



**WESTLAKE**  
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

**High School**  
**Course Catalog**  
**2023-24**

# Bible

## **Apologetics** / 2 semesters / ½ credit per semester

Normally taken during freshman or sophomore year, in this course students start with an introduction to bibliology as the foundation for apologetics. Students develop skills to defend the uniqueness, accuracy, and trustworthiness of the Bible; followed by a defense of the claims of Jesus Christ and his finished work on the cross and subsequent resurrection. They then explore several other areas of apologetics (“the Big Questions”) including cults and world religions, reconciling science and Scripture, and the problem of evil.

## **Theology** / 1 semester / ½ credit / 9th or 10th Grade

Freshman or sophomore year. Students develop a systematic understanding of five major doctrines: bibliology, theology proper, ecclesiology, pneumatology, and angelology. Various evangelical viewpoints are discussed evenhandedly with supporting biblical texts.

## **Christology** / 1 semester / ½ credit / 9th or 10th Grade

Freshman or sophomore year. In this second part to Theology, students develop a systematic understanding of four major doctrines: anthropology, hamartiology, soteriology, eschatology. Various evangelical viewpoints are also discussed evenhandedly with supporting biblical texts.

## **Torah** / 1 semester / ½ credit / 11th Grade

The goal of this course is for students to grow in their ability to responsibly read and interpret the Bible for themselves. This course emphasizes interpreting the Torah as divine, human literature. In other words, the books of the Bible should be read according to their ancient literary and historical context and simultaneously with the conviction God speaks authoritatively through these books to us today. In the Torah students will learn how to engage the unique genre and historical context of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy. We will wrestle through their ancient message and together work out their ongoing significance for us today.

## **The Prophets** / 1 semester / ½ credit / 11th Grade

In this course, students will build on the goal introduced in the Torah course. They will learn how to engage the unique genre and historical context of some of the minor and

major prophets (e.g. Hosea, Joel, Isaiah and Jeremiah). Our aim will be to put ourselves as much as possible into the position of those who first heard these scriptures. We will regularly ask in class, what did this mean for its first audience? The Torah and Prophets form the key foundation block for understanding the entire Old Testament and the New Testament. By immersing themselves in the narratives, themes, images and symbols of these books students will be better positioned to live their lives as a participant in God's redemption story.

**Luke-Acts** / 1 semester / ½ credit / 12th Grade

Students study through Luke's two-part history. As they study his Gospel, emphasis will be placed on the Son of Man, His humanity, His crucifixion, and the implications of the Gospel for our lives. This is followed by (in Acts) Christ's ascension, the birth of the Church, the work of the Holy Spirit, and the spreading of the Gospel. Open discussion, understanding, critical thinking, a vibrant faith, and unity in the Spirit will be encouraged and particular attention paid to personal Bible study skills.

**Romans & Revelation** / 1 semester / ½ credit / 12th Grade

Students do a systematic study in "the most excellent treatise on the Gospel"—Romans—surveying topics like sin, atonement, baptism, predestination, tolerance, authority and more. Students will be pushed to come to their own, supported conclusions on these and other theological questions. Our study in Romans will be followed by a survey of the apocalyptic book of Revelation. Students will explore different views of the book and their interpretations, ultimately coming back to how the message of Revelation informs and shapes our faith here and now. During Bible 12, students will commit significant time to preparing for a cross-cultural mission trip.

**Introduction to Life Calling** / Dual Credit / 1 semester / ½ high school credit / 3 college credits / 12th Grade

Open only to juniors and seniors, *Introduction to Life Calling* assists students in discovering the concept of life calling in a holistic and faith-based setting by focusing on one's God-given design as the basis for this calling. Students are led to understand how vocation is best understood from a life-calling perspective. They will focus on more than just a career; they will evaluate their foundational values, unique design, and personal mission and be challenged to integrate this into their life. During the semester, students will take the IMAGE spiritual gifting assessment and the IMAGE Career Compatibility Profile as they explore their own choice of vocation. The fee for the dual credit option is set annually by the university awarding the credits.

# English

## **English 9 Creative Writing and Storytelling: *Tools for Understanding Stories* / 2 semesters / 1 credit**

This course creates a foundational understanding of the English language storytelling and poetic tradition through breaking down the components into manageable units on: Characters and Archetypes, Plots, Settings, Narrative structure, Dialogue, and Poetry. Throughout this course students will discuss, analyze, and compose stories and poetry that exemplifies different aspects of creative writing and ultimately they will compose their own collection of short stories, a short novel, or a portfolio of poetry based on what they learn throughout the year. They will also be exposed to the mechanics of grammar as a “tool” in their collection for composition. They will follow a process based structure for their compositions and be walked through all the steps of composing researched essays and projects; all through a Biblical lens that asks the question “Why and how do we tell stories?”

## **English 10 World Literature: *Understanding Stories from Around the World* / 2 Semesters / 1 Credit**

This course expands on what was taught in 9th grade by using the different aspects of stories to discuss and analyze different time periods of literature. Students will engage with different stories from around the world that use similar narrative techniques in order to understand the cross-cultural value of storytelling and its worldwide effect on communication. They will be introduced to Joseph Campbell’s “Monomyth” and the idea of a universal story that can be found across national divides, along with the Christ narrative as the ultimate Hero’s Journey and seeing God’s story from a Literary perspective. Engaged learners will work on group presentations, creating a themed anthology, and analyzing literature through specific “lenses” to understand what components are shared cross-culturally and what components are unique to certain cultures.

## **English 11: American Literature (2 semesters, 1 Credit)**

This course examines literary works that stretch throughout America’s history, starting with the prehistoric oral traditions of Native Americans and ending with more modern classics from the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Over the course of the year, students will strive to not only strengthen their reading and writing skills, but also their ability to analyze and critically evaluate literary works through a Christian worldview. Emphasis will be placed on

independent work, small group collaboration, and class discussions as the primary means of facilitating academic growth. Students will also strive to deepen their personal understanding of how literature reflects the experiences of Americans across time and how that allows us to recognize how past and present are connected.

### **English 12: British Literature** (2 semesters, 1 Credit)

This course examines literary works that stretch throughout Britain's history, starting with Celtic and Anglo-Saxon oral traditions and ending with more modern classics from the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Over the course of the year, students will strive to not only strengthen their reading and writing skills, but also their ability to analyze and critically evaluate literary works through a Christian worldview. Emphasis will be placed on independent work, small group collaboration, and class discussions as the primary means of facilitating academic growth. Students will also strive to deepen their personal understanding of how literature reflects the values and beliefs of a culture and how that allows us to connect with those from the past, recognizing similarities and differences between life then and now.

### **Speech** / 1 semester / ½ credit

This course covers the foundational elements of speaking in an effective and God-honoring manner. Students will explore excellent and historical speakers and speeches, and they will be provided with weekly opportunities to practice their own oratory skills. Types of speeches given include storytelling, persuasive and apologetics, demonstration, informative, job interviews, humorous, and impromptu, as well as giving a speech using a presentation app. This is an English elective and cannot be taken in lieu of a required English course.

## **Math**

### **Algebra I** / typically 8th grade / 2 semesters / typically not for high school credit

*Prerequisite – Pre-algebra*

The course advances the student in working with unknowns in addition, subtraction, division, and multiplication. The student works with graphs in linear and linear inequalities, and furthers his skills with matrices, probability and statistics, transformation, exponents, polynomials and the quadratic functions. This course prepares the student for advanced algebra and geometry.

**Geometry / 2 semesters / 1 credit**

*Prerequisite – Algebra I*

The geometry course topics include plane and solid geometry, properties of congruence, similarity, ratio and proportion, area, perimeter, and volume of basic figures. The student will write and make constructions of inductive, deductive, and indirect proofs.

**Algebra II / 2 semesters / 1 credit**

*Prerequisite – Algebra I*

The course covers equations and functions, matrices, systems of equations, quadratic functions, polynomial functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, rational functions, binomial theorem, and discrete mathematical concepts. A TI-84 calculator is required for this course.

**Pre-Calculus / 2 semesters / 1 credit**

*Prerequisites – Geometry, Algebra II*

Trigonometry topics include trigonometric functions and their graphs, identities, complex numbers, and practical applications. Precalculus topics include problem solving with equations, polynomial functions, exponential functions, logarithmic functions, systems of equations and inequalities, sequences and series, conic sections and polar graphs, complex numbers, matrix algebra, limits, and differential calculus. A TI-84 calculator is required for this course.

**Calculus (Dual Credit) / 2 semesters / 1 credit/4 college hours**

*Prerequisite – Pre-Calculus; Dual Credit Fee = \$200 (Charged by CCU)*

This course is taught in partnership with Colorado Christian University. Calculus discovers the meaning of the derivative as a rate of change, the definite integral as an accumulation of value, and the relationship between the derivative and the definite integral as expressed in the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. Students model a written description of a physical situation with a function, differential equation, or integral. Emphasis on technology to help solve problems, interpret results, and verify conclusions. A TI-84 calculator is required for this course.

**Statistics (Dual Credit) / 2 semesters / 1 credit/3 college hours**

*Co-requisite – Algebra II; Dual Credit Fee = \$200 (Charged by CCU)*

This course is taught in partnership with Colorado Christian University. Statistics introduces students to the major concepts and methods for collecting, analyzing, and

drawing conclusions from data. There is an emphasis on sound statistical thinking over routine formulas and procedures. (Equivalent to a non-calculus-based college course in statistics). Students do significant technology-based analysis and independent projects. TI-84 calculator required for the class.

**Logic / 2 semesters / 1 credit**

Logic studies the beginning laws of rational thought, the Syllogism, Venn Diagrams and informal fallacies. Students use conditional arguments, truth tables, and the theorems used in valid arguments. Students design logic circuits. Students apply the process to everyday situations around them.

See also **Applied Math & Science**.

## Science

**General Biology / 2 semesters / 1 credit / includes lab**

This course is designed to give students an overview of the study of biology for an understanding of the living physical world around them. The course is foundational for further, more specific biology courses. The study includes the history of biological science, the scientific method, basic chemistry, cytology, genetics, origins, and an examination of all five kingdoms. The subject demonstrates the design in the world and gives the student a sense of awe in the Designer. The course goals are to fulfill science requirements and to prepare students for upper level high school science courses.

**Chemistry / 2 semesters / 1 credit / includes lab**

The course is inorganic chemistry except for an introduction to organic chemistry as the last unit, which covers the standards of high school chemistry. The topics in this class include atomic structure, periodic table, electron configuration, chemical bonding, chemical formulas, stoichiometry, chemical equations, phases of matter, solutions, chemical kinetics, acid-base reactions. One unit is designed to introduce students to organic chemistry because of its use in Biology. The course goals are to fulfill science requirements and to prepare students for upper level high school science courses as well as college chemistry.

**Applied Math & Science / 2 semesters / 1 credit**

This course introduces students to some STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics) disciplines not covered in other Westlake courses. There are units in forensics, psychology, engineering & robotics, and previously unexplored areas of mathematics. Students will gain knowledge and skills of science and math through creative and collaborative discussion, labs, and projects. An emphasis is placed on real-world applications and examples. Students will be encouraged to grow in their appreciation of STEM and its beauty, creativity, challenge, practicality, and pervasiveness. This course may be taken for math or science credit.

**Human Anatomy and Physiology (Honors level) / 2 semesters / 1 credit**

*Prerequisite – General Biology*

This course follows the course in General Biology and focuses on the study of the human body. This study is more specific in the details (anatomy) and the function of the parts (physiology). Included are developmental, surface, regional, macroscopic, microscopic, systemic, and comparative anatomy. The course makes use of experiments, identification, memorization, and interaction of the various structural parts. This study shows the intelligent complex design of the human body.

**Physics / 2 semesters / 1 credit / includes lab / extra honors course credit points**

*Prerequisite – Algebra I*

This is a lab course in which practicality and concepts are emphasized over calculations. Students do a survey through major units in physics, including mechanics, forces, properties of matter, energy, heat, sound and light, electricity and magnetism, and the make up of atoms. Students will interact with each of these conceptually, mathematically, and empirically. Physics underlies all the other sciences and is foundational to understanding chemistry, biology, earth science, and astronomy.

**Advanced Biology (Honors Level) / 2 semesters / 1 credit**

*Prerequisite – General Biology and Chemistry*

This course content is more in-depth and greater expectation is placed upon interpretation and analysis of information than in General Biology. Topics include: Evolution (a thorough examination and understanding of the process of evolution from a Creationist viewpoint); Cellular Processes (Energy and Communication); Genetics and Information Transfer; Kingdom survey and Biological Interactions.



# Social Studies

## **World History** / 2 semesters / 1 credit

In this course students will be guided chronologically through the cultural, political and geographical landscape of the ancient world up through the 20th century. Students will examine ways in which people of the past have made sense of who we are and why we are here by reading and analyzing cultural artifacts such as selections from *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, *The Odyssey*, Plato's Dialogues, *The Confessions of St Augustine*, letters and documents from the Medieval Church in Europe and Asia, early Islamic texts, sermons of Martin Luther, The journal of Christopher Columbus, voices from the Atlantic Slave Trade, Nabeel Qureshi's *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus*, and others. Analytical reading and writing skills developed in Jr High will continue to be honed and applied in World History 9.

## **United States History** / 2 semesters / 1 credit

Required for graduation, this is a one-year overview of the history of our nation from the Colonial period to the present, using a primarily chronological approach. Emphasis is placed on the political, social, and historical developments that have shaped our nation today. The course is designed to encourage thoughtful analysis of current policy challenges within the context of lessons that can be learned from our past national experiences. Classroom work is supplemented with debates, research, and a primary source analysis project.

## **American Government** / 1 semester / ½ credit

This course provides an in-depth examination of American government as provided for in the Constitution. We begin with an investigation into the essential foundational questions of government such as, where does government come from? What is the job or purpose of government? What should the relationship between the church and the state look like? Is it ever appropriate to disobey the government? We then walk through the history and development of the United States Constitution, how it defines the purpose, roles and responsibilities of the legislative, executive and judicial branches, federalism and the Bill of Rights. We also give attention to how our cultural understanding of the Constitution and historical debate surrounding interpretation has changed. This course ends with an overview of the Illinois government and its relationship to the federal government.

**Introduction to American Politics** / 1 semester / ½ credit/ 3 college hours

*Dual Credit Fee (Charged by CCU)*

Political Science – Introduction to American Politics – taught in partnership with Colorado Christian University, is about politics, its practice and its study, its universal character and its character within the American constitutional order. Politics exists wherever man exists, because man is the political animal. He alone exercises rule—and offers justifications for it. The study of politics is bound up, intrinsically, then, with the study of human nature and its place within creation.

The course includes the U.S. Constitution test, required for graduation.

**Foundations of Economics** / 1 semester / ½ credit/ 3 college hours

*Dual Credit Fee (Charged by CCU)*

This one-semester survey of economics course focuses on the principles of the market system. Beginning with the interaction of the factors of production and the laws of supply and demand, students explore the American economic system, including the various forms of business organization, money and banking, and the financial markets. They also explore the role of government in the economy as the Congress and the Federal Reserve formulate and apply fiscal and monetary policies, and respond to the challenges of a global economy.

The course includes the Illinois Constitution test, required for graduation.

**Consumer Education** / 1 semester / ½ credit

Consumer Education introduces students to the basics of personal finances. Students will learn how to put together a household budget, keeping track of income, expenses and cash flow. We will understand the various kinds of loans available to consumers, including credit cards and personal loans. Students will also develop an understanding of key consumer products and services such as purchasing and maintaining vehicles, housing, and various kinds of insurance. We will gain an understanding of the structure, language and major forms of federal and state taxes. All throughout the course we will maintain a constant conversation about how the Bible informs the way we think about and use money. Students will also be expected to engage in conversation with other trusted adults about how they have navigated financial challenges in their life.

**Western Civilizations (Dual Credit)** / 1 semester / ½ credit / 3 college hours

Dual Credit (optional) = \$200

This college-level course is offered in partnership with Colorado Christian University (HIS 185). The study of the history of Western Civilization is central to a liberal arts education. This course covers the historical development of Western Civilization from its emergence in the Middle East

through to the end of the seventeenth century. The nature and origin of Western political, social, and religious thought will be covered, as well as key individuals, events, values, and ideas.

**The Rise of the Modern World (Dual Credit)** / 1 semester / ½ credit / 3 college hours  
Dual Credit (optional) = \$200

This college-level course is offered in partnership with Colorado Christian University (HIS 186). A study of the political, social, economic, intellectual, and religious developments in Europe from the 16th century and the impact of the West as it expanded its influence around the world. The course will explore key developments in Europe from the 16th through 19th centuries and the impacts of those developments around the world. Students will gain an understanding of the events and ideas of this time period through a global perspective. The course will highlight the ways empire was imagined and perceived by various people, both in the metropole and abroad. It is designed to cover important issues in World History not covered in the Western Civ course. As a course required for History and Global Studies majors, an emphasis will be placed on reading critically and writing using primary and secondary source evidence. In this course, we will seek to engage with all human beings – no matter the period in which they lived – from a Christian perspective of human nature.

## Spanish

**Spanish language instruction focuses on reading, writing, grammar, listening, speaking and learning about the cultures of Spanish speaking countries.**

**Spanish I** / 2 semesters / 1 credit

*Prerequisite / none*

Students will learn and apply new vocabulary related to greetings, school, family, pastimes and vacations. Students will form simple sentences using the present tense, number and gender agreement, and correct verb conjugations. Students will create an All About Me powerpoint presentation and read books like Pobre Ana and Patricia va a California. Instruction is a combination of Spanish and English.

**Spanish II** / 2 semesters / 1 credit

*Prerequisite – Spanish I*

Students will build on Spanish 1 and learn new vocabulary related to shopping, daily routines, food and celebrations. Students will form sentences using the preterite tense, object pronouns, and reflexive verbs. Students will create powerpoint presentations and read individual books throughout the year. Students are encouraged to speak as much as possible in Spanish. Grammar instruction is in English.

### **Spanish III / 2 semesters / 1 credit**

*Prerequisite – Spanish II (earning at least a B) and teacher recommendation.*

Students will learn new vocabulary related to a visit to the doctor, technology, housing, nature and city life. Students will write paragraphs using imperfect, imperative and subjunctive tenses, adverbs and past participles. The students will read *Agentes Secretos* and create a powerpoint presentation on a theme related to the book. They will also read *El Viaje Perdido* and other individual books throughout the year. Students are encouraged to speak predominantly in Spanish. Grammar instruction is in Spanish and English.

### **Spanish IV / 2 semesters / 1 credit**

*Prerequisite - Spanish III (earning at least a B) and teacher recommendation.*

Students will learn new vocabulary words related to health and fitness, the workforce, fine arts and current events. Students will write and perform original skits using new vocabulary. Students will write multiple paragraphs using advanced verb tenses (subjunctive, perfect, future, and conditional). Students will read *Rival* and an abridged version of *Don Quijote* and create powerpoint presentations on themes related to the books. Students will also read the Gospel of John and individual books throughout the year. Students will prepare for a mission trip to a Spanish speaking country by writing testimonies, skits, learning songs and preparing games. The class is conducted exclusively in Spanish with the expectation that students will speak in Spanish.

## **Technology**

### **Computer Graphics / 1 semester / ½ credit**

This course introduces basic techniques used in creating and modifying images using Adobe Photoshop™. Students master various graphics tools while creating, enhancing, and manipulating free-hand images and photographs in this project-based course.

### **Computer Aided Design / 1 semester / ½ credit**

This course explores the use of CAD software for engineering applications using Solidworks™. Students learn the basics of three-dimensional CAD while constructing a model of a mechanical device. The course introduces many of the principles of mechanical drawing, and reinforces concepts of plane and solid geometry.

### **Introduction to Programming** / 1 semester / ½ credit

This one semester project-based course provides a solid foundation in basic programming concepts, using Python. These concepts are the same or very similar to those needed to work in almost any programming language, and include writing properly formatted code that stores and makes accessible to users collections of data in an efficient and user-friendly manner. In the latter part of the course, students will apply the concepts they have mastered to create a simple video game, to build a program that facilitates analysis and graphing of collected data, and to create a web app.

### **Tech and Production** / 1 semester / ½ credit

Tech & Production is intended to be an entry level course into the philosophy, skills, and tools widely used in producing, recording, streaming, and sharing events. These would include chapels, assemblies, concerts, and more. Students will learn how to set up and operate basic tools for sound amplification, light production, video recording and editing, and discuss the philosophy behind their effective use. A significant portion of class time will be devoted to practicing with the equipment. It is expected that students will be available to participate in multiple events throughout the semester, including some in the evenings.

## **Fine Arts**

### **Concert Band** / 7th – 12th grades / 2 semesters / 0.8 credit

*Prerequisite – Intermediate Band*

Concert Band is for students having acquired the skills necessary to play music at an upper junior high to senior high school level, as determined by the director. Students through 8th grade will typically receive one group lesson per week.

### **Honors Band** / 9th – 12th grades / *HS Honors Course* / 2 semesters / 0.8 credit

*Prerequisite – Intermediate Band and Private Instruction*

Honors Band is for students who have qualified for and are members of the Concert Band and are taking private instruction, either on their band instrument or on piano, and complete extra requirements as assigned by the director.

### **High School Vocal Ensemble** / 9th – 12th grades / 2 semesters / 1 credit

Using a wide variety of musical styles from traditional to contemporary, students in our

vocal ensemble develop their vocal skills while glorifying Christ and representing Westlake at school concerts and in a number of church and community activities.

**Leadership and Worship** / 2 semesters / 1 credit

Leadership and Worship course develops biblical understanding and skills in servant leadership, the theology and practice of worship, how to plan and prepare appropriate worship material, and the use of media and technology in worship. Students use their knowledge and skills while regularly leading worship in our weekly Upper School chapels. This course is normally restricted to juniors and seniors.

**High School Orchestra** / 2 semesters / ½ or 1 credit

Students will develop note-reading skills, aural skills, rhythmic patterns, intonation, scales, key signatures, music selection, and performance. Students will develop these skills through learning a String Instrument, which will include the VIOLIN, VIOLA, and CELLO, and DOUBLE BASS. Students will also be expected to perform at least twice during the school year. There is no prerequisite for this course.

**Music Theory** / 1 semester / ½ credit

This course is a teacher-guided independent study course exploring basic pitch and rhythm notation through interval relationships, and from major and minor scales through basic functional harmony and part-writing. Students will be provided with materials for study and practice and given time to work independently and individually with the instructor. There is no prerequisite for the course.

**Music Appreciation** / 1 semester / ½ credit

Students will examine the relationships between major philosophical movements in Western Civilization (such as the Enlightenment) and their expression in music from a Biblical worldview. The course provides an overview of each main movement or period from the Middle Ages through the present day with major examples from the music of the period, examined through an understanding of Scripture and broader historical context.

**Art 1** / 2 semesters / 1 credit

Students will study the fundamental concepts and techniques in representational and observational life drawing in a variety of art mediums such as graphite pencil, charcoal pencil, conte, soft pastels, oil pastels, and watercolor just to name a few. Skills will be

practiced as students learn about the elements of art: The visual components of color, line, shape, form, space, tone, and value. These elements of art are essential building blocks that artists use to create their works. We will also focus on creativity and self-expression by exploring some abstract work including collage, 3-D relief art, non-representational art, and other mixed media creations. Contemporary and historical art perspectives and references related to the pieces we are working on will be woven in throughout the year. Fridays are designated “free art days” where students can explore new mediums and work on independent pieces. Participation in the ACSI art show is encouraged which includes writing an artist statement that your teacher can help you with.

**Art 2 / 2 semesters / 1 credit**

*Pre-requisite Art 1*

Students will have more opportunities to practice and improve upon their skills. There will be more challenging assignments that will parallel what we learned in Art 1. Opportunities to repeat and refine skills with assignments that were done in Art 1 will be available. Fridays will still be designated “free art days” where students can explore new mediums and work on independent pieces. Participation in the ACSI art show is strongly encouraged which includes writing an artist statement that your teacher can help you with.

**Art 3 / 2 semesters / 1 credit**

*Pre-requisite Art 1 & 2*

Students will transition into independent study. Students will be required to produce a minimum of two to three in-class independent studies every quarter. These independent studies must exhibit the seven elements of art that they have learned from Art 1 and Art 2. Students will have their choice of art medium for most pieces, but throughout the year they must have at least one drawing in graphite or charcoal and one in acrylic or watercolor. In addition, one still life will be required that all independent students will work on at the same time in addition to one self-portrait. Opportunities to work on what Art 1 and 2 students are doing in-class will also be open to you. Participation in the ACSI art show is strongly encouraged which includes an artist statement that your teacher can help you with.

**Art 4 / 2 semesters / 1 credit**

*Pre-requisite Art 1, 2, & 3*

Students will work on independent pieces in addition to one still life as well as one self-portrait. A minimum of two to three in-class pieces are required for every quarter; medium choice is up to you. Opportunities to work on what Art 1 and 2 students are doing in class will also be available to you. Participation in the ACSI art show is

expected which includes an artist statement. If you have plans to study art in college, your teacher can help you with portfolio development which should include original art from direct observation.

## Physical Education & Health

### **Physical Education** / 1 semester / ½ credit

The high school physical education course is scheduled in the ninth grade. The course is designed to meet various needs of the students at this age as follows: physical fitness development, social interaction, and various other physical, mental, and psychological needs. To do this the course will focus on a variety of topics related to physical fitness and various lifetime fitness activities. All of these are geared toward encouraging cardiovascular and respiratory improvement, muscle development, improved fitness level, teamwork, and motivation.

### **Health** / 1 semester / ½ credit

This course is offered in the ninth grade for one semester. The course is designed to train students in 7 areas of total health: spiritual, mental, physical, environmental, occupational, emotional and social. These include human development covering all 11 systems of the body, heredity, environmental health issues, diseases, substance abuse, safety, fitness, nutrition, and sexual abstinence education. Some basic anatomy and physiology will be covered as it relates to these topics. Also covered are basic first aid and CPR.

### **Secondary Physical Education Elective** / 1 semester / ½ credit

This one-semester course covers traditional PE games, lifetime sports & activities, and game invention/development. The course satisfies graduation requirements for those who do not qualify for sports participation credit.

## Other Courses

### **College Preparation** / 1 semester / ½ credit

This course guides students through the process of college planning by preparing them



to take either the ACT or SAT tests as well as go through the steps necessary for college application and securing financial aid. Students receive an overview of entrance tests and their components. Different test taking tactics are learned as well as strategies to increase reading speed and comprehension. Each student takes a diagnostic exam at the beginning of the year to discover what aspects of the test most need to be studied for each individual student. Practice tests are also taken throughout the course for additional practice.

### **Yearbook/Journalism** / 2 semesters / 1 credit

Participation on the staff of The Flight, Westlake's yearbook, provides training in the tasks associated with print publication, including artistic and graphic design, layout, desktop publication, photography, copy composition, and advertising. Staff members learn to meet deadlines, contribute ideas, work independently and together on a team, and work behind the scenes on all school activities, giving them a chance to travel with school trips and sports events. The course is also designed for students interested in newspaper journalism and developing their skills as a writer. The course explores the contemporary media and the ethical responsibility issues inherent in the press today. Students will learn the fundamentals of news, feature, editorial and sports writing. Copy reading, news style and editing will be stressed. Students will create numerous original stories using varied structures and writing techniques. Students will also learn to create computer generated layouts and graphics which are used in an on-line school newspaper. Students interested in taking this course must have permission of the teacher.

### **Teacher Aide** / 1 semester / ¼ credit

Being a teacher aide allows students to view school "on the other side" using a hands-on approach by actually working under the supervision of a teacher in a work environment. Students might be given a wide variety of duties which may include copying, grading papers, teaching lessons, tutoring students, running errands, etc. Teacher aides are very valuable to our teaching faculty. In addition to the responsibilities a student will daily log or journal the work they have done. At the end of each week their supervisor will review and initial their log. Grading typically covers six aspects: teaching, tutoring, tasks, punctuality, attitude and journaling. This aide opportunity requires a high level of confidentiality and trust. Students who choose this elective, along with their parents, will be required to sign a statement of understanding, expectations and confidentiality.

**Special Services Internship / 2 semesters / 1 credit**

Open to select juniors and seniors, this course provides aspiring educators an opportunity to work directly with elementary students who are receiving intervention and/or re-teaching support. Working under the guidance of the special services director and in conjunction with classroom teachers, students in this course study the philosophy and application of research-based interventions, encourage younger children by using those interventions, and monitor progress. This is an ideal course for students who have an interest in education as a career. Students must apply for the course and be interviewed.

**Current Events / 1 semester/ ½ credit**

This semester-long, 11th and 12th grade course trains students in the habits of responsible and effective use of digital information in order to discern the details and significance of current events. Students will learn to evaluate the reliability and usefulness of information online by skillfully answering three core questions: who is behind the source, what evidence does the source use, what do other sources say?<sup>1</sup> Throughout the semester students will engage in two major research projects, one on a nation of their choice and the other on a domestic issue of their choice. They will implement media literacy skills by working as “local correspondents” for the class on their particular nation and domestic issue. Students will give regular briefings and reports to the class about their research on these two projects culminating in a final cumulative portfolio of their work and formal presentation to the class. In addition to these individual projects, students will investigate the recent history of key nations among six continents in order to better contextualize current events.

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<sup>1</sup> These questions were developed in conjunction with a series of lesson plans from the Stanford Education Group. Westlake’s Current Events Course makes use of many of their Civic Online Reasoning lessons. More information can be found at <https://cor.stanford.edu/>