories, poems, and selected short essays is included. Placement in Spanish III honors will be determined by the Foreign Language Department. <i>(Testing Fee: \$6.00)</i>
<b>Spanish IV Honors</b>	<u>Prerequisites: Completion of Spanish III with B or higher and teacher approval</u> This course is taught entirely in the target language with emphasis on oral fluency, reading, and writing. Introduction to the study of literature, art, and music is included. Placement in Spanish IV honors will be determined by the Foreign Language Department. <i>(Testing Fee: \$6.00)</i>
<b>Latin I</b>	The primary concern of this course is an emphasis on the Latin language and its influence on the English language as well as on the Romance languages. Students will acquire knowledge of grammar and syntax. Attention is given to the culture, mythology, and civilization of Rome and their influences in the Western World. <i>(Testing Fee: \$6.00)</i>
<b>Latin II</b>	<u>Prerequisite: successful completion of Latin I</u> In Latin II, students continue their study of grammar and syntax. Attention is given to everyday life in the Roman civilization and the military. <i>(Testing Fee: \$6.00)</i>

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<b>Latin III Honors</b>	<u>Prerequisite: Completion of Latin II with B or higher</u> The primary concern of this course is the application of syntax and grammar while reading various Latin authors. Attention will be given to the historical, political, and constitutional aspects of the beginning of the Roman Empire. Placement in Latin III honors will be determined by the Foreign Language Department. <i>(Testing Fee: \$6.00)</i>
<b>Latin IV Honors</b>	In this course, students will translate into English, analyze, interpret, and discuss selections from Virgil's <i>Aeneid</i> Books 1-12. The course will also focus on the historical, cultural, and political background of the <i>Aeneid</i> as well as literary devices and structures used. In addition, students will be expected to read some of the untranslated sections of the book in English translation. <i>(Testing Fee: \$6.00)</i>
<b>FINE ARTS</b>	
From Louisiana Bulletin 741 (p. 14) ** Class of 2013 and beyond must complete 1 unit of Art – which shall be fine arts survey or one unit of art, dance, music, or theatre.	
<b>Art I Introduction To Art ½ credit</b>	This studio course is designed to introduce the principle elements of art: line, shape, color, texture, tone, space. A variety of art media is used. The student begins her portfolio. Previous experience in art is not necessary. <i>(Art fee: \$30.00)</i>
<b>Art II Beginning Drawing &amp; Design ½ credit</b>	<u>Prerequisites: Introduction to Art and portfolio</u> This studio course is designed to develop skills in the fundamentals of drawing and design including perspective, contour, using a variety of media.. <i>(Art fee: \$30.00)</i>
<b>Art III Painting ½ credit</b>	<u>Prerequisites: Beginning Drawing and Design and portfolio</u> This studio course provides an introduction to fundamentals of painting with water color, acrylic, and mixed media. <i>(Art fee: \$30.00)</i>
<b>Art IV Three-Dimensional Design &amp; Sculpture ½ credit</b>	This studio course explores three dimensional design problems and experiments with a variety of techniques and sculptural materials. Prerequisites: Beginning Drawing and Design and portfolio. <i>(Art fee: \$30.00)</i>
<b>Art V Independent Art ½ credit</b>	Independent Art is open to those who have complete Introduction to Art, Beginning Drawing and Design, Painting, and Three Dimensional Design Sculpture. Independent Art allows students to pursue areas of personal interest in a variety of media with special emphasis on individual instruction. Students are provided with examples of established artists whose work parallels and stimulates their own interests. <i>(Art fee: \$30.00)</i>
<b>Beginning Chorus ½ credit</b>	This course is an introduction to basic choral techniques: phonation, tuning/intonation, proper placement, pitch recognition, and harmonization. Elements of music theory will be taught through independent study using interactive computer software. Students are required to participate in all performances, liturgies, festivals, and concerts. During the fall semester, students learn sacred and secular repertoire, build upon sight reading skills, and sometimes travel. Students prepare a Spring Concert and compete in district, state and national music festivals. The Christmas and Spring Concerts are the semester exam- the performance assessment for the course. Open to grades 8-12. Students will be asked to sing individually for voice placement.

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<p><b>Advanced Chorus</b> ½ credit</p>	<p>This course teaches more advanced choral concepts: a cappella singing, 3-4 part harmonization, intonation/tuning complex chords, analysis and musicianship. Elements of music theory will be taught through independent study using interactive computer software. Students perform throughout the school and local community. Students are required to participate in all performances, liturgies, festivals, and concerts. During the fall semester students learn 2- and 3-part sacred repertoire, and refresh their sight reading skills, in preparation for engagements held in the spring and the Christmas Concert. During the spring semester, students learn more complex 3- and 4- part repertoire and advance their sight reading skills as they prepare a Spring Concert, compete in district and state festivals, and sometimes travel for national events. The Christmas and Spring Concert are the semester exam – the performance assessment for the course. Students in grades 10-12 may enroll with the instructor’s recommendation following an informal audition.</p>
<p><b>Extended Chorus</b> ½ credit (after school)</p>	<p>This course teaches more advanced choral concepts: a cappella singing, 3-4 part harmonization, intonation/tuning complex chords, analysis and musicianship. Elements of music theory will be taught through independent study using interactive computer software. Students perform throughout the school and local community. Students are required to participate in all performances, liturgies, festivals, and concerts. During the fall semester students learn 2- and 3-part sacred repertoire, and refresh their sight reading skills, in preparation for engagements held in the spring and the Christmas Concert. During the spring semester, students learn more complex 3- and 4- part repertoire and advance their sight reading skills as they prepare a Spring Concert, compete in district and state festivals, and sometimes travel for national events. The Christmas and Spring Concert are the semester exam – the performance assessment for the course. Students in grades 10-12 may enroll with the instructor’s recommendation following an informal audition.</p>
<p><b>Piano I</b> ½ credit</p>	<p>This semester course is designed for students with no prior piano experience. The new digital piano lab provides a group setting where students will learn basic piano playing techniques: proper hand position, finger independence, and playing hands together. Students learn to interpret musical notation and expressions, write simple compositions, and apply these concepts to the keyboard through original and familiar songs. Elements of music theory and ear training will be introduced in a class setting and reinforced using interactive computer software outside of class. <b>Students must have a keyboard instrument with no less than 61 keys for practice at home.</b></p>
<p><b>Piano II</b> ½ credit</p>	<p><u>Prerequisite: Completion of Piano I or teacher recommendation.</u> This course is best suited for students who are playing Level I-II repertoire. In the new digital piano lab students will learn piano-playing techniques in a group setting, while also working individually on assigned repertoire. Students will also learn to write and perform their own compositions. Elements of music theory will be introduced in a class setting and reinforced using interactive computer software and online resources as an independent study outside of class. The semester and final performance assessment will take place in class. Students will not perform in a recital.</p>
<p><b>Piano * Individual Instruction</b> ½ credit (Full Year Course)</p>	<p>The course includes the study of piano repertoire, music theory and composition, improvisation, harmony, sight reading, ear training, technique, music history, performance, and music appreciation. The student receives a one-on-one, weekly lesson either during homeroom, free time, first or second half of lunch, or before/after school. Course requirements include prior history of musical/piano instruction, a piano or “piano-like keyboard” at home on which to practice, short fingernails, a commitment to practice 2 – 5 hours a week, and participation in the spring piano recital. Classes begin the second week of school. All students are encouraged to enter the annual Bach competition at Ursuline. <i>(Fee: \$425.00 The registration fee is \$100.00 and lessons are \$325.00 per school year)</i></p>

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<p><b>String orchestra</b>  <b>½ credit</b>  <b>(Full Year Course)</b></p>	<p>Orchestra is designed for string instrument students who play at or above the level of Suzuki Book II and have a working knowledge of staff notation. Students who play other orchestral instruments proficiently may enroll with the consent of the instructor. Students are engaged in a variety of performing and non-performing activities. It will be held three times weekly after school.</p>
<p><b>Theater Arts I</b>  <b>½ credit</b></p>	<p>This course will allow the student self-expression and permit her to study all the techniques involved in theater. Students perform lip syncs, monologues, and duet acting; they will create a production from beginning to end, including all aspects of the art from lighting to curtain call.</p>
<p><b>Theater Arts II</b>  <b>Advanced</b>  <b>Theater</b>  <b>½ credit</b></p>	<p><u>Prerequisites: Speech and Theater Arts I</u> This course stresses the development of vocal and bodily skills as effective means of communication. Students are working constantly on acting, speaking, and movement. An appreciation of the drama of the past and present is encouraged. The students perform activities encompassing those that are characteristic of the complete actress.</p>