

SOUTHWEST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

2020-2021

Grades 7-8

BIBLE AND INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

MISSION STATEMENT:

The goal of the Bible Department at Southwest Christian School is to encourage students in Learning God's Word, Loving God's Word, and Living God's Word in an effort to grow and strengthen our relationship with Jesus Christ.

"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 3:14

BIBLE 7 – BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

Grade Level: 7

Length of Course: 1 semester (fall)

Students will unpack and begin to answer a number of questions related to topics that humanity is faced with today. The mission of this course is to teach young Christians how to navigate learning, loving, and living God's Word as we journey through the areas of Theology, Sociology, Economics, Politics, and History. This is Part 1 of a 2-Part course offered in 7th and 8th grade. Part 2 will be covered in the spring of the 8th-grade year and will cover the areas of Biology, Philosophy, Ethics, Psychology, and Law.

BIBLE 7 – SURVEY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

Grade Level: 7

Length of Course: 1 semester (spring)

Students will use multiple intelligences to explore the relevance of the Old Testament in their lives today. This differentiated study offers students the opportunity to creatively expand their understanding of the people, places, and events of the Old Testament as they strengthen their personal relationship with Christ.

BIBLE 8 – SURVEY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Grade Level: 8

Length of Course: 1 semester (fall)

Students will use multiple intelligences to explore the relevance of the New Testament in their lives today. This differentiated study offers students the opportunity to creatively expand their understanding of the people, places, and events of the New Testament as they strengthen their personal relationship with Christ.

BIBLE 8 – BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

Grade Level: 8

Length of Course: 1 semester (spring)

Students will unpack and begin to answer a number of questions related to topics that humanity is faced with today. The mission of this course is to teach young Christians how to navigate learning, loving, and living God's Word as we journey through the areas of Biology, Philosophy, Ethics, Psychology, and Law. This is Part 2 of a 2-Part course offered in 7th and 8th grade. Part 1 is covered in the fall of the 7th-grade year and covers the areas of Theology, Sociology, Economics, Politics, and History.

ENGLISH

MISSION STATEMENT:

The English Department of Southwest Christian School is Christ-centered, and as such, the faculty seeks to assist students in their discovery of God's Truth in the language of literature. Students will be empowered linguistically to succeed not only at the university level, but will also receive the foundation that will enable them to serve as Christian leaders throughout the world.

ENGLISH 7

Grade Level: 7

Length of Course: 2 semesters

Students will refine and master previously learned knowledge and skills in increasingly complex reading selections by reading widely in a variety of classic, contemporary, and informational texts. Grammar study is intensive and ongoing, emphasizing identification of the parts of a sentence, varying sentence structure, and using verb tenses appropriately and consistently. Knowledge and practice in the Jane Schaffer method of writing are implemented, and students will edit their writing based on their knowledge of grammar, spelling, punctuation, and other conventions of written language.

ENGLISH 8

Grade Level: 8

Length of Course: 2 semesters

Students in English 8 will strive for proficiency in oral and written language, increase written and spoken vocabulary, compose sentences without mistakes, immerse themselves in the rules of grammar, read and analyze literature, and write opinion, analytical, and persuasive essays in MLA format.

ENGLISH 8 – HONORS

Grade Level: 8

Length of Course: 2 semesters

Students in English 8 Honors will vigorously explore literature from various time periods using both classic and contemporary texts. They will demonstrate understanding through discussions, presentations, and written essays. This course is designed to provide a learning environment in which students will be exposed to an accelerated variety of challenges to develop their talents and reach their highest potential.

MATHEMATICS

MISSION STATEMENT:

First, students will be guided to understand the order of the universe and realize how God reveals His order through the universal language of mathematics. Second, students will acquire a solid understanding of mathematics and the ability to apply it effectively. Thirdly, we will strive to develop students' abilities to reason logically with analysis while strengthening their critical thinking skills. Finally, it is our desire to equip our students with the tools and strategies necessary to be lifelong learners and Christian leaders in the world.

7TH GRADE MATH

Grade Level: 7

Length of Course: 2 semesters

7th Grade Math introduces the fundamental principles in algebra with emphasis placed on understanding and application of order of operations, integers, variables, expressions, and equations. Problem-solving strategies are utilized throughout the course. Emphasis is placed on solving and graphing equations and inequalities; formulas and concepts in geometry; ratios, proportions, and percents; and probability.

7TH PRE-ALGEBRA

Grade Level: 7

Length of Course: 2 semesters

7th Pre-Algebra is a transitional course designed to move students from the intermediate level of mathematics to the secondary level. This course will help to transform concrete thinking skills into abstract, mathematical problem-solving. The introduction of formulas containing constants and multiple variables is incorporated with several units of solid geometry and the manipulation of percents and fractions. Students will experience applications of a wide range of mathematical skills to real-world situations.

8TH PRE-ALGEBRA

Grade Level: 8

Length of Course: 2 semesters

The 8th Pre-Algebra course is designed to help students learn basic algebra concepts such as integers, equations, proportional reasoning, functions, graphing, powers, polynomials, and factoring. Students will be given the opportunity to make connections from concrete models to abstract concepts. They will review arithmetic and geometric skills, communicate the understanding of algebra, and learn to see the practical value of algebra.

ALGEBRA I

Grade Level: 8

Length of Course: 2 semesters

High School Credits: 1

Students lay the foundation for solving linear equations and inequalities, graphing linear equations, and solving systems of linear equations. Other topics are: adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing polynomials; factoring, solving, and graphing quadratics; and exploring rational and radical expressions and equations.

ALGEBRA I – HONORS

Grade Level: 7, 8

Length of Course: 2 semesters

High School Credits: 1

Students lay the foundation for solving linear equations and inequalities, graphing linear equations, and solving systems of linear equations. Other topics are: adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing polynomials; factoring, solving, and graphing quadratics; and exploring rational and radical expressions and equations.

GEOMETRY – HONORS

Grade Level: 8

Length of Course: 2 semesters

High School Credits: 1

Geometry Honors provides students an opportunity to study zero-, one-, two- and three-dimensional geometry, to use geometric models, to apply the properties of figures in problem-solving situations, and to use appropriate technology to solve geometric problems.

SCIENCE

MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the science department at Southwest Christian School is two-fold: to lead students towards a greater understanding of God's creation through inquiry, analysis, experimentation, and mathematical manipulations; and to prepare students for success in college by utilizing state-of-the-art technology, providing differentiated learning experiences, and maintaining high expectations.

SCIENCE 7 – INTRODUCTION INTO PREP SCIENCE I

Grade Level: 7

Length of Course: 2 semesters

This course is a hands-on study of the structure and function of living organisms and their anatomical/physiological relationships with each other as designed by God. The class utilizes concepts in life science, chemistry, forensics, and earth science to provide foundational scientific skills for success in high-school courses. The curriculum emphasizes critical thinking, data analysis, experimentation, measurement, and the connection between scientific concepts and the world around us from a Christian perspective.

SCIENCE 8 – INTRODUCTION INTO PREP SCIENCE II

Grade Level: 8

Length of Course: 2 semesters

This course utilizes hands-on learning methods and emphasizes experimental design and critical thinking. The study of the fundamental properties of lab practices, astronomy, motion, acceleration, simple machines, periodic table, chemical bonding, chemical reactions, cells, heredity, DNA, bones, and muscles will be presented. The desire is to increase students' scientific knowledge and understanding of their world from a Christian perspective.

SCIENCE 8 HONORS – INTRODUCTION INTO PREP SCIENCE II

Grade Level: 8

Length of Course: 2 semesters

Science 8 Honors- Introduction to Preparatory Science II is a course designed to engage students in scientific exploration and critical thinking while studying the broad topics in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Environmental Science. Throughout the curriculum students will experience an appropriate level of academic rigor that prepares them for high school science. As a Christ-centered class, students will learn science from the perspective of God's creative and intelligent design.

SOCIAL STUDIES

MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Social Studies Department of Southwest Christian School is to equip students, through critical thinking, challenging assessments, and respectful discourse, to participate in God's global mission to love and serve the world.

God began by making one person, and from Him came all the different people who live everywhere in the world. God decided exactly when and where they must live. God wanted them to look for Him and perhaps search all around for Him and find Him, though He is not far from any of us: 'We live in Him. We walk in Him. We are in Him'... 'For we are His children.'

Acts 17:25-28

UNITED STATES HISTORY

Grade Level: 7

Length of Course: 2 semesters

This course provides a survey of the history of the United States from its inception to the Reconstruction. Students will examine major periods and themes in American history such as democratic ideals, citizenship, the impact of the individual, diversity, and unity, immigration and migration, expansion, and science and technology. In addition, the course includes the dimensions of geography, economics, government, and culture.

WORLD GEOGRAPHY

Grade Level: 8

Length of Course: 2 semesters

High School Credits: 1

This class, a foundation in the study of geography studies the physical and human character of the earth. This course will examine God's sovereign hand in a complex web of cultures and communities. An additional concentration will be on the six elements of geography and how those themes work together to define culture: location, places & regions, physical systems, human systems, environment and society, and uses of geography. There is a specific emphasis on location, as students will be required to map the nations of the world from memory and will examine the political, economic, religious, social, intellectual, and artistic components of the 8 major world regions: United States & Canada, Latin America, Europe/Russia, Southwest Asia & North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, East Asia, and Australia.

WORLD LANGUAGE

MISSION STATEMENT:

God loves all of humanity, no matter the race, nation, language, or culture and wants all people to be reconciled to Him. The mission of the World Language Department is to develop students' abilities to communicate in languages other than English, to understand other cultures, and to share the Word of God in those languages being in communion with the Great Commission:

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

INTRODUCTION TO CHINESE

Grade Level: 7

Length of Course: 1 semester

This is a one-semester Chinese course, designed for students who have little or no previous knowledge of Chinese language and culture. The emphasis in this course is to develop students' understanding of Chinese culture and people through Chinese language learning, crafting, folk-tale telling, tongue twisters, and singing songs, which helps to heighten their awareness of culture and people of the world through a Christian lens. Students will be introduced to the basic knowledge about Chinese geography, philosophy, customs, and festivals. Besides the cultural aspect, this course will cover the Chinese phonetic system (Pinyin), approximately 35 Chinese radical characters, and basic conversational and writing skills.

CHINESE I

Grade Level: 8

Length of Course: 2 semesters

High School Credits: 1

This is a beginning course in Mandarin Chinese, designed for students who have little or no prior exposure to the Chinese language, and is based upon the "Five Cs" principles of the National Standards for Foreign Language Education: Communication, Culture, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities. The emphasis in this course is to develop students' fundamental listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills as well as the understanding of Chinese culture which helps to heighten their awareness of culture and people of the world through a Christian lens. This course will also introduce basic radical words, the phonetic system (Pinyin), and explore common knowledge about Chinese geography, history, philosophy, customs, and festivals.

CHINESE I HONORS

Grade Level: 8

Length of Course: 2 semesters

High School Credits: 1

This is an honors elementary Chinese language and culture course, designed for students who have little knowledge of Chinese language and culture. The emphasis of this course is to develop students' understanding of Chinese culture through Chinese language learning. Students will be introduced to basic knowledge concerning Chinese culture. In addition, this course will also cover the Chinese phonetic system (*Pin-yin*), basic Chinese characters, mini-stories, and basic conversational and writing skills. The course will cover an introduction to Chinese geography, history, philosophy, and festivals. This course will be taught within an authentic cultural context through a Christian lens.

INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH

Grade Level: 7

Length of Course: 1 semester

The purpose of this course is to expose students to the Spanish language and culture. Students will develop communication skills of speaking, listening, writing, and reading in Spanish. Students will strengthen their proficiency with continuous reinforcement and recycling of vocabulary. Students will continue to expand their view of the Spanish world with heightened cultural awareness and enriched cultural knowledge in order to enhance their understanding of people of the world through a Christian lens.

SPANISH I

Grade Level: 8

Length of Course: 2 semesters

High School Credits: 1

In this course, students will learn new grammar points and vocabulary essential for effective communication in Spanish while improving their ability to speak, read, write, and understand the language, in order to heighten their awareness of culture and people of the world through a Christian lens. The course will be taught mostly in Spanish to maximize contact with the oral language. Speaking and listening proficiency will be strengthened using a variety of communicative activities including small group work.

SPANISH I HONORS

Grade Level: 8

Length of Course: 2 semesters

High School Credits: 1

In this course, students will learn new grammar points and vocabulary essential for effective communication in Spanish while improving their ability to speak, read, write, and understand the language, in order to heighten their awareness of culture and people of the world through a Christian lens. The course will be taught mostly in Spanish to maximize contact with the oral language. Speaking and listening proficiency will be strengthened using a variety of communicative activities including small group work.

FINE ARTS

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Southwest Christian School Fine Arts Department develops an appreciation of the arts from process to product. We seek to awaken students to the God-given talents in them, educate them in the disciplines of the arts, and build on our legacy of excellence with Christ at our center.

CHOIR 7 (Fine Arts Rotation)

Grade Level: 7

Length of Course: 1 quarter

7th Grade Choir is designed to utilize all basic choral skills learned from 5th and 6th-Grade Choir. Students will continue to develop their God-given musical gifts through group rehearsal, intermediate music reading exercises, learning to communicate through song and exploring various music genres. This is a performance-based class, and students will be expected to perform on one music concert.

CHOIR 8

Grade Level: 8

Length of Course: 1 Semester

8th Grade Choir is designed to utilize all intermediate choral skills learned from 7th-Grade Choir. Students will continue to develop their God-given musical gifts through group rehearsal, sight-singing, aural skills, competitions, and applied music theory. This is a performance-based class, and students will be expected to perform in two music concerts and other possible short school performances.

INTERMEDIATE BAND I

Grade Level: 7

Length of Course: 2 semesters

Intermediate Band I is designed to educate students in basic music theory, as well as the mechanics of their chosen instrument. Students will increase their understanding and appreciation of wind band literature through individual study and performance, and will work together to create a cohesive musical ensemble through public performances. No prior band experience is necessary to join Intermediate Band I.

INTERMEDIATE BAND II

Grade Level: 8

Length of Course: 2 semesters

Intermediate Band II will utilize and build upon the basic music theory and performance skills that were learned in either Beginning Band I/II, or Intermediate Band I. Students will continue to develop their God-given musical gifts through sight-reading, competition-level solos or small ensembles, and applied music theory. Multiple performance opportunities will be provided through pep rallies and concerts.

PRAISE MINISTRIES

Grade Level: 8

Length of Course: 1 Semester

Students in 8th Grade Praise Ministries will use their God-given gifts to communicate the message of Christ by leading Middle School chapel services, develop spiritual leadership, take advantage of service opportunities to the school and develop intermediate music-reading skills (musicians only). Instrumentalists who have a basic understanding of their instrument, vocalists with minimal singing experience, and students interested in Audio/Visual technology may audition for Praise Ministries. Students may enroll in the course based on an audition process held the previous spring.

ART 7 (Fine Arts Rotation)

Grade Level: 7

Length of Course: 1 quarter

This course will include the study of the elements of art, including drawing and painting techniques through multiple media, including clay, using both 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional art. The arts serve as the primary signature of a culture, carrying our individual and collective images and ideas from one generation to another. This course will explore the function of visual arts in the community and recognize historical and individual artistic history and style. This course is designed for beginning-level students to create an awareness and appreciation for art.

ART 8

Grade Level: 8

Length of Course: 1 semester

This course will include the study of the elements of art, including drawing and painting techniques through multiple media using both 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional art. The arts serve as the primary signature of a culture, carrying our individual and collective images and ideas from one generation to another. This course will explore the function of visual arts in the community and recognize historical and individual artistic history and style. This course is designed for beginning-level students to create an awareness and appreciation for art.

THEATRE ARTS 7 (Fine Arts Rotation)

Grade Level: 7

Length of Course: 1 quarter

Middle School Theatre Arts 7 is designed to educate students in the basic aspects of Theatre Arts, exploring the impact of theatre on our culture, our personal lives, and our relationship with God. This is a performance-based class. It will focus on individual participation, the process of collaboration within the class, and developing a standard of integrity and excellence in process, production, and performance.

THEATRE ARTS 8

Grade Level: 8

Length of Course: 1 semester

Middle School Theatre Arts 8 is designed to educate students in all aspects of Theatre Arts. We will explore the impact of all Fine Arts on our culture, our personal lives, and our relationships with God. This class is built upon individual participation, the process of the class as an ensemble, and an overall standard of integrity in production and performance.

TECHNOLOGY

MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Technology Department at Southwest Christian School is to develop students' ability to use technology in a way that both honors God and furthers their academic and professional pursuits. We strive to build students' awareness of digital citizenship issues as well as their ability to use technology efficiently in many different contexts through the use of hands-on training, project-based learning, and critical thinking.

TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATIONS (Fine Arts Rotation)

Grade Level: 7

Length of Course: 1 quarter

In Technology Foundations, students will learn to be proficient in using productivity tools by exploring the use of Google apps for education (word processing, spreadsheets, and presentation tools). Students will be taught to utilize and navigate different school resources in an effort to establish their technology skills for Lakeside campus courses. Each week, students will be exposed to an element of digital citizenship and will learn how to be appropriate and responsible members of an online community. All assessment in this course will be project-based, allowing students to demonstrate necessary technical skills needed as they progress at Southwest Christian School.

ROBOTICS

Grade Level: 8

Length of Course: 1 semester

Robotics is a project-based course in which students explore the design, programming, and fabrication of robotics equipment and technology. Students will explore the applications of robots in industry and understand the implications of robotics in society. Students will study and build the basic systems that make up robots using “VEX IQ” Robotics Systems. Students will study mechanics, programming, electronics, and the design and applications of each system in robotics design, and they will research a cutting edge application of robotics technology in industry and present their findings in a professional presentation. Students will use their knowledge and skills in the design and production of a robot to compete in an end of semester class Robotics Challenge.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES

READING (7TH AND 8TH)

Grade Level: 7, 8

Length of Course: 2 semesters

Reading courses provide support and reinforcement for the skills taught in the academic curricula through enrollment into SCS Learning Lab. Students explore personal academic strengths and weaknesses, learning styles, and strategies for academic success. Topics include organization, time management, listening and note-taking, active reading, test preparation and anxiety, and effective research skills. Fine Arts or World Language may be waived for students taking Reading in middle school. An additional fee is required.