



**The course descriptions below are meant to be a general outline of the courses ODE currently offers. Additional elements may be added in each class depending on Department of Education regulations in the client state or at the request of the client school.**

### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT**

- AP Biology- Two semester course equivalent to an introductory course in general biology at the college level. Covers material needed in preparation for the College Board AP exam. \*Includes laboratory.
- AP Calculus- Two semester course covering topics necessary to prepare for and take the College Board AP Calculus exam.
- AP English Language- Two semester course designed to enhance students' analytical reading and writing skills, develop their appreciation of literature, and prepare for the College Board AP exam.
- AP English Literature – Two semester course requiring significant reading from English Literature. Students will be expected to read a minimum of five novels and five plays in addition to short stories, essays, and poetry. There will be a major writing assignment every nine weeks including two research based assignments. Lesser shorter writing assignments and oral presentations will accompany each period of literature studied. Grammar instruction will be provided as needed. Course is designed to prepare students for the College Board AP exam.
- AP Environmental Science- Two semester course designed to introduce students to fundamental laws and theories of Environmental Science and prepare them for the College Board AP exam.
- AP Spanish Language- Two Semester course equivalent to an intensive first-year course at the college level. Reading, writing, listening, and speaking are emphasized in conjunction with cultural studies. Course is designed to prepare students for the College Board AP exam.
- AP US History- Two semester course designed to introduce students to the history of the United States as well as prepare them for the College Board AP exam.

## **BUSINESS**

- Economics – This is a one-semester high school social studies elective that emphasizes economic fundamentals, microeconomics, and macroeconomics. Students will explore the interrelationships among the roles played by consumers, producers, capital, land, and labor. Additionally, students will study the interrelationship of our economic, political, and social lives.
- Personal Finance – This is a semester long course focusing on the student's role as a citizen, student, family member, consumer, and active participant in the business world. It will inform students of their various financial responsibilities such as money management, saving and investing, income and spending. It provides opportunities for self-awareness, expression, and satisfaction in a highly technical and competitive society. Students will discover new ways to maximize their earning potential, develop strategies for managing their resources, explore skills for the wise use of credit, and gain insight into the different ways of investing money thus providing the foundational understanding for making informed personal financial decisions.

## **COLLEGE CREDIT**

- Beginning Spanish- Two semester introductory course for students with little or no previous knowledge of the language. This course is designed to develop the four basic language skills in Spanish- listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Emphasis is placed on basic vocabulary, grammatical structures, and cultural aspects of the language.
- College Algebra- Two semester course covering the material of a one semester, 3 credit hour college course in College Algebra.
- English Comp I- One semester course designed to provide practice in writing and prose based on accepted conventions of grammar, usage, diction, and logic. Emphasis will be on reading and writing skills.
- English Comp II- One semester course designed to enhance critical thinking skills by reading and writing about great literary works, allowing the students to explore their own humanity and that of others.
- General Physics- Two semester course designed to present students with fundamental laws, principles and problem solving in mechanics, wave motion, sound, kinetic theory, heat, and thermodynamics. (Trigonometry is a Prerequisite)

- Journalism (Writing for Mass Media)- One semester course introducing broadcasting, print journalism and public relations. Designed to teach basic skills in gathering information and writing news stories.
- Speech (Fundamentals of Public Speaking)- One semester course designed as an introduction to Oral Communications with major emphasis on public speaking.
- US History to 1865- A one semester study of the growth of the United States from early colonial days through the struggle for independence, development of the American mind, and the struggle of nation-making Jeffersonian politics and Jacksonian democracy up through the Civil War.
- US History since 1865- One semester course study of overcoming the upheavals of the Civil War, economic growth and industrialism, democracy and empire, and the 20<sup>th</sup> century issues of world prominence and the struggle for social equality.

## FOREIGN LANGUAGES

- Middle School French - Two semester course designed to teach basic grammar and vocabulary as well as introduce the French culture.
- French I- Two semester course focusing on basic grammar, vocabulary and development of students' ability to read, write, listen and speak at a beginning level in the target language. These studies are complimented by an introduction to the various aspects of the target culture.
- French II- Two semester course which includes advanced grammar and builds upon skills learned in the first course with a continued focus on students' ability to read, write, listen, speak and understand the culture of the target language.
- French III- An advanced two semester course that continues development of the skills learned in the first and second courses (writing, reading, listening and speaking) combined with a strong emphasis on literature and culture.
- French IV- French IV is an elective course that furthers the communication skills acquired in French III, with the aim of language proficiency. French IV includes extensive oral expression. Authentic audio and video recordings as well as native French speakers are accessed to improve comprehension and conversation. Reading selections from authentic materials and selected French literature are read for comprehension. Discussion, debate, projects, compositions, and other directed writings demonstrate understanding of the culture and the complexities of the language and vocabulary. The majority of

the course is conducted in French. The course is defined by the content standards of the Arkansas Foreign Language Curriculum Framework for French IV and includes applications, problem solving, higher-order thinking skills, and performance based, open-ended assessments with rubrics. French III is a prerequisite for this course. Arkansas Department of Education approval is not required.

- German I- Two semester course focusing on basic grammar, vocabulary and development of students' ability to read, write, listen and speak at a beginning level in the target language. These studies are complimented by an introduction to the various aspects of the target culture.
- German II- Two semester course, which includes advanced grammar and builds upon skills learned in the first course with a continued focus on students' ability to read, write, listen, speak and understand the culture of the target language.
- German III- An advanced two semester course that continues development of the skills learned in the first and second courses (writing, reading, listening and speaking) combined with a strong emphasis on literature and culture.
- Elementary Spanish- Two semester course designed to teach basic grammar and vocabulary as well as introduce the Hispanic culture.
- Middle School Spanish- Two semester course designed to teach basic grammar and vocabulary as well as introduce the Hispanic culture.
- Spanish I- Two semester course focusing on basic grammar, vocabulary and development of students' ability to read, write, listen and speak at a beginning level in the target language. These studies are complimented by an introduction to the various aspects of the target culture.
- Spanish II- Two semester course, which includes advanced grammar and builds upon skills learned in the first course with a continued focus on students' ability to read, write, listen, speak and understand the culture of the target language.
- Spanish III- An advanced two semester course that continues development of the skills learned in the first and second courses (reading, writing, listening and speaking) combined with a strong emphasis on literature and culture.
- Spanish IV- Spanish IV is an elective course that furthers the communication skills acquired in Spanish III, with the aim of language proficiency. The course includes extensive oral expression. Authentic audio and video recordings as well as native Spanish speakers are accessed to

improve comprehension and conversation. Reading selections from authentic materials and selected Hispanic literature are read for comprehension. Discussion, debate, projects, compositions, and other directed writings demonstrate understanding of the culture and the complexities of the language and vocabulary. The majority of the course is conducted in Spanish. The course is defined by the content standards of the Arkansas Foreign Language Curriculum Framework for Spanish IV and includes applications, problem solving, higher-order thinking skills, and performance based, open-ended assessments with rubrics. Spanish III is a prerequisite for this course. Arkansas Department of Education approval is not required.

## **GIFTED AND TALENTED**

- World Energy Policy- Two semester course designed to provide a high quality, innovative, and unique opportunity for middle school gifted and talented students to learn and problem-solve topics facing the country and world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The course will focus in depth on non-renewable sources of energy. Each source will be studied in four areas: 1) Raw material source of the energy and the technologies used to convert the raw material into usable energy, 2) Methods and technologies used to collect, store, and distribute the produced energy, 3) Economic impact including cost of production and distribution, and 4) The impact of each source due to its production, distribution, and use on the environment will be investigated. Within the fourth area (the environmental impact) students will also offer their own solution suggestions to avoid, correct, or minimize identified negative impacts.

## **HUMANITIES**

- Creative Writing- Two semester course designed to build students' ability to write correctly and develop creative writing skills.
- Drama – One semester course designed to develop creative and evaluation processes in theater using script writing, sensory awareness, design, and analysis.
- 12th Grade English- a two semester course designed to improve students' essay writing skills through practice and study of current essays as well as their interpretive skills through the study of literature. The first semester is designed to help create and build upon students' past experiences in English classes in order to develop a foundation that will prepare them for the rigors of College English and the other courses they will take that include writing as an element (that is to say, almost all of them). The second semester will allow the students to study and discuss and write about literature of all sorts. In the first semester, students will work on six types of major essays: the narrative will allow students a comfortable entry

into the rigors of the class--they will discuss events from their own lives with an emphasis on strong language, concision, details, and vivid imagery. Other essays will follow: Summary; Synthesis; Compare and Contrast; Persuasive; and finally, a self-directed Research Project using databases, online resources, and books. During all these assignments attention will be given to grammar by using examples from their own writing as well as attention to database research and MLA format requirements. The second semester will focus on the study of literature, whether that be creative writing or scholarly articles. The students by this time should be familiar with MLA formatting, understand how to write clearly and powerfully, and be confident in their grammar skills. The class will read various selections from modern creative writing and discuss the craft and techniques used and allow students to write their own poems and short stories. They will also revisit the Research Essay several times, with an attention to database research. They will work on more advanced forms of synthesis research using the most current articles available and by the end of the semester should be able to write a college-level essay with ease and confidence.

- Introduction to Composition – One semester class catered toward those students who need remediation within literacy. This class is designed to improve student writing. Students will study the entire writing process including sentence formation, paragraphing, essay writing, letter writing, and finally research writing. The emphasis is definitely more technically inclined as it focuses on the structure of writing. This class does not meet any English requirement for graduation.
- Journalism I- Two semester course designed to develop students' journalistic writing, critical reading and thinking skills, as well as an awareness of and appreciation for visual design.
- Journalism II - Two semester course designed to enhance and extend journalism students' knowledge and abilities acquired in Journalism I to produce a school newspaper. This course focuses on production and leadership skills.
- Oral Communication- One semester introductory level communication course designed to develop students' understanding of the communication process.
- Pre-AP Skills- Two semester course focusing on the fundamentals of literary analysis, reading strategies, the rhetorical skills necessarily to succeed in AP Lang & SS.

- Advanced Art – An advanced one semester class that continues development of the skills learned Art. Students will receive an in depth vision of the meaning and importance of art in today’s society focusing on formalism, imitationalism, and emotionalism. Students must have taken Art as a prerequisite.
- Art – Two semester class where students will recognize the different elements and principles of art in order to create and be aware of good design and accomplish an understanding of critiquing and analyzing art.
- Art History- Two semester course which introduces the student to much of the important art throughout history, and develops an interest in artwork from different cultures by studying the different art movements, periods, and eras.
- Survey of Fine Arts- Two semester survey course designed to introduce students to various artistic mediums including fine art, music, theatre, visual arts, and dance.
- American Government 9-12- One semester course that deals with the theoretical concepts relating to the foundations of our government and with the practical application of these concepts as they relate to our system of American federalism, to political participation and influence, to foreign policy, to civil liberties, to civil rights, and to our national government. This course stresses application, problem-solving, higher-order thinking skills, and use of classroom performance-based/open-ended assessments with rubrics. American Government is a social studies elective. Civics or Civics/American Government is a pre-requisite for this course. Arkansas Department of Education approval is not required.
- American History 9-12- Two semester course that covers the history of the United States from the first settlers to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Emphasis is on interpretative skills as evidenced by short essays and a term paper.
- Arkansas History – One semester course that provides a study of the history of Arkansas. It addresses the geographic features and economics of our state, focusing on political, social, religious, military, scientific, and cultural developments that have occurred over time. The course work for Arkansas History for grades 9-12 is more rigorous than Arkansas History in grades 7-8. This course stresses application, problem-solving, higher-order thinking skills, and use of classroom performance based/open-ended assessments with rubrics. Arkansas History is required by Act 787 of 1997 and the Standards for Accreditation.

- Civics - One semester course that provides a study of the structure and functions of the United States government, the government of Arkansas, and political institutions. Civics also examines constitutional principles, the concepts of rights and responsibilities, the role of political parties and interest groups, and the importance of civic participation in the democratic process. This course stresses application, problem-solving, higher-order thinking skills, and the use of classroom performance-based/open-ended assessments with rubrics. Civics for Core Curriculum fulfills the minimum Civics requirement for Core Curriculum graduates and does not require Arkansas Department of Education approval.
  
- World Geography- One semester, high school social studies elective course, which emphasizes the interaction of humans and their physical and cultural environments. The study of geography will focus on five major themes: location, place, human/environment interactions, movement, and regions. The study includes current developments around the world that affect physical and cultural settings. Physical settings studies will include topography, resources, climates, and environmental conditions. Cultural settings include population, political structures, life styles, economics, and customs. Students will analyze and interpret a variety of geographic resources and use primary and secondary sources, maps, pictorial and graphic evidence, as well as newer technologies.
  
- World History 6-8- Two semester course designed to develop greater understanding of the evolution of global processes, contacts, and interaction with different types of human societies. World History provides a study of the history of human society from early civilization to the contemporary period, examining major themes and relationships between major civilizations throughout the world. These themes include the impact of interaction among major societies through political, economic, social, religious, military, scientific, and cultural developments. Students will analyze and interpret a variety of historical resources using primary and secondary sources, maps, and pictorial and graphic evidence of historical events.
  
- World History 9-12 – Two semester course designed to develop greater understanding of the evolution of global processes, contacts, and interaction with different types of human societies. World History provides a study of the history of human society from early civilization to the contemporary period, examining major themes and relationships between major civilizations throughout the world. These themes include the impact of interaction among major societies through political, economic, social, religious, military, scientific, and cultural developments. Students will analyze and interpret a variety of historical resources using primary and secondary sources, maps, and pictorial and graphic evidence of historical events. This course stresses application, problem-solving, higher-order thinking skills, and use of classroom

performance-based/open-ended assessments with rubrics. World History is required by the Standards for Accreditation and does not require Arkansas Department of Education approval.

- Psychology – One semester, high school social studies elective course, that introduces students to the science of behavior and mental processes. It includes an overview of the history of psychology as well as an opportunity to study individual and social psychology and how the knowledge and methods of psychologists are applied to the solution of human problems. The content of this course includes human development; biological bases of behavior; sensation and perception; learning, memory, and cognition; behavior patterns; motivation and emotion; adjustments to social environments; and psychological disorders and their treatments.
- Sociology – One semester, high school social studies elective, that introduces students to the social systems that are the foundation of society. An emphasis will be placed on culture and socialization, social status, social institutions, and social problems; as well as the effects and influence on behavior. Using the tools and techniques of sociologists, students will study changes taking place in society and examine their causes, consequences, and possible solutions. Students will read major sociological theorists as well as consider how sociologists approach issues.

## **MATH**

- Algebra I- Two semester course investigating fundamentals of algebra including: language of algebra, real numbers, linear and non-linear equations, relations and functions, polynomials and factoring.
- Algebra II- Two semester course which continues upon the concepts learned in Alg. I and Geometry. It is a fundamental course needed for success in higher math.
- Algebraic Connections – Two semester course is designed for students who have successfully completed Algebra I (or its equivalent) and Geometry (or its equivalent). Algebraic Connections will build on a foundation of previously taught Algebra and Geometry concepts, enlarge upon the development of each concept, and introduce new concepts. Students will be expected to evaluate data, interpret data, analyze linear functions, write and solve equations and inequalities and their systems, and use algebraic, graphical, and numerical methods for analysis.
- Calculus- Two semester course designed to develop problem-solving abilities through varied methods: analytic, algebraic, numerical, graphical and verbal.

- Computer Mathematics – Two semester course provides students with experiences in using the computer to solve problems that can be set up as mathematical models. Students entering this course must be currently enrolled in or have already taken Algebra II. Students will develop and refine skills in logic, organization, and precise expression, thereby enhancing learning in other disciplines. Programming should be introduced in the context of mathematical concepts and problem solving. Students will define a problem; develop, refine, implement a plan; and test and revise the solution.
- Functional / Transitional Math- Two semester course designed to prepare students for College Algebra.
- Geometry- Two semester course that will help students develop communication skills, enhance reasoning, and make connections within mathematics to other disciplines and the real world. Students will use physical models and appropriate technology to investigate geometric concepts in problem solving situations. In this course, students are engaged in problematic situations in which they form conjectures, determine the validity of these conjectures, and defend their conclusions to classmates.
- Integrated Algebra A & Integrated Algebra B- Algebra A is the first part of a two-credit algebra course. Algebra B is the second part of a two-credit algebra course. Students who successfully complete Algebra A and Algebra B will meet the Algebra I requirement for graduation. Students will be able to describe and translate among graphic, algebraic, numeric, tabular, and verbal representations of relations and use those representations to solve problems. The process of collecting and analyzing data should be embedded throughout this course. Appropriate technology and manipulatives will be used regularly for instruction and assessment. Students will be able to judge the meaning, utility, and reasonableness of the results of symbol manipulations, including those carried out by technology. These SLEs are the minimum requirement for Algebra A. Due to differences in students' abilities; time may allow instruction to proceed with Algebra B SLEs.
- Middle School Algebra- Two semester course designed for 8<sup>th</sup> graders that have completed pre-algebra. Completion of this course prepares the student for Geometry/Alg. II.
- Pre-Algebra – Two semester course builds upon the essential skills of arithmetic as they apply to algebra. Real numbers and linear equations, linear inequalities, factoring, fractions, graphing and some elements of geometry are stressed.

- Pre-Cal including Trig.- Two semester course that is designed for students who have successfully completed Algebra II and Geometry. Students will use symbolic reasoning and analytical methods to represent mathematical situations, to express generalizations, and to study mathematical concepts and the relationships among them. Students will use functions and equations as tools for expressing generalizations. This course will emphasize a study of trigonometric functions and identities as well as applications of right triangle trigonometry and circular functions. Students will be introduced to polar coordinates in this class. Arkansas teachers will be responsible for integrating appropriate technology in the Pre-Calculus curriculum.

## Sciences

- Anatomy & Physiology – Two semester course designed to develop an understanding of the organization of the human body through studies of body systems, tissues, and the cell and its chemistry. Students will spend time dissecting and viewing body systems as well as collecting and analyzing data. Instruction and assessment will include both appropriate technology and the safe use of laboratory equipment. Students will be engaged in hands-on laboratory experiences at least 20% of the instructional time.
- Biology- Two semester course designed to investigate the chemistry and role of cells in life processes, genetics, evolution and the diversity of life. Students will learn about the world through the study of behavioral relationships, ecology, and the global impact of ecological issues. The course will continue to educate the student in the nature of science. Students are expected to spend time viewing and classifying life forms. Field studies are an integral part of the course as well as the process of collecting and analyzing data. Instruction and assessment include both appropriate technology and the safe use of laboratory equipment. Students are engaged in hands-on laboratory experiences at least 20% of the instructional time.
- Chemistry- Two semester course that explores the composition of matter through its properties, its atomic structure, and the manner in which it bonds and reacts with other substances. Students are expected to use suitable mathematics and collect and analyze data. Instruction and assessment include both appropriate technology and the safe use of laboratory equipment. Students are engaged in hands-on laboratory experiences at least 20% of the instructional time.

- Environmental Science- Two semester course designed to examine the physical and biological dynamics of Earth. Students will analyze the impact of human activities on the environment. Field studies, as well as the process of collecting and analyzing data, are an integral part of the course. Instruction and assessment include both appropriate technology and the safe use of laboratory equipment. Students are engaged in hands-on laboratory experiences at least 20% of the instructional time.
  
- Physical Science- Two semester course that begins the study of higher-level physics and chemistry and continue educating the student in the nature of science. A student who masters these Student Learning Expectations should transition smoothly into other science courses. Students are expected to use suitable mathematics and collect and analyze data. Instruction and assessment include both appropriate technology and the safe use of laboratory equipment. Students are engaged in hands-on laboratory experiences at least 20% of the instructional time.
  
- Physics- Two semester course designed to ground students in the five traditional areas of Physics (Newtonian mechanics, thermodynamics, optics, electricity and magnetism, and quantum mechanics) as well as the nature of science. It provides the knowledge base needed for many college programs. Students are expected to use higher-level mathematics and collect and analyze data. Instruction and assessment include both appropriate technology and the safe use of laboratory equipment. Students will be engaged in hands-on laboratory experiences at least 20% of the instructional time.
  
- Pre-AP Biology- Two semester course of study in Biology to prepare the student for AP Biology (it is not a prerequisite for AP Biology). This course will thoroughly cover topics dealing with the science of Biology, including: life, cells, matter and energy, molecular Biology, genetics, evolution, ecology, and the structure and function of organisms. These topics will be investigated through a wide range of activities, lectures, laboratory activities and internet investigations. As the design of this course is to begin to introduce students to college level Biology (AP Biology), it will involve extra time for the extensive amount of reading, note taking, and independent work required of each student.