

Houston Heights High School

Course Catalog

Courses offered by Houston Heights High School conform to the curricular requirements of the Texas Education Agency’s *Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills* (TEKS) and other state guidelines. Not all elective courses listed in this catalog are offered every semester. Various considerations such as staffing and the number of students requesting a course affect the ability to offer an elective.

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Humanities Cluster

ENGLISH

English 1, Required

Grade: 9

Prerequisite: none

Credit: 1

This two-semester course lays the groundwork for a sequentially developed collegebound

literature-based curriculum that builds upon each student’s mastery of academic skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The course places emphasis on study skills, vocabulary building, role-playing, research tools, and grammar and usage. Vocabulary study, journal writing, and creative and expository writing are central to the course that covers a variety of literature.

English 2, Required

Grade: 10

Prerequisite: English 1

Credit: 1

This two-semester course continues to sequentially develop a college-bound student’s academic skills through a literature-based curriculum that emphasizes mastery in test preparation, vocabulary building, language structure and usage, reading comprehension through literary analysis, and intense writing in response to

reading and thinking. Course content and student performance link academic skills and knowledge to real-life experiences.

English Tutoring, Elective

Grade: 10-12

Prerequisite: Registrar recommendation; poor TAKS scores and/or academic performance

Credit: 1 (Local credit)

This course reviews basic English skills with a focus on the TAKS. Other test taking strategies are taught and reviewed.

English 3, Required

Grade: 11

Prerequisite: English 1, English 2

Credit: 1

This two-semester course develops higher-level cognitive skills necessary to analyze, evaluate and synthesize the historical influences of literature. Emphasis is placed on the chronological development of American literature, which includes the Colonial, Revolutionary, and Romantic periods, with the integration of thematic pairings of various genres. A major focus is placed on exposing the student to various modes of writing, research skills, seminars, and oral communications. Additionally, this course

will prepare the student for the PSAT test by reinforcing basic grammar, spelling, analogies, and vocabulary enrichment.

English 4, Required

Grade: 12

Prerequisite: English 1, English 2, and English 3

Credit: 1

This two-semester course reinforces and refines students' mastery of academic skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking that will lead to success in higher education. Continued vocabulary development, reflective and expository writing, grammar and usage review, reading comprehension development through critical literary analysis, and research activities are central to the course. Students read a range of literature with emphasis upon British works. Elements of the novel, drama and poetry are explored. Test preparation for the SAT and the THEA take place in this course.

Creative Writing, Elective

Grade: 10-12

Prerequisite: none

Credit: 1

This two-semester course gives the students the opportunity to explore the various creative writing forms. Students will compose poetry and short fiction in an evolving process of writing and revising. All students will have the opportunity to enter their most creative pieces in local and national writing contests.

Journalism, Elective

Grade: 9-12

Prerequisite: none (strong English skills preferred)

Credit: 1

In this two-semester course students learn the fundamentals of news writing, while writing in varied purposes and modes, and for varied audiences. They become analytical consumers of media and will utilize technology to enhance their communication skills. Students learn the history of media, conduct research, and learn the principles of publishing. Participants plan, draft and complete written communications examining copy for style, clarity and engaging language. Students provide copy for the school yearbook. Students are considered reporters.

SOCIAL STUDIES

World Geography, Required

Grade: 9

Prerequisite: none

Credit: 1

In this two-semester course, students examine people, places, and environments at local, regional, national, and international scales from the spatial and ecological
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perspectives of geography. Students describe the influence of geography on events of the past and present. A significant portion of the course centers upon the physical processes that shape patterns in the physical environment such as the characteristics of major landmasses, climates, and ecosystems and their interrelationships. The political, economic, and social processes that shape cultural patterns of regions; types and patterns of settlement; the distribution and movement of world population; relationships among people, places, and environments; and the concept of region is also studied. Students begin mastering the basic skills of geography: map skills and data interpretation, physical geography, ecology and the natural environment, and human and economic geography. Constant monitoring and evaluation of students is accomplished through homework assignments and classroom discussion as well as through the use of quizzes and tests. Students complete a research paper and oral presentation.

World History, Required

Grade: 10

Prerequisite: none

Credit: 1

This two-semester course presents a chronological narrative of world history from the earliest civilizations to the 16th century. Improvement of reading, writing and critical thinking skills is emphasized. Constant monitoring and evaluation of students is accomplished through homework assignments and classroom discussion as well as through the use of quizzes and tests. Spring semester presents a chronological narrative of world history from the 16th century to the 20th century.

U.S. History Since Reconstruction, Required

Grade: 11

Prerequisite: none

Credit: 1

This two-semester course is a survey of U.S. history from 1877 to the present. Teachers evaluate students by means of homework, effective classroom discussion, and success on quizzes and tests. A major aim of this course is developing critical thinking, conceptualization, and analysis based on evidence. Additional aims are to

develop disciplined thinking based on evidence through comparison, interpretation, and analysis of primary and secondary historical sources. Essays and/or other writing assignments, including research projects are required of all students.

Government, Required

Grade: 12

Prerequisite: Geography, World History, U.S. History

Credit: ½

This one-semester survey course covers foundations of the U.S. political system and the development, structures, and functions of the U.S. governmental system.

Students analyze the U.S. Constitution and evaluate how it limits the role of government, including checks and balances, separation of powers, popular sovereignty, political participation, and individual rights. Students will be provided 5

opportunities to analyze major historical documents relating to the development of the United States and compare U.S. political institutions, processes, and values with other governmental systems. Students analyze and evaluate information. Students interpret graphs, maps, and statistical information, and use decision-making processes to identify political issues and evaluate possible policy alternatives. All students will complete an independent or guided research project that requires a detailed study of a government sector or of a contemporary issue.

Economics, Required

Grade: 12

Prerequisite: Geography, World History, and US History

Credit: ½

This one-semester course, *Economics with Emphasis on the Free Enterprise System*, analyzes the major characteristics, benefits and goals of the US free enterprise system. Students compare and contrast various economic systems and analyze the role of societal values in determining the economy of a country. The course examines economic concepts such as scarcity, opportunity cost, choice, and factors of production, supply and demand, price and international trade. Students examine the monetary system, foreign currencies, inflation, deflation, the business cycle, the Federal Reserve and global economics. Students identify the rights and responsibilities of consumers, ways savings can be invested, and the process of acquiring consumer goods and services including credit, interest and insurance. Students describe the characteristics of stocks and bonds and evaluate the economic impact of investing in the stock and bond market. Students analyze the contributions of entrepreneurs and describe the characteristics, advantages and disadvantages of types of US business organization. Students describe the goals of U.S. economic policy, analyze the roles of government and examine the federal income tax system and the federal budget. All students must complete a research project related to economics.

Communications Applications, Required

Grade: 9-12

Prerequisite: none

Credit: ½

This one-semester, entry-level speech class, provides students with the skills needed

to prepare and present public messages, and to analyze and evaluate the messages of others. Students gain skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and thinking, and examine such areas as organization, purpose, audience, motivation, and word choice. These skills are applied to informative speaking, persuasive speaking, group discussion, and interviewing.

Debate, Grade 11, Required

Grade: 9-12

Prerequisite: Communications Applications

Credit: 1

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Students develop skills in decision making and reducing conflict, as well as sharpening their skills in argumentation, logical and critical thinking, and communication. Analyzing contemporary and controversial issues as a means to finding solutions is a major focus of the courses. Research and writing skills increase as students' research and use proof in their debates. Outside practices may also be included in the coursework.

Psychology, Elective

Grade: 11-12

Prerequisite: Must meet current TEA requirements for dual enrollment participation

Credit: Dual Credit: ½ high school credit and 3 hours college credit

Psychology is a one-semester elective. Introductory psychology students discover what psychologists have learned about human behavior, while at the same time making discoveries about their own life and behavior. Students are required to observe, describe, and analyze human behavior through a variety of learning experiences that include class discussion, experiments, journals, essays, projects, tests, and quizzes. Course topics include: theories of human development; methods and measurement in psychological research; sensation and perception; emotional intelligence; states of consciousness; intelligence and creativity; learning; personality; and abnormal psychology.

Sociology, Elective

Grade: 11-12

Prerequisite: Must meet current TEA requirements for dual enrollment participation

Credit: Dual Credit: ½ high school credit and 3 hours college credit

Sociology is a one-semester elective. Sociology is a discussion-orientated course that examines the world of social problems. Students study their role in society, and how society and human interaction influence humans. Students gain an appreciation and understanding of the following topics: culture; race and ethnicity; socialization; cultural and social norms; the mass media; family and other social institutions; stratification; roles and status; gender; and selected social issues and problems faced by contemporary adolescents. Students are evaluated on in class discussions, oral presentations, journals, essays, projects, tests and quizzes.

Special Topics: African-American Studies, Elective

Grade: 11-12

Prerequisite: none

Credit: ½

This course provides for the study of African-American culture. Content of the course

includes: the African homeland and the historical origins of African-Americans; the African slave trade; historical challenges to slavery; the possibility of freedom without equality; the US civil rights movement; African-American contributions to the growth and development of the United States; and significant individuals and organizations.

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LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH

Spanish 1, Required

Grade: 10

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 1

This two-semester course is the introductory level Spanish class. Students develop knowledge and skills in communication, cultures, connections, comparisons, and communities. Communication is addressed by using the skills of listening speaking, reading, and writing. Reading is introduced at the level of beginner books.

Spanish 2, Required

Grade: 11

Prerequisite: completion of the first year course

Credit: 1

This two-semester course is the continuation of introductory level Spanish class. Skills include enhancing communication skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Spanish 3, Elective

Grade: 12

Prerequisite: completion of the second year language or placement by examination

Credit: 1

This two-semester course is the continuation of Spanish 2 class. Skills include enhancing communication skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Literature is introduced. Reading in Spanish is emphasized. Grammar is studied in depth.

Spanish for Native Speakers 1 & 2, Elective

Grade: 10

Prerequisite: Spanish as a first or dual language

Credit: 2

This two-semester course is designed for those students who speak and read Spanish as a first or dual language to fulfill the graduation requirement for languages other than English. The student is provided the opportunity to enhance the skills they already possess. Students are required to meet or exceed the requirement of Spanish 2 by the end of the course to receive credit.

HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND ATHLETICS

Health, Required

Grade: 9

Prerequisite: none

Credit: ½

This one semester course is designed to develop skills that make students healthliterate adults. Students gain a deeper understanding of the knowledge and

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behaviors they use to safeguard their health -- particularly pertaining to health risks. Students are taught how to access accurate information that they can use to promote health for themselves and others. Students use problem-solving, research, goalsetting and communication skills to protect their health and that of the community.

Foundations of Personal Fitness, Required

Grade: 9-12

Prerequisite: none

Credit: ½ (PE credit towards graduation through 2 credits)

Foundations of Personal Fitness is a one semester course that represents a new approach in physical education and the concept of personal fitness. The basic purpose of this course is to motivate students to strive for lifetime personal fitness with an emphasis on the health-related components of physical fitness. The knowledge and skills taught in this course include teaching students about the process of becoming fit as well as achieving some degree of fitness within the class. The concept of wellness, or striving to reach optimal levels of health, is the cornerstone of this course and is exemplified by one of the course objectives: students designing their own personal fitness program.

Students acquire the knowledge and skills for movement that provide the foundation for enjoyment, continued social development through physical activity, and access to physically active lifestyle. Additional focus is on team sports and individual activities. Concurrent with the activities, students are provided information concerning proper warm-up and conditioning, fundamental skills and rules of the various sports, and a standardized fitness test.

Team Sports, Elective

Grade: 9-12

Prerequisite: Tryout

Credit: ½

Students enrolled in Team Sports are required to maintain a C average.

Varsity Cheerleading, Elective

Grade: 9-12

Prerequisite: Tryout

Credit: ½

Tryouts are held in the spring and the student must be enrolled in HHHS at that time to participate. Tryouts are open to both boys and girls. There is an application process to be eligible to try out. Students are required to maintain a C average.

ARTS

Art 1, Required

Grade: 9-12

Prerequisite: none

Credit: 1 (Fine arts requirement or elective)

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This two-semester course is an introduction to design. The course focuses on the elements of art and the principles of design. Art 1 provides experiences enabling each student to develop their abilities in design, drawing, painting, and 3-dimensional work.

Students are required to furnish supplies and pay an art fee.

Art Car 1, Elective

Grade: 9-12

Prerequisite: none

Credit: 1 (Fine arts requirement or elective)

This two-semester course is an introduction to art car design and construction. Students must participate in the annual Houston Art Car parade. Students are required to furnish supplies and pay an art fee.

Mathematics/Science Cluster

SCIENCE

Integrated Physics & Chemistry, Required

Grade: 9

Prerequisites: none

Credit: 1

This two-semester course covers the composition of matter and the relationship of energy and matter. Specific topics in the chemistry section include metric measurement, atomic structure, types of chemical reactions and the role of chemicals at home and in industry. Specific topics in the physics section include straight-line motion, mechanics, electrical energy and its sources, magnetism and its relationship to electrical energy, light energy, color, and the fundamentals of sound.

BIOLOGY

Biology 1, Required

Grade: 10

Prerequisites: Integrated Physics & Chemistry

Credit: 1

This two-semester course offers an introduction to cell structure and chemistry, classification of living organisms, photosynthesis and cell respiration, genetics, and the systems of organisms such as digestion, circulatory, muscular, skeletal, respiratory, endocrine, nervous, excretory, and reproductive. There is an emphasis on the biochemical nature of systems in this course.

Chemistry 1, Required

Grade: 11

Prerequisites: Algebra 2 or concurrent enrollment in Algebra 2, Biology 1

Credit: 1 and 3 hrs. college credit

This two-semester course is an advanced course with emphasis on chemical reactions and laboratory experience. Students are evaluated on class participation, 10

quiz and test scores, and laboratory experimentation. Students are eligible to receive college credit for this course.

Physics 1, Elective

Grade: 11-12

Prerequisites: Chemistry 1, concurrent enrollment in Pre-Calculus

Credit: 1

This two-semester course is a survey of introductory physics. The course covers such topics as conservation laws, basic electricity and magnetism, thermodynamics, and wave theory. Graphical analysis of experimental and published data are a highly emphasized in Physics 1.

MATHEMATICS

Algebra 1, Required

Grade: 9

Prerequisite: none

Credit: 1

Taught from a functions approach, this two-semester course is the foundation of all mathematics courses. Students will analyze data as it relates to the real world.

Concepts and skills involve operations and properties of real numbers, linear functions, linear inequalities, quadratic functions, factoring polynomials, exponential functions, variation, and systems of linear equations and inequalities.

Math Models Required

Grade: 9

Prerequisite: none

Credit: 1

This two-semester class continues to expand on the student's basic knowledge of mathematics and supports their understanding of Algebra 1 while teaching how to apply those skills to real life situations such as calculating an interest rate, interpreting graphs, and determining probabilities.

Geometry, Required

Grade: 10

Prerequisite: Algebra 1

Credit: 1

Major areas of concentration in this two-semester course include the nature of inductive and deductive reasoning; the study of properties of lines, angles, and triangles; congruence; area; similarity; circles; surface area; volume; and transformations.

Algebra 2, Required

Grade: 11

Prerequisite: Algebra 1, Geometry

Credit: 1

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Major areas of concentration in this two-semester course include matrices, linear functions, polynomials, rational expressions, radicals, quadratic, exponential and logarithmic functions, conic sections, variation, mathematical models, and applications.

Pre-Calculus, Elective

Grade: 12

Prerequisite: Algebra 2 and Geometry

Credit: 1

Major areas of concentration in this two-semester course include circular functions, functions and mappings, real and complex number systems, trigonometric properties, sequences, series and limits, vectors lines and planes, matrices, linear transformations, exponential and logarithmic functions, linear, quadratic and polynomial inequalities. Also taught are applications of trigonometric, exponential, and logarithmic functions.

Calculus, Elective

Grade: 12

Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus with a grade of C or better

Credit: 1

Major areas of emphasis in this two-semester course include functions, graphs, and limits; limits of functions; asymptotic and unbounded behavior; and continuity as a property of functions. Derivatives, concept of the derivative, derivative at a point, derivative as a function, second derivatives, applications of derivatives, computation of derivatives, differential equations; integrals, and Riemann sums are also studied. Interpretations and properties of definite integrals, application of integrals, Fundamental Theorem of Calculus, techniques of anti-differentiation, applications of anti-differentiation, numerical approximations to definite integrals; and volumes of revolution are also part of the curriculum.

Probability and Statistics, Elective

Grade: 11-12

Prerequisite: Algebra 1, Math Models, Geometry, and Algebra 2

Credit: 1

Major areas of emphasis in this two-semester course include exploratory analysis, planning a study, probability, and statistical inference. Exploratory analysis of data makes use of graphical and numerical techniques to study patterns and departures from patterns. Data refers to the need for collecting data according to a welldeveloped plan if valid information on a conjecture is to be obtained. Probability is the tool used for anticipating what the distribution of data should look like under a given model. Statistical inference guides the selection of appropriate models.

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Advanced Program Cluster

DUAL CREDIT COURSES

Juniors and seniors can earn high school and college credit by taking Dual Credit courses on the HHHS campus. Credits transfer easily to most colleges in Texas and are accepted by many schools across the country. Certain requirements must be met. Please see the Registrar for the most recent criterion for inclusion.

Courses are available in:

English 4,

Introductory Algebra/College Algebra, Elective, 1 credit

Government, Elective, .5 credit

Economics, Elective, .5 credit

Psychology, Elective .5 credit

Sociology, Elective, .5 credit

CAREER TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION COURSES

Information Technology Path

Principals of Information Technology

Grade: 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 1

Digital & Interactive Multimedia

Grade: 10-12

Prerequisite: Principals of Information Technology

Credit: 1

Research in IT Solutions

Grade: 10-12

Prerequisite: Digital & Interactive Multimedia

Credit: 1

Professional Communications

Grade: 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 1

Education and Training Path

Principles of Education and Training

Grade: 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 1

Human Growth and Development

Grade: 10-12

Prerequisite: Principles of Education and Training

Credit: 1

Instructional Practice in Education and Training

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Grade: 11-12

Prerequisite: Human Growth and Development

Credit: 1

Practicum in Education and Training

Grade: 11-12

Prerequisite: Instructional Practice in Education and Training

Credit: 1

Professional Communications

Grade: 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 1