

Salem Academy

2019-2020 Curriculum Guide



MISSION STATEMENT

Educating girls since 1772, Salem Academy fosters compassionate and creative leaders, prepared for college and life, who chart their paths with character, curiosity, and courage.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Department	Credits Required	Other Information
English	4	An English course (not including Yearbook) must be taken each year.
History	3	United States History is required.
Math	4	Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II are required. Students applying to a UNC system school must take one course considered “above” Algebra II. A math course must be taken each year.
Science	3	Honors Biology and Chemistry are required.
World Language	3	At least two years must be taken in a single language. Most international students who do not speak English as their first language take at least one ESL course based on their placement results.
Physical Education	1	
Religion	.5	
Fine Arts	.5	

Students must have a minimum of 20 credits for graduation, and students must take 5 core courses each semester.

The department course sequences outlined in this guide serve as a framework for typical course selection, and sequence exceptions will be considered on an individual basis. Students who sit for the national AP exam in a Salem Academy course are responsible for the exam fee.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
English I	English II	English III	English IV
Honors English I*	Honors English II*	AP English Language and Composition*	Honors English IV/ Salem College ENG 221*
Yearbook	Yearbook	Yearbook	Yearbook
			College Essay Writing

* Department approval required

English I

Grade 9

Year-long course

English I is a survey of British literature from early Anglo-Saxon epics to contemporary British drama, poetry, and fiction. Students closely analyze and discuss these literary works to further develop their reading comprehension and critical thinking skills and also broaden their vocabularies through the study of words found in the literature they read. Grammar review of parts of speech, phrases, clauses, and sentence constructions leads to practice in careful editing but is aimed at understanding and practicing writing, reading, speaking, and listening with clarity. Writing strong expository paragraphs with focused topic sentences leads to practice in longer academic essays. The process of writing is emphasized through consistent opportunities to practice prewriting and revision skills. MLA formatting and citation guidelines are introduced.

Honors English I

Grade 9

Year-long course

Honors English I is an accelerated survey of British literature from early Anglo-Saxon epics to contemporary British drama, poetry, and fiction. Students closely analyze and discuss these literary works to further develop their reading comprehension and critical thinking skills and also broaden their vocabularies through the study of words found in the literature they read. Grammar review of parts of speech, phrases, clauses, and sentence constructions leads to practice in careful editing but is aimed at understanding and practicing writing, reading, speaking, and listening with clarity. Writing strong expository paragraphs with focused topic sentences leads to practice in longer academic essays. The process of writing is emphasized through consistent opportunities to practice prewriting and revision skills. MLA formatting and citation guidelines are introduced. Placement in this course is determined by middle school English/Language Arts grades, writing sample, and scores on the reading comprehension and verbal sections of the SSAT.

English II**Grade 10****Year-long course**

English II consists of a broad survey of World Literature, focusing both on breadth across region and era. It explores 20th century African literature, the legacy of colonization, and the post-colonial novel. It examines poetry and drama of the Greek and Roman classical past, and students read the poetry and short stories of the modern Middle East and India. Students also read and discuss Latin American literature and the poetic traditions of Japan and China. The course concludes with a survey of non-Anglophone European literature from the Middle Ages to the present. As part of this survey, students engage primary and secondary source argument as they build their research skills. They try out an expanding range of critical language and evaluate and critique scholarly and cultural documents that they identify. Quarters typically begin with a short in-class essay and proceed to longer revised essays and creative group projects.

Honors English II**Grade 10****Year-long course**

Honors English II consists of an accelerated investigation of dynamic and diverse literature from Africa, Europe, ancient Greece and Rome, the Middle East, Latin America, and Asia. Students examine and debate a range of genres including novels, plays, poetry, epic, short stories, essays, memoirs, and secondary scholarly argument. Class discussion is often student-driven, and students are encouraged to incorporate key critical terms into their collective examination of literature and culture. Student research and writing focuses on gaining familiarity with the ability to evaluate and critique sources and build research into student writing. Students begin the quarter with an in-class essay and progress towards longer revised essays and creative group presentations. Students qualify for this class based on grades in previous Salem Academy English courses, teacher recommendation, writing sample, and PSAT scores.

English III**Grade 11****Year-long course**

This course consists of a broad survey of American literature, beginning with works published in the seventeenth century and culminating with writing published within the last twenty years. Students read a variety of literary genres, spanning fiction and nonfiction works, and they closely analyze and discuss these works, both individually and in comparison to each other, to further develop their reading comprehension and critical thinking skills. Analysis of the literature focuses especially on how authors use craft techniques, such as figurative language and irony, in order to express themes. The social, historical, and biographical contexts of the works are also studied.

Additionally, English III prepares students for the SAT and ACT. The essays for each test are studied and practiced, and students continue to refine key skills needed for the tests, such as understanding vocabulary through context. Writing is also a central component of the class. Students write for a variety of purposes and audiences, and they learn about and practice each stage of the writing process, from initial brainstorming to final revision. The most significant writing focus concerns the spring semester research paper. Students learn MLA guidelines, develop a topic, gather and evaluate resources, create an outline, and then write and revise first and final drafts.

AP English Language and Composition Grade 11**Year-long course**

AP English Language is a year-long college level course developed around the study of rhetoric and persuasive writing skills. The course focuses on argumentation and the analysis of argument. Students learn to effectively examine the nature and history of the English essay, to read broadly among a variety of authors, rhetorical purposes, and eras, and to employ the fundamentals of sound argumentation. Students develop these skills through a study of expository, analytical, personal, and argumentative works from a variety of authors and historical contexts. Students study essays, letters, speeches, and visual media, including photographs, films, advertisements, and comic strips, with an eye for rhetorical and logical strategies. Through both reading and writing, students increase their awareness of the ways that the interaction between a writer's purpose, audience, and subject contribute to effective writing. Students qualify for this class based on grades in previous Salem Academy English courses, teacher recommendation, writing sample, and PSAT scores.

English IV**Grade 12****Year-long course**

English IV consists of two semester-long courses that explore a specific theme, topic, era, or genre, such as Literary Mysteries, Modernism, and Renaissance Literature. Students take one course during the fall semester and one course in the spring semester to complete the year-long requirement of English IV. In the courses, students will continue to improve their critical reading, writing, and verbal communication skills via a variety of assessments. Students in every fall semester English IV course complete a formal research paper, which serves as the foundation of their Chapel Talk at the start of spring semester. Both the research paper and Chapel Talk are graduation requirements.

Honors English IV/Salem College English 221 Grade 12**Year-long course**

The advanced level of senior English is offered in two single semester classes, and both classes are required. In addition to a unique literary focus each semester, students write a research paper in the fall semester and prepare a Chapel Talk script that they present to the student body in the spring semester. Literary scholarship and critical theory are also introduced and studied to further develop reading comprehension and critical thinking skills. Students qualify for this class based on grades in previous Salem Academy English courses, teacher recommendation, a writing sample, and PSAT scores.

Honors English IV: Twentieth Century Women's Literature**Fall semester**

Honors English IV focuses on prominent modern and contemporary women writers from around the world. Students read a variety of genres in both fiction and nonfiction, including *Mrs. Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf and *The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy. The historical, cultural, and biographical contexts of the works are studied, in conjunction with how the authors use craft techniques to express theme. Additionally, literary scholarship is introduced as another tool for analysis, allowing students to further refine their reading comprehension and critical thinking skills. In preparation for spring semester, discussions become more student driven, culminating in a final project in which students teach their peers about a specific author and one of her literary works.

Salem College English 221: Man, Morality, and Madness**Spring semester**

This course is taught at Salem Academy as a college-level literature course. Upon completion, students will receive credit from Salem Academy as well as three credit hours from Salem College. As a special topics course, English 221 focuses exclusively on the theme of *Man, Morality, and Madness*. Students consider individual morality of characters and how this relates to the morals and laws of a larger community as well as the use of madness as a technique by authors to critique the societies in which they live. Students also use a variety of tools to develop their interpretations of the literature, including literary craft techniques; social, historical, and biographical contexts; literary scholarship; and critical theory, such as Postcolonial Theory, Gender Studies, and New Historicism and Criticism. Course texts include *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Beloved* by Toni Morrison, *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare, and *As I Lay Dying* by William Faulkner. The semester exam is required of all students.

College Essay Writing**Grade 12****One semester course**

College Essay Writing is a semester-long course that meets one period each week in the fall semester. This course is designed to provide students with hands-on, step-by-step guidance for writing a well-crafted college admissions essay. Students will learn strategies for creating a dynamic personal profile that smoothly translates into a specific, engaging essay that allows admissions committees to read and “hear” Salem students’ authentic, unique voices. Students will maintain a Digital Writing Portfolio capturing their writing process from beginning to final draft, and each student will receive a Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory upon completion of the course.

Yearbook**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12****Year-long course**

Yearbook is a year-long course designed to provide students with journalism expertise and the ability to apply those skills to the actual production of Salem Academy’s yearbook, *Quill Pen*. The curriculum will consist of interactive lessons covering all aspects of creating a yearbook. Units of study will include staff management through team building, design principles, the art of interviewing, storytelling, copywriting, photojournalism, strategic marketing, editing, AP Style Rules, and Yearbooks and the Law. This course will meet for two periods each week. Students will earn a letter grade in this .25 credit course.

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
European History	Nonwestern Cultures	United States History	Dual Enrollment World History*
Honors European History*	Honors Nonwestern Cultures*	AP United States History*	Honors Renaissance History
		Honors Women's Studies I and II (1 sem each)	Honors Women's Studies I and II (1 sem each)
		Government (1 sem)	Government (1 sem)
		Economics (1 sem)	Economics (1 sem)

* Department approval required

European History

Grade 9

Year-long course

The class begins with a study of Ancient Ireland, Greece, and Rome and progresses through the Medieval Age. Second semester begins with disasters, including plague, schism, and warfare, all of which indirectly lead to the Renaissance. Students progress through Absolutism and the French Revolution, and if time allows, move towards World War I. Throughout, students study art history as the cultural foundation of Western Civilization. Students achieve understanding through lectures, PowerPoint presentations, discussion, and written reflection. Duiker and Spielvogel's *World History* is the primary textbook.

Honors European History

Grade 9

Year-long course

Honors European History will be offered, based on test scores, to challenge students through advanced critical thinking and writing assignments beyond what is done in the regular European History sections. Duiker and Spielvogel's *World History* is the primary textbook. Students qualify for this class based on a writing sample and scores on the reading comprehension and verbal sections of the SSAT.

Nonwestern Cultures course

Grade 10

Year-long course

This course is a survey of the history of the peoples of Africa, Asia, and Latin America. It is a broad subject encompassing politics, economics, and world religions. The course aims to help students develop an understanding of global history and to relate the past to the present. Students are required to stay informed about current events as they hone study skills including critical reading, writing, and debating. Duiker and

Spielvogel's *World History* is the primary textbook.

Honors Nonwestern Cultures

Grade 10

Year-long course

This course is an advanced survey of the history of the peoples of Africa, Asia, and Latin America. It is a broad subject encompassing politics, economics, and world religions. The course aims to help students develop an understanding of global history and to relate the past to the present. Students are required to stay informed about current events as they hone study skills including critical reading, writing, and debating. Duiker and Spielvogel's *World History* is the primary textbook. The honors level course includes additional primary source readings and essay assignments in each quarter. Students qualify for this class based on grades in previous Salem Academy history courses, writing sample, teacher recommendation, and PSAT scores.

Honors Renaissance History

Grades 11, 12

Year-long course

This honors course uses the text *A Short History of Renaissance and Reformation Europe, Fourth Edition: Dances over Fire and Water*, by Jonathan W. Zophy. Students will examine the Renaissance and the Protestant Reformation as a remarkable pas de deux crossing the European map between 1300 and 1700. From humanism to classicism, from discovery to loss, from patronage to protest, the dance spread out of Italy and Flanders, eventually arriving in England. Pivotal events, discoveries, and people, including the emerging voices of women, will be studied often through primary sources. This class will truly be immersed in the finer things of life, wrought on the backs of those less fortunate. Students will discuss and reflect upon these and other ideas in a quest for beauty and truth.

United States History

Grade 11

Year-long course

United States History is a college-preparatory survey course that covers the history of the United States from European exploration and colonization to late twentieth century America. Special emphasis is placed on making connections between different time periods and events, and the role that women and other minority groups have played in American history. The text for the course is *The American Pageant, Fifteenth Edition*.

AP United States History

Grade 11

Year-long course

AP United States History is an advanced, college-level survey course that covers the history of the United States from the Native American tribes that originally inhabited the United States to twenty-first century America. The course emphasizes critical thinking, essay writing, and the ability to make connections between time periods and events. The course uses two textbooks: *The American Pageant, AP Edition, Sixteenth Edition*, and *United States History: Preparing for the Advanced Placement Examination, 2018 Edition*. Students qualify for this class based on grades in previous Salem Academy history courses, teacher recommendation, and PSAT scores.

Salem College History 103/104: World History Grade 12 Year-long course

This course is taught at Salem Academy as a college-level survey course of human history since the Neolithic Age when humans first began to practice agriculture and animal husbandry. It is a challenging course that focuses on the interaction between diverse human societies throughout the world. Students will develop a greater comparative understanding of the causes and effects of such interactions upon different peoples across the globe. Students will receive credit from Salem Academy as well as six credit hours from Salem College. Both semester exams are required of all students. The primary textbook is Strayer's *Ways of the World*. Students qualify for this class based on grades in previous Salem Academy history courses, teacher recommendation, and PSAT scores.

Honors Women's Studies Grades 11, 12 One semester courses

Women's Studies is offered in two semesters. Students may take one or both semesters. Each is an honors course with an emphasis on writing and independent work. The course utilizes documentaries, primary source readings, and outside speakers. Students will be expected to keep up with current events as they relate to women's issues and to complete a research presentation in each semester.

Women's Studies I: Introduction to Women's Studies Fall semester

This semester-long course focuses on the representations of women now and in the past. It examines patriarchal traditions and stereotypes of women from antiquity to today. Students will study some notable women of history, famous for breaking out of traditional roles for women.

Women's Studies II: Women's Rights Movements Spring semester

Beginning with the Enlightenment, this semester-long course focuses on the movements which have enabled women to become leaders in education, business, and politics. Students will study the leaders of the women's rights movements from the nineteenth century to today as well as the challenges currently facing women throughout the world.

Government Grades 11, 12 One semester course

Government is a one semester elective course that examines the founding, organization, and operations of the United States government. The course will examine the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the federal government, the workings of state and local governments, the influence of special interest groups and the news media, and the workings of American elections, especially presidential campaigns. The text for the course is Magruder's *American Government*.

Economics**Grades 11, 12****One semester course**

Economics is a one semester elective course that emphasizes the practical aspects of the American economic system. Prominent features of American capitalism, such as the workings of the stock market and credit cards, are examined in detail. The course also examines international trade and its impact on the American economy, the law of supply and demand, the workings of the Federal Reserve System, and the role that banks play in our economic system. The text for the course is *Demystifying Economics: The Student-Friendly Textbook*.

MATH DEPARTMENT

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II Honors Algebra II*	Pre-Calculus Honors Pre-Calculus* Honors Computer Science Principles AP Statistics*
Geometry	Algebra II Honors Algebra II*	Pre-Calculus Honors Pre-Calculus* Honors Computer Science Principles AP Statistics*	Honors Pre-Calculus* Honors Computer Science Principles AP Statistics* Math 100 - Calculus I* AP Calculus AB*
Algebra II Honors Algebra II*	Pre-Calculus Honors Pre-Calculus* Honors Computer Science Principles	Honors Pre-Calculus* Honors Computer Science Principles AP Statistics* AP Calculus AB*	Honors Computer Science Principles AP Statistics* Math 100 - Calculus I* AP Calculus AB* AP Calculus BC*
Pre-Calculus Honors Pre-Calculus*	Honors Computer Science Principles AP Calculus AB*	Honors Computer Science Principles AP Statistics* AP Calculus AB* AP Calculus BC*	Honors Computer Science Principles AP Statistics* Math 100 - Calculus I* AP Calculus AB* AP Calculus BC*

* Department approval required

Students applying to a UNC system university must complete one course considered “above” Algebra II. Honors Computer Science Principles does not meet this requirement.

Algebra I

Grade 9

Year-long course

Algebra I is a required course usually taken in the ninth grade. This first course in algebra helps students develop an understanding of the properties of the real number system and basic algebraic concepts. Algebra I is an introduction to algebraic concepts including directed numbers; simplifying expressions; factoring; solving linear, quadratic, radical, and fractional equations; operations with exponents, radicals, and rational expressions; inequalities; linear systems; and techniques of graphing.

Geometry**Grades 9, 10****Year-long course**

A required course that follows Algebra I, Geometry is an introduction to geometric concepts and reasoning through formal proof and informal investigation and discovery. Students learn to visualize and analyze geometric relationships in two and three dimensions and to develop inductive and deductive reasoning skills. The course also fosters an appreciation for the structure of mathematics; it uses examples of various geometric designs, structures, and architecture from around the world. Topics covered include deductive reasoning, properties of angles, parallel lines and planes, congruent triangles, similar polygons, right triangle relationships, circles, areas and volumes, and coordinate geometry.

Algebra II/Honors Algebra II**Grades 9, 10, 11****Year-long course**

A required course that follows Geometry, Algebra II is a continuation of the study of algebraic concepts including a study of linear, quadratic, rational, and polynomial functions; systems of equations; complex numbers, conics, and right trigonometry. The Honors section is an accelerated course with an emphasis on independent learning and problem solving. Honors students complete all previously mentioned topics as well as introduction to right and circular trigonometry and statistics. Additionally, students apply their mathematical talent through various projects. Prerequisites include successful completion of Algebra I and Geometry as well as recommendation of current math teacher.

Pre-Calculus**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12****Year-long course**

In this course, students will complete a review of algebra skills as well as extensive work with functions and their graphs, analysis of graphs, conics, solving systems of equations, trigonometry, and probability. Students will also be introduced to limits. Technology is used for exploration, instruction, and assessment. Algebra II is a prerequisite for this course.

Honors Pre-Calculus**Grades 10, 11, 12****Year-long course**

Honors Pre-Calculus includes in-depth study of advanced functions, analytic geometry, trigonometry and data analysis. Topics covered include analysis of function families, trigonometry (triangular and circular), applications of functions and trigonometry as well as polar relations and introductory Calculus concepts. Technology is used for exploration, instruction and assessment. Sequences, series and vector concepts are covered when time permits. This course is designed for students who plan to take advanced mathematics courses and who have a strong algebra background, since there is not an extensive review of Algebra II. Prerequisites include successful completion of Algebra II or Honors Algebra II and recommendation of the current teacher.

AP Statistics**Grades 11, 12****Year-long course**

AP Statistics is a year-long course offering college credit through the Advanced Placement testing program. The purpose of the AP Statistics course is to introduce students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. This rigorous course covers data analysis, experimental design, probability theory, and statistical inference. The focus is on understanding, building concepts as a foundation for the practice of statistics. This course regularly incorporates real-life applications of actual data collected from current polls, studies, and experiments from around the world, thus increasing students' global awareness and motivation to learn. Prerequisites include successful completion of Algebra II and recommendation of current math teacher.

Honors Calculus / Salem College Math 100: Calculus One Grade 12 Year-long course

This advanced level of senior year math is offered in two single semester classes, and both classes are required. The fall semester Honors Calculus course includes a mathematics review not provided in the Advanced Placement Calculus courses. Prerequisites include successful completion of Pre-Calculus or Honors Pre-Calculus and recommendation of the current math teacher. Descriptions of each semester's course of study are below.

Honors Calculus**Fall semester**

Honors Calculus is primarily concerned with developing the students' understanding of the concepts of limits and introductory differential calculus. The course includes a review of algebra and trigonometry techniques and provides experience with calculus methods and applications connected to limits and introductory derivatives. Calculus-related math history topics are discussed when relevant. The course emphasizes a multi-representational approach to calculus, with concepts, results, and problems being expressed graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally. The connections among these representations are emphasized.

Math 100: Calculus I**Spring semester**

Math 100: Calculus I is a course designed to explore the three main concepts of calculus as well as applications of these concepts. The course includes a brief review of limits; in-depth coverage of derivative concepts and applications such as optimization and related rates; as well as in-depth coverage of integral concepts and applications such as net change, area between curves, and volumes of solids. The course emphasizes a multi-representational approach to calculus, with concepts, results, and problems being expressed graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally. Students will receive credit from Salem Academy as well as five credit hours from Salem College. All students are required to take the semester exam. Students may not earn credit for both AP Calculus AB and Math 100: Calculus I.

AP Calculus AB**Grades 11, 12****Year-long course**

AP Calculus AB is a course which develops the student's understanding of the concepts of calculus (functions, graphs, limits, derivatives and integrals) and provides experience with its methods and applications. The course encourages the geometric, numerical, analytical, and verbal expression of concepts, results, and problems.

Having successfully completed this course, the student will be prepared to take the AP Calculus AB exam and to enter second semester college calculus. Prerequisites include successful completion of Honors Pre-Calculus and recommendation of current math teacher.

AP Calculus BC**Grades 11, 12****Year-long course**

AP Calculus BC covers convergence tests for sequences and series, Taylor and/or Maclaurin series, parametric, vector, polar functions, and arc length. In addition, L'Hôpital's rule, improper integrals, inverse trigonometric derivatives, tabular parts integration and the use of partial fractions to integrate rational functions are studied. Students are expected to have a thorough knowledge and strong retention of material covered in previous math courses. Technology, particularly computer algebra systems (CAS), is a key component of the BC course. The consistent use of CAS to explore, interpret, and examine is one way in which the BC course differs from the AB course. Having successfully completed this course, students will be prepared to take the AP Calculus BC exam and enter the third semester of college calculus. Prerequisites include successful completion of AP Calculus AB and recommendation of current math teacher.

COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSES

Honors Computer Science Principles

Grades 11, 12

Year-long course

Honors Computer Science Principles introduces students to the foundational concepts of computer science and challenges them to explore how computing and technology can impact the world. This course goes beyond an introduction to programming by exploring foundational ideas of computing so that all students understand computing concepts and how technology use is transforming the world we live in. As part of this course, students will examine the use of computers and technology in an area of personal interest. Major topics covered include: the Internet, Digital Information, Introductory Programming, Data and Privacy, and Building Apps. This course counts as a math graduation credit.

Robotics Team

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Year-long course

The Robotics Team course includes instruction and hands-on learning in main areas of study related to engineering design, computer-aided design, 3-D printing, JAVA programming, STEM outreach, and robot creation. When appropriate, outside mentors in the fields of engineering, 3-D printing, and computer programming will assist with course instruction. The ultimate goal of the course is to create a robot to compete in the First Tech Challenge competition. Interested students can meet with the Robotics Team sponsors for specific course expectations. This course does not count as a math graduation credit and is graded on a Honors/Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory scale. This course may be taken for multiple years.

Web Design

Grades 10, 11, 12

Semester-long course

In today's world, web pages are a common medium for sharing ideas and information. Learning to design websites is an incredibly useful skill for any career path. The Salem Academy Web Design course is a project-based course that teaches students how to build their own web pages. Students will learn the languages HTML and CSS, and will create their own live homepages to serve as portfolios of their creations. By the end of this course, students will be able to explain how web pages are developed and viewed on the Internet, analyze and fix errors in existing websites, and create their very own multi-page websites. Students will learn the foundations of user interface design, rapid prototyping and user testing, and will work together to create professional, mobile responsive websites. This course meets for 2 periods each week and does not count as a math graduation credit. Students will earn a letter grade in this .25 credit course.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Conceptual Physics	Honors Biology	Chemistry	Chemistry AP Biology*, AP Chemistry*, AP Physics I*, Adv. Environmental Science & Sustainability
Honors Biology*	Chemistry	AP Biology*, AP Chemistry*, AP Physics I*, Adv. Environmental Science & Sustainability	AP Biology*, AP Chemistry*, AP Physics I*, Adv. Environmental Science & Sustainability

*Department approval required

Conceptual Physics

Grade 9

Year-long course

This qualitative study of the fundamental mechanics concepts of physics puts special emphasis on phenomena and events that are familiar to students. The focus is primarily on comprehension of key principles, supplemented by computation at the Algebra I level of mathematics. Laboratory activities are the core of this guided inquiry-based learning process, wherein students analyze and interpret the meaning of data they collect in their observations of systems interacting with their surroundings.

Honors Biology

Grades 9, 10

Year-long course

In this introductory course, students will study the process of science and survey life through the study of major topics including ecology, cellular and molecular biology, genetics, reproduction and development, evolution, biodiversity and the homeostatic mechanisms that maintain organisms and the diversity of life on Earth. A one-period afternoon lab is held weekly. Honors Biology is a required science credit for graduation. Certain qualified ninth grade students may be placed in Honors Biology based on SSAT scores.

Chemistry**Grades 10, 11, 12****Year-long course**

Chemistry is a laboratory-based introductory course that emphasizes basic knowledge of rational thinking as it pertains to understanding and problem solving in the areas of stoichiometry, atomic theory, periodicity, gas laws, phases and phase diagrams, equilibrium, acid/base theory, electrochemistry, thermodynamics, and nuclear chemistry. A one-period afternoon lab is held weekly. The prerequisite is Algebra II; however, with teacher approval, Algebra II may be taken concurrently with Chemistry. This course is required for graduation and may be taken in the eleventh or twelfth grade. Students who complete Honors Biology in ninth grade may enroll in Chemistry in the tenth grade if they meet the Algebra II prerequisite.

AP Biology**Grades 11, 12****Year-long course**

Advanced Placement Biology is the equivalent of a two semester college-level introductory course for students with a strong interest in the sciences or a desire to pursue a career in the sciences. The course covers the material recommended by the College Board and is organized around four major concepts that provide a unified course structure: evolution, the use of energy and matter by organisms, response to stimuli, and interactions within biological systems. A two-period laboratory meets each week to allow for inquiry-based investigations that provide open-ended explorations and the development of critical thinking. Biology and Chemistry are prerequisites with at least a B+ average in each course. Students are prepared to take the AP exam, and college credit may be awarded for scores of 3 or higher. Students who complete Honors Biology in ninth grade may enroll in AP Biology in eleventh grade if they meet the prerequisites.

AP Chemistry**Grades 11, 12****Year-long course**

AP Chemistry is the equivalent of a two semester college-level introductory course for students with a strong interest in the sciences or a desire to pursue a career in the sciences. The course covers the material recommended by the College Board and is organized around six major concepts that provide a unified course structure: chemical elements, chemical and physical properties of matter, changes in matter, rates of chemical reactions, the laws of thermodynamics, and intermolecular attraction. A two-period laboratory meets each week to allow for inquiry-based investigations that provide open-ended explorations and the development of critical thinking. Students who have completed Chemistry (with a B+ or higher average) and Algebra II (with a B+ or higher average) may take this course with the approval of the AP Chemistry instructor. Students are prepared to take the AP exam, and college credit may be awarded for scores of 3 or higher. Students who complete Honors Biology in ninth grade may enroll in AP Chemistry in the eleventh grade if they meet the prerequisites.

AP Physics I**Grades 11, 12****Year-long course**

AP Physics I is a college-level mechanics physics course offered when there is significant student interest. The course focuses on the "big ideas" typically included in the first semester of an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics sequence, and it provides students with enduring understandings to support future advanced coursework in the sciences. Through inquiry-based learning, students will develop critical thinking and reasoning skills, as defined by the AP Science Practices. Preparation for the Advanced Placement Physics I examination is the primary goal of this course. Completion of Algebra II with at least a B+ average and, preferably, Conceptual Physics or its equivalent, are prerequisites. (Course information herein has been adapted from the course and exam description located at: <https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/digitalServices/pdf/ap/ap-physics-1-course-and-exam-description.pdf>)

Advanced Environmental Science and Sustainability **Grades 11, 12** **Year-long course**

Advanced Environmental Science and Sustainability requires the application of knowledge and methods from many other science disciplines to issues and questions relating to the rapidly increasing human population, the sustainability of resource use, problems caused by pollution, and the endangerment and extinction of species and natural systems. This course will provide students with in-depth understanding of the interrelationships of Earth's ecological processes and will equip them to analyze and evaluate environmental issues and potential solutions. This is an upper-level course designed for eleventh- and twelfth-grade students requiring analysis of complex ecological problems using content learned from previous science classes.

WORLD LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

Information for Students

Most students choose to meet the Salem Academy graduation requirement by taking three years of the same world language, but students can also choose to take two years of one world language and one year of a different language. Students new to Salem Academy will have the opportunity to take a placement test to determine appropriate level placement according to Salem Academy's world language curriculum.

Latin I

Grades 9, 10, 11,12

Year-long course

Latin I introduces students to the study of Latin language and Greco-Roman culture. The primary goal is to prepare students to read Latin literature, an integral part of our cultural heritage. Thus, in Latin I, students learn basic functions of grammar and syntax, increase their understanding of English, and become familiar with some cultural elements. The emphasis of Latin I is to develop, acquire, and apply skills in reading and comprehension of adapted Latin passages.

Honors Latin II

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Year-long course

Honors Latin II continues to connect students to the study of Latin language and Greco-Roman culture. The primary goal of Honors Latin II is to prepare students to read Latin literature, an integral part of our cultural heritage. Thus, in Honors Latin II, students learn complex functions of grammar and syntax, increase their understanding of English, become familiar with nuances of language, and develop an increasing awareness of Greco-Roman culture. The students will read adapted Latin passages, and in addition, they will be exposed to authentic selections of Latin literature, poetry, and historic texts, with increased emphasis on proficiency in translation and comprehension skills.

Honors Latin III

Grades 10, 11, 12

Year-long course

Honors Latin III builds upon the grammar and vocabulary that students learn in their first two years while exploring the depth and breadth of Latin literature. The readings will include selections on Rome's early history; poems by Roman writers such as Ovid and Catullus; excerpts from Cicero's prose; and scenes from Roman plays. Students will read from a variety of Latin genres including both prose and poetry. In addition to reading Latin texts by Roman authors, students will carefully analyze the themes, figures of speech, and style of the works they study.

AP Latin Literature**Grades 11, 12****Year-long course**

AP Latin is a literature course that focuses on the poetry of Vergil's Aeneid and the prose of Caesar's Gallic War. Students translate selected episodes of Aeneas's trek from Troy to Italy in Books I, II, IV, and VI of the Aeneid. Students trace Caesar's triumphant procession through Gaul by reading excerpts from Books I, IV, V and VI of the Gallic War. In addition to reading Vergil and Caesar, students will practice sight reading selections from other writers from the Late Republic and Early Empire, including Cicero, Seneca, Martial, and Catullus. The goal is to improve students' Latin fluency while reading two masterpieces of classical literature. Students study Roman history, meter, and poetic devices while reading about the exploits of Aeneas and the conquest of Gaul.

Spanish I**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12****Year-long course**

Spanish I introduces students to the four components of language acquisition: listening, speaking, reading and writing. The goal in the first year is to provide a solid foundation to facilitate language acquisition and to encourage authentic communication in the classroom. The curriculum aligns with the National Standards for Foreign Language Learning. The three essential standards are Interpersonal (person-to-person communication skills), Interpretive (listening and reading), and Presentational (speaking and writing). In order to develop these skills, the curriculum provides a broad inclusion of a wide variety of sources, from texts to media, websites, news broadcasts, and movies, as well as an integrated approach to Ibero-American cultures.

Honors Spanish II**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12****Year-long course**

Building on the foundation set in Spanish I, and in keeping with the National Standards, the goals of Honors Spanish II are to build proficiency and competence so students can hear and read the language, understand it, and speak it so they can be understood. Grammatical structures and extensive vocabulary acquisition are presented within the context of various topics relating to everyday life. Paired conversation activities are consistently used to help students perfect their oral skills. Writing samples include reports and compositions on a variety of topics. Hands-on realia from Ibero-American newspapers, magazines, and films enhance an understanding of culture.

Honors Spanish III**Grades 10, 11, 12****Year-long course**

Students enrolled in Honors Spanish III have demonstrated the ability to handle the rigors of an advanced course of study. While most of the grammar needed for communication is covered in Spanish I and II, the grammar text in Honors Spanish III allows students to correct any deficiencies and to bring together everything they have learned to communicate effectively. A major focus of this course is to enable students to communicate in writing and in extended conversations on a variety of topics. The course also introduces students to literary works by prominent writers of Spain and Latin America and provides in depth study of the target cultures and their influence throughout the world.

Honors Spanish IV**Grades 11, 12****Year-long course**

Students enrolled in Honors Spanish IV have completed three years of Spanish, meeting the three year world language requirement for graduation. They have expressed their desire to continue a more in-depth study of Spanish. The primary goal of the course is to bring students to an advanced level of proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing. Emphasis is on all three modes of communication: Interpretive, Interpersonal, and Presentational. Other goals are to develop better fluency, to improve writing skills, to introduce students to Hispanic literature, and to broaden cultural knowledge. The course is taught entirely in Spanish.

Mandarin I**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12****Year-long course**

Chinese is a fast growing and widely spoken language in the world. Understanding Chinese culture and history helps students open their minds and enrich their understanding of the world. This course introduces students to modern Chinese language and everyday culture. Course materials engage students in four basic skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students learn to recognize and write Chinese characters in the correct order. Basic grammar structure in writing and fluency in speaking are strongly emphasized. Course topics include greetings, family, time and schedule, hobbies, school life, and making friends. Class time is used for conversations, grammar activities, and cultural projects.

Honors Mandarin II**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12****Year-long course**

Honors Mandarin II is designed to develop students' skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing at a faster pace. Honors Mandarin II students will learn to write and type short essays, create skits, and demonstrate understanding of Chinese pop culture. The topics of academic and daily life include ordering food, weather, birthday parties, going to a doctor, and dating. Honors Mandarin II students are required to participate in extracurricular activities such as Chinese tables, Chinese language contests, and International Day. The aim of this course is to prepare students to enter universities well above the lowest offered level of Mandarin Chinese.

Honors Mandarin III**Grades 10, 11, 12****Year-long course**

Honors Mandarin III students must have completed Honors Mandarin II with excellent results and a deep understanding of the Mandarin language. Students are expected to use mostly Mandarin in class, lead discussions, make connections with other subjects, help organize cultural events, and communicate with native speakers in our school community. By the end of this course, students will read and write short articles without the use of pinyin, and will sustain conversations with native speakers in a coherent and fluent manner.

Honors Mandarin IV**Grades 11, 12****Year-long course**

Honors Mandarin IV students must have completed Honors Mandarin III with excellent results and a deep understanding of the Mandarin language. Students will narrate, discuss, and support fairly complex ideas and concepts using concrete facts and topics with details in Mandarin Chinese. Honors Mandarin IV students are expected to lead various activities outside of class in both formal and informal settings. By the end of this course, students will be able to write papers about current events and give oral presentations in an organized way on topics they have researched. Finally, they will be able to use Mandarin Chinese to identify and discuss perspectives of Chinese traditional and contemporary culture with native speakers.

English for International Students**Grades 9, 10****Year-long course**

Designed for international students who do not speak English as their primary language, this class covers five areas: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and culture. All students in this class are enrolled in the online learning ELLoquence program via Blackboard, which provides articles, vocabulary, and writing instructions for students to practice outside of the classroom. Students will develop their critical thinking skills from extensive readings and enhance their speaking and writing skills through hands-on assignments. The goal for ESL students is to understand the academic conventions and various aspects of American culture.

Advanced English for International Students**Grades 9, 10, 11****Year-long course**

Advanced ESL is designed specifically for international students with higher English proficiency. The course will focus on reading and writing English literary articles, TOEFL test preparation, and the development of academic research skills. Students will read, analyze, and discuss topics from the ELLoquence program, in addition to learning about current topics in world affairs. Students will increase their level of oral proficiency with presentations, class discussion, and exercises on public speaking. Students who successfully complete this course should be able to understand descriptive discourse in reading and listening areas and deliver organized and coherent ideas in speaking and writing areas.

RELIGION DEPARTMENT

Students take these courses during either eleventh or twelfth grade. Both of these .25 credit courses must be completed in the same academic year.

Biblical Narratives

Grades 11, 12

One semester course

The Bible has been perhaps the most influential book within the scope of Western history. It originated from a variety of cultures and time periods, and consists of various authors, genres, and writing styles. This course is a broad survey of how the Biblical Narrative came to be in its present form, the key figures in the Narrative, the developmental story of the Jewish and Christian faith communities, and the diverse forms of literature found in the Bible. The class will also explore how the Biblical Narrative has influenced Western society, culture, literature and art.

World Religions

Grades 11, 12

One semester course

A citizen of today's world is truly a global citizen and is impacted by numerous and diverse cultures and religions. This course provides a broad survey of the major world religions, as well as the different forms of faith and practice that have evolved within each one. The class will explore the concept of the religious impulse and how it has been impacted by different cultures and geographical locations. Sacred writings, important figures, and religious practices will be explored. The exploration of each religion will focus on the possibility of interfaith dialogue in a religiously rich and diverse context.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Health

Grade 9

Year-long course

The ninth grade health course is designed to teach students the skills, knowledge, and attitudes essential to live a healthy lifestyle and select healthy and safe behaviors. Through health literacy, self-management skills, and health promotion, the course teaches fundamental health concepts, promotes habits and conduct that enhance health and wellness, and guides efforts to build healthy individuals, relationships, families, and communities. This .5 credit course is required for all freshmen.

Physical Education

Grades 9, 10

Year-long course

The purpose of physical education is to expose students to a basic understanding of fitness and exercise through participation in lifetime and team sports. As ninth and tenth graders, students are required to take physical education two days per week to complete one credit.

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

All fine art classes, unless otherwise noted, are .5 credit courses.

Glee Club

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Year-long course

Glee Club is an advanced choral class and performance ensemble. Students will learn choral singing skills such as music reading, healthy vocal production, ear training, foreign language diction, and performance etiquette. Students are expected to participate fully in class sessions and maintain a binder of all songs, choral pieces and handouts. Glee Club performs a wide variety of women's repertoire in several concerts each year on and off campus. Concert participation is mandatory and takes the place of an exam. Students must also attend two choral concerts/operas/musical theatre shows/voice recitals per semester and submit a written critique.

Music Theory

Grades 11, 12

Year-long course

Music Theory is an academic class designed to compliment the music performance curriculum at Salem Academy. This course prepares students for college music study. Topics include note reading, intervals, time signatures, key signatures, scales, chords, transpositions, score reading and composition. This class is open to eleventh and twelfth graders, contingent on teacher recommendation.

Art Design

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Year-long course

Art design is an introductory level of art, and the focus is to explore, experiment, and enjoy. There is no prerequisite for this course and no prior experience is necessary. Students develop a love for art with a strong foundation in manipulating materials and mastering techniques. Discovery of the elements and principles of 2-D and 3-D design form the basis for all that students create.

Advanced Studio Art

Grades 10, 11, 12

Year-long course

Advanced Studio Art is the second level of art, with a prerequisite of Art Design. Students use their knowledge of elements and principles of design, mediums, and techniques to narrow their individual approach to creating. At this level, students begin to develop drawing skills as preparation for individual work. Each student follows an intensive exploration towards mastering a single focus of either 2-D design, 3-D design or drawing for future portfolio development. Students who wish to continue in art and do not wish to move on to AP Art may repeat Advanced Studio Art.

AP 2-D Design
AP 3-D Design
AP Drawing

Grades 11, 12

Year-long course
(1 credit)

In the highest level of the art program, students utilize knowledge from Art Design and Advanced Studio Art, combined with a portfolio review, to prove mastery of elements and principles of design, composition, and technique. The AP curriculum offers three independent portfolios, and with a passing portfolio score, students may earn three hours of college credit. The 2-D Design portfolio focuses on mastering 2-D design elements and principles; the 3-D Design portfolio focuses on mastering 3-D design elements and principles; and the Drawing portfolio focuses on mark making, a highly developed understanding of proportion and scale, and exploration of positive and negative space. Each independent portfolio consists of three sections: breadth, concentration, and quality. In the breadth section, students begin by demonstrating a wide breadth or variety of previous learning by creating eight to twelve pieces of work. In the concentration section, students develop an idea and bring it to life through twelve works of art, creating a cohesive visual journey. In the quality section, students use their experience from art criticism to choose the five strongest representations of quality from their portfolio of work. These three sections of work are then compiled to submit for AP review and scoring.

*Students may take two portfolio courses and earn up to six college credit hours but are limited to one course per year. Work created in one portfolio cannot be repeated in other portfolios.

Theatre I

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Year-long course

This introduction to theater course gives students the opportunity to experience many different facets of theatre. Students work on beginning acting techniques, mime, improvisations, props/sewing, monologues, theatrical exercises, and scene study, and the class puts on a one-act play for the school during an assembly. Students are required to give ten hours of theatrical work to one of the main stage plays and write a play performance theatre critique each semester. A film critique may be used in place of one, but not both, of the play critiques. This course has no prerequisites.

Advanced Theatre

Grades 10, 11, 12

Year-long course

The Advanced Theater course gives students a chance to act at a higher level and to learn a variety of technical design aspects. This class offers a new curriculum each year involving two or three technical design projects as well as advanced acting techniques. The classes that are offered on a rotating basis are: costume design, set design, musical theatre study, makeup techniques, mask making, radio drama, Shakespeare workshop, directing techniques, and dialects. This class also performs a one-act play for the school and students have the option to become student directors. Students are required to turn in two play critiques per year and to work ten hours on one or both of the main stage plays. Students must complete Theatre I or its equivalent to enroll in this class.

Theatrix**Grade 12****Year-long course**

Theatrix is an advanced theater course that introduces students to audition preparations that can be used with the specific desire to practice acting as a career. Theatrix gives students a chance to study acting unions, work on resumes, prepare audition materials, use a theatre textbook and learn to journal, work with a specific style of acting, and create and perform in a one-woman show. The class meets on an individual basis once a week for a full class period. Students must have completed at least one year of Advanced Theatre and be enrolled in Advanced Theatre at the same time they take the course.

* Main stage plays are only open to students enrolled in Theatre with the exception of semesters when musicals are performed; students enrolled in a choral class may also participate in the musical.