

But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true for you know you can trust those who taught you. 2 Timothy 3:14

GRACE

PREP HIGH SCHOOL

2008-2009 COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE

DESIGNING YOUR EDUCATION



Prepare yourself for a pleasant surprise...prepare to love to learn! If you're learning in a way that's right for you, you'll enjoy it. As a Grace Prep student you will have your own uniquely designed educational experience.

It all begins with *Extreme Grace*. Your first few days of school will be spent discovering God's unique design in you. You might want to leave your backpack, pencils and paper at home. *Extreme Grace* may include white water rafting, spelunking (that's cave exploration for you rookies), rock climbing, kayaking or many other adventures. You get the idea. We're going to "brave it"! Between adventures, you'll be attending sessions on subjects such as spiritual gift testing, DISC personality profiling, life passions inventories and other great tools to establish a foundation for your education. You'll also be participating in team building activities and getting to know your teachers and fellow students.

The bottom line is that we want to get you on track and keep you on track to graduate prepared for life!

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Grace Prep has two diploma options. You will work with your advisor and your parents to decide which one is best for you based on your future plans and goals (your official choice will be made at the beginning of your junior year). Here are the options and the number of credits needed to graduate for each one:

Honors Diploma (31 credits):

English:	4	Bible:	3
Science:	4	Physical Education:	1
History:	4	Health:	1
Math:	4	Electives:	5
World Language:	4	Air School:	1

General Diploma (28 credits):

English:	4	Bible:	3
Science:	3	Physical Education:	1
History:	4	Health:	1
Math:	4*	Electives:	5
World Language:	2	Air School:	1

*Note that state requirements for math credits have changed this year.

In addition to completing the required credit hours, each graduate will have completed a Senior Legacy project. The Senior Legacy is the culminating event of your educational experience at Grace Prep School. A foundational belief of Christian education is that the primary purposes of schooling are to integrate faith and life, to develop a worldview that bears fruit in behavior, and to see all of creation through the lens of the Bible. This is your chance to shine by demonstrating the knowledge you have gained and the maturity you have achieved during your high school career. You will have the opportunity to choose your own area of study (for example, if you have a passion for music, you might research a famous musician and then compose a song written in his or her style) and then use your talents, skills, and creativity to demonstrate that you can read, plan, think, write, speak, meet deadlines, and work with others—all within a Christian worldview.

The four components of the Senior Legacy are as follows:

1. Proposal—a formal presentation to a board of Grace Prep faculty members.
2. Project—defined and created by you and your mentor and approved by the board.
3. Portfolio—compiled throughout the process of your project.
4. Presentation—given in May to a panel of Grace Prep community members that explains your project and showcases all you have learned and done.

At each milestone (the proposal, project, portfolio, and presentation), you will be evaluated as follows:

Superior—Your work goes above and beyond the expectations set out for yourself and is exceptional in its quality.

Satisfactory—Your work meets all the requirements of the Senior Legacy.

Unsatisfactory—You have not yet met the requirements of the Senior Legacy.

If you get an unsatisfactory rating on any portion of the project, you must rework that portion and resubmit it until you earn a satisfactory rating. The satisfactory rating allows you to advance to the next part of the project.

For more information on the projects and what they entail, please request a Senior Legacy Handbook at the front office.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Grace Prep offers a full slate of educational options that enable graduates to meet and exceed all Pennsylvania requirements for graduation. All of our courses, however, are taught through the lens of a biblical worldview. On top of state requirements, we hope you'll find lots of intriguing extra opportunities.

The following outlines the basic classes offered at Grace Prep and a few of our electives. Not every course will be offered every year, but this will give you a good idea of the classes that you will be able to take during the course of your time at Grace Prep.

BIBLE

Graduation Requirement: 3 credits

APOLOGETICS (Required) .5 CREDIT

In this course students will study scripture concerning the defense of their faith, grounding each student in his/her biblical beliefs. Students will become knowledgeable in current philosophies and demonstrate an ability to give reasoned biblical answers to the philosophies and issues in our world today. They will come to an understanding of various counterfeit religions and false world philosophies as they relate to biblical christianity. Through readings, projects, videos, lectures, assignments and discussion they will develop biblical apologetic skills. Students will be encouraged to pray for one another, developing a love and unity among the class and a compassion for their entire world.

PHILOSOPHY & WORLDVIEW (Required) .5 CREDIT

This class will help students clearly understand the tenets of the Christian worldview, and how they compare with the tenets of the leading humanistic worldviews of our day—Secular Humanism, Marxism, New Age, Islam, and Postmodernism. Some of the issues covered include: abortion, evolution, euthanasia, feminism, homosexuality, naturalism, moral relativism, pluralism, and socialism. Other key subjects covered by this class will be apologetics, cults, communication, relationships, and Christian leadership.

EXPLORING THE BIBLE: OLD & NEW TESTAMENT (Required) .5 CREDIT EACH

In these courses, students will journey through the Old and New Testaments. Students will learn the techniques of proper Bible study and how to use tools such as concordances and lexicons. They will also watch and critique several movies that deal with Biblical stories. However, much of the learning for these classes will come through the students' research and discussion of the Scriptures. They will answer questions such as: "Why did God allow David and Solomon and other kings to have several wives and concubines?" "Is it scientifically possible for Jonah to have been swallowed by a whale?" "Why do Luke and Mathew list different genealogies for Jesus?" and "What will our bodies be like in heaven?" These classes will tackle the difficult and interesting questions that come with reading God's word.

FINANCIAL PEACE (Required of seniors) .25 CREDIT

Following Dave Ramsey's popular and fun curriculum, this class will teach students Biblical principles of finances. From explaining the danger of credit cards to learning how to create a budget, and the amazing mathematics of compound interest, students will be prepared to live life in financial peace.

CHRISTIAN BASICS .25 CREDIT

This course introduces students to the basics of Christianity and utilizes the curriculum designed by AlphaUSA. In this course, students are encouraged to bring any and all questions about Christianity. The curriculum centers on questions such as: Who is Jesus? How do I pray? and How does God guide us? This course is recommended for students who are new Christians or who want to deepen their understanding of Christianity in a completely open atmosphere.

DISCIPLESHIP .5 CREDIT

This course teaches students what it means to be a follower of Christ. They will learn the three prerequisites Christ gave to disciples as well as the characteristics disciples of Christ should possess. They will then be guided to use the Scriptures to discuss lifestyle issues such as marriage and divorce, gender issues, use of media, issues of war, etc. They will also look at spiritual gifts, vocation, and how to become disciple makers.

GREAT BOOKS

.25 CREDIT

This course will be based on the study and discussion of great devotional works. From Augustine's *Confessions* to A.W. Tozer's *Pursuit of God*, students will be challenged by those men and women who walked closely with God. Each class will decide which books they want to read and discuss.

HEALTH

Graduation Requirement: 1 credit

PRINCIPLES OF HEALTHY LIVING I & II (Required)

.5 CREDIT EACH

In these courses, students will discuss God's plan for mental and physical well being including nutrition, fitness, stress management, decision-making processes, first aid, family relationships, and human sexuality, as well as drug, alcohol and tobacco prevention. In addition, students will discuss God's plan for spiritual well being including prayer, meditation, fasting, fellowship, tithing, and obedience. Students will use *The Body Life Journal* to learn how to achieve optimum success in life based on their spiritual gifts and natural personality tendencies.

ENGLISH

Graduation Requirement: 4 credits

ENGLISH 9

1 CREDIT

This introductory course lays a strong grammatical foundation for expository writing in the study of parts of speech, parts of the sentence, phrases, and clauses. Students will also receive strategies for improving their writing and the development of thesis-driven essays. The understanding of language will be augmented with classic works of literature from various genres, authors, and time periods. Students will read Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird*, Enger's *Peace like a River*, Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, and Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*. Through the study of these works and outside reading, students will engage in analyzing literature and exploring their own worldview in the context of these authors.

AMERICAN LITERATURE

1 CREDIT

Students will explore America's history through the development of its literature. Students will also enjoy American poetry and classics such as Miller's *The Crucible*, Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*, Twain's *Huckleberry Finn*, and Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* while they continue to develop their literary analysis skills, SAT vocabulary knowledge, and presentation skills.

BRITISH LITERATURE

1 CREDIT

In this challenging course, students will develop an appreciation for creativity and story within the British Literature canon. Students will read masterpieces such as *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, Shakespeare's *The Tempest* or *Hamlet*, Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, Orwell's *1984*, Huxley's *Brave New World* and works read outside class. Students will learn to identify and appreciate God's use of story and humankind's imitation of the divine story. Students will also learn to write clearly, convincingly, and thoughtfully as they prepare for personal writing, SAT exams, college-level courses, and career writing. *Two prior English credits are required for this course.*

EUROPEAN LITERATURE

1 CREDIT

This advanced-level course builds on the foundations of study as presented in previous literature courses at Grace Prep. Students will practice composition, literary analysis, rhetorical evaluation, research practices, and craft expository and narrative essays. Reading will include classic works of the Western canon, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Night*, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, *The Hiding Place*, a play by Shakespeare and other works. Students will consider issues such as oppression, manners,

male and female roles, heroism, and happiness, and will build upon previous knowledge, and crafting expository and narrative essays. *Two prior English credits are required for this course.*

CLASSIC LITERATURE

1 CREDIT

In this advanced-level course, students will study the foundational works of the Western canon and work to develop skills in composition, literary analysis, rhetorical evaluation, research practices, and expository and narrative essay writing. Reading will include classic works of literature such as Homer's *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*, Virgil's *Aeneid*, Dante's *Inferno*, and Shakespeare's *The Tempest* or *Hamlet*, as well as outside reading. Students will be building upon the Grace Prep curriculum of literary analysis, composition, presentation, and vocabulary development. *Two prior English credits are required for this course.*

AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

1 CREDIT

This course is designed to fulfill the requirements of a university-level course and will provide workload challenges consistent with an undergraduate humanities/English literature course. Course assignments will include synthesis, expansion, exposition, analysis, argumentation, and revision through brief responses, timed in-class essays, and formal analytical essays. Students will also complete vocabulary and grammar work as assigned. Reading will include *The Good Earth*, *The Brothers Karamazov*, a play by Shakespeare, and other selections. The curriculum focuses on the continued development of critical analysis, rhetorical evaluation, research practices, and expository and narrative writing as well as preparation for the AP English Literature and Composition test in May. *Three prior English credits are required for this course.*

INDEPENDENT STUDY

1 CREDIT

With approval from a department head and a course facilitator, a student may opt to delve into a particular genre or area of interest. A student may craft a proposal outlining the subject he or she plans to explore. Proposals must include a list of appropriate works of literature and intended goals for research and writing. Students may coordinate independent studies with other academic departments with administrative approval. *Two prior English credits are required for this course.*

MATHEMATICS

Graduation Requirement: 4 credits

ALGEBRA I

1 CREDIT

This course is designed to extend students' arithmetic understandings into more formal algebraic understandings. A main goal of the course is to help students gain a deep understanding of algebra as well as developing their critical thinking skills. Also, content will be addressed in a manner that enables students to work fluently between tabular, graphical, verbal, and symbolic representations. Major course topics will include symbols and expressions, linear equations, quadratic equations, functions, algebra of polynomials. Extensive use will be made of the TI-89 computer algebra system.

GEOMETRY

1 CREDIT

This course is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of Euclidean geometry. A main goal of the course is to help students develop their skills in both deductive and inductive reasoning. Using The Geometer's Sketchpad, dynamic geometry software, students will create their own geometric constructions and formulate the mathematics to describe relationships they discover. Student attempts to explain the validity of their conjectures will lead to the development of proof. Major course content will involve geometric representations, reasoning in geometric situations, similarity, congruence, and right triangle trigonometry, circles, three-dimensional geometry, and probability and probability distributions.

ALGEBRA II

1 CREDIT

This course is designed to extend students' understanding well beyond their Algebra I experience. In Algebra I, linear and quadratic functions were studied extensively. By the end of Algebra II, students will have added polynomial, exponential and rational functions to this list. Major course content will involve systems of linear equations/inequalities, extending the number system, and function prototypes and transformations. Extensive use will be made of the TI-83+/84 graphing calculator and possibly the TI-89 computer algebra system.

PRECALCULUS

1 CREDIT

This course is designed to ensure that students have an understanding of the necessary prerequisite skills and concepts to be successful in a first-year calculus course. Students will study trigonometry as well as advanced function and graphing topics such as logarithms, polar coordinates, complex numbers, and conics. Extensive use will be made of the TI-83+/84 graphing calculator.

STATISTICS

1 CREDIT

This course is designed to acquaint students with the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from the data. The four broad conceptual themes of the course are exploring data, planning a study, anticipating patterns, and statistical inference. Students will frequently work on projects involving the hands-on gathering and analysis of real world data. Concepts, data, and computations presented in this course have immediate connections with actual events. Also, computers and calculators will enable students to focus deeply on the concepts involved in statistics. *Prior completion of Algebra II is required for this course.*

APPLIED CALCULUS

1 CREDIT

This course is designed to provide students with a clear understanding of the ideas of calculus as a solid foundation for subsequent courses. An application-based approach is used with problems and concepts coming from the areas of business and science. When appropriate, topics are presented numerically, analytically, geometrically, and verbally. Major course content will involve the study of limits, derivatives, and integrals.

SCIENCE

Graduation Requirement: 3 credits (4 for Honors Diploma)

BIOLOGY I

1 CREDIT

In this introductory course, students will explore God's creation of living things including the structure and function of cells, chemical reactions that fuel life processes, genetics, microbiology, physiology, and ecology. Class discussions address both Christian and secular ideas related to biology such as creation, evolution, and modern application of scientific technique. Students are encouraged to understand and evaluate God's calling to be good stewards of this earth as they employ scientific methodology, authentic laboratory procedures, and creative applications of classroom explorations.

CHEMISTRY

1 CREDIT

In this advanced-level class, students will explore God's creation of matter and how it changes under physical and chemical influences. Emphasis will be placed on how chemistry relates to students' everyday lives. Topics include: elements, the Periodic Table, compounds, mixtures, acids and bases, salts, gases, and the properties of water. Students will solve authentic problems by employing effective laboratory techniques and participating in class discussions. Demonstrations and laboratory activities are an integral part of the course.

BIOLOGY II

1 CREDIT

The study of biology ranges from the microscopic realm of cells and molecules to the global scale of the biosphere. In Biology II students will look at life on all of these levels. After a brief introduction to scope of Biology and a quick review of cell theory, the class will dive into the cell to explore the mechanism of inheritance and genetics. Students will then use this knowledge to discuss evolution and creation. The study of human anatomy and physiology will explore life at the level of an individual organism. Finally, the unit on ecology will illustrate biological systems at the environmental and global level. Through the study of life at various levels of organization, students will develop a sense of awe and admiration for the Creator and His creation. *Biology I and Chemistry are required for this course.*

PHYSICS

1 CREDIT

Students will learn to apply the laws by which God governs and operates the physical universe to solve authentic problems involving motion, mechanics, waves, optics, electricity, radioactivity and nuclear power. During this advanced science course, emphasis will be placed on how physics relates to both the universe and students' everyday lives. Demonstrations and small group laboratory activities are an integral part of this course.

ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY

1 CREDIT

Students will partake in an in-depth study of the structure and function of the miraculous human body. Special attention will be given to the integumentary, skeletal, muscular, nervous, endocrine, cardiovascular, immune, respiratory, digestive, lymphatic, urinary, and reproductive systems. This advanced class will prepare students for medical fields as well as for practical wellness.

ZOOLOGY

1 CREDIT

This highly interactive and intense advanced-level course integrates the foundational sciences such chemistry, physics, biology, and also mathematics for an in-depth study of animals and their environments. Students will study the histology, classifications, anatomy, and physiology of animals in this course.

HISTORY

Graduation Requirement: 4 credits

WORLD HISTORY

1 CREDIT

Students will focus on the formation of societies from the ancient world to the modern era, focusing on civilizations and their religions, geography, and cultural awareness. History will come alive through projects, lectures, current events assignments, primary sources, interactive discussion, research, and critical analysis.

U.S. HISTORY

1 CREDIT

Students will explore the history of the United States from Colonization to the present, including the development of the United States Constitution, the Civil War, and America in the 19th and 20th centuries. Students will also investigate how America's government and economy have impacted our society and world.

HISTORY OF RELIGION IN WESTERN CIVILIZATION

1 CREDIT

Students focus on the development of the Christian church from its conception to modern times as reflected in its life, thought, institutions, leaders, and literature. Students will be equipped to understand and explain their Christian heritage through an intense study of communities of believers,

from the early Christian era, to Roman and Eastern Orthodoxy, to the Protestant Reformation and the proliferation of denominations through the twentieth century.

GLOBAL POLITICS (*Offered and required during each election year*) 1 CREDIT

Students will explore the key concepts that have shaped the American political experience, including constitutional development. An intensive study of the government's structure, purpose, and key players prepares students to understand and follow the current election. The second half of the year will explore the political struggles that have shaped the modern era. Guest speakers, class discussions, role-playing, and research equip students to understand, evaluate, and participate in the political process as responsible citizens.

HISTORY ELECTIVE .5 CREDIT

History electives vary from Military Diorama to Historical Biography. These classes will give an opportunity for those that love history to investigate it in a hands-on and discussion-based atmosphere.

WORLD LANGUAGE

Graduation Requirement: 2 credits (4 for Honors Diploma)

FUNDAMENTALS OF SPANISH (SPANISH I) 1 CREDIT

In this class students will get a strong foundation in the Spanish language that will enable them to listen, read, write and speak in the language at a beginning level. The course will deal with basic vocabulary, grammatical structures, communication skills and pronunciation. In addition, students will gain exposure to the cultures and customs of many Spanish-speaking countries. Students will also begin to develop basic statements of faith in order to minister to and communicate with Spanish-speaking people.

INTERMEDIATE SPANISH (SPANISH II) 1 CREDIT

In this class students will build upon the basic knowledge that they already have of the Spanish language. They will continue to develop their vocabulary and grammar skills and they will also begin to use more complex tenses and structures. Authentic materials will be used in order to gain more exposure to the language in its most natural form and setting. Students will also continue practicing the skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening in this class. The class will also allow students to continue to learn and practice the language needed to present the gospel to, and share the love of Christ with, people in the Spanish-speaking world.

REAL WORLD SPANISH (SPANISH III) 1 CREDIT

In this class students will build upon their existing foundation and continue to develop their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in Spanish. A strong emphasis will be placed on speaking the language daily and on more complex grammar structures. In addition, students continue their study of the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries through authentic literature, music, media, and popular culture. Students will also continue to refine their statements of faith in order to minister to Spanish-speaking people.

ADVANCED SPANISH (SPANISH IV) 1 CREDIT

This class will make use of all previous study that students have done. Students in this class will be highly focused on communicating in Spanish and in becoming more advanced in their speaking and comprehension skills. Students will learn sophisticated vocabulary and grammatical structures and practice the use of those elements through the study and production of authentic and natural writings

and presentations. The class will also focus on learning the language and cultural aspects necessary to interact and share their faith with people while in Spanish-speaking countries.

AP SPANISH LANGUAGE

1 CREDIT

This course is designed to give students a college-level experience in the language and to prepare them to take the AP Spanish Language Exam for college credit. Throughout the course, students will expand their interpersonal communication skills in Spanish through daily classroom interactions in the language. Students will also increase and refine their written presentation skills, refine their oral presentation skills, broaden their comprehension skills of written and aural materials, and broaden their understanding of the cultures that comprise the Spanish-speaking world through the study of history, literature, art, music, and current events. These goals will be met through the use of texts, including the Bible, multimedia resources, games and interactive activities. *At least three prior Spanish credits are required for this course.*

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Graduation Requirement: 1 credit

The purpose of Physical Education is to expose students to a healthy, active lifestyle. By ninth grade, most students have a strong sense of what they enjoy...and what they don't. Therefore, Grace Prep Physical Education will be entirely completed as "on assignment," with each student selecting and enrolling in a physical education experience that is enjoyable for him/her. This may include fitness and conditioning; dance and rhythmical activities; individual, dual and team sports; aquatics, and other approved assignments. For example, you could take horse-back riding lessons, enroll in a dance class, take scuba certification, learn archery or participate in after-school team sports options. Grace Prep may offer some PE electives at an additional cost, if any, or the student may enroll in out-of-school courses at their own cost. Students completing out-of-school classes must fill out and return the Physical Education Form in order to receive credit for the course.

Grace Prep plans to offer the following team sports in 2008-2009:

VARSIY SOCCEK

Grace Prep offers a soccer program for both boys and girls in which students may receive PE credit and a varsity letter. Students will learn dribbling, passing and shooting skills and competitive strategies of the world's most-widely played sport. Students who participate as players, score-keepers or managers are available to letter. Only players may receive PE credit unless physical limitations are an issue.

VARSIY BASKETBALL

Grace Prep offers varsity basketball and ladies' varsity basketball programs in which students may receive PE credit and a varsity letter. Students will learn dribbling, passing, and shooting skills as well as competitive strategies. Students who participate as players, score-keepers or managers are available to letter. Only players may receive PE credit unless physical limitations are an issue.

ELECTIVES

Graduation Requirement: 5 credits

Grace Prep has many electives to offer! Each quarter students will be able to choose from several options so that they can take classes that are related to their passions and maybe even try something new and different. The slate of available classes will change each quarter, but will include courses such as the ones below. Note: Each elective is usually worth .25 or .50 credit depending on the number of hours that it meets.

ART:

Art Studio
Illustration
Historical Modeling
Woodworking
Basic Drawing
Basic Painting
Jewelry Making
Photography

PERFORMANCE ARTS:

Drama
Worship Band
Dance
Musical Theater
Music Lessons (with outside instructor)

OTHER:

Cooking & Nutrition
CPR **Required of freshmen*
Speech & Debate
Creative Writing
SAT Prep
Board Game Workshop

SPORTS & REC:

Spinning
Weight Training
Volleyball
Cross-Country Skiing
Kayaking
Climbing

TECHNOLOGY:

Graphic Design
Flash
Dreamweaver
Video Production
Web Design

ACADEMIC:

History Electives
Logic
Rhetoric
Latin
Psychology

AIRSCHOOL

Graduation Requirement: 1 credit

An important part of the Grace Prep experience is attendance on our biannual AirSchool trips. Some AirSchool trips will involve going to fun and interesting places such as Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and New York City, while other trips will be awesome experiences such as surviving in the wild, living with the Amish, and retreating at a Christian camp. All trips will expose students to new, different, educational, and sometimes challenging experiences.

Because we feel that these experiences are so valuable, we make them a required, credit-bearing part of a student's time at Grace Prep. Students will earn .25 credit each year for attendance on both trips. Students who have a very good excuse for not attending a trip will be required to attend school on those days and complete theme-related work such as reading, research and writing in order to earn the credit.