



# **WYLIE PREPARATORY ACADEMY**

## **High School Course Descriptions**

*Revised 3/2024*

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## English

### **English 9:**

With a biblical worldview as their lens, ninth grade students will continue to increase and refine their comprehension and communication skills. This course provides instruction on expanding the five-paragraph essay. Students are expected to plan, draft, and complete varied forms of writing. Emphasis is placed on organizing logical arguments and sub-topic paragraphs with clearly expressed thesis statements and factual evidence for support. This course will lay the foundation for the students' understanding of interpretive literature and prepare them for more detailed literary analysis. They will become more familiar with different genres and sub-genres such as Fiction, Non-fiction, Poetry, Drama, and Folk Literature. Critical thinking skills used in analyzing themes, characters, conflict, structure, point of view, and moral tone will be developed and refined. The students will interpret the possible influences of the historical context on a literary work. Vocabulary development will focus on Latin and Greek roots, synonyms, antonyms, homonyms, word families, denotation, and connotation. Students will continue to receive instruction in grammar in the form of review and introduction of new skills necessary for effective writing. Students will complete one significant research project during the course.

### **Honors English 9:**

In addition to the curriculum of English 9, Honors English 9 students will complete additional reading and more rigorous writing assignments.

Requires Departmental Approval

### **English 10:**

Critical thinking from a biblical worldview is emphasized throughout the course in reading, writing, discussion, and presentation. World Literature will expose students to various writings from around the world from multiple time periods. This course will build on the foundation of students' understanding of interpretive literature and continue into more detailed literary analysis. They will review different genres and sub-genres such as Fiction, Non-fiction, Poetry, Drama, and Folk Literature. Students will continue analyzing major literary elements and terms within works of literature, understanding historical and cultural context. Students will complete writing projects covering various genres of writing, utilizing the complete writing process, including a multiple source research paper. Grammar skills will be refined through the

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writing assignments. Vocabulary will be emphasized within literature passages and incorporated into student writing.

## **Honors English 10:**

In addition to the curriculum of English 10, Honors English 10 students will complete supplemental reading, critical analysis, and rigorous writing assignments.

Requires Departmental Approval

## **English 11:**

This American Literature course provides a historical survey of the development of literature in America from the time of colonization to the present. Students develop critical-thinking skills and a deep understanding of the ideas and writings of literary and historical figures as they evaluate various genres of literature from a biblical worldview. Students articulate their interpretations effectively through class discussions, written responses, and presentations. Students apply biblical discernment, critical thinking, grammar skills, and vocabulary through various writing assignments throughout the year, including a multiple source research paper.

## **Honors English 11:**

In addition to the curriculum of English 10, Honors English 10 students will complete supplemental reading, critical analysis, and rigorous writing assignments.

Requires Departmental Approval

## **Dual Credit English Composition I (fall semester senior year):**

This course is a one semester course for seniors. Students who complete this course will receive 3 hours of a study of rhetoric and effective writing processes. Emphasis on expository and evaluative writing. The course objectives are:

1. Apply rhetorical principles to writing assignments.
2. Utilize other's ideas with your own to complete writing assignments.
3. Demonstrate prewriting, drafting, revision, and editing on each essay assignment.
4. Implement correct grammatical and mechanical usage in writing assignments.
5. Utilize analysis and critical thinking skills to examine scripture for life application.
6. Model critical thinking skills in personal writing and the review of others' writing.

## **Dual Credit English Composition II (spring semester senior year):**

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A study of argumentation/logic and writing for the professions with an emphasis on using the personal computer to plan, draft, and revise written projects. Each student is required to write a fully documented research paper and give oral presentations in class. The course objectives are:

1. Produce writing assignments incorporating your own ideas with the ideas of others.
2. Utilize Rogerian argument and Toulmin logic to analyze research paper sources.
3. Develop fallacy-free argumentative philosophies dealing with your selected topics.
4. Apply correct grammatical and mechanical usage in all written work.
5. Utilize analysis and critical thinking skills to examine scripture for life application.
6. Demonstrate proper use of the MLA format for documentation of research paper sources and written assessments.

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## Social Studies/History

### **Geography 9:**

World Geography & Cultures is a comprehensive study that examines the eight cultural regions of the world. The physical geography aspects (physical features, physical location, and climate) and the human geography aspects (government, economy, religion, people groups, and cultures) of each region will be explored. There is also a focus on modern history and current events. Students will use textbooks, activity books, and the Internet for research, study, and online work, as well as map work. Studies of people and culture will be covered using primary and secondary sources. Students will interact with each other and develop an understanding of the different cultures, to develop a Biblical Worldview of how humanity interacts with each other and the world.

### **World History 10:**

This course is a historical study of significant developments in World History from the ancient near eastern civilizations to the present. We will look specifically at selected influential personalities as well as intellectual, political, cultural, and religious trends interpreted within a Christian conceptual framework. There is an emphasis on understanding the church's influence on major empires, movements, and advancements in history. Time will also be spent learning how to assess the evidence left behind to piece together history. To gain a better insight into the perspectives of the cultures studied, we will be reading primary and secondary sources from the different time periods.

### **American History 11:**

This second class in our worldviews sequence covers our nation's history beginning with the Reconstruction Era through the present. Special attention is given to God's providence and the nation's Christian heritage. The course content is based on the U.S. government's founding documents, which provide a framework for its origin. Historical content focuses on the political, economic, social events and religious trends interpreted with a Christian worldview related to industrialization and urbanization, major wars, domestic and foreign policies, and reform movements, including civil rights.

Students examine the impact of geographic factors on major events and eras and analyze their causes and effects. Constitutional issues on American society will be evaluated along with the dynamic relationship of the three branches of the federal government, and efforts to expand the democratic process. Students describe the relationship between the arts and popular culture and the times during which they were created and will also examine the impact of

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technological innovations on American life. Critical-thinking skills are utilized to analyze various primary and secondary source material to explain and apply different methods that historians use to understand and interpret the past, including multiple points of view and historical context.

## **Biblical Worldview 12:**

The Biblical Worldview course is designed to provide students with a capstone experience for their academic years at Wylie Prep. We begin by looking at the foundations and history of Christianity, reviewing what a Christian Theistic worldview looks like, and researching fundamental biblical doctrines and disciplines. Once a framework is established, other worldviews will be introduced using media and additional readings. This will allow students to discover, for themselves, worldviews that are in opposition to the Christian Theistic worldview.

## **Economics:**

Economics is a multi-disciplinary study combining elements of sociology, finance, psychology, government, marketing, political science, and general business operations to understand the effects of choice, value, and scarcity on the U.S. and global economies. This is an introductory course surveying both micro- and macro-economic concepts. Additionally, this study examines the Biblical perspective of economics, wealth, money, poverty, as well as many personal finance concepts such as credit, budgeting, and insurance.

## **Government:**

This course will cover the formation of the U.S. political system from the founding of the country to the present. With a biblical worldview lens, students will learn the underlying philosophies upon which our constitution was formulated. They will explore the various internal structures of government as well as the results of such systems upon the American body politic. Students will use textbooks, assigned reading, videos, and government-related documents and exercises to develop their understanding of the U.S. government. Research and writing are both integral elements of this class.

## **Dual Credit Government:**

The constitution and structure of the United States government will be emphasized. In addition, forces that impact the federal government's operation will also be evaluated including the role of the media, the economy, and its global relations. This course is heavy on analytical writing, source usage, and research.

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## Math

### **Algebra 1:**

In this course students continue their study of algebra learning linear equations in one variable, algebraic numbers, graphs, formulas, positive and negative numbers, fundamental operations, special products and factoring, fractions, ratios, and proportions. Additionally, the students will be exposed to variation, linear systems of equations, powers, roots, exponents, radicals, and quadratic equations.

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra

### **Geometry:**

This standard first course in geometry covers the required concepts of Euclidean geometry including definitions, postulates, and theorems. Areas of study include angles, parallel lines, congruent and similar triangles, the Pythagorean Theorem, polygons, circles, arcs, and an introduction of probability. A solid foundation in Algebra 1 is necessary as geometry problems utilize numerous Algebra 1 concepts.

Prerequisite: Algebra 1

### **Honors Geometry:**

This accelerated course in geometry covers the standard content of Euclidean geometry including angles, parallel lines, congruent and similar triangles, the Pythagorean Theorem, polygons, circles, arcs, and an introduction of probability. This standard content is explored with greater intensity and emphasis on proof and analytical thinking. Extensions and real-world examples in many topics will be taught and practiced. An independent project may be assigned. Honors students will be given different quizzes, tests, and practice problems to match any extensions covered.

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 and Departmental Approval

### **Algebra 2:**

This course is designed to build on concepts from Algebra 1 and develops advanced algebra skills such as graphing, analyzing, and interpreting functions including linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, inverse, exponential, and logarithmic functions. Students will evaluate

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story problems to connect concepts within chapters to applications in the real world. Graphing calculator functions involving matrices, scatter plots, regressions, tables, and graph attributes are introduced and mastered. The content of this course is important for students' success on both the SAT/ACT and college placement exams.

Prerequisite: Geometry

## **Honors Algebra 2:**

This course covers all essential skills and topics in Algebra 2. It expands individual topics by including AP\* Free-Response style questions which require written explanations of solutions. Students in Honors Algebra 2 will derive proofs of given formulas (ex. quadratic formula), evaluate real world applications with more complex data, and manipulate formulas to solve for additional requirements than just Algebra 2 content covers. The students in Honors Algebra 2 are challenged with higher order thinking problems and fewer 'plug-and-chug' style questions.

Prerequisite: Geometry and Departmental Approval

## **Pre-Calculus:**

This course begins with a comprehensive exploration of trigonometry, including right triangle and periodic circular functions, inverse trig functions, trig identities, properties of combined sinusoids, the Law of Sines and Law of Cosines, vector applications, parametric functions, and polar functions. It continues with a review of polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions. Students are introduced to conic sections, data regression, probability, series, and sequences. This course is supported with online resources to enhance instruction, provide satellite day instruction, and introduce students to a format used in many college math courses. Students completing Pre-Calculus are prepared to take AP or Honors Calculus.

Prerequisite: Algebra 2

## **Honors Pre-Calculus:**

This course covers all essential skills and topics in Pre-Calculus. It expands individual topics by including AP\* Free-Response style questions which require written explanations of solutions. Students in Honors Pre-Calculus are challenged with higher order questions to prepare them for AP or Honors Calculus rigor.

Prerequisite: Algebra 2 and Departmental Approval



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## **Honors Calculus:**

Honors Calculus covers all essential skills and topics in AP Calculus. Honors students have the opportunity to work more practice problems and fewer AP\* College Board Free Response and AP\* College Board Multiple Choice questions. Assessments in Honors Calculus are awarded partial credit. The students that complete Honors Calculus are not required to take the AP Calculus College Board Exam but may choose to complete independent work to prepare for the AP Calculus AB exam.

Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus and Departmental Approval

## **AP Calculus:**

This course begins with the study of limits, differentiation, and definite and indefinite integration. The calculus of trigonometric, logarithmic, exponential, and other transcendental functions are included. Students will study the calculus of growth and decay, related rates, the relationship between PVA, solution of differential equations including the use of slope field and L'Hopital's Rule, the calculus of plane and solid figures, and solids of revolution. Students will evaluate graphs of a function and the first and second derivative, graph functions, and determine critical numbers and points of concavity. Assessments in AP Calculus follow AP College Board format - partial credit for specific free response justification, no partial credit for multiple choice questions. AP Calculus prepares the student for taking the College Board's Advanced Placement Calculus AB Exam.

Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus and Departmental Approval

## **Financial Applications:**

This year-long course covers numerous topics in personal finance as well as the Biblical view of work, wealth, and stewardship. Personal financial topics covered include budgeting, stocks, bonds, banking, savings, loans, credit cards, vehicle purchases and financing, housing acquisition and financing, insurance, and vacation planning. Beginning with the understanding that God owns everything, the student explores God's word as it pertains to financial concepts including giving, honest labor, cosigning for debts, minimizing debt, trusting God, paying taxes, and wise counsel.

Course Prerequisite: Algebra 2

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## Science

### **Biology 9:**

This course will expose the students to the scope of biology, with special emphasis on God as the great creator and designer of life. The students will learn to use microscopes and proper techniques for dissection through regular in-class labs. Students will learn to write clear and concise scientific reports after each lab. Topics covered during the course include cytology, cellular respiration, DNA and cell reproduction, genetics, classification of kingdoms focusing on discovering the anatomy and physiology of organisms from single-celled bacteria to more complex vertebrates.

### **Chemistry:**

This math-based science course presents students with extended learning of the concepts behind energy and matter, atomic structure, molecular bonding, stoichiometry, molecular nomenclature, chemistry of solutions, balancing equations, thermodynamics, periodic trends, acid-base reactions, and more. The text stresses the marvels of design in creation and promotes the development of organized problem solving.

Course Prerequisite: Algebra 1

### **Physics:**

Physics is an advanced level science class that includes interactions of matter and energy, velocity, accelerations, force, energy, momentum and charge. Students will be challenged to apply their knowledge of the laws of physics to solve physics related critical thinking problems. Students will engage in hands-on lab investigations to expand their understanding of God's creation through physics.

Course Prerequisite: Geometry

### **Anatomy:**

This course is an advanced biology course with the focus on the study of anatomy, physiology, and pathology of the human body. Students will use microscopes and dissections in their investigations of the following systems of the human body: integumentary, skeletal muscle, nervous, endocrine, circulatory, lymphatic, digestive, respiratory, urinary, and reproductive. Students will also study the topics of histology and movement. Students will be required to complete scientific lab reports following each lab investigation. Students taking this course will be better prepared for careers and college courses related to health professions, science technology, science education, sports medicine, and physical education.

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Course Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry

## **Forensics:**

This course reveals the science used in forensic science techniques. Students will discover the techniques behind forensic applications, as well as engage in hands-on labs and activities. As students progress through the course, they will refine the problem-solving found in forensic science techniques and apply them to other areas of study. Students will integrate various subjects of science, mathematics, technology, history, and political science, along with writing and presentation skills, using real-life application and case studies.

Course Prerequisites: Chemistry and Physics

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## Additional High School Required Courses

### **Apologetics:**

Apologetics explores foundational Christian beliefs and equips students to think biblically and critically. Questions relating to doubts, evidence for God's existence, the relationship between science and Christianity, the existence of world religions, the problem of evil and suffering, and how to grow as Christian disciples are addressed throughout the semester. With the goal of expanding on the biblical worldview developed in earlier grades, this course will include multi-media resources, engaging classroom discussions, relevant guest teachers, enriching experiences, and meaningful individual assignments. Students' faith will be strengthened and their ability to articulate and defend their faith will be developed.

### **Speech:**

In this one-semester course, students will learn how to effectively communicate in public settings through a variety of assigned speeches. There is an emphasis placed on structuring the content of speeches and delivery methods. Students will learn how to research, outline, and create note cards for each presentation. The various speeches covered are impromptu, informative, persuasive, small group, and demonstration. Additionally, Biblical integration is strong in this class as it is a valuable, core class for our students in their growth as effective communicators for Christ.

### **Spanish 1:**

At the conclusion of this course, students will have acquired the following skills: knowledge of the Spanish alphabet and its sounds; how to spell; how to ask questions; how to introduce oneself and have a small conversation; how to describe oneself and others; how to express feelings; and how to ask the time and to tell the time. Students will have a solid understanding of basic sentence structure and present tense verb conjugations. Students will have learned vocabulary over the home, school, feelings, greetings, food, occupations, sports, and activities. Students will have acquired knowledge over the many Spanish speaking countries and their cultures. Students will also be able to write simple sentences and have basic conversations with other students in the class. Throughout this material, a wide variety of media and authentic texts will be used in mastering concepts; all of them accompanied by class and home activities that simulate the complexity of the language.

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## **Spanish 2:**

This course is designed to build on knowledge obtained in Spanish I. Throughout this material, a wide variety of media and authentic texts will be used in mastering concepts; all of them accompanied by class and home activities that simulate the complexity of the language. At the end of Spanish 2 students will have mastered the ability to understand the use of the progressive and past tense, utilize pronouns in a sentence correctly, to express daily actions and to narrate facts from the perspective of the past, to express opinion about facts and to compare them orally and in writing, to give advice and suggestions, and to read short texts and comment on them.

Course Prerequisite: Spanish 1