

SAINT LAWRENCE
ACADEMY

COURSE
DESCRIPTIONS

2010 – 2011

COURSE REQUIREMENTS INFORMATION

SUBJECT AREA	SLA CREDITS	SLA SEMESTERS	U.C. SYSTEM	CSU SYSTEM
ENGLISH	40	8 semesters	8 semesters	8 semesters
MATHEMATICS	30	6 semesters	6 semesters (8 recommended including Algebra, Geometry and Algebra 2)	6 semesters
SOCIAL SCIENCE	30	6 semesters	4 semesters	4 semesters
SCIENCE	25	5 semesters	4 semesters	4 semesters
FOREIGN LANGUAGE	20	4 semesters	4 semesters (6 recommended)	4 semesters
VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS	10	2 semesters	2 semesters	2 semesters
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	35	7 semesters	none	none
COMPUTER LITERACY Or passing test	5	1 semester	none	none
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	10	2 semesters	none	none
ELECTIVES (Taken from the areas of social science, English, advanced math, science, fine arts, foreign language, or business.)	35	7 semesters	2 semesters	2 semesters

U.C. AND CSU APPROVED COURSES

All courses must be completed with grades of C or higher; B or better grades are very important for admissions. (The U.C. and CSU systems do not recognize minuses or pluses on grades; a grade of C- is seen as a C.)

SAINT LAWRENCE ACADEMY COURSE OFFERINGS

RELIGIOUS STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Introduction to Catholicism
Introduction to Sacred Scripture
Social Justice
Christian Lifestyles
Church History
World Religions
Introduction of Philosophy

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

English I
English I-Z
English II
English II-Z
Accelerated English II
American Literature
American Literature-Z
British Literature
World Literature-Z
AP English Literature
AP English Language
Creative Writing
Film and Literature
Sports in Literature
Yearbook
Study Skills
Journalism I
Oral Communications

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Integrated Science
Integrated Science-Z
Biology-Z
Biology
Accelerated Biology
Chemistry
Honors Chemistry
Physics

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

Introduction to Algebra
Algebra I
Geometry
Algebra II
Pre Calculus
AP Calculus AB
Trigonometry/Statistics
Accounting
Consumer Math
Trigonometry (if UC approved)
Statistics (if UC approved)

SOCIAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

World History
World History-Z
US History
US History-Z
AP US History
Government
Government-Z
Economics
Economics-Z
Psychology
Sociology: Contemporary Issues

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

Basic Music and Choral Techniques
Drama I
Drama II
Art I
Art II
AP Studio Art
Oral Communication
Digital Photography
Computer Graphics

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Honors Physics
Anatomy and Physiology
Ecology
Physical Education/Health

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

The Law
Marketing/Careers
Computer Literacy
Finance – Money and Banking
Accounting (also listed in Mathematics)
Economics (also listed in Social Sciences)
Economics-Z (also listed in Social Sciences)

**FOREIGN LANGUAGE
DEPARTMENT**

American Sign Language I
American Sign Language II
American Sign Language III
Spanish I
Spanish II
Spanish III
Spanish IV Honors
Spanish V Honors
French III
French IV
French V

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

ACCOUNTING

This course deals with systems and methods used by accountants in recording financial transactions and teaches students how to analyze business operations using accounting records. This course also teaches students how to make personal economic decisions. How much of my paycheck should be saved? How much was spent on various expenses? Personal decisions are wiser if financial facts are organized, summarized, and easily available to the person. Record keeping, checking accounts, journals, ledgers, and all corporate financial statements are covered in this course.

Prerequisites: This course fulfills one year's math graduation requirement. This course is open to 11th and 12th grade students.

This course is **not** U.C. or CSU approved but is ideal for the student who wants a 3rd or 4th year of math without taking Geometry and/or Algebra 2.

ECONOMICS

This one semester course will introduce the student to basic economic principles and problems. Emphasis will be on analysis, interpretation, and application of economic principles to the problems of individuals and society. Both macro and micro economic concepts will be covered in this course.

Prerequisites: This course is required for all seniors for graduation and counts as a Social Science elective.

This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

ECONOMICS-Z

See above course description.

Prerequisites: Student must be enrolled in the Zacchaeus program.

This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

FINANCE – MONEY AND BANKING

This semester course will introduce the student to money management and financial planning. Major areas that will be covered are: investing and planning, stocks and mutual funds, developing a financial plan and protecting your funds. Basic principles of financial management and banking will be covered in this one semester course.

Prerequisites: This course is open to 11th and 12th grade students.

This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

COMPUTER LITERACY

This course is designed to develop computer skills necessary for college and beyond. The course will explain the many uses of the computer, basic computer concepts, hardware, software, the Internet, ethics and Copyright Laws. In addition, students will use their laptops to demonstrate competency in the operation and care of computer-related hardware and will learn to implement basic troubleshooting techniques for computer systems before accessing technical support. The production of form letters, reports, graphs, charts, presentations, envelopes and labels created by the students will demonstrate the skills learned.

Prerequisites: This course is a graduation requirement. Students will have three options to fulfill this requirement: 1) take this course, 2) take a comparable computer course in summer school, or 3) pass a competency test given during the school year. This course is **not** U.C. or CSU approved.

THE LAW

This one semester course is an introduction to law relating to the conduct of business, the meaning and sources of law, organization of courts and court procedures, and fundamental principles of criminal and civil processes. A fundamental understanding of common law principles is achieved by analyzing selected cases and court decisions. The computer will also be utilized in various research applications.

Prerequisites: This course is open to 10th, 11th and 12th grade students. This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

MARKETING/CAREERS

This one semester course will introduce the student to marketing and give the student an overview of how marketing relates to the individual and to the world of business. Basic principles of advertising, marketing, pricing, promotion, and distribution are just some of the topics covered in the course. Additionally, students will understand the business principles and management needed by everyone who plans a career. The course will allow the student to explore various careers, write a resume, compose a cover letter, gain interviewing skills, and put together a job kit.

Prerequisites: This course is open to all 11th and 12th grade students. This course is **not** U.C. and CSU approved.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

ENGLISH I – Foundations of Literature

This course focuses on the study of various genres of literature and on writing. The students will read short stories, poetry, essays, drama and novels from around the world. Students will also study vocabulary and develop their writing skills in both expository and creative writing assignments.

Prerequisites: This course is required for all freshmen except those enrolled in the Zacchaeus Program.

This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

Summer reading is required for this course.

ENGLISH I-Z

See above course description.

Prerequisites: Students must be enrolled in the Zacchaeus Program.

This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

Summer reading is required for this course.

ACCELERATED ENGLISH II

This course focuses on the study of various genres of literature and on the development of stronger writing skills. The student will read short stories, poetry, essays, drama and novels from different regions around the world. Students will develop their writing skills in assignments related to the literature they read. Oral presentations, vocabulary study, and grammar practice are all key components of this course, which presents materials at a more challenging pace.

Prerequisites: Students must have earned a grade of B+ or higher in English I and approval of their English I instructor.

This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

Summer reading is required for this course.

ENGLISH II – World Literature and Composition

This course will use a thematic approach to the study of literature from various regions of the world. Through the study of themes relevant to his/her own time, the student will have a new perspective of the human condition and a sense of shared human experiences. Short stories, poetry, essays, drama and novels representative of many regions of the world will be studied. Expository and persuasive writing as well as creative expression will round out the course. A formal program of vocabulary development and grammar will be included. Students will develop introductory strategies to give oral presentations.

Prerequisites: This course is required of all sophomores unless they are in Accelerated English II or in English II-Z.

This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

Summer reading is required for this course.

ENGLISH II-Z

See above course description.

Prerequisites: Students must be enrolled in the Zacchaeus Program.

The course is U.C. and CSU approved.

Summer reading is required for this course.

AMERICAN LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

This course will focus on student writing and the study of literature of the United States. The study of literature will proceed from the early writings of the colonial period to contemporary literature. It will include fiction, nonfiction, poetry, essays, and drama. The class will provide practice in organizing ideas for effective writing in various styles and forms and in correct writing mechanisms. A formal program of vocabulary development will be included, as well as some practice in developing oral presentations. A research paper will be assigned during the year.

Prerequisites: This course is required of all juniors who are not taking AP English Language, AP English Literature, American Literature-Z or World Literature-Z.

This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

Summer reading is required for this course.

AMERICAN LITERATURE-Z

See above course description.

Prerequisites: Students must be enrolled in the Zacchaeus Program. **Offered in alternate years.**

This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

Summer reading is required for this course.

WORLD LITERATURE-Z

World Literature-Z is a full year course for juniors and seniors in the Zacchaeus program. The course will be a survey of literature from a variety of genres (novels, short stories, poetry, drama) from various regions around the world. The class will provide practice in organizing ideas for effective writing in various styles and forms and in correct writing mechanisms. A formal program of vocabulary development will be included, as well as some practice in developing oral presentations.

Pre-requisites: Students must be enrolled in the Zacchaeus Program. **Offered in alternate years.**

This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

Summer reading is required for this course.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

This is a college level course for qualified juniors and seniors that focuses on an in-depth study of non-fiction literature and rhetorical devices. A wide variety of literature and speeches from classical and contemporary authors and speakers will be read, listened to, and analyzed. Heavy emphasis will be placed on acquiring advanced writing skills. There will be frequent in-class writing assignments and essay examinations. Continual study of the writing and comprehension skills required for success on the Advanced Placement Language exam will accompany the students' efforts. This course is an honors level course and is intended to prepare students for the Advanced Placement English Language examination in May. Ultimately, students will be prepared for the rigors of standard and advanced English courses in college. This course is intended only for serious English students.

Prerequisites: Students must have earned the following grades in their most recent English course to qualify – B+ or better in English II, B or better in Accelerated English II, B+ or better in American Literature or a B- or better in AP English Literature and Composition. Priority will be given to students who have successfully passed prior honors level English courses. **Offered in alternate years.**

This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

Summer reading is required for this course.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

This is a college level course for qualified juniors and seniors that provides an intensive and in-depth study of major genres of literature: the novel, the short story, the play, the essay, and the poem. A wide variety of literature from both classical and contemporary authors will be read and analyzed. A heavy emphasis of this course will be on acquiring successful writing skills. There will be frequent in-class writing assignments and essay examinations, and students will be responsible for three formal projects: an in-depth study of a novelist, an in-depth study of a poet, and a creative project of the student's own design. Frequent instruction in writing style and techniques will accompany the student's efforts. This course is an honors level course and is intended to prepare students for the Advanced Placement English Literature examination in May. This course is intended only for serious English students.

Prerequisites: Students must have earned the following grades in their most recent English course to qualify – B+ or better in English II, B or better in Accelerated English II, B+ or better in American Literature or a B- or better in AP English Literature and Composition. Priority will be given to students who have successfully passed prior honors level English courses.

Offered in alternate years.

This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

Summer reading is required for this course.

BRITISH LITERATURE

This course will focus on literature from the British genre including writers such as Dickens, Huxley, Shelley, Christie and Shakespeare. Study will include works from the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the Restoration, the Victorian era, and contemporary British literature. Students will focus on improving their reading, writing, and speaking skills through their study of poetry, drama, and fiction and non-fiction writing. The composition aspect of the course will focus on the writing of literary theory, persuasive, and expository writing. Vocabulary practice will continue to be emphasized. Ultimately, at the conclusion of the course, students will be prepared for the rigors of standard English courses in college.

Prerequisites: This course is required of all seniors who are not taking either AP English Language, AP English Literature, World Literature-Z or American Literature-Z.

This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

Summer reading is required for this course.

STUDY SKILLS

This one semester course is designed to sharpen students' basic study skills. Topics to be covered include note taking, organizational skills, test taking skills, homework skills, and more. Students will learn how these skills can be applied to all subject areas. Students are introduced to strategies for gathering and organizing information necessary for the learning process.

Prerequisites: This course is primarily intended for freshman students but may be taken by sophomores if space permits.

This course is **not** U.C. and CSU approved.

YEARBOOK

This is an activity course in which students produce the Academy yearbook. In this class students will learn the techniques of layout design using an online software suite called Yeartech Online. They also learn the skills of copy writing, editing, photography, interviewing and other journalistic techniques. Some students will have the opportunity to attend weekend and summer training workshops.

Prerequisites: This course is open to only senior students with the instructor's approval. It does **not** fulfill the fine arts requirement.

This course is **not** U.C. and CSU approved.

FILM AS LITERATURE

Students will study both the history and artistic qualities of filmmaking, with specific focus on narrative, point of view, story structure, motif and symbolism. Through lecture, supplemental reading, film screenings and critical assessments, students will be able to understand the progress

of film as an artistic medium, its importance in our culture and its considerable ability to create and tell stories. Students will be able to compare and contrast literary devices and concepts of both literature and film. Students will gain a vocabulary and understanding of film production, including mise-en-scene, camera angles, editing and cinematography and be able to discuss all these attributes in regards to specific films seen in class. Both film vocabulary and film/literary concepts must be utilized in all written responses, including daily film journal entries and essays. All opinions and arguments must be supported with specific details. Students will finish this course with a new appreciation for the power of film and its ability to transport us into the world of entertainment and art.

Prerequisites: This course is open to all 11th and 12th grade students. This course may be taken in addition to the required American Literature, British Literature, AP English Language or AP English Literature but may **not** replace them. **Offered in alternate years.**
This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

SPORTS IN LITERATURE

This semester course will help students analyze, investigate, and study from a literary perspective, the unique phenomenon of participatory and competitive sports in the world. Specific attention will be paid to the parallels that exist between professional and amateur sports, as well as their effect on our everyday lives. Students will learn about the history, development and major figures with the selected sports areas. Students will study all portions of the literary perspective (novels, short story, essay, non-fiction, poetry and film) to develop a wide perspective of opinions, themes, observations and social commentary related to sport. While developing analytical and writing skills, students will be asked to formulate ideas on this distinct genre through numerous writing, oral and research assignments.

Prerequisites: This course is open to all 11th and 12th grade students. This course may be taken in addition to the required American Literature, British Literature, AP English Literature or AP English Language but may **not** replace them. **Offered in alternate years.**
This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

JOURNALISM I

This one semester course is open to students with superior writing skills who wish to demonstrate their ability to produce pieces of writing. Students demonstrate their skills in the art of newspaper writing and production: sports, feature, editorial and review writing; proofreading, editing, reporting, interviewing, writing in Microsoft Word and PageMaker, and layout design. Students also demonstrate their ability to write well under pressure, gather information independently and organize it cooperatively, and work efficiently with their peers. Through extensive rewriting, students exhibit mastery in all of these skills.

Prerequisites: This course is open to all students. It may be used only as an elective and not as one of the four required years of English. **Offered in alternate years.**
This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

CREATIVE WRITING

This workshop course will allow students to hone their creative writing skills by composing original works in the areas of short story, poetry and children's literature. Through the use of selected literature, professional models and student examples, students will learn a variety of techniques to prepare them for these writing challenges. An additional emphasis in the course is oral expression, with the understanding that students learn through the sharing of their writing and ideas.

Prerequisites: This course is open to all 11th and 12th grade students. This course may be taken in addition to the required American Literature, British Literature, AP English Literature, or AP English Language course but may **not** replace them. **Offered in alternate years.** This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

ELEMENTS OF ORAL COMMUNICATION

This one semester course will address the basic skills and knowledge needed for students to communicate effectively in school, at work and in all aspects of life. Four major areas are covered: 1) meaning of public speaking, 2) public speaking fundamentals, 3) how to properly prepare for a speech, and 4) how to present a speech. Students will also learn how to analyze various forms of oral communication.

Prerequisites: This course is open to all students. This course is U.C. and CSU approved as an elective; it does not fulfill the one-year college fine arts requirement.

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

One full academic year of Fine Arts is required by the U.C. and CSU system. This one year must consist of two consecutive semesters of one discipline or one full year in one discipline.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT STUDIO ART

The Advanced Placement Studio Art course enables highly motivated students to do college-level work in studio art while still in high school. AP Studio Art is not based on a written examination. Instead, candidates submit a portfolio of work for evaluation at the end of the school year.

The guidelines for the Advanced Placement Studio Art portfolio have been designed to accommodate a variety of interests and approaches to art. The three sections of the portfolio are: Quality – the development of a sense of excellence in art; Concentration – a commitment to depth to a particular artistic concern; Breadth – a variety of experiences in the formal, technical and expressive means available to an artist.

Prerequisites: Completion of Art I and Art II with a grade of A, a portfolio review and approval of the instructor. Students must also present a working portfolio during the approval process. This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

ART I

In this foundation level course for the high school art program, students explore a wide variety of art media including drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking and mixed media. The creative processes will be used to manipulate media and subject to convey varied visual problems. Development will stress achieving class level goals and personal artistic growth. Included in the class will be an examination into the social, cultural, historical and contemporary aspects of art. The class is designed for those who are inexperienced and wish to investigate artistic experience.

Prerequisites: Open to all students; this course fulfills the fine arts graduation requirement. This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

ART II

Students enrolled in this course must have successfully completed Art I and must be serious about their artistic development. The primary focus of this class will be the refinement of talent and refinement of skills learned in the prior course. Development will concentrate on complex projects with varied outcomes with the overall goal of creating a strong working portfolio. The product outcome will integrate technical mastery and student expression into a common art experience.

Prerequisites: An A or B in Art I is required, a portfolio review along with the approval of the instructor. This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

BASIC MUSIC AND CHORAL TECHNIQUES

The Basic Music and Choral Techniques course covers a one-year curriculum that integrates the disciplines of music with the performance aspect of a choir. The first semester of this course focuses on foundational music theory and composition, as well as basic choral and vocal techniques. Students learn how to read music in treble and bass clefs and are able to identify note values, time signatures, rest values, and key signatures. Students develop a greater appreciation for music by studying song structure and composition. Students prepare for the Christmas program within the final month of the semester. The second semester of this course focuses on the music history. Students will study the main historical eras and genres of music. Students will gain an understanding of each era through knowledge of major composers and seminal musical compositions. Students listen and identify musical pieces that range from late Renaissance to cool jazz of the mid-20th century. In addition, students discover folk music from various cultural backgrounds, appreciating the history, scope and beauty of indigenous music. Students will receive a fine foundation of musical knowledge from this one-year, UC/CSU approved music course.

Prerequisites: This course is open to all students. This course fulfills the fine arts requirement for graduation.

This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

DRAMA I

This course provides students with a working knowledge of theater, including terms, exercises, and methods. Students receive extensive improvisation practice as they gain confidence and develop stage presence. Students learn about movement, voice, and characterization through lecture, discussion, exercises and games. Drama students are required to memorize, prepare, rehearse and perform several monologues and scenes throughout the year. Students will learn the history and philosophy of drama, will recognize and identify Aristotelian attributes, will investigate the large purpose of drama in our world and lives and will, through performance, appreciate the finer art of drama. Students gain a critical perspective and regularly use constructive criticism in class. The final project for this course is the creation, direction, and production of short fairy tale plays which are performed for the St. Lawrence Elementary school children.

Prerequisites: This course is open to all students. This course fulfills the fine arts requirement for graduation.

This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

DRAMA II

Drama II is a semester course designed for those students who enjoy the performing arts or who plan to major or minor in theater in college. The course is performance-oriented with student selection, direction and production of performance pieces. First, students have the opportunity to enhance their performing skills by acting in several class projects. Second, the students will learn an extensive amount of information regarding direction, staging, and producing. Third,

students will gain a more sophisticated critical eye as they experience theater ranging from Shakespeare to Stoppard.

Prerequisites: An A or B in Drama I and approval of the instructor.
This course is **not** U.C. or CSU approved.

COMPUTER GRAPHICS

Students learn to use the computer to visually communicate their ideas and to become better prepared to compete in our ever-changing age of technology. Throughout this course students will develop a strong set of work world skills that will go far to make them highly successful in higher education and the work world. Student work focuses on the principles of conceptualization of visualization, the idea that it is possible to communicate an idea or thought visually. Students will explore both artistic and industrial computer design. This class is highly technical, and it is recommended that you possess a working knowledge of modern computing technology. This course is for the seriously motivated student.

Prerequisites: Completion of Computer Literacy or its equivalent. This course is recommended for junior or seniors.
This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

This semester course is structured to give students an understanding of the fundamentals of digital photography. Students study the characteristics and functions of the digital camera, as well as the basic principles of composition and image making. Students will study the possibilities of the digital darkroom through their work in Adobe Photoshop. Students explore the history of photography with an emphasis on 20th century photographers. The primary cross-curricular focus of the class is social justice. Students will communicate their thoughts and learning visually about numerous current social justice issues. This course is demanding and is for the serious student. It is required that you own a digital camera for this course.

Prerequisites: This course is open to all students.
This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

SPANISH I

This course enables students to understand, speak and use French or Spanish vocabulary, speech patterns, and grammatical constructions; to speak with a native pronunciation; to reproduce the basic French and Spanish sounds in writing and to construct original and correct sentences in the foreign language; and to understand the significant geographical and cultural features of contributions to Western civilization, and their characteristics and customs.

Prerequisites: Open to all students.

These courses are U.C. and CSU approved.

SPANISH II

This course is the reinforcement and expansion of the first-year program. It includes an extension of the concepts of grammar with particular verb forms, with an emphasis on oral, listening, reading, and writing skills.

Prerequisites: Students must have passed their first year course with a grade of C or better. A student who earns a grade of D in his/her first year course should attend summer school to prepare for the second year course.

These courses are U.C. and CSU approved.

FRENCH III OR SPANISH III

Reinforcement and expansion of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills are the keys to this course. Along with a review of the understanding and applications of grammar, the ability to carry on spontaneous dialogues is developed. Reading material relating to the culture, history and literature of various countries are used.

Prerequisites: Students must have passed their second year course with a grade of C or better and have teacher approval.

These courses are U.C. and CSU approved.

FRENCH IV HONORS AND SPANISH IV HONORS

This course further develops reading comprehension and oral interpretation of literature in the language studied. The student practices writing to describe and interpret readings as well as to expand vocabulary and perfect intricate grammar skills. Supplementary activities and exposure to cultural events are encouraged.

Prerequisites: Students must have passed their third level course with a grade of B or better and have teacher approval.

These courses are U.C. and CSU approved.

FRENCH V AND SPANISH V HONORS

This course is for superior students capable of working at college level and preparing for an advanced placement examination (successful completion of which earns the student college credit.) Whether taken independently or as an organized class, the syllabus is based on a format composed of grammar review, advanced composition, and literature. When offered as Independent Study, students work on their own as directed by the teacher, and attend regularly scheduled conferences with their instructor to assess their progress and to plan further studies.

Prerequisites: Students must have completed their fourth level course with a grade of B or better and have teacher approval.

Spanish V Honors is U.C. and CSU approved; French V is **not** U.C. and CSU approved.

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE I

This course will teach basic signs, grammar, finger spelling, and the cultural aspects of deafness. Students will learn basic communication as well as song signing. Total participation is necessary to properly learn the language. Activities will include students working in pairs or groups, role playing, presentations, and videotaping sessions. In addition to written homework, students are expected to study/practice the language outside of the classroom on a daily basis.

Prerequisites: Open to all students; priority scheduling will be given to students with a diagnosed learning disability.

This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE II

This course covers the basic fundamental principles of American Sign Language and furthers information about the Deaf community and Deaf culture. Vocabulary, finger spelling, grammatical and cultural understanding will be introduced through the use of short-length prepared and self-generated dialogues and stories. Final grade is based on tests, quizzes, class participation, attendance, homework, class reports/projects, use of ASL in the classroom and final exam.

Prerequisites: Students must have passed their first year course with a grade of C or better. A student who earns a D in his/her first year course should attend summer school to prepare for the second year course.

This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE III

This course further develops basic reception and production skills in American Sign Language. Emphasis will be on Deaf culture, syntax, vocabulary, and the ability to demonstrate abstract ideas and concepts. In the areas of reading, composition, and receptive and expressive communication skills, students have the opportunity to develop visual acuity; follow verbal instructions; understand statements, questions and dialogues; originate descriptions; read and

discuss texts written by deaf authors and histories of the deaf community; understand the current GLOSSING system used to write ASL; and examine other methods to write ASL, including Sign Writing.

Prerequisites: Students must have passed their second year course with a grade of C or better. This course is pending U.C. and CSU approval.

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

INTRODUCTION TO ALGEBRA

This pre algebra course leads to the beginning of Algebra. The topics covered include: solving equations using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division and combining like terms; number properties; operations with integers; word problems using equations; exponents and scientific notation; finding sums, differences, products and quotients of both numerical and algebraic fractions, rational numbers; ratio, proportion, and percent; inequalities.

Prerequisites: Open to 9th grade students. Students are placed in this course based on their mathematics placement test.

This course is **not** U.C. or CSU approved.

ALGEBRA I

This first course in Algebra includes an introduction to algebraic notation and use of variables, the order of operations, operations involving integers, solving linear equations, graphing functions and relations, analyzing linear equations, solving linear inequalities, solving systems of linear equations and inequalities, operations involving polynomials, factoring, rational expressions and equations, and radical expressions and triangles. As time permits quadratic and exponential functions will be introduced. Considerable emphasis throughout the course is given to the application of algebraic skills to real life problems.

Prerequisites: Students are placed in this course based on their placement test or after having passed Introduction to Algebra with a C or better. Students who earned below a C in Introduction to Algebra should take a summer school course to review and master concepts in which they are deficient. Students who don't do so are likely to earn grades lower than a C in Algebra I. This course is open to 9th and 10th grade students.

This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

GEOMETRY

This course consists of an extensive study of Euclidean or plane geometry, stressing the need for understanding definitions and discovering geometric relationships. The course begins with a discussion of points, lines, planes and angles. Further topics include parallel lines and planes; congruent triangles, right triangles and the trigonometry based on them; polygons, circles; constructions; perimeters, areas and volumes of plane figures and solids; coordinate geometry and transformations.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Algebra I with a C or better in both semesters. The concepts of Geometry are dependent on material covered in Algebra I. Students who earned lower than a C in Algebra I should attend summer school to review and master concepts in which they are deficient. Students who do not do so are likely to earn grades lower than a C in Geometry. Open to 9th, 10th and 11th grade students.

This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

ALGEBRA II

The topics include: real numbers and their properties; solving linear equations, systems of equations and inequalities; polynomials and factoring; solutions to polynomial equations; fractional expressions and equations; exponents, powers and roots; complex word problems; matrices and determinants; relations and functions; exponential and logarithmic functions, conic sections and their graphs. If time permits, then there are the following options: sequences and series; binomial theorem and trigonometric functions.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Geometry with a grade of C or better. Open to 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade students. Some 9th graders may be placed in this course based on their placement exam.

This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

TRIGONOMETRY/STATISTICS

This course is a fourth year math course intended for students who wish to review and improve their analytic math skills but who do not intend to pursue calculus as a college freshman. The course provides reinforcement of mathematical skills to prepare students for college algebra and/or pre calculus. In addition to a review of algebra and geometry, students are introduced to real-life applications of trigonometry and graphing. It will also introduce general statistical principles, which will be useful to all students regardless of their field of specialization. Fundamentals of data collection, graphing, probability, and measures of central tendency will be the primary focus of the course work. Spreadsheets, graphical analysis and simulations will be used to investigate topics of student work.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Algebra II with a C or better. Students with a lower grade must have approval of the instructor. Open to 11th and 12th grade students.

This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

TRIGONOMETRY (semester course)

This course is designed for those students who wish to complete an additional semester towards a fourth year of mathematics but who are not ready to move onto PreCalculus. Topics to be covered in Trigonometry include: functions; graphs of functions; symmetry; transformation of functions; acute angles; right angles; arc length; angular speed; six trigonometric functions identities; proving identities; law of sines and cosines; polar coordinates; polar graphing; logarithms and exponentials.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Algebra II with a C or better. Students with a lower grade must have approval of the instructor. Open to 10th, 11th and 12th grade students.

This course is pending U.C./CSU approval. **Will be offered only if it receives U.C. approval.**

STATISTICS (semester course)

This course is designed for those students who wish to complete an additional semester towards a fourth year of mathematics but who are not ready to move onto PreCalculus. Topics to be covered in Statistics include: organizing data; frequency distributions; graphical representations of data; histograms; mean, median and mode; variance and standard deviation; mean variance; Chebyshev's theorem; empirical rule; quartiles and percentiles; counting; exclusive and independent events; intersection and union of events; random variables; discrete and random variables; factorials, combinations and permutations; binomial probability distribution; Poisson probabilities; normal distribution; population and sampling distribution.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Algebra II with a C or better. Students with a lower grade must have approval of the instructor. Open to 10th, 11th and 12th grade students. This course is pending U.C./CSU approval. **Will be offered only if it receives U.C. approval.**

PRE CALCULUS

This course should be taken by every student intending to study calculus. It includes functions and their graphs, intensive study of polynomial and rational functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, trigonometric functions, full treatment of the unit circle, analytic trigonometry, law of sines and cosines, vectors, linear systems and matrices, sequences, series and probability, review of analytic geometry, analytic geometry in three dimensions, limits, as well as an introduction to Calculus. Intense focus is given to the practical application of course concepts. Because of the difficulty in concepts, and the amount of time needed for study, this course is recommended only for students who are VERY STRONG in math.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of a full year of Algebra II with a B or better. Students with a lower grade must have the approval of the instructor. Students who earned lower than a B in Algebra II should attend summer school to review and master concepts in which they are deficient. Students who do not do so are likely to earn grades lower than a C in Pre Calculus. Open to 10th, 11th and 12th grade students. This course is U.C. and CSU approved. **This course requires summer work.**

ADVANCED PLACEMENT CALCULUS AB

The focus of this course is to offer students a rigorous study of the topics found in a college level calculus course under the guidelines of the Advanced Placement Program. The course is equivalent to a typical first semester college Calculus course. Topics covered include limits, derivatives and their applications, and integrals and their applications. Students will communicate their understanding using mathematical symbols and vocabulary in both solutions and verbal reasoning of solutions. Students may receive college credit by passing the Advanced Placement Exam in May.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Pre Calculus with a B or better. Students with a lower grade must have the approval of the instructor. Open to 11th and 12th graders. **Students**

enrolled in AP Calculus will be required to take seven classes a day.

This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

This course requires summer work.

ACCOUNTING

This course deals with systems and methods used by accountants in recording financial transactions and teaches students how to analyze business operations using accounting records. This course also teaches students how to make personal economic decisions. How much of my paycheck should be saved? How much was spent on various expenses? Personal decisions are wiser if financial facts are organized, summarized, and easily available to the person. Record keeping, checking accounts, journals, ledgers, and all corporate financial statements are covered in this course.

Prerequisites: This course fulfills one year's math graduation requirement. This course is open to 11th and 12th grade students.

This course is **not** U.C. or CSU approved but is ideal for the student who wants a 3rd or 4th year of math without taking Geometry and/or Algebra 2.

CONSUMER MATH

This one year course is designed to develop competency in math for consumer use through a study of problems faced in daily life. Consumer Math reviews basic operations with whole numbers, decimals and fractions. These operations are then used in many applications including money records, wages, banking, personal buying, savings, and home ownership. During the fourth quarter, there will be an emphasis on topics that will help the student prepare for a general education math class at the college level, including topics covered on the California High School Exit Exam.

Prerequisites: This class fulfills one year's math graduation requirement and is open to 11th or 12th grade students. Students who have passed Algebra 2 with a C- or better are not permitted to take this course.

This course is **not** U.C. or CSU approved but is ideal for the student who wants a 3rd or 4th year of math without taking Geometry and/or Algebra II.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES DEPARTMENT

INTRODUCTION TO CATHOLICISM

This two semester religious studies course for freshmen introduces students to the foundations of Judeo-Christian history, theology, moral teachings, and the value of faith in their lives. Students are introduced to Scripture, Church history, morality, prayer, the life of Christ, and the importance of the sacraments. Students are also encouraged to learn through active participation in liturgy, prayer, and Catholic ritual. This course offers students of varied backgrounds a working vocabulary and basic knowledge of the Catholic Church and its teachings.

Prerequisites: One year, required, 9th grade.
This course is pending UC/CSU approval.

SACRED SCRIPTURE

This two semester religious studies course for sophomores will guide students through the Sacred Scriptures and present them in an accessible way. Students will study and analyze the symbolism and importance of the Hebrew Scriptures. Students will also analyze the background and formation of the four Gospels from Gospel accounts, and will be introduced to the letters of the Christian Scriptures. Students will be called upon to use a variety of sources for biblical analysis and project-based learning and will be challenged to apply the meanings of scripture to their lives and the world at large.

Prerequisites: One year, required, 10th grade.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

This one semester course for juniors teaches students about how Scripture and Catholic Social Teaching calls them to justice and fosters their ability and desire to respond to that call in their daily life. Students will be introduced to the rich tradition of Catholic Social Teaching and will look at the social and moral challenges of today in light of those documents. Students will also be invited and challenged to respond to the “Call to Action” of Catholic Social Teaching and actively participate in seeking justice in the world.

Prerequisites: One semester, required, 11th grade.

CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLES

Christian Lifestyles is a one semester course for seniors – young men and women who are beginning to confront issues of life choices as they journey towards the wider world beyond high school. The course will challenge students to explore what it means to be a woman or man, how to relate to others in positive ways, what the roles and responsibilities of marriage partners are today, and what the Catholic church teaches about sex and marriage – and why. The central focus of the course is on exploring issues related to spirituality and life choices as the students navigate the transition from adolescence to young adulthood.

Prerequisites: One semester, required, for both 11th grade and 12th grade (only for the 2010 – 2011 school year).

CHURCH HISTORY

This one semester course for seniors will investigate the story of the Roman Catholic Church as it developed from the time of Jesus to the present. Students will be exposed to some of the key figures, events, and movements of the Church's story. Students will see where the Church has been and how God continues to guide the Church as a *community of believers*.

Prerequisites: One semester, elective, 12th grade

WORLD RELIGIONS

In his Epistle to the Romans, Paul claimed that “we, though many parts, are one body...” (Rom 12:5). Confucius said “in the world there are many different roads but the destination is the same. There are a hundred deliberations but the result is one.” (*I Ching*, Appended Remarks 2.5) Buddhism teaches that there are many paths to the same truth. Through lecture, research, discussion and prayer, we will explore these paths within this one-semester course. Students will investigate the doctrines, traditions and rituals of Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Taoism and Christianity, focusing on the aspects of faith that unite, rather than divide. Students will gain a global understanding of faith and cultural knowledge outside their own realms of experience. Students will be challenged to open their minds and think beyond their personal points of view in order to examine fundamental themes regarding human dignity, freedom, suffering, death and grace that underlie all faiths. Students will be challenged to actively reflect upon their own spirituality and embark upon strengthening their individual faith through prayer, reflection, journal entries and class discussion. The course provides a great amount of knowledge and encourages personal commitment and spiritual growth.

Prerequisites: One semester, elective, 12th grade
This course is pending UC/CSU approval.

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

“Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth; and God has placed in the human heart a desire to know the truth – in a word, to know himself – so that, by knowing and loving God, men and women may also come to the fullness of truth about themselves” Pope John Paul II, *Fides et Ratio*. This course will provide students the opportunity to explore the connection between faith and reason through the study of ancient Greek philosophy and its influence on Christian theology. Students will read, discuss, debate and analyze works ranging from Plato to Augustine, Aristotle to Lonergan seeking answers to fundamental questions regarding ideas, ethics, divine revelation, freedom and state of the immortal soul. Students will investigate the impact of Hellenic thought on Western culture – its literature, art, science and religious institutions. Students will be encouraged to seek answers to their own individual inquiries and develop personal philosophies that will enrich both their hearts

and their minds.

Prerequisites: One semester, elective, 12th grade
This course is pending UC/CSU approval.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

INTEGRATED SCIENCE

This is a course in which students work to gain a better understanding and acquaint themselves with the nature and scope of Integrated Science through the study of science methodology, weather, technology, space exploration, electricity, and biological ecosystems. Students will explore and develop a look into the sciences using analytical, technological applications, global and spiritual perspectives. They will use laboratories, computer interactive labs, cooperative projects and other tools to sharpen their critical thinking and analysis.

Prerequisites: May be taken as either a freshman or a sophomore.
This course is an U.C. and CSU approved elective.

INTEGRATED SCIENCE-Z

See course description above.

Prerequisites: Student must be enrolled in the Zacchaeus Program.
This course is an U.C. and CSU approved elective.

BIOLOGY

Biology is a comprehensive laboratory course in which students gain an understanding of organisms. After provision for a background in biochemistry, topics are studied from cell through population biology. Basic themes include: cell function, cell division, DNA and protein synthesis, genetics, evolution and taxonomy. Laboratory experiments are integrated into the course of one or more periods per week to provide experience with scientific investigation and interpretation. Research and presentation of scientific study are integrated into the curriculum.

Prerequisites: Students must have completed a recent course in Integrated Science (either at Saint Lawrence Academy or in their previous school). May be taken as a 10th or 11th grade student. If a student tests into Geometry or above as a 9th grader, then the student has the option of taking Biology in 9th grade.
This course is an U.C. and CSU approved lab course.

BIOLOGY-Z

See course description above.

Prerequisites: Student must be enrolled in the Zacchaeus Program.
This course is an U.C. and CSU approved lab course.

ACCELERATED BIOLOGY

Biology is a comprehensive laboratory course in which students gain an understanding of organisms. After provision for a background in biochemistry, topics are studied from cell through population biology. Basic themes include: cell function, cell division, DNA and protein synthesis, genetics, evolution and taxonomy. Laboratory experiments are integrated into the course of one or more periods per week to provide experience with scientific investigation and interpretation. Research and presentation of scientific study are integrated into the curriculum.

The accelerated biology course is geared for students wishing to take the SAT II in Biology.

Prerequisites: In addition to the prerequisites for regular Biology, 9th grade students must have scored in the 80th percentile or above on the entrance exam in English and placed in Geometry or above for their mathematics course. Tenth grade students must have earned a 3.0 gpa or better in freshman math and English and have the approval of their mathematics instructor.

This course is an U.C. and CSU approved lab course.

CHEMISTRY

This course offers a solid foundation in classical chemistry. Great emphasis is placed on the experimental nature of chemistry through labs, computer interactive labs and cooperative projects. The topics of study include: matter, atomic structure, chemical equations and stoichiometry, states of matter, chemical bonding, solution, reaction rates and equilibrium, acids and bases, heat transfer, oxidation-reduction, and organic chemistry. Students will explore and develop a look into chemistry using analytical, global and spiritual perspectives to sharpen their critical thinking and analysis.

Prerequisites: Completion of Biology with at least a C or better, algebra or teacher recommendation. This course may be taken by 10th, 11th or 12th grade students.

This course is an U.C. and CSU approved lab course.

HONORS CHEMISTRY

Honors Chemistry is designed for students who wish to take an advanced level of science and plan to major in science or a related field in college. Students enrolled in the course will complete the regular Chemistry curriculum plus nuclear chemistry and more rigorous mathematical applications. An emphasis will be placed on real world applications, weekly laboratories and preparations for the Chemistry SAT II. Students will be required to master and memorize concepts as well as to examine all topics with a more critical eye towards analysis.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Biology with a B or better, concurrent enrollment in Algebra II or a higher level class and teacher approval. This course may be taken by 10th, 11th or 12th grade students.

This course is an U.C. and CSU approved lab course.

PHYSICS

This algebra based introductory physics course examines the interaction between matter and energy conceptually with less mathematical emphasis than Honors Physics, although mathematical skills are required. Students need to be able to handle basic trigonometric relationships. The topics covered include: motion, energy, force, Newton's Laws, gravity, properties of matter, heat, sound, light, waves, electricity and magnetism. Additionally, as time permits, selected topics from nuclear and modern physics will be discussed. Demonstrations, projects and labs will be performed throughout the course to reinforce concepts.

Prerequisites: Preferred completion of Biology and Geometry with grades of C or better and concurrent enrollment in Algebra II. This course may be taken by 11th or 12th grade students. This course is an U.C. and CSU approved lab course.

HONORS PHYSICS

This algebra based advanced physics course examines the interaction between matter and energy conceptually and mathematically. Students need to be mathematically proficient, able to handle trigonometric relationships, and be able to derive algebraic equations. The topics covered include: units of measurement, vectors, kinematics, dynamics, force, Newton's Laws, gravity, energy, momentum, collisions, work, pressure, vibrations, waves, electricity, magnetism, sound, light and optics. Additionally, as time permits, selected topics from rotational and orbital motion, nuclear and modern physics will be discussed. Demonstrations, projects and labs are performed throughout the course to reinforce concepts. Honors Physics simulates a college level course.

Prerequisites: Completion of Chemistry or Honors Chemistry and Algebra II with grades of B+ or better and concurrent enrollment in Trigonometry/Statistics or a higher level mathematics course along with teacher approval. This course may be taken by 11th or 12th grade students. This course is an U.C. and CSU approved lab course.

ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY

This course will allow students to continue their study of the human body as introduced in Biology class. Students will study the human body in depth, learning the body's various structural components and their individual functions. Through discussion, videos, case studies and lab experience, students will learn more about how their own body functions. This course is themed on precursors to a medical profession track or with investigation sciences.

Prerequisites: Completion of Biology. This course is open to 10th, 11th and 12th grade students. This course is an U.C. and CSU approved elective.

ECOLOGY

This course will provide students with general concepts, principles and methodologies necessary to comprehend some of the interrelationships that occur in the natural world. The course will moreover encourage students to explore their own role(s) in the natural world, both helpful and harmful. Finally, the course will focus on the positive aspects of a person's involvement in ecology by providing student generated means to reduce, correct, or inhibit harm to the environment.

Prerequisites: Completion of Biology. This course is open to 11th and 12th grade students. This course is an U.C. and CSU approved elective.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

This class is offered so that each student will have the opportunity to participate in both individual activities and team sports. Students will participate in both physical activities and in textbook learning about health issues. Class grades are based on participation, sportsmanship, written tests, homework and projects. An important part of the course is the introduction and development of skills which lead to the final game participation. Activities and sports include: aerobics, basketball, weight training, soccer, softball, volleyball, hockey and lacrosse.

Prerequisites: This course is a graduation requirement. It may be taken any year of high school. This course is **not** U.C. and CSU approved.

SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT

WORLD HISTORY, CULTURE AND GEOGRAPHY

World History is a required course for all students at Saint Lawrence Academy. The course meets the requirements of the California State Framework in Social Sciences. Students examine major turning points in the shaping of the modern world. The year begins with an introduction to geography and then continues to focus on the expansion of democracy and the growing interdependence of people and cultures throughout the world.

Prerequisites: This course is a graduation requirement. This course should be taken by 9th or 10th grade students.
This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

WORLD HISTORY-Z

See course description above.

Prerequisites: Students must be enrolled in the Zacchaeus Program to take this course.
This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

U.S. HISTORY

U.S. History is a required course for all students at Saint Lawrence Academy. This course meets the criteria established for the study of US History in high school as stipulated by the California State Framework. In this course students examine major turning points in American history. This year-long course will emphasize certain themes: the expanding role of the federal government and the Federal courts; the continuing tension between the individual and the state; the emergence of the modern corporate economy; the impact of technology on American society; the movements for equal rights for racial minorities and women; and the role of the United States as a major world power.

Prerequisites: This course is required for all juniors.
This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT U.S. HISTORY

Advanced Placement U.S. History is a year-long survey course that meets the graduation requirement for U.S. History and prepares students for the Advanced Placement U.S. History exam and college level history. The course covers U.S. history from the arrival of the Native Americans to the present day. The course emphasizes the writing skills required for essay exams and proper expository essays.

Prerequisites: A or B in previous English and Social Science courses and approval of the instructor. This course is open to juniors.
This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

This course requires summer work.

U.S. HISTORY-Z

See course description for U.S. History.

Prerequisites: Student must be enrolled in the Zacchaeus Program.
This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

GOVERNMENT

Government is a one semester course required for graduation. The course serves as a civil literacy preparation for students to become participating members of American society. This course has both a historical and organizational emphasis. Students will be required to study the structure of American government at all levels. They will have the opportunity to compare American government to other forms of government. A major portion of the course is devoted to the study of the U.S. Constitution from its inception to the present day. Students will be challenged with philosophical and practical issues relating to the document since 1789.

Prerequisites: This course is required for all seniors.
This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

GOVERNMENT-Z

See above course description.

Prerequisites: Student must be enrolled in the Zacchaeus Program.
This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

ECONOMICS

This one semester course will introduce the student to basic economic principles and problems. Emphasis will be on analysis, interpretation, and application of economic principles to the problems of individuals and society.

Prerequisites: This course is required for all seniors.
This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

ECONOMICS-Z

See above course description.

Prerequisites: Student must be enrolled in the Zacchaeus Program.
This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

This semester course introduces students to several topics within the realm of psychology. Students will gain an understanding of the major theories and processes in psychology through coursework and individual research. Students will study existing research to gain knowledge about human behavior. Some specific topics of study include altered states of consciousness, psychological disorders, the brain and behavior, drugs' effects on the brain and body, and cognitive development.

Prerequisites: This course is open to 10th, 11th and 12th grade students. **Offered in alternate years.**

This course is U.C. and CSU approved.

SOCIOLOGY: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

This semester course will examine how people behave in groups and how group interaction shapes both the individual and group behaviors. Students will analyze the rules, organizations, and values systems that enable people to live together. The course will explore urban planning and governance, poverty, and services for the poor, crime, education and youth issues, and race, class and gender issues in America. The course will require reading of contemporary books and research on the issues, position papers, and oral presentations of original research in one of the course areas.

Prerequisites: Completion of or concurrent enrollment in World History. Open to 10th, 11th and 12th grade students. **Offered in alternate years.**

This course is U.C. and CSU approved.