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Second Semester Classes: Course Descriptions, 2020-2021

Civics/American Government

Teacher: Jessica Bunitsky

Level: 2, 3,4,5

Credit: .5

Meets: Spring semester, once weekly, Thursdays, Period 3 (10:45-11:40)

Text: Abeka's American Government in Christian Perspective, **Third Edition**. Amazon has 12 used copies; Christianbook sells it new.

Additional Fee: \$10 copy fee to be paid directly to Mrs. Bunitsky

Homework time expectation: 2-4 hours weekly

Description: We start by taking the citizenship test for immigrants (online, multiple choice) and to see if we could pass. We will take it again at the end. In between, in class, we will learn to appreciate the government of our great country: why America is a unique nation; and how the founders created a genius system of a federal government with plenty of checks and balances to prevent the abuse of power; and how the founders balanced power between the States and Federal government to prevent tyranny—by the government, by the majority, or by the most populous states (by the electoral college, for example). Finally, we will study the history of the Bill of Rights to appreciate the great individual freedoms we enjoy as citizens of our nation. Students will be expected to take notes. Tests will be the Abeka tests; taken closed book/notes.

Computer Literacy

Teacher: Will Hahn

Credit: 1

Meets: Full year, once week, Mondays, Period 6 (2:30-3:25)

Text: None required

Additional required materials: Regular access to a personal computer. Home access to internet

Homework time expectation: 1 hour weekly (varies with each unit)

Teaching Format: Lecture and demonstration (sometimes taking notes on the teacher's presentation, sometimes using school PCs with open-source software to practice in class). Weekly homework is the heart of the grade, and each quarter there will be one project-style grade. Polite participation in class discussion is expected.

Description: Computers are a bit like automobiles: their impact is enormous, almost everyone will learn to use them, but hardly anybody understands them well enough to repair one if it gets broken! We will focus merely on how to "drive" the PC, with no need for advanced understanding of programming or code.

Quarterly units will cover:

Q3: Spreadsheet-style utility and the use of graphs and figures

Q4: A combined-media project with the class in teams

*Internet Use and Safe Searching will be an emphasis throughout the year. Students finishing this course will be comfortable with how to express their thoughts in papers, projects and other coursework in the future.

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Cooking and Nutrition

Teachers: Cindy Delasser & Marlo Hughes

Credit: .25 per quarter

Meets: Once weekly, 3rd and 4th quarters, Mondays, Period 4 (12:30-1:25)

Materials/Grocery Fee: \$30.00/quarter

Text: Will be provided by the teacher

Additional required materials: 2” 3-ring binder for handouts

Homework time expectation: 1-2 hours weekly (varies by student)

Teaching format: lecture, hands-on, projects, homework

Description:

- **3rd Quarter:** Comfort foods: Making healthy alternatives to our favorite winter foods, balancing meals, etc.
- **4th Quarter:** Baking: Breads, cakes, casseroles, etc., & college survival skills

Cultivating Character – The Making of Everyday Heroes

Teacher: Kym Smythe

Credit: .5

Meets: Spring semester, Monday and Thursday, Period 7 (3:30-4:25)

Prerequisites: None

Homework time expectation: 1 hour maximum

Teaching format: Lecture, light homework, discussion, group class activities

Description: This class uses an immersive curriculum, teacher led reading and group discussions to cultivate an environment where students listen to one another and build one another up while exploring the character traits of dignity, hope, and faith. Louis Zamperini’s story of overcoming insurmountable odds in sports, war, imprisonment, socialization and hopeless despair create a springboard for conversations and life changing lessons. Students will learn and be inspired to emulate important life skills that build character, teach resilience, provide hope, and demonstrate forgiveness.

Debate (Fulfills Public Speaking Requirement)

Teacher: Jaqueline Grob

Credit: .5

Meets: **Once** weekly, 2nd semester, Mondays, Period 3 (10:45-11:40)

Description: G.K. Chesterton once said, “Perhaps the principle objection to a quarrel is that it interrupts an argument.” If you don’t know the difference (and even if you do), then this class is for you! While this will not be a formal debate class, we will spend time learning about the elements of strong informal arguments: claims, warrants, data, impacts, and refutation. We will engage in classroom debates surrounding topics both fun and relevant to today’s culture. Along the way we will also examine media bias, learn how to sort through information to find the truth, and examine our own personal bias. Information is coming at us every minute of the day. Learning how to sort, analyze, and discern the truth is a skill every one of us needs to learn

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and use. Finally, we will learn to respectfully listen to opposing views while calmly expressing our own—practices that seem to be lost in an age of violence and rioting. The Word of the Lord tells us, in Proverbs 18:13, “If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame.” And in James 1:19-20 we are told, “Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.” Let’s forget our quarrels and learn how to argue.

Financial Literacy, Spring semester

Teacher: Gail Friedline

Level: 3

Credit: .5

Meets: **Spring semester**, Monday & Thursday, Period 4 (12:30-1:25)

Text: *Financial Literacy from a Christian Perspective* (e-book from 7sistershomeschool.com)

Additional required materials: Calculator

Homework time expectation: 2-4 hours weekly

Teaching format: Lecture, homework, tests, in-class problems, discussion, project/presentation

Description: This class is offered as a one-semester course for .5 credit. The course will cover chapters 6-9 of the text, Financial Institutions and the Services They Provide, Insurance, Your Career, and Taxes. If the student takes the Fall semester, they will cover the first 5 chapters of the text.

Health (Fulfills ½ credit required for graduation)

Teacher: Marilyn Groop

Credit: .5

Meets: Spring semester, once weekly, Thursday, Period 1 (8:30-9:25)

Text: *High School Health for the Whole Person*, available from 7SistersHomeschool.com

<https://7sistershomeschool.com/product/high-school-health-for-the-whole-person/>

Homework time expectation: 1-2 hours per week

Teaching format: Lecture, class discussion, video clips

Description: This class teaches the basics of anatomy and physiology, focusing on prevention and disease processes. A unit discussing mental health will also be taught.

Literature Exploration

Teacher: Dorie Duquette

Level: 2, 3

Credit: .5 (2nd semester) Thursday, Period 1 (8:30-9:25)

Meets: Full year, once weekly (**Note: May be taken by quarters**)

Prerequisites: None

Text: *Literature*, McDougall Littell, ISBN-13: 978-0-618-51898-2 or

ISBN-10: 0-618-51898-3. Text **will be used during each quarter**. Many used copies are available at very reasonable prices.

Additional Required Materials:

- Quarter 3: *Things Fall Apart*, by Chinua Achebe

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- Quarter 4: a play by William Shakespeare (TBD)

Description: This class is designed for students who seek to develop a strong foundation for literary analysis.

While reading a variety of short stories, poems, plays, and excerpts from the anthology listed above, students will focus on literary elements and devices. Additionally, students will learn to understand and analyze an author's purpose, perspective, and style. The historical and cultural contexts of literary works will be explored. Several nonfiction works will be read and studied as well. During each quarter, students will read a novel or play, complete basic literary analysis, and actively participate in a student-led discussion. Depending on the works read, students will write either an essay or creative piece once per quarter. Periodically, in-class quizzes will be administered.

Philosophy of Utopia

Teacher: Will Hahn

Level: 2/3, (Level-up possible)

Credit: .5

Meets: Spring semester, once weekly, Monday, Period 3 (10:45-11:40)

Prerequisites: Not recommended for students who hate having to think.

Text: We will choose from the reading list below. Most titles are available freely (as e-book downloads) through either Amazon or Project Gutenberg.

Homework time expectation: 2-4 hours weekly, varies with reading speed

Teaching format: Typically, we will aim to read about **100 pages per week**; most books will take 2 or 3 class meetings to complete. Students will have short-answer questions to answer in the reading guides provided for each story. Level 3 and higher students will write two short papers comparing works discussed in class. Level 4 and 5 students will read and report on additional works. Enthusiastic and polite participation in class discussion will be an important part of the grade.

Description: Various great thinkers of the past have shown us their view of the ideal society or best ruler. What values lie behind these thoughts, can we agree with their ideas, and what does our faith tell us about government and our dealings with each other?

Students will read some of the great works focused on the ideal government and the notion of justice, and discuss each week their own ideas and opinions in response. Two papers will express their evolving views in more detail.

Reading list: Plato, *The Republic*

Machiavelli, *The Prince*

More, *Utopia*

Abbott, *Flatland*

Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*

Shakespeare, *Measure for Measure*

Psychology

Teacher: Kym Smythe

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Level: 2 (leveling up is possible)

Credit: .5

Meets: Spring semester, once weekly Monday, Period 3 (10:45-11:40)

A minimum of 5 students needed to hold class

Prerequisites: None

Text: *Introduction to Psychology from a Christian Worldview*, Vicki Tillman, downloadable text
www.7sistershomeschool.com

Homework time expectation: 1-2 hours weekly

Teaching format: Lecture, homework, tests, discussion, projects/papers

Description: This course will introduce you to the major areas of psychology from a Christian worldview. Topics covered include: the brain, perception, genetics, learning, history of psychology, communication, needs & motivation, personality, sleep & dreams, abnormal psychology, and careers in psychology.

Skills for High School Success

Teachers: Kym Smythe

Credit: .25 per quarter

Meets: Once weekly, quarterly, Monday, 8:00-8:25

Students may take **any or all** quarters

Text: None

Additional required materials: 1” 3-ring binder for handouts; syllabi from other courses taken

Homework time expectation: Less than one (1) hour weekly

Teaching format: Minimal lecture, PowerPoint, handouts, class discussions, Q & A

Description: Mrs. Smythe has over 20 years of experience homeschooling their own children and the blessing of teaching other homeschooled students! They have seen many students become overwhelmed by the amount of work and the expectations placed upon them in high school. The skills required to be successful in high school, specifically at Mt. Sophia, do not always come easily. The skills learned in this course will easily transfer to life after high school, be it college, a job, the military and beyond. This course is taught by quarters. Students are free to take any or all quarters.

- **3rd Quarter:** Time Management and Academic Coaching
- **4th Quarter:** Academic Coaching