



Mercy High School

San Francisco

A College Preparatory High School for Young Women

Course Catalogue

2012–2013 School Year

Where young women prepare to make a difference in the world

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CORPORATE PHILOSOPHY OF THE SISTERS OF MERCY

We, the Sisters of Mercy, because of our commitment to participate in the teaching mission of the Church, sponsor secondary education facilities. We believe that the message of Jesus can be taught only when deed matches word. Therefore, our goal in education is not simply academics, but an overall service of compassion, respect, and justice.

PHILOSOPHY, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES MERCY HIGH SCHOOL, SAN FRANCISCO

In cooperation with the Sisters of Mercy, the home and the community, Mercy High School seeks to provide an educational environment where young women can achieve their whole potential.

In offering its students a college preparatory curriculum, Mercy fosters intellectual growth and creative expression and provides the tools for the acquisition of knowledge. Through the program at Mercy, students also develop attitudes and fundamental skills upon which they will base their continuing education and involvement in society.

Supported by a Catholic Christian environment that emphasizes personal responsibility and service to society, Mercy also offers each student opportunities and experiences to mature in her own religious faith.

Mercy values intellectual and personal integrity, responsible decision-making, development of self-esteem, respect for life, and genuine regard for ethnic diversity. Mercy recognizes the obligation to respect and preserve the goods of the earth for the sustenance and enjoyment of future generations. Mercy acknowledges the special role of women in all aspects of life in an ever-changing world.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION

This course catalogue lists the courses offered at Mercy High School. Students and parents are advised to review the course catalogue together before class selections are made. The directions for programming are listed on the last page of the catalogue.

For some courses, academic requirements are listed for various ability levels. Students will be placed in the appropriate level by the Assistant Principal in conjunction with the academic department and the counselors. All students will be notified of the course level as soon as possible.

Students wishing to take honors and advanced placement courses are to obtain the recommendation of the department(s). These recommendations are tentative after the first semester, but permanent if the prerequisites are met after the close of the second semester. Students may petition the Assistant Principal if they wish to take a course for which they do not qualify. The decision of the Assistant Principal or Principal is final.

Seniors will be given first preference in being scheduled into elective courses.

Any changes in a student schedule, once finalized, are done with reservation; such changes are considered exceptions. No schedule change will be considered without a letter of authorization from a parent or guardian requesting the change and the \$25.00 schedule change request fee.

Due to enrollment needs, it may not be possible for Mercy High School to honor all the choices of a student. The school reserves the right to modify the prerequisites of a course should there be some extenuating circumstances. This decision rests with the Assistant Principal.

2012-2013 COURSE REQUIREMENTS COMPARISON

*Grades of “C-“ or higher needed to meet subject requirements for college admission

	Mercy High School Credits		U.C./C.S.U. Systems	
History/ Social Science	30	6 semesters	a:	1 year World History 1 year U.S. History OR 1 semester U.S. History and 1 semester U.S. Government
English	40	4 years	b:	4 years
Mathematics	30	3 years	c:	3 years (4 years recommended UC)
Science	30	3 years	d:	<u>Life Science</u> (1 year) Biology <u>Physical Science</u> (1 year) Chemistry or Physics (3 years recommended)
World Languages	20	2 years	e:	2 years (3- 4 years recommended UC)
Visual and Performing Arts	10	2 semesters	f:	2 sequential semesters (A/B of visual and performing arts same area)
Electives	35	7 semesters minimum	g:	“P” electives per course catalogue
Religious Studies	30	6 semesters		“P” Religious Studies satisfy elective requirement
Physical Education	10	2 semesters (1 semester grades 9/10) (1 semester grades 11/12)		
Computer Skills	5	1 semester		
	Total: Mercy High School Requirement = 240 credits			15 full year courses 150 credits
Intersession	2.5 units completed in 9 th or 10 th grade 2.5 units completed in 11 th or 12 th grade			
Community Service	50 volunteer hours and a senior culminating project			

(continued)

Mercy High School strongly recommends that any student who earns below the qualifying “C-“ subject requirement grade for college admissions, should go to summer school. Students will not be permitted to repeat the course during the regular school year.

SUBJECT ELIGIBILITY FOR COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

In order to meet the subject requirements for the University of California and California State University systems, students must earn a “C-” grade or better in the following courses.

Should a student earn an “F” semester grade in either semester of these courses, she is **required** to make up the class in summer school to earn the required credits. She will need to earn a “C-” or better to meet college subject eligibility.

Should a student earn a “D” semester grade in these courses, she must make up the class in summer school and earn a “C-” or better to meet college subject eligibility as follows:

English I	semesters 1 and 2
English II	semesters 1 and 2
AP English Language and Composition	semesters 1 and 2
AP English Literature and Composition	semesters 1 and 2
<u>All</u> upper-division English electives	semesters 1 and 2
Biology	semesters 1 and 2
Honors Biology	semesters 1 and 2
Chemistry	semesters 1 and 2
Honors Chemistry	semesters 1 and 2
Algebra I	semester 2 only
Adv. Alg., Hon. Adv. Alg.	semester 2 only
Geom, Hon. Geom.	semester 2 only
Spanish I, French I	semester 2 only
Spanish II, French II	semester 2 only
World History	semesters 1 and 2
Honors World History	semesters 1 and 2
U.S. History or AP U.S. History	Should a student earn a “D” in <u>both</u> semesters, she does not meet subject eligibility and should attend summer school for either semester of U.S. History
V&P Arts Electives	Students earning a “D” in any semester of their V&P Arts elective need to earn college subject eligibility in summer school. (Students are required to take an A/B sequence.)
Art A	Acting A Chorus A
Art B	Acting B Chorus B
Ceramics A	Dance A
Ceramics B	Dance B

**MERCY COLLEGE PREPARATORY (P) COURSES ELIGIBLE FOR HONORS
POINTS FOR BOTH U.C. AND C.S.U. SYSTEMS**

Honors Chemistry	AP Calculus BC
Honors Physics	Honors Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus
AP Chemistry	Honors Spanish III
AP Biology	AP Spanish Language
AP Physics B	AP Spanish Literature
AP English Language and Composition	AP French Language
AP English Literature and Composition	AP Studio Art – 2D Design
AP United States History	AP Studio Art – 3D Design
AP U.S. Government and Politics	AP Studio Art – Drawing
AP Calculus AB	

Mercy High School Unit Requirement

All students must take a minimum of 60 credits each year; 65 is the maximum number of credits a student may take in a given year.

Seniors taking two or more Advanced Placement or Honors courses can elect to take a minimum of 55 credits, if they meet all required courses and the 240 total academic unit requirements. Intersession units and 50 volunteer hours and a senior culminating project or 100 hours of volunteer service are additional graduation requirements.

Students who do not earn qualifying grades to meet U.C./C.S.U. subject requirements of a “C-“ or higher should attend summer school. Students will not be permitted to repeat the course during the regular school year. Summer school grades of those repeating classes will appear on the student’s official transcript, but the grades will not alter the student’s Mercy grade point average nor alter academic probationary status.

Students should check with individual colleges as to how they calculate grades for repeated course work.

Graduation Requirements

Students who have completed four years of study, the required courses, the assigned number of units and who have no unresolved “F’s” in senior year are eligible to graduate. A student who has received one “F” in senior year may walk in the graduation procession. She will receive her diploma provided she makes up the course within one year of her scheduled graduation date. A second “F” eliminates the student from the graduation procession. She will receive her diploma provided she makes up the courses within one year of her scheduled graduation date. The date the diploma is issued will be noted on the official transcript.

As Community Service is an integral part of a Mercy education, each senior must complete her 50 volunteer hours and a senior culminating project in order to participate in the graduation ceremony and receive her diploma.

**COLLEGE PREP (P) COURSES TO SATISFY “G” ELECTIVES FOR U.C. AND C.S.U.
COLLEGE ADMISSION**

Contemporary World Issues
World Religions
Hebrew & Christian Scriptures
Social Justice
Ethics

Advanced Problem Solving
AP Calculus AB
AP Calculus BC
Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus
Honors Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus
Statistics

Integrated Physical Science
Physics
Honors Physics
AP Physics B
Physiology
AP Chemistry
AP Biology

Creative Writing
Speech

First two years of a second foreign language:
French III, Honors III,
French IV, V, AP French Language
Spanish III, Honors III,
Spanish IV, AP Spanish Language
AP Spanish Literature

Intermediate Performance Workshop
Advanced Performance Workshop
Intermediate Art
Advanced Art
Intermediate Ceramics
Advanced Ceramics
Intermediate Chorus
Intermediate Dance
Advanced Dance
AP Studio Art – 2D Design
AP Studio Art – 3D Design
AP Studio Art – Drawing

MERCY HIGH SCHOOL 2012-2013 COURSE OFFERINGS

Note: (P) in course title designates the course as college preparatory and meets the U.C. and California State University systems college subject requirements.

Computer/Business

0468 Graphics and Web Design
0469 Personal Finance
0711 Computer Skills

English

0314 (P) English I
0325 (P) English II
0332 (P) AP English Language and Composition
0343 (P) AP English Literature and Composition
0348 (P) Poetry
0350 (P) Dramatic Literature
0351 (P) World Literature
0353 (P) Shakespeare
0359 (P) Regional Literature
0464 (P) Creative Writing
1260 (P) Speech

Mathematics

0413 (P) Algebra I
0415 (P) Advanced Algebra
0430 (P) Geometry
0431 (P) Honors Geometry
0445 (P) Honors Advanced Algebra
0442 (P) AP Calculus AB
0443 (P) AP Calculus BC
0438 (P) Advanced Problem Solving
0447 (P) Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus
0448 (P) Honors Trigonometry Pre-Calculus
0449 (P) Intro. to Statistics

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Physical Education

0612 Physical Fitness for Life
0631 Body Awareness
0632 Lifetime Fitness
0633 NET.COM
0637 Self-Defense

Religious Studies

0210 Religious Studies I
0222 (P) Ethics
0243 (P) Social Justice
0248 (P) Social Justice
0270 (P) World Religions
0275 (P) Hebrew and Christian Scriptures

Science

0121 (P) Biology
0123 (P) Honors Biology
0125 (P) AP Biology
0131 (P) Chemistry
0134 (P) Honors Chemistry
0135 (P) AP Chemistry
0141 (P) Physics
0142 (P) Honors Physics
0145 (P) AP Physics B
0147 (P) Physiology
0150 (P) Integrated Physical Science

Social Science

0927 (P) World History
0929 (P) Honors World History
0931 (P) U.S. History
0932 (P) AP U.S. History
0941 (P) U.S. Government
0942 (P) AP U.S. Government and Politics
0947 (P) Contemporary World Issues

Visual and Performance Arts

0819 (P) Beginning Art-A
0820 (P) Beginning Art-B
0822 (P) Intermediate Art
0825 (P) Advanced Art
0829 (P) Beginning Ceramics-A
0830 (P) Beginning Ceramics-B
0832 (P) Intermediate Ceramics
0835 (P) Advanced Ceramics
0850 (P) Beginning Dance-A
0851 (P) Beginning Dance-B
0852 (P) Intermediate Dance
0853 (P) Advanced Dance
0855 (P) Mercy High School Dance Ensemble
0859 (P) Acting Techniques-A
0860 (P) Acting Techniques-B
0866 (P) Intermediate Performance Workshop
0867 (P) Advanced Performance Workshop
0870 (P) Mercy Chorus-A
0871 (P) Mercy Chorus-B
0872 (P) Intermediate Chorus
0888 Student Director A Fall
0889 Student Director B Spring
0895 (P) Acting in Production A Fall
0896 (P) Acting in Production B Spring
0897 Theater Production: Design and
Technical Crew
0826 (P) AP Studio Art – 2D Design
0837 (P) AP Studio Art – 3D Design
0828(P) AP Studio Art – Drawing

World Language

0510 (P) French I
0512 (P) Spanish I
0520 (P) French II
0522 (P) Spanish II
0530 (P) French III
0531 (P) Honors French III
0532 (P) Spanish III
0533 (P) Honors Spanish III
0538 (P) French IV
0540 (P) AP French Language
0541 (P) Spanish IV
0542 (P) AP Spanish Language
0544 (P) AP Spanish Literature

Computer/Business Department

TITLE: Computer Skills COURSE NUMBER: 0711
LEVEL: 9 CREDITS: 5
DURATION: One Semester
PREREQUISITES: None
DESCRIPTION:

Students will explore the history of the computer and its evolution. They will be taught how the main hardware components interact and make the system work. Students will be given instruction in Microsoft Office, including MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Access. In addition, they will learn to use photo and movie editing software and drawing programs. These programs will be a major part of the student's academic career both here and in future endeavors. Instruction will include research, creativity, and presentation skills. Students will be given access to keyboarding software to enhance their typing skills if they so desire.

TITLE: Graphics and Web Design COURSE NUMBER: 0468
LEVEL: 9, 10, 11, 12 CREDITS: 5
DURATION: One Semester
PREREQUISITES: Minimum grade of "C-" in Computer Skills or must satisfy proficiency test.
DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed for students who want to use the computer as a creative tool. This class will enable the students to understand the basics of using graphics applications and how they relate to web design. Students will learn simple HTML and JAVA codes, simple graphics creation, and how to import these graphics into a web page. They will learn to publish the completed pages using Microsoft FrontPage and other web site creation applications. Students also will use applications such as the CorelDraw Suite and the MS Office Suite.

TITLE: Personal Finance COURSE NUMBER: 0469
LEVEL: 11, 12 CREDITS: 5
DURATION: One Semester
PREREQUISITES: None
DESCRIPTION:

Students will gain an understanding of the responsibilities inherent in becoming a young adult, especially as they get ready to leave home for the first time. Basic knowledge needed for becoming a responsible citizen will be learned including: opening a checking account and managing the checkbook; creating a workable budget, which includes learning how to pay the bills while saving for emergencies; when and how to start a retirement plan; how to fill out tax returns; how to look for and apply for housing and understanding how a mortgage and rent or lease differ; purchasing an automobile; understanding what interest is and how it works; writing an effective resume and how to prepare for the interview; learning to use various government and other agencies.

English Department

TITLE: (P) English I COURSE NUMBER: 0314
LEVEL: 9 CREDITS: 10
DURATION: One Year
PREREQUISITES: Department Placement

DESCRIPTION:

The freshman year is the first step in a sequential program of English study. (P) English I places an emphasis on transitioning from creative and personal writing to analytical essay writing. The students are taught techniques of paragraph and essay structure and the importance of the use of detail in description. The course allows the student to give a personal response to the various genres in literature (poetry, short story, novel, drama). An emphasis on reading comprehension and the development of reading strategies complement the introduction of the elementary skills of literary analysis and the art of experiential writing. Grammar and vocabulary will be stressed.

TITLE: (P) English II COURSE NUMBER: 0325
LEVEL: 10 CREDITS: 10
DURATION: One Year
PREREQUISITES: (P) English I

DESCRIPTION:

The sophomore year is the second step in a sequential program of English skills, which builds on the development of concepts in writing and literature learned in the freshman year. Students write compositions and expository essays to express analytical observations and experiences. Language, grammar and usage are regularly presented, based on the observed problems in writing. Emphasis is on the literary genres with more complex selections presented for the enjoyment and understanding, and more sophisticated methods of literary analysis introduced to enhance the reading.

TITLE: (P) AP English Language and Composition COURSE NUMBER: 0332
LEVEL: 11 CREDITS: 10
DURATION: One Year
PREREQUISITES: (P) English I, (P) English II and signature of current teacher, and “A/A” (“B+” to fill class) (“B+” will be considered only if there is room on a case-by-case basis) as well as teacher and departmental approval. Final placement is determined at the end of first semester. Students must retain grade eligibility at second semester.

DESCRIPTION:

(P) AP English Language and Composition is a more rigorous and extensive study of non-fiction literature selections as well as composition assignments that emphasize detailed interpretation and analysis of the author, purpose and use of rhetorical and style techniques. The student’s own writing skills are refined and concentrate on interpretation and analysis. The student is expected to demonstrate both the willingness and ability to do the required work and to take the initiative for her own learning through independent study. Students are required to take the AP test in late spring. AP Testing fee is approximately \$87.00.

TITLE: (P) AP English Literature and Composition COURSE NUMBER: 0343
CREDITS: 10
LEVEL: 12
DURATION: One Year
PREREQUISITES: (P) English I, (P) English II, (P) English electives junior year or (P) AP English Language and Composition. Anyone with a “C” or higher may apply. Signature of first semester teacher and departmental approval is required as well as a signed letter of permission from parents/guardians. Students must maintain grade eligibility in second semester. Student must commit to stay in the course for the entire year.

DESCRIPTION:

(P) AP English Literature and Composition is designed for those students who plan to take the AP Exam in Language or Literature and demands maturity and commitment. Students discuss and analyze novels, poetry, and drama in a seminar format and the formal language of literary analysis and criticism forms an important component of the class. Students are expected to take the AP test in late spring. AP Testing fee approximately \$87.00.

TITLE: (P) World Literature COURSE NUMBER: 0351
LEVEL: 11, 12 CREDITS: 5
DURATION: One Semester (offer spring semester)
PREREQUISITES: (P) English I and (P) English II

DESCRIPTION:

The course provides a forum for students to study world culture through the literature of various countries. Students will read a variety of short stories, poetry, and novels they have not been exposed to in a traditional canon-based literature class. The focus of the course is on the development of critical thinking and writing skills through research of other cultures and comparative analysis of literary styles and cultural traditions. The course will also expand the worldview of students and create a global cultural appreciation.

TITLE: (P) Shakespeare COURSE NUMBER: 0353
LEVEL: 11, 12 CREDITS: 5
DURATION: One Semester (offer spring semester)
PREREQUISITES: (P) English I and (P) English II

DESCRIPTION:

Is there more to Shakespeare than *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth*, and *Hamlet*? Students know that Shakespeare writes about love, murder, dysfunctional families, war, and politics even nastier than a Presidential election. But, do they know in what other plays Shakespeare used these themes?

This course will consider the breadth of Shakespeare’s works by reading, observing, discussing, and writing about his tragedies, comedies, histories, and selected poetry. This course also will offer the students a chance to perform scenes and recite Shakespearean poetry in class. By using videos and, when available, local performances, students also will have a chance to assess and analyze the scenes from the plays. The students will think critically in both participation in class and in their written work.

TITLE: (P) Dramatic Literature COURSE NUMBER: 0350
LEVEL: 11, 12 CREDITS: 5
DURATION: One Semester (offer fall semester)
PREREQUISITES: (P) English I and (P) English II
DESCRIPTION:

From the Greeks to the modern American musical, playwrights have struggled to put their visions of the universe into a three-dimensional form. How do the words and ideas of the script become realized through the art of acting and visual design? Why have certain plays been performed constantly for centuries? Which modern plays have immediately captured the audience and become instant classics? Through reading scripts which reflect different periods of time and distinct styles of theatrical presentation, students will gain an understanding of how both the period and the theatrical conventions available to the playwrights play a part in the creation of dramatic literature. This course explores the great dramatic literature of the world and uses the material as the basis for developing students' ability to analyze text and character, as well as to communicate effectively in writing and oral discussion and presentation.

TITLE: Regional Literature COURSE NUMBER: 0359
LEVEL: 11, 12 CREDITS: 5
DURATION: One Semester (offer fall semester)
PREREQUISITES: (P) English I and (P) English II
DESCRIPTION:

The aim of this course is to introduce students to the literature of the various regions of the U.S. A sense of place, not only geographical place, but a state of mind, a sense of values, a prism through which to view the world, will be considered in the approach to the reading. The course will analyze how different regions inspired particular authors to produce the works that have contributed to the cultural and ethnic diversity of American literature. All genres will be used as the basis for literary analysis and critical writing.

NOTE: The following English department course offerings (Speech and Creative Writing) do not satisfy the 40 unit English course requirement for graduation nor college admission.

TITLE: (P) Speech COURSE NUMBER: 1260
LEVEL: 10, 11, 12 CREDITS: 5
DURATION: One Semester
PREREQUISITES: None
DESCRIPTION:

(P) Speech is a basic communications course designed to help the student learn to speak comfortably in public. It is designed to strengthen the student's abilities in analytical reading, expository writing, logical thinking, and oral communication. This class will enable a student to face an audience, a job interview, or one-to-one communication with confidence and poise. Speeches to entertain, demonstrate, and persuade are among those which will be given. Performance is both mandatory and fun!

TITLE: (P) Creative Writing COURSE NUMBER: 0464
LEVEL: 12 CREDITS: 5
DURATION: One Semester

REQUIRED: This course must include concurrent enrollment in Religious Studies' Social Justice special Environmental Justice Section.

DESCRIPTION:

Creative Writing is a one semester course designed to strengthen a student's fluency in writing more than just expository essays. The course incorporates personal experience and journal writing, with an emphasis on our connection to the natural world. The course will stress nature writing, both the students' own and the writing of professionals, as a vehicle for the students to understand their own complicated relationships with the environment. Student writing will consist of strict journal keeping, highlighting their own reactions and experiences with nature, original poetry and original short stories. The course will also feature field expeditions every third period where students can study the natural world and reflect on their experiences through the creative process.

Mathematics Department

TITLE: (P) Algebra I COURSE NUMBER: 0413
LEVEL: 9 CREDITS: 10

DURATION: One Year
PREREQUISITES: Departmental placement

DESCRIPTION:

Algebra I includes pattern, recognition, operations, solving equations, introduction to probability and statistics, lines, inequalities, systems, exponents, quadratic equations, and coordinate geometry. Students will use mathematical reasoning, learn problem solving and actively communicate both orally and through writing. They will study mathematical connections and the use of technology in mathematics. In order to continue to the next course Advanced Algebra students need at least a "C-."

TITLE: (P) Advanced Algebra COURSE NUMBER: 0415
LEVEL: 9, 10 CREDITS: 10

DURATION: One Year
PREREQUISITES: Level 9: Departmental placement
Level 10: Minimum grade of "C-" first semester in (P) Algebra I
Final placement is determined upon second semester and departmental approval.

DESCRIPTION:

This is a second year of Algebra. (P) Advanced Algebra studies: Data and linear representations, numbers and functions, systems of linear equations and inequalities, quadratics functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, polynomial functions, rational and radical functions, and an introduction to probability and statistics, series and sequences.

TITLE: (P) Honors Advanced Algebra COURSE NUMBER: 0445
LEVEL: 9 CREDITS: 10

DURATION: One year
PREREQUISITES: Departmental placement

DESCRIPTION:

This is a second year of Algebra. (P) Advanced Algebra studies: Data and linear representations, numbers and functions, systems of linear equations and inequalities, quadratics functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, polynomial functions, rational and radical functions, conic sections, and an introduction to probability and statistics, series and sequences.

TITLE: (P) Geometry COURSE NUMBER: 0430
LEVEL: 10, 11 CREDITS: 10

DURATION: One Year
PREREQUISITES: (P) Algebra I and (P) Advanced Algebra, Minimum grade of "C-" in Advanced Algebra

DESCRIPTION:

This course will cover the basics of Geometry, such as points, lines, planes, angles, reasoning and proof, perpendicular and parallel lines, congruent triangles, properties of triangles, quadrilaterals, similarities, circles, surface area and volume.

TITLE: (P) Honors Geometry COURSE NUMBER: 0431
LEVEL: 10, 11 CREDITS: 10
DURATION: One Year
PREREQUISITES: (P) Honors Advanced Algebra, Minimum grade of "B-" or departmental approval

DESCRIPTION:

This course will cover the basics of Geometry, such as points, lines, planes, angles, reasoning and proof, perpendicular and parallel lines, congruent triangles, properties of triangles, quadrilaterals, similarities, circles, surface area and volume, transformation, right triangles and trigonometry, area of polygons and circles.

TITLE: (P) Advanced Problem Solving COURSE NUMBER: 0438
LEVEL: 11, 12 CREDITS: 5
DURATION: One Semester
PREREQUISITES: Minimum grade of "C-" in (P) Geometry. Final placement is determined upon second semester grade and departmental approval.

DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed around the concepts of problem solving, critical thinking, written communication, and oral communication. Students learn and apply different problem-solving strategies and sub-strategies such as: Eliminating possibilities, systematic lists, guess and check, working backwards and Venn Diagrams.

TITLE: (P) Intro. to Statistics COURSE NUMBER: 0449
LEVEL: 11, 12 CREDITS: 5
DURATION: One Semester
PREREQUISITES: Minimum grade of "C-" in (P) Geometry. Final placement is determined upon second semester grade and departmental approval.

DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to cover the following topics: Data organization, descriptive statistics, histograms, mean, median, mode, standard deviation, Z scores, basic probability, empirical rule, 68-95-99.7% rule for bell shaped, normal distribution, t-distribution, basic tests of hypothesis and confidence intervals. Extensive use of graphing calculator is part of the course.

TITLE: (P) Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus COURSE NUMBER: 0447
LEVEL: 11, 12 CREDITS: 10
DURATION: One Year
PREREQUISITES: Minimum grade of "B-" in (P) Geometry and "C-" in Advanced Algebra. Final placement is determined upon second semester grade and departmental approval.

DESCRIPTION:

Topics include: Vectors, the development of limits, sequences and series, polynomial functions, rational functions, trigonometric functions and trigonometric identities.

TITLE: (P) Honors Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus COURSE NUMBER: 0448
LEVEL: 10, 11 CREDITS: 10
DURATION: One Year
PREREQUISITES: Minimum grade of "B-" in (P) Honors Geometry and Honors Advanced Algebra. Final placement is determined upon second semester grade and departmental approval.

DESCRIPTION:

This course includes the following topics: Polynomial functions, rational functions, inverse functions, basic trigonometric functions, transformations, right triangles trigonometry and basic identities, oblique triangles, trigonometric identities and inverse trigonometric functions.

TITLE: (P) AP Calculus AB **COURSE NUMBER:** 0442
LEVEL: 12 **CREDITS:** 10
DURATION: One Year
PREREQUISITES: Minimum grade of “B” in (P) Honors Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus and departmental approval.

DESCRIPTION:

This course covers the topics that are included on the AB level of the AP examination in Calculus. Students study the theory of limits and differential and integral calculus and are required to take the AP exam in May. A graphing calculator is required for this course. AP testing fees are approximately \$87.00.

TITLE: (P) AP Calculus BC **COURSE NUMBER:** 0443
LEVEL: 12 **CREDITS:** 10
DURATION: One Year
PREREQUISITES: Minimum grade of “B” in (P) AP Calculus AB. Final placement is determined upon second semester grade and departmental approval.

DESCRIPTION:

This course prepares students for the AP Calculus BC Examination. Students will study the calculus of hyperbolic functions, vector functions, variable-factor product, and functions defined by power series. A graphic calculator is required for this class. AP testing fees are approximately \$87.00.

Physical Education Department

TITLE: Physical Fitness for Life COURSE NUMBER: 0612
LEVEL: 9 CREDITS: 5
DURATION: One Semester
PREREQUISITES: No major medical problems
DESCRIPTION:

Students enrolled in this class will participate in activities such as: basketball, volleyball, tennis, soccer, jump rope routines, and various other physical activities. Students also will focus not only on exercise and fitness, but on other important areas as well, including alcohol and drug abuse, smoking, nutrition, the cardiovascular system, and the muscular and skeletal systems.

TITLE: Self-Defense COURSE NUMBER: 0637
LEVEL: 10, 11, 12 CREDITS: 5
DURATION: One Semester
PREREQUISITES: No major medical problems
DESCRIPTION:

Self-Defense is a one-semester course designed to give young women the confidence and the knowledge needed to prevent them from becoming victims. This course prepares the students physically through training and learning basic, effective self-defense techniques. Current health fitness is included to ensure a “total fitness” education and the class textbooks: “Are You a Target?” and “Exploding the Myth of Self Defense” as well as various films provide students the psychological tools which enable them to become resisters.

TITLE: Lifetime Fitness COURSE NUMBER: 0632
LEVEL: 10, 11, 12 CREDITS: 5
DURATION: One Semester
PREREQUISITES: None
DESCRIPTION:

This course was developed for the student who wishes to improve her overall fitness. Lifetime Fitness will evaluate the student’s fitness, outline a personalized program for improvement and introduce her to lifetime physical activities. Overall fitness will be improved through such activities as circuit training, weight training, low impact aerobic workout, running and walking, step aerobics and abdominal workouts. Students will learn how to develop and maintain healthy weight with diet and exercise. A \$10.00 fee will be collected at the beginning of the semester to assist in costs for field trips, guest speakers, and outside activities.

TITLE: Body Awareness COURSE NUMBER: 0631
LEVEL: 10, 11, 12 CREDITS: 5
DURATION: One Semester
PREREQUISITES: None
DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to introduce students to various types of activities, including *Aerobics, Tai Bo, Steps Routines, Gymtone, Free Weights, Power Cord Toning, Abs Workouts, Yoga, Pilates, Tai Chi, Meditation, Balance Ball Routines, Aquafitness*, and a unit on *Team Sports*. Other fitness components that may be included in this course are Rhythmic Gymnastics, Tumbling and Dance, and some Journalizing. Students also will learn about developing proper nutrition habits that, combined with a fitness regimen, will lead them to develop a healthy

lifestyle. The goal of the course is to provide learning and fitness opportunities that will enable students to:

- improve their health and eating habits
- be positive about their bodies
- develop positive self-esteem
- learn to reduce stress in their lives
- work out at an intermediate to advanced level of physical fitness

Students will experience a variety of fitness activities in order to inspire a fitness regimen that they can continue after this course is completed. This course will provide students a “total fitness” education and experience. A \$10.00 fee will be collected at the beginning of the semester to pay for water aerobics and toning and fitness instruction at the YMCA, for guest speakers, and other class activity costs.

TITLE:	NET.COM	COURSE NUMBER:	0633
LEVEL:	10, 11, 12	CREDITS:	5
DURATION:	One Semester		
PREREQUISITES:	None		

DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to introduce students to the various sports that use “Nets,” including Basketball, Volleyball, Soccer, Ping-Pong (Table Tennis), Tennis, Badminton, Floor Hockey, and Pickle Ball. Students will learn about the history of each sport, vocabulary associated with each sport, and people (especially women) who excel in these sports. Students of any skill level will participate on teams during the various net sport units. Students will enjoy a rigorous workout, recreational fun, and team competition as they learn what it means to work together as a team. Students also will learn about developing a proper nutrition habits that, combined with this sports regimen, will lead them to develop a healthy lifestyle. Each Net Sports Unit will last approximately two weeks (4-5 class periods). Guest speakers may be invited to teach students some of the fundamentals of a particular sport.

Religious Studies Department

TITLE: Religious Studies I COURSE NUMBER: 0210
LEVEL: 9 CREDITS: 10
DURATION: One Year
PREREQUISITES: None

DESCRIPTION:

In this year-long, foundational course, students explore a wide range of topics in Religious Studies, many of which will be revisited in greater depth during subsequent years at Mercy High School. These topics include the Christian understanding of the human person; the nature of faith and religion; the origins of Judaism and Christianity; the story of salvation history; the life and mission of Jesus Christ; Catholic approaches to sexual ethics and social justice issues, such as racism, sexism and economic exploitation; Catholic understandings of Sacred Scripture; and the Roman Catholic liturgical calendar. Students also are introduced to the life of Catherine McAuley, founder of the Sisters of Mercy, and to the contemporary mission and charism of the Sisters of Mercy. Throughout the year, each student is encouraged to discover and develop her own unique identity, values, talents, and gifts as a way of creating a true community of faith.

TITLE: (P) Ethics COURSE NUMBER: 0222
LEVEL: 10 CREDITS: 5
DURATION: One Semester
PREREQUISITES: None

DESCRIPTION:

This course provides the groundwork for sound moral decision making within the Catholic Christian tradition, rooted in the example of Jesus and the values of the Gospel. Students develop an understanding of the corporal works of mercy as a foundation for responsible Christian living in the modern world. Tools and frameworks are given for dealing with moral complexities and dilemmas so that each student may make her way to conscientious self-determination. The course includes an intensive examination of the Holocaust as a case study for conscience formation, moral decision-making, sin, and grace. A key component of this class is the completion of a research project examining one contemporary ethical issue. This project allows each student to continue to develop her college-level academic research skills and her ability to integrate intellectual knowledge with personal and communal religious faith.

TITLE: (P) Hebrew and Christian Scriptures COURSE NUMBER: 0275
LEVEL: 11 CREDITS: 10
DURATION: One Year
PREREQUISITES: None

DESCRIPTION:

This course is an immersion in the stories, themes, questions, and challenges of the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures. Students begin by studying the variety of characters and life situations found in the Hebrew Bible, learning historical, literary, socio-cultural, and feminist theories of interpretation in order to examine the significance of Biblical characters in their ancient context and in contemporary application. Students are challenged to transcend literalist or fundamentalist views of the Biblical texts as they learn to appreciate the religious truth and literary complexity of the Bible. In developing a familiarity with Biblical characters and identifying with aspects of their personalities and situations, students learn to see their own emerging life experience reflected in these ancient, revelatory texts. Students then use the Hebrew Scriptures as a foundation for an in-

depth study of the Christian Testament. Students continue to hone their ability to interpret Biblical sources within their ancient cultural context in order to foster contextual, rather than literal, readings of Scripture. In focusing on the four Gospels, students gain an understanding of how each of the Gospels presents a unique portrait of Jesus with its own particular emphases and themes. In identifying the major themes of Jesus' life and message, students understand how these themes continue to impact the world and shape the lives of contemporary Christian disciples. Much is done with prayer and spirituality throughout the year, as students reflect upon questions of Biblical faith and explore the potential of their own relationship with the God revealed to us in Scripture and with the living Christ.

Senior Electives:

As seniors, students must choose at least one course from a variety of one-semester electives.

TITLE: (P) Social Justice COURSE NUMBER: 0248
LEVEL: 12 CREDITS: 5
DURATION: One Semester
PREREQUISITES: None
DESCRIPTION:

Where does human dignity and respect for the earth stand in our contemporary world? This one-semester course is designed to raise the consciousness of the students to the network of injustice, oppression, and exploitation which is an obstacle to the Christian task of building a global community. Students will use their critical thinking skills as they develop an awareness of the role of individual and corporate responsibilities in establishing justice. Catholic Social Teaching, which derives from Scripture, Catholic Social Doctrine and Catholic Church Documents, will form the basis of discussion for each unit. Contemporary social issues such as human rights violations, poverty, hunger, discrimination, racism, sexism, violence, war, environmental sustainability, international trade dilemmas, and business and economic injustices will be examined in light of the Gospel and Jesus' own life example of how humans are to act. The course will use journaling, film, music, projects, and discussions drawn from students' own experiences.

TITLE: *(Special Environmental Justice Section)*
(P) Social Justice COURSE NUMBER: 0243
LEVEL: 12 CREDITS: 5
DURATION: One Semester
REQUIRED: **This course must include concurrent enrollment in Creative Writing, an English Dept. elective.**

DESCRIPTION:
This section of the Social Justice elective will emphasize environmental justice issues in a field-based setting. After laying the groundwork in Ecological Theology, Catholic Social Teaching (which derives from Scripture, Catholic social doctrine and Catholic Church documents), and North American Indigenous traditions, we will literally explore the ground, i.e.: the crucial intersection of human culture and nature, visiting and learning at important and interesting locations in the San Francisco Bay Area. There will be approximately one field trip every third day of class. Students will do library and field research and commit to a specific project for ongoing leadership involvement through the semester, culminating in a final presentation and policy recommendation.

TITLE: (P) World Religions COURSE NUMBER: 0270
LEVEL: 12 CREDITS: 5
DURATION: One Semester
PREREQUISITES: None

DESCRIPTION:

This course examines the major Western and Eastern religious traditions in the world today. Students are introduced to a wide range of religious and moral beliefs and practices found throughout the human family. This course helps students recognize the ways other belief systems and practices differ from Catholic belief systems and practices. The traditions studied may include: Primal Traditions, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Zen Buddhism, Shintoism, Zoroastrianism, Early Greek/Roman Religions, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam as well as smaller movements, sects and groups. Students will learn how these religions developed and evolved in their belief and praxis, and how contemporary followers of these traditions respond to the Divine. Students are invited to develop a clearer understanding and deeper appreciation for their own faith and spirituality. Students will lead the research in these traditions in two projects that tap into their creative imaginations as well as college-ready research skills.

Science Department

TITLE: (P) Integrated Physical Science COURSE NUMBER: 0150
LEVEL: 9 CREDITS: 10

DURATION: One Year

PREREQUISITES: None

DESCRIPTION:

Students will develop basic lab techniques, reading comprehension, and calculation skills through the study of Earth Science, Environmental Science, and Physics. Students will learn to apply this knowledge to the world in which they live.

TITLE: (P) Biology COURSE NUMBER: 0121
LEVEL: 9, 10 CREDITS: 10

DURATION: One Year

PREREQUISITES: 9th Grade: Departmental selection based on overall GPA, high school placement test, and 8th grade math and science grades. 10th Grade: Integrated Physical Science

DESCRIPTION:

Students in this course study animal and plant life at different stages, examining molecular building blocks of proteins and DNA, cell development, genetics, evolution, and the ecological interaction of all living things. Scientific vocabulary and conceptual data require rigorous study.

TITLE: (P) Honors Biology COURSE NUMBER: 0123
LEVEL: 9, 10 CREDITS: 10

DURATION: One Year

PREREQUISITES: 9th Grade: Departmental selection based on overall GPA, high school placement test, and 8th grade math and science grades. 10th Grade: Placement is determined by GPA and (P) Integrated Physical Science grade. Final placement is determined by department recommendation and second semester grade.

DESCRIPTION:

This course is open to students with an interest in pursuing biological topics in more depth and breadth than in the regular-level biology class. A serious attitude and willingness to complete additional work and reading is required.

TITLE: (P) Chemistry COURSE NUMBER: 0131
LEVEL: 10, 11, 12 CREDITS: 10

DURATION: One Year

PREREQUISITES: (P) Algebra I
Advanced Algebra or Honors Advanced Algebra or concurrent enrollment in Advanced Algebra or Honors Advanced Algebra
Final placement is determined by second semester grade and department recommendation.

DESCRIPTION:

This physical science deals with the substances that make up our environment and the changes that take place in these substances. Questions such as: "What is pH balanced?" "Why do atoms bond?" "Why shouldn't I mix Clorox and ammonia?" "Why do coke cans explode in the freezer?" will be answered in this course. The approach is practical and descriptive. Skills from (P) Algebra I and (P) Advanced Algebra are necessary.

TITLE: (P) Honors Chemistry **COURSE NUMBER:** 0134
LEVEL: 10, 11, 12 **CREDITS:** 10
DURATION: One Year
PREREQUISITES: Minimum grade of "A-" each semester in (P) Algebra I or "B-" in each semester in (P) Honors Advanced Algebra
10th Grade: Concurrent registration in (P) Advanced Algebra or (P) Honors Advanced Algebra.
11th and 12th Grades: Minimum grade of "A-" each semester in (P) Advanced Algebra or "B-" each semester in (P) Honors Advanced Algebra, and prior or concurrent registration in (P) Geometry or (P) Honors Geometry.
Final placement is determined by second semester grade and department recommendation.

DESCRIPTION:

This physical science deals with the substances that make up our environment and the changes that take place in these substances. The approach is mathematical. The course is designed for students with a strong ability and/or interest in the mathematics/science areas.

TITLE: (P) AP Chemistry **COURSE NUMBER:** 0135
LEVEL: 11, 12 **CREDITS:** 10
DURATION: One Year
PREREQUISITES: Minimum grade of "A" each semester in (P) Chemistry or "B" each semester in (P) Honors Chemistry. Minimum grade of "B" each semester in (P) Honors Advanced Algebra or minimum grade of "A" each semester in (P) Algebra I and (P) Advanced Algebra. Final placement is determined by second semester grades and department recommendation.

DESCRIPTION:

This college-level course is a second-year course in chemistry. Special emphasis is given to topics in chemistry that form the basis for college-level courses, as well as provide general knowledge. The principles of chemistry are taught through an intensive integrated program of lectures, class discussion, and laboratory investigations. The investigation of the composition of substances and the changes they undergo are the basis of this course. This course is designed to meet the requirements of the Advanced Placement exam held each May. Students enrolled in this course must take the AP Examination. AP testing fee is approximately \$87.00.

TITLE: P) Physics **COURSE NUMBER:** 0141
LEVEL: 12 **CREDITS:** 10
DURATION: One Year
PREREQUISITES: Minimum grade of "B" each semester in (P) Geometry or "C" in (P) Honors Geometry; minimum grade of "C" each semester in (P) Honors Chemistry, or minimum grade of "B" each semester in (P) Chemistry. Final placement is determined by second semester grade and department recommendation.

DESCRIPTION:

Physics is a class designed for students who are possibly contemplating a major in a science-related field or planning to attend a four-year college. This course explores such questions as: “How do we hear?” “Can we travel faster than the speed of light?” “How do machines work?” “What is electricity?” “How do nuclear power plants work?” In answering these questions, the traditional topics of a college-preparatory physics course are covered. These include: energy and matter, light, sound, heat, electricity, magnetism, and laws of motion. The approach in this course is very mathematical.

TITLE: (P) Honors Physics **COURSE NUMBER:** 0142
LEVEL: 12 **CREDITS:** 10
DURATION: One Year
PREREQUISITES: Each semester a grade of “C” or better in AP Chemistry or “B” or better in Honors Chemistry and “B” or better each semester Honors Geometry or “B-” or better in Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus. Final placement is determined by second semester grades and department recommendation.

DESCRIPTION:

Honors Physics is a class designed for students who are contemplating a major in a science-related field or planning to attend a four-year college. Honors Physics is a rigorous course taught at the honors level which requires independent reading and study. This course explores such questions as: “How do we hear?” “Can we travel faster than the speed of light?” “How do machines work?” “What is electricity?” “How do nuclear power plants work?” In answering these questions, the traditional topics of a college-preparatory physics course are covered. These include: energy and matter, light, sound, heat, electricity, magnetism, and laws of motion. The approach of this course is very mathematical with an emphasis on solving and practicing problems.

TITLE: (P) AP Physics B **COURSE NUMBER:** 0145
LEVEL: 12 **CREDITS:** 10
DURATION: One Year
PREREQUISITES: Each semester a grade of “B” or better in AP Chemistry or a grade of “A” in Honors Chemistry and a “B” or better in Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus or at least an “A” in Honors Geometry. Final placement is determined by second semester grades and department recommendation.

DESCRIPTION:

AP Physics is a class designed for students who are contemplating a major in a science-related field or planning to attend a four-year college. AP Physics is a rigorous course taught at the college level. This course follows the principles outlined for Honors Physics with emphasis on solving and practicing problems at a higher mathematical level. This class will require additional class time in preparation for the AP Exam given in May. AP testing fee is approximately \$87.00.

TITLE: (P) Physiology **COURSE NUMBER:** 0147
LEVEL: 11, 12 **CREDITS:** 10
DURATION: One Year
PREREQUISITES: Minimum grade of “C” in (P) Biology and “C” each semester in (P) Chemistry and departmental approval. Final placement is determined by second semester grade of “C” or better in (P) Chemistry and department recommendation.

DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to be an upper-division elective course in the study of the human body. During the year, a detailed study of the morphology and physiology of the human body will be conducted. As each system is covered, its form and function will be stressed. The pathology of diseases affecting each system will be studied. In addition, the maintenance of a healthy body will be discussed. This is a laboratory science including physiological tests. A cat dissection is a required part of the curriculum.

TITLE: (P) AP Biology **COURSE NUMBER:** 0125
LEVEL: 11, 12 **CREDITS:** 10
DURATION: One Year
PREREQUISITES: Minimum grade of "A-" in (P) Biology or "B-" in (P) Honors Biology.
Minimum grade of "B-" in (P) Chemistry 0131 or 0134.
Final placement is determined by second semester grades and department recommendation.

DESCRIPTION:

(P) AP Biology is a class designed for students who have completed (P) Biology or (P) Honors Biology and (P) Chemistry and who are possibly contemplating a major in a science-related field or planning on attending a four-year college. AP Biology is a rigorous course taught at the college level. AP Biology is equivalent to the first year of biology offered at many universities throughout the country. Students use a college-level textbook, complete college-level units, and explore the complex and exciting world of biology by performing college-level labs. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement Exam in Biology. AP testing fee is approximately \$87.00.

Social Science Department

TITLE: (P) World History COURSE NUMBER: 0927
LEVEL: 10 CREDITS: 10
DURATION: One Year
PREREQUISITES: None

DESCRIPTION:

(P) World History provides a combination of thematic and chronological approaches to the study of Modern World History. Students will acquire an understanding of the political, social, and economic issues that have shaped our modern world. Students will participate in problem-solving seminars in which they will discover the historical roots of today's complex issues. Emphasis is placed on critical-thinking skills and guided discovery of historical facts and connections. Reading materials include a history text and other primary and secondary sources.

TITLE: (P) Honors World History COURSE NUMBER: 0929
LEVEL: 10 CREDITS: 10
DURATION: One Year
PREREQUISITES: Minimum grade of "B+" first semester in (P) English I and "B+" first semester in (P) Integrated Physical Science. To remain eligible, students must maintain these grades at the second semester.

DESCRIPTION:

(P) Honors World History provides a combination of thematic and chronological approaches to the study of Modern World History. Students will acquire an understanding of the political, social, and economic issues that have shaped our modern world. Students will participate in problem-solving seminars in which they will discover the historical roots of today's complex issues. Emphasis is placed on critical-thinking skills and guided discovery of historical facts and connections. Reading materials include a history text and other primary and secondary sources, and literature in the context of an enriched curriculum.

TITLE: (P) U.S. History COURSE NUMBER: 0931
LEVEL: 11 CREDITS: 10
DURATION: One Year
PREREQUISITES: None

DESCRIPTION:

This required course offers an in-depth examination of political, economic and social themes, concepts, and events in United States history highlighted by a study of American literature, art, philosophy, and music. Students will gain experience in critical reading, use of primary sources, note-taking, developing generalizations based on evidence, and analyzing conflicting opinions and interpretations, and tying the past to current events in the United States and the world. A formal research paper will be required.

TITLE: (P) AP U.S. History COURSE NUMBER: 0932
LEVEL: 11 CREDITS: 10
DURATION: One Year
PREREQUISITES: Minimum first semester grades of "B+" in (P) English, "B+" in (P) World History (or "B" in (P) Honors World History). Students with a "B" in (P) English may petition with a letter of approval from their English instructor and the approval of the (P) AP U.S. instructor (as space permits).

DESCRIPTION:

This course is a rigorous and in-depth examination of the political, economic, and social events of United States history. Students will gain experience in critical reading, and learn to analyze conflicting interpretations. In addition to a history textbook, several additional works of literature, and various primary source documents will be assigned. Critical essays and a formal research paper will be required. Students are required to take the AP History examination at the end of the school year. AP examination fees approximately \$87.00.

TITLE: (P) U.S. Government **COURSE NUMBER:** 0941
LEVEL: 12 **CREDITS:** 5
DURATION: One Semester
PREREQUISITES: None

DESCRIPTION:

In this required course, students study the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government. Units on media and propaganda, current events, and individual rights and responsibilities are included to promote effective citizenship.

TITLE: (P) AP U.S. Government and Politics **COURSE NUMBER:** 0942
LEVEL: 12 **CREDITS:** 5
DURATION: One Semester
PREREQUISITES: Minimum grades of "B+" in English, "B+" in U.S. History (or "B" in AP U.S. History) and department approval.

DESCRIPTION:

This challenging course covers the constitutional foundations of American government; the citizenship base of politics, political parties and interest groups; the institutions of the three branches of the national government; the policy-making process; civil rights and civil liberties; and the current issues facing American citizens and their government. Extensive reading and preparation for class discussions and simulations will be required. Students may earn college credit for this course by passing the required AP examination given in May (approximate fee: \$87.00).

TITLE: (P) Contemporary World Issues **COURSE NUMBER:** 0947
LEVEL: 12 **CREDITS:** 5
DURATION: One Semester
PREREQUISITES: None

DESCRIPTION:

In this required course, global issues involving the Pacific Rim, Sub-Sahara Africa, the Middle East, or other newsworthy regions of the world, will be covered. Students will explore the most recent developments in human rights, politics, environment, population, and economics in order to understand their implications for the world. Knowledge of current events is expected, and will be a continuous part of the semester's work.

Visual and Performing Arts Department

TITLE: (P) Beginning Art-A COURSE NUMBER: 0819
and

TITLE: (P) Beginning Art-B COURSE NUMBER: 0820
LEVEL: 9, 10, 11, 12 CREDITS: 5 each

DURATION: One Semester (each course)

PREREQUISITES: None

DESCRIPTION:

Beginning Art A is the first semester of the basic art course which establishes visual design and technical skill in traditional and non-traditional artistic processes. Various media explore drawing, painting, perspective, and the elements and principles of design and composition. Students will keep a sketchbook in which they will do homework assignments, keep handouts, make notes and do drawing exercises. References to western and non-western contemporary and historical art movements are included and students will produce an artist report based on the study of one or more artists. During the second semester (Beginning Art B) students apply their skills to design projects such as book illustration, CD cover designs and fashion design. They will also produce an artist poster and learn about critical analysis of art. Estimated lab fee: \$30.00.

TITLE: (P) Intermediate Art – Semester 1 COURSE NUMBER: 0822
Intermediate Art – Semester 2

LEVEL: 9 (Women in the Arts students only) 10, 11, 12 CREDITS: 5

DURATION: One Semester

PREREQUISITES: (P) Beginning Art-A and (P) Beginning Art-B or permission of instructor.

DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to further develop the student's visual design sensibilities and technical skill in traditional and non-traditional artistic processes. Various media and methods explore the application of paint in various painting styles and color-mixing, value study, line, texture, pattern, shape, space and their application to still-life, landscape, figure drawing, and portraiture. Students also participate in group critiques, view local art exhibits, and produce posters pertaining to an artist or art movement. References to western and non-western contemporary and historical art movements are included. Students will have a sketchbook in which they will do homework assignments, plan projects, keep handouts and write notes as well as class time drawings. Estimated lab fee: \$30.00. This course may be repeated for credit.

TITLE: (P) Advanced Art – Semester 1 COURSE NUMBER: 0825
Advanced Art – Semester 2

LEVEL: 11, 12 CREDITS: 5

DURATION: One Semester

PREREQUISITES: 10 credits of (P) Intermediate Art or permission of instructor.

DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed for independent study initially focusing on a selection of artists or art movements. Students will go on to develop their own themes and techniques, working on projects that are compatible with the AP Studio Art portfolio. They will learn how to evaluate and critique their own work and other students' art projects. Students will also keep a sketchbook of drawings/ideas, view art exhibits, read literature pertaining to an artist or art movement for

class discussions, and participate in one or more large group projects determined by the instructor and students. Estimated lab fee: \$30.00. This course may be repeated for credit.

TITLE: (P) Beginning Ceramics-A COURSE NUMBER: 0829
and

TITLE: (P) Beginning Ceramics-B COURSE NUMBER: 0830
LEVEL: 9, 10, 11, 12 CREDITS: 5 each

DURATION: One Semester (each course)

PREREQUISITES: None

DESCRIPTION:

These introductory courses study the nature of clay, the three basic hand building techniques (pinch, coil, and slab) and the preliminaries of the potter's wheel. Exploration of various cultures (Native Indian, Japanese, Chinese, Middle Eastern, and Mexican) and their unique influences on ceramic art are incorporated into the framework of learning basic hand building techniques. Students also explore a variety of decorating ideas with underglazes, stains and glazes. Historical and contemporary ceramic artists' works are used as examples of construction and decorating. Estimated lab fee: \$30.00.

TITLE: (P) Intermediate Ceramics – Semester 1 COURSE NUMBER: 0832
Intermediate Ceramics – Semester 2

LEVEL: 9 (Women in the Arts students only) 10, 11, 12 CREDITS: 5

DURATION: One Semester

PREREQUISITES: (P) Beginning Ceramics-A and (P) Beginning Ceramics-B or permission of instructor.

DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to further develop the student's visual design and technical skills in the area of ceramics. Various hand building and throwing techniques are more complex, and students build on their basic knowledge of working with clay. Continued exploration of various cultures (Japanese, Chinese, European, Middle Eastern, Greek, and Mexican) and their unique influences on ceramic art are incorporated into more intricate projects. Students continue to explore decorating ideas with the use of carved surfaces, applications of underglazes, stains, glazes, and application of different textures on the clay surfaces. Students also participate in group critiques, view local art exhibits, and read literature pertaining to a ceramic artist or art movement. References to western and non-western contemporary and historical ceramic art movements are included. Estimated lab fee: \$30.00. This course may be repeated for credit.

TITLE: (P) Advanced Ceramics – Semester 1 COURSE NUMBER: 0835
Advanced Ceramics – Semester 2

LEVEL: 11, 12 CREDITS: 5

DURATION: One Semester

PREREQUISITES: 10 credits of (P) Intermediate Ceramics or permission of instructor.

DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed for independent study in the area of ceramics. The students will work on projects in the style of a particular artist or art movement that was significant in the area of ceramics. Each student will contract with the instructor on an individual basis for each semester's projects. Students will be involved in writing up an individual contract, researching the artist or art movement, completing the ceramic projects in the particular style of the artist or art

movement, evaluating their work as well as evaluating/critiquing other students' ceramic projects. Students will keep a simple sketchbook of drawings/ideas for the ceramic projects, view ceramic art exhibits, read literature pertaining to an artist or art movement in the area of ceramics for class discussions, and possibly participate in one or more large group projects determined by the instructor and students. Estimated lab fee: \$30.00. This course may be repeated for credit.

TITLE: (P) AP Studio Art - Drawing COURSE NUMBER: 0828
DURATION: One Year
PREREQUISITES: (P) Intermediate Art or (P) Advanced Art, or permission of instructor.
Students enrolled in an AP Studio Art course must take the Mercy summer art workshop or a college art course during the summer prior to the AP course.

TITLE: (P) AP Studio Art 2D Design COURSE NUMBER: 0826
DURATION: One Year
PREREQUISITES: (P) Intermediate Art or (P) Advanced Art, or permission of instructor.
Students enrolled in an AP Studio Art course must take the Mercy summer art workshop or a college art course during the summer prior to the AP course.

TITLE: (P) AP Studio Art – 3D Design COURSE NUMBER: 0837
DURATION: One Year
PREREQUISITES: (P) Intermediate Ceramics or (P) Advanced Ceramics, or permission of instructor.
Students enrolled in an AP Studio Art course must take the Mercy summer art workshop or a college art course during the summer prior to the AP course.

LEVEL: 11, 12 CREDITS: 10 (each course)
DESCRIPTION:

This course is for students who are ready for a college-level art experience. (P) AP Studio Art is not based on a written examination; instead, students submit electronic portfolios for evaluation at the end of the school year. The Drawing and 2D Design portfolios consist of five actual works and 24 images of other works. The 3D Design portfolio consists of 38 images of work. Each portfolio has three required sections: Quality, Concentration, and Breadth. Quality requires works that show a command of technique and advanced aesthetic sensitivity. Concentration requires that the student pursue a particular idea or issue. Breadth shows a wide range of subject matter—media, techniques, and aesthetic issues. Students will be expected to work on projects at home and an extra period at school, as well as the scheduled class time; e.g., one free period a week or time after school.

The lab fee for this course is \$65.00, and the AP testing fee is approximately \$87.00. Students are required to submit an electronic portfolio per required College Board instructions. Students are responsible for all expenses incurred in preparation of portfolio.

This course may be repeated in another area of emphasis, but cannot be taken concurrently.

TITLE: (P) Beginning Dance-A COURSE NUMBER: 0850
LEVEL: 9, 10, 11, 12 CREDITS: 5
DURATION: One Semester
PREREQUISITES: None

DESCRIPTION:

This two-part year long course will introduce and deepen students understanding of the elements of dance through a combination of structured improvisations, learned warm-ups, sequences, and choreographies informed by jazz/modern/ballet techniques, and solo and group composition assignments. Learning will be supported by classroom discussions, writing assignments (including the keeping of a dance journal), and in class viewings of student and professional dance works.

TITLE: (P) Beginning Dance-B COURSE NUMBER: 0851
LEVEL: 9, 10, 11, 12 CREDITS: 5
DURATION: One Semester
PREREQUISITES: (P) Beginning Dance-A or permission of instructor.

DESCRIPTION:

This two-part year long course will introduce and deepen students understanding of the elements of dance through a combination of structured improvisations, learned warm-ups, sequences, and choreographies informed by jazz/modern/ballet techniques, and solo and group composition assignments. Learning will be supported by classroom discussions, writing assignments (including the keeping of a dance journal), and in class viewings of student and professional dance works.

TITLE: (P) Intermediate Dance – Semester 1 COURSE NUMBER: 0852
Intermediate Dance – Semester 2
LEVEL: 10, 11, 12 CREDITS: 5
DURATION: One Semester
PREREQUISITES: One or two semesters of Beginning Dance or permission of instructor.
Audition process is used to determine student’s skill and knowledge of dance.

DESCRIPTION:

This course is a continuation of (P) Beginning Dance-A and (P) Beginning Dance-B, and includes advanced levels of techniques, Barre exercises, knowledge of the historical information pertinent to all areas of dance but specifically in the areas of jazz, modern dance, and ballet. The class studies choreographic approaches and produces a dance to be performed in the Visual & Performing Arts Festival. This course may be repeated for credit.

TITLE: (P) Advanced Dance – Semester 1 COURSE NUMBER: 0853
Advanced Dance – Semester 2
LEVEL: 11, 12 CREDITS: 5
DURATION: One Semester
PREREQUISITES: Completion of course requirements at the beginning and intermediate levels or permission of instructor through an audition process. Students must show knowledge in the areas of modern, ballet, jazz dance, and dance history.

DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to strengthen the knowledge of dance at the advanced level. Modern dance, ballet, and jazz dance techniques are emphasized. Dance history, composition, choreography, simplified dance notation, and dance performance are the substances of the semester course. This course may be repeated for credit.

TITLE: (P) Acting Techniques-A COURSE NUMBER: 0859
LEVEL: 9, 10, 11, 12 CREDITS: 5
DURATION: One Semester
PREREQUISITES: None

DESCRIPTION:

The course introduces acting concepts through physical exercises and theatre games that stretch the imagination. Improvised scenes lead the actresses into scene study, which involves analyzing scripts, memorizing lines and performing scenes for the class. Students work in pairs or small groups on these scenes. The students perform final scenes for an invited audience at the end of the semester. This class is strongly recommended for students thinking about auditioning for school productions.

TITLE: (P) Acting Techniques-B COURSE NUMBER: 0860
LEVEL: 9, 10, 11, 12 CREDITS: 5
DURATION: One Semester
PREREQUISITES: (P) Acting Techniques-A

DESCRIPTION:

The second level of beginning course continues with scene work in various genres. From these scene studies, the student progresses to the preparation of two audition pieces. The audition prep unit, including writing a resume, ends with a workshop led by a professional actor/director. The final project for the semester is the performance of a group scene at the VPA Festival in May.

TITLE: (P) Intermediate Performance COURSE NUMBER: 0866
Workshop – Semester 1 CREDITS: 5
Intermediate Performance
Workshop – Semester 2

LEVEL: 10, 11, 12
DURATION: One Semester
PREREQUISITES: (P) Acting Techniques A and B or permission of instructor

DESCRIPTION:

The class introduces styles from different theatrical periods and cultures. Greek classics, Commedia dell'arte, Medieval Miracle & Morality plays, Shakespearean, Restoration, Victorian melodrama, realism, modern absurdist theatre and contemporary performance art are among theatrical styles examined. The course also includes research and scene study of Indian, Japanese, Chinese and African theatrical approaches. Students perform in scene work from the periods and cultures listed above. Their final scenes form part of a public performance at the VPA Festival in May.

TITLE: (P) Advanced Performance Workshop COURSE NUMBER: 0867
LEVEL: 10, 11, 12 CREDITS: 5
DURATION: One Semester

PREREQUISITES: (P) Acting Techniques-A, (P) Acting Techniques-B, and (P) Intermediate Performance Workshop or permission of instructor.

DESCRIPTION:

This course is an advanced acting class designed to prepare students who wish to become involved in productions at Mercy. The class entails intensive scene study or the development of a one-act play. Performance opportunities of scenes and short plays that dovetail with community service requirements will be sought for the student actresses. The class emphasizes different styles of acting and scenes from a variety of periods and styles of theatre. This course may be repeated for credit

TITLE: (P) Mercy Chorus-A COURSE NUMBER: 0870
(First Semester) CREDITS: 5
LEVEL: 9, 10, 11, 12
PREREQUISITES: None
DURATION: One Semester

DESCRIPTION:

This course provides a comprehensive overview of ensemble work for the high school student. The Chorus will prepare for special performances, Christmas Assembly, and concert. Effective “singing” posture, maximizing the breath and developing resonance will be stressed.

Each class will be spent developing the student’s knowledge of the expressive qualities of music, increasing aural awareness, encouraging musical responsiveness and developing skills necessary to become capable performers by promoting an understanding of the nature and structure of music. The basics of reading and singing music will be emphasized in each class meeting. Exercises in sight singing will be included to aid in the continued growth of the students’ musicianship and understanding of the “language of music”. “Sectionals” will often be conducted during class time in order for students to learn their part separately from the rest of the group. Audio-visual aids, such as videotapes, compact discs and others may be used to demonstrate musical techniques and interpretations during the course of the semester. Students will also use a textbook for a more comprehensive look at different aspects of music, music appreciation, and musical styles.

At mid-semester, students will perform for each other in small groups. The Instructor will evaluate these performances.

TITLE: P) Mercy Chorus-B COURSE NUMBER: 0871
(Second Semester)
PREREQUISITES: (P) Mercy Chorus-A or other previous choral singing experience as approved by instructor
LEVEL: 9, 10, 11, 12 CREDITS: 5
DURATION: One Semester

DESCRIPTION:

This course provides a comprehensive overview of ensemble work for the high school student. The Chorus will prepare for special performances. Effective “singing” posture, maximizing the breath and developing resonance will be stressed. Each class will be spent developing the student’s knowledge of the expressive qualities of music, increasing aural awareness, encouraging musical responsiveness and developing skill necessary to become capable performers by promoting an understanding of the nature and structure of music. Students

examine and perform choral music from different eras, including classical chorales, sacred motets, spirituals, folk songs, Broadway musicals, as well as contemporary songs. Each semester the students sing in a public performance. The basics of reading and singing music will be emphasized in each class meeting. Students will also use a textbook for a more comprehensive look at different aspects of music.

TITLE: (P) Mercy Intermediate Chorus COURSE NUMBER: 0872
PREREQUISITES: (P) Mercy Chorus-A and (P) Mercy Chorus-B
LEVEL: 10, 11, 12 CREDITS: 5
DURATION: One Semester
DESCRIPTION:

Intermediate Chorus is a continuation of the concepts learned and achieved in Chorus A and B. Extensive harmonization and aural perception is covered in this course. Students will study, in depth, all styles of music. Students will continue to strengthen their skills in reading and singing of music in an ensemble situation and will prepare for the annual Fine Arts Festival.

Additional Information:

All music will be provided for the student. However, each student will be responsible for purchasing a ½ to 1-inch binder for purposes of holding music. At the end of the semester, the student will not be given a grade until all music is returned (or paid for in the event that it is lost). Students will be responsible for certain written work that will be assigned by the instructor. These assignments will include testing student’s knowledge of musical terms, key signatures and characteristics of different musical periods. This course may be repeated for credit.

TITLE: Student Director A (Fall) COURSE NUMBER: 0888
LEVEL: 11, 12 CREDITS: 5
DURATION: One Semester
PREREQUISITES: (P) Acting Techniques-A, (P) Acting Techniques-B, and permission of instructor.

DESCRIPTION:

In this course, advanced drama students earn credit for assisting younger students. Student directors work with the apprentice play productions and/or direct productions for grade schools. Student directors work in the acting classes and direct scenes for the finals or the Fine Arts Festival.

TITLE: Student Director B (Spring) COURSE NUMBER: 0889
LEVEL: 11, 12 CREDITS: 5
DURATION: One Semester
PREREQUISITES: (P) Acting Techniques-A, (P) Acting Techniques-B, and permission of instructor.

DESCRIPTION:

See description for course number 0888.

TITLE: (P) Acting in Production A– Semester 1 COURSE NUMBER: 0895
(P) Acting in Production B– Semester 2 COURSE NUMBER: 0896
LEVEL: 9, 10, 11, 12 CREDITS: 5
DURATION: One Semester
PREREQUISITES: Cast in play or musical
DESCRIPTION:

In this course, students earn credit for rehearsals and performances in the fall play and the spring musical. Auditions are open to all students. Students register for this course after being cast in a play. Credits earned in this class do not contribute to the minimum number that must be taken each year, but are accepted by UC as an elective and CSU accepts as elective credit.

Note: This course is in addition to the 240 units earned over four years at Mercy and may be repeated. Students may not be on Academic Probationary Support.

TITLE: Theatre Production: COURSE NUMBER: 0897
Design and Technical Crew CREDITS: 2.5 to 10
LEVEL: 9, 10, 11, 12
DURATION: One Semester
PREREQUISITES: Accepted through application process
DESCRIPTION:

This course offers students a “hands-on” experience while working behind the scenes in Mercy’s theatre productions. Students learn and practice elements of design in costumes, props, scenery, make up, lights, and graphics. This course meets after school and on weekends. This course may be repeated for credit. Students can earn 5 credits per semester in Tech Crew. Credits earned in this class do not contribute to the minimum number that must be taken each year.

Note: This course is in addition to the 240 units earned over four years at Mercy and may be repeated. Students may not be on Academic Probationary Support.

TITLE: (P) Mercy High School COURSE NUMBER: 0855
Dance Ensemble CREDITS: 5
LEVEL: 9, 10, 11, 12
DURATION: One Year
PREREQUISITES: Must audition for the Dance Ensemble
DESCRIPTION:

In this course students earn credit for technique training, rehearsals and performance in the Winter Dance Concert and various performances in the San Francisco Bay Area. Auditions are open to all Mercy students. Students register for the course after being accepted into the Dance Ensemble. A student can be a member of the Dance Ensemble all four years at Mercy. Credits earned in this class do not contribute to the minimum number that must be taken each year, but are accepted by UC and CSU as an elective.

Note: This course is in addition to the 240 units earned over four years at Mercy and may be repeated. Students may not be on Academic Probationary Support.

World Language Department

FRENCH

TITLE: (P) French I COURSE NUMBER: 0510
TITLE: (P) French II COURSE NUMBER: 0520
TITLE: (P) French III COURSE NUMBER: 0530
LEVEL: 9, 10, 11, 12 CREDITS: 10 per one year course
DURATION: One year per course
PREREQUISITES: Level I: Departmental placement
Level II: Minimum grade of “C-“ in Level I.
Level III: Minimum grade of “C+” in Level II and/or departmental approval. Specific prerequisites may be waived if a student scores appropriately on a departmental placement exam. Eligibility for advancement will be determined by first semester grades. Eligibility must be maintained through the second semester.

DESCRIPTION:

The above courses are organized around communication in the foreign language, cross-cultural and cross-curriculum connections and comparisons, and participation in the local and global communities. Students will develop not only the skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing, but will also become creative, interactive language users.

TITLE: (P) Honors French III COURSE NUMBER: 0531
LEVEL: 10, 11, 12 CREDITS: 10
DURATION: One Year
PREREQUISITES: Minimum grade of “B+” in first and second semesters of (P) French II, and/or departmental approval.

DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed for those students who are able to perform at a more in-depth level than the regular (P) French III course. Honors students will be in the same class as regular (P) French III and will carry out all (P) French III studies and activities. (P) Honors French III students will have additional work consisting mainly of further vocabulary building and reading. Honors students also may have summer reading in the summer prior to taking this course. This course is intended to prepare students to take (P) AP French Language in the following year.

TITLE: (P) French IV COURSE NUMBER: 0538
LEVEL: 9, 10, 11, 12 CREDITS: 10
DURATION: One Year
PREREQUISITES: Minimum grade of “C+” first and second semesters in (P) French III or a minimum grade of “C“ first and second semesters in (P) Honors French III, and/or departmental approval.

DESCRIPTION:

This course continues the development and refinement of language skills with increased emphasis on reading, films, discussion, composition, oral presentations and debate, and culture.

TITLE: (P) AP French Language COURSE NUMBER: 0540
LEVEL: 9, 10, 11, 12 CREDITS: 10
DURATION: One Year
PREREQUISITES: Students need a minimum grade of “B” first and second semesters in (P) French III, or a minimum grade of “B-” first and second semesters in (P) Honors French III, and consent of the instructor.

DESCRIPTION:

AP French Language students will be in the same class as (P) French IV and will carry out all (P) French IV studies and activities. AP French Language students will have additional work consisting of more in-depth mastery and practice of grammatical concepts, as well as a more advanced development of reading, writing, and speaking skills than they would acquire at the (P) French IV level. AP students also will have summer reading prior to taking this course. Students will take the AP exam in May. The AP testing fee is approximately \$87.00.

SPANISH

TITLE: (P) Spanish I COURSE NUMBER: 0512
TITLE: (P) Spanish II COURSE NUMBER: 0522
TITLE: (P) Spanish III COURSE NUMBER: 0532
LEVEL: 9, 10, 11, 12 CREDITS: 10 per course
PREREQUISITES: Level I: Departmental placement.
Level II: Minimum grade of “C-“ in Level I.
Level III: Minimum grade of “C+” in Level II and/or departmental approval. Specific prerequisites may be waived if a student scores appropriately on a departmental placement exam. Eligibility for advancement will be determined by first semester grades. Eligibility must be maintained through the second semester.

DESCRIPTION:

The above courses are organized around communication in the foreign language, cross-cultural and cross-curriculum connections and comparisons, and participation in the local and global communities. Students will develop not only the skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing, but will also become creative, interactive language users.

TITLE: (P) Honors Spanish III COURSE NUMBER: 0533
LEVEL: 11 CREDITS: 10
DURATION: One Year
PREREQUISITES: Minimum grade of “B+” in the first semester and second semester
(P) Spanish II, and/or departmental approval.

DESCRIPTION:

This is an accelerated course designed to continue the development and refinement of language skills with emphasis on grammar and composition, vocabulary building, critical thinking and reading skills, and speaking skills. This course is intended to prepare the students for taking (P) AP Spanish Language. This course will be taught mostly in the target language.

TITLE: (P) Spanish IV or COURSE NUMBER: 0541
TITLE: (P) AP Spanish Language COURSE NUMBER: 0542
LEVEL: 9, 10, 11, 12 CREDITS: 10
DURATION: One Year
PREREQUISITES: (P) Spanish IV requires a minimum grade of “B-” first and second semesters in (P) Spanish III, or a minimum grade of “C” first and second semesters in (P) Honors Spanish III. Students interested in (P) AP Spanish Language need a minimum grade of “B” first semester in (P) Spanish III or a minimum grade of “B-” first semester in (P) Honors Spanish III. Final placement is determined by first and second semester grades and departmental approval.

DESCRIPTION:

This course continues the development and refinement of grammar and language skills with increased emphasis on literature, discussion, composition, oral presentations, and culture. Students who enroll in (P) AP Spanish Language will complete extra assignments in first, second, and third quarters and take the AP exam in the fourth quarter. AP testing fee is approximately \$87.00.

TITLE: (P) AP Spanish Literature COURSE NUMBER: 0544
LEVEL: 11, 12 CREDITS: 10
DURATION: One Year
PREREQUISITES: Minimum grade of “B-” first semester and second semester in (P) Spanish for Native Speakers III, “B-” in Honors III, or “B” in (P) AP Spanish Language.
Final placement is determined by the first semester and second semester grades and departmental approval.

DESCRIPTION:

This course requires and prepares the student for the AP exam in Spanish Literature. Course work includes the critical analysis of selected works by the required authors. This class will be taught in Spanish. Students will discuss and write about these works using appropriate terminology and take the AP exam in May. AP testing fee is approximately \$87.00.

WORLD LANGUAGES – SUMMER SCHOOL

Spanish I and Spanish II Review in Summer School

In general, these classes are recommended for any student weak in Level I or II. In some classes, students who do not meet the prerequisites to advance in Spanish may re-establish eligibility by receiving a “C” or higher in summer school at Mercy. This requires departmental approval. Parents and students will be notified if such a situation arises.