

Union County Educational Services Commission

High School Course Descriptions

Business Education

Courses Offered:

Introduction to Computer Applications
Introduction to Business Management
Graphic Arts
Personal Finance
Real Life Connections
Career Education/Technology I
Career Education/Technology II
Career Education/Technology III
Career Education/Technology IV

Course Descriptions:

Introduction to Computer Applications

Introduction to Computer Applications is a one-year course that will use hands on, project-based, active learning. Students will be able to recognize, interpret, and apply the appropriate applications for specific business and life needs by utilizing MS Office compatible GOOGLE Apps. Students will exhibit their knowledge by creating authentic products for authentic audiences. Units include career readiness, personal financial literacy, and business communications.

Introduction to Business Management

Introduction to Business Management is a one-year course that encompasses business ethics, trade, business law, entrepreneurship, and the concept of greed. The course requires students to read and discuss case studies to discover the roles of labor, management and consumers. Students will employ the Socratic method of question and discussion; participate in project-based learning scenarios; and connect academia to real life events. The culminating activity will reflect the student's ability to recognize and apply the appropriate business concepts for career and life opportunities by creating an authentic product for authentic audiences.

Graphic Arts

This is a project-based course that uses engaging project activities that teach and reinforce graphic arts concepts and desktop publishing skills. Each project is self-created by the student to allow for creative design, technical writing, and expressive thoughts to shine through on their published documents. From designing a license plate to creating an energy drink label, students will be fully engaged and interested in every project included. Each activity is carefully crafted to include current data and information to make learning desktop publishing a fun and interesting skill.

Personal Finance

This course provides a comprehensive study of college and career goals, credit scores, savings, investing, insurance and risk management. Students will participate in activities designed to develop their

understanding of salary, taxes, and net monthly income. Additionally, they will delve into all aspects of what it takes to build and maintain a realistic family budget. Through a hands on project, students will role-play as adults for the day, with an individual family composition, income, and career. They will manage a household budget, making decisions around what they want and what they can afford. They will also make use of a tablet for the day, experiencing hands-on learning in a high-tech environment. All of these activities will take place as they work with corporate and community volunteer role models who share their world of work.

Real Life Connections

Research has demonstrated that students who possess the seven habitudes become passionate fierce learners. They believe they can solve any problem and that no challenge is too great. Regardless of the context and circumstance, they approach problems with an attitude of optimism, persistence, confidence, and resolution to improve the situation. Students with these habitudes can and will change the world. The 21st century world needs learners to be critical, to be creative, and to be strategic. The 21st century world demands citizens do their own thinking. This Real Life Connections course supports Hillcrest Academy North's mission for every student to demonstrate confidence in planning for their future by understanding the importance of exploring the habits of mind (habitudes). Habitudes offer students a path for personal development that leads them to be, to do, and to have what is needed for success in the 21st Century.

Career Education/Technology I

This course is a comprehensive package of business education, family and life skills. Students at this level are provided with the necessary pathways for life experiences while entering into the world of work and/or higher education. This course also supports lifelong learning. CET focuses on academics, applications to life and occupational skills as demonstrated by students' experiences in courses as related to the 16 career clusters supported by the state of New Jersey. CET provides a variety of learning experiences to meet the needs of high school students with many learning styles.

Career Education/Technology II

Using vocational assessments, students will identify and research their vocational preferences and interests. Students will focus on informal interviews, computer software and or reference materials. For example, OOH (Occupational Outlook Handbook), career clusters, and internet sites will be utilized. Students will research, analyze, and explore requirements (tasks) for their preferred occupation. Students will also be well groomed (teeth, face, hands, nails, hair) when they take part in these activities. There is an emphasis on situational assessments. Students will explore different vocational career interests including retail, clerical, animal care, and food service.

Career Education/Technology III

In addition to the vocational components of CET II, students will prepare a personal data sheet listing names, addresses, phone numbers of work experience sites, and personal references. Students will fill out real job applications, supplying all the required information on line, including cover letters and personal resumes. Students will also look at other options to use while searching for job opportunities, listing phone numbers and online sites.

English Language Arts

Course Sequence:

English I
English II
English III
English IV
Technical Writing

Electives:

Creative Writing
Shakespeare

Course Descriptions:

English I

In this course, students will develop reading and writing skills that align with the ELA Common Core State Standards. Students will read a variety of texts--including excerpts from novels, short stories, poems, plays, and informational articles and documents. Students will engage in independent reading based on interest and reading level. Students will also compare works of literature to other forms of multimedia, including art and film. This course will also focus on students' development in writing narrative, argumentative, and explanatory pieces.

English II

In this course, students will continue to develop reading and writing skills that align with the ELA Common Core State Standards. Students will read a variety of works at an increasing level of text complexity--including excerpts from novels, short stories, poems, plays, and informational articles and documents. As students gain confidence in their independent reading, they will be encouraged to take on texts of increasing complexity. In class, students will also compare works of literature to other forms of multimedia, including art and film. This course will also focus on students' continued development in writing narrative, argumentative, and explanatory pieces using research skills. As students progress in their writing skills, they will begin to develop purposeful structure in order to achieve a desired effect.

English III

In English III, students will build upon skills learned in English I and II that align with the ELA Common Core State Standards. Students will read works with at an increasing level of text complexity. Students will continue to read self selected texts, but will also be given required independent reading. In class, students will also read world literature to analyze cultural experiences of people outside of the United States. Courses will also continue to evaluate and analyze works of literature to other forms of multimedia. Students will also continue to develop and craft writing skills for narrative, argumentative, and explanatory pieces. Students in English III will move beyond teacher guidance on length and organization and begin to plan and implement these decisions independently.

English IV

In English IV, students will build upon skills learned in English I, II and III that align with the ELA Common Core State Standards. In this course, students will perfect the skills learned in English I, II, and III, while also preparing for college and career. Students will continue to build their skills as independent learners by engaging in research for literary analysis and argumentative topics. In this course, students will delve deeper into the study of literary theory and style and the art of argument. Another component of this course will be preparation for college level required English course work.

Technical Writing

In Technical Writing students will engage in a study of the art of writing. Students will read and study non-fiction texts in order to understand the form and stylistic choices of the author. They will then practice using these same forms and styles in their own writing. The course will culminate in students completing a portfolio of writing assignments where they select and model a specific style and form based on their purpose.

Creative Writing

The focus of this course is for students to become familiar with writing across various genres, including short stories, poems, plays, novels, essays. Students will engage in various activities that will inspire writing. Students will also read texts to promote writing skills. This course moves students beyond the structured essay and prompts them to write more creative and individual pieces. Students will also learn to work through the writing process of outlining, revising, peer-editing, until final publication.

Shakespeare

The focus of this course is the study of Shakespeare and his life and works. Students will read and study his language, the Elizabethan time period, and his significant pieces, including sonnets and plays. During the course students will also evaluate Shakespeare's impact on the English language. In addition to reading his works, students will also perform and watch his plays.

Health/Physical Education

Course Sequence:

Health/Physical Education I

Health/Physical Education II

Health/Physical Education III

Health/Physical Education IV

Strength and Fitness

Course Descriptions:

Health/Physical Education I

Throughout PE 1, students will be participating in physical activities that help all students develop the knowledge, attitude, emotional skills, behavioral skills, and confidence needed to adopt and maintain physically active lifestyles. Students will participate in units from the following categories, recreational team sports, individual/lifetime activities, leisure activities, team building and cooperative learning activities, competitive team sports, and physical fitness testing.

Health I covers all aspects of human sexuality. Topics covered include structure and function of the female and male reproductive system, pregnancy, fetal development, stages of labor, overview of sexually transmitted infections (STI), HIV/AIDS, behaviors that place individuals at greater risk for contracting an STI and various birth control methods including abstinence.

Health/Physical Education II

This course continues to provide students with opportunities to develop and refine necessary motor skills, improve and maintain physical wellness, participate in lifetime physical activities, and engage in social interaction. Students will participate in units from the following categories: recreational team sports, individual/lifetime activities, leisure activities, yoga, team building and cooperative learning activities, competitive team sports, and physical fitness testing.

Health II concentrates on the body systems. This includes identifying parts, function, disorders, diseases and care of the body by maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Also covered is organ donation and nutrition.

Health/Physical Education III

PE 3 will offer a wide variety of physical activities and opportunities for a lifelong healthy lifestyle. This course continues to provide students with higher level opportunities to develop and refine necessary motor skills, improve and maintain physical wellness, participate in lifetime physical activities, and engage in social interaction that has been instilled in students from prior years. Students will continue to participate in units from the following categories, but will not be limited to: recreational team sports

(soccer, football, basketball, baseball/softball, volleyball, etc.), individual/lifetime activities (table tennis, yoga, weight-lifting, aerobic sports, etc.) , team building and cooperative learning activities (project adventure), and physical fitness testing.

Health III includes alcohol and substance abuse, prescription drug abuse, addiction/treatment, refusal skills and good self esteem.

Health/Physical Education IV

PE 4 will continue to enable students to understand the components of health-related fitness, motor skills, flexibility, endurance, strength, coordination, and a plan to support a healthy lifestyle. The knowledge of physical education is an always evolving field and it is important that our students understand the importance of living a healthy and active lifestyle. This course encourages students to develop an individual fitness style which they feel comfortable with. Students will be able to incorporate fitness related technology including the use of a Nintendo Wii (games like Just Dance, Dance Dance Revolution, Wii Fit, etc). In addition, physical fitness testing will continue to take place.

Health IV covers safety which includes first aid, fire, CPR overview, healthy relationships, dating violence, domestic abuse, and healthy conflict resolution.

Strength and Fitness

Strength and Fitness is a culmination of four years of Physical Education. Students will develop an individual fitness plan based on their experiences in previous courses. They will utilize this plan to engage in weight training and physical fitness endurance tasks. Students will track their progress through various charting and goal setting activities.

Mathematics

Course Sequence:

Algebra I
Geometry
Algebra II
Trigonometry
Probability and Statistics

Elective:

Math Strategies

Course Descriptions:

Algebra I

Students taking Algebra I will focus on learning the basics of algebra while expressing that knowledge both verbally and through written expressions. They will learn the basic operations working with expressions, as well as how to write algebraic expressions with verbal descriptions. Students will also become familiar with linear equations, learning how to create them, graph them and interpret them. Students will graph and solve both equalities and inequalities. Students will be exposed to different classifications of polynomial expressions and basic computation with polynomials.

Geometry

This course is designed to emphasize the study of the properties and applications of common geometric figures in two and three dimensions. It includes the study of transformations in a coordinate plane and congruence in terms of rigid motions. Students make geometric constructions to assist in the comprehension of geometric concepts. These concepts are also applied to modeling situations. Similarity, special right triangles, right triangles, trigonometric ratios, circles, volume, and surface area of solids are also covered. Inductive and deductive thinking skills are used in problem solving situations, and applications to the real world are stressed. Students will also be introduced to the basics of writing proofs to solve (prove) properties algebra and of geometric figures.

Algebra II

Students taking Algebra 2 will continue to build upon skills learned in Algebra 1. They will review solving linear equations both algebraically and graphically. Students will solve systems of equations and inequalities using different methods. Students working in Algebra 2 will work with functions and relations, demonstrating how they can create them and apply them to real world situations. Students will be exposed to matrices, and basic arithmetic operations associated with them. This course will also work with more advanced topics working with quadratics and polynomials.

Trigonometry

Trigonometry will develop the students' mathematical concepts, improve logical thinking, and help to promote success. The laws of sines and cosines will be studied and applied to real life situations. Students will study relations, functions, trigonometric graphs and their properties and transformations using angular and radian measures. There is an emphasis on solving trigonometric equations and

proving trigonometric identities. Students will use graphing calculators in activities that are appropriate to the topics being studied.

Probability and Statistics

This course introduces students to the methods used in the field of applied statistics using mathematical models. Emphasis is given to concepts and techniques for collecting, analyzing, representing data, drawing conclusions, and making predictions. The major focus of this course is to provide students with experience in measures of location and dispersion, correlation, and regression. Students will use multiple representations to present data including written descriptions, numerical statistics, formulas, and graphs. Students will work with independent and dependent events, random variables, conditional probability, binomial and geometric distributions.

Math Strategies

This course explores the basic operations of arithmetic, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Students will be introduced to math vocabulary and symbols. Other areas covered will include rounding, estimation, decimals and fractions, numerical ordering, percentages, ratios, proportions, rational and irrational numbers, and the reading, writing, and verbalizing of various numbers. Students will gain a better understanding of numbers and how to use them in practical applications such as measurement and money.

Science

Course Sequence:

Environmental/Earth Science

Biology

Chemistry

Forensic Science

Physical Science

Course Descriptions:

Environmental Science

The Big Bang Theory; weather; climate change - all heady subjects, all integral to our study of humanity's place in the universe. Environmental science students will explore the Earth's place in the universe and human interaction. Further, they will study the impact on Earth through a unique combination of multimedia and hands-on activities designed to put students' experiences into perspective with regards to the long history of everything around them. By the end of the course, students will have practical knowledge of such varied topics as planetary motion and earthquakes.

Biology

Biology is the study of life. What is it? How do you stay alive? Students will learn what it takes to truly be alive through a unique blending of field and lab studies. Young scientists will implement interactive notebooks and digital portfolios to document their observations, predictions, and revelations. Graduates will have practical lab experience and digital dissection training upon the completion of this course.

Chemistry

This class focuses on the subatomic level and how interactions within this realm produce global change. The students will learn what matter is composed of and its interactions with everything we see, feel, and hear. By delving into the invisible world of chemistry, students will get a glimpse backstage into the wondrous universe. From nuclear energy to periodic table trends, this course will provide an enriching educational experience for all.

Forensic Science

How do you catch a criminal? That is the question that this guiding and scientifically rigorous class attempts to answer. Through new-age techniques and historical precedents, the topic of legality and CSI merge into this cause-and-effect course of intrigue and deceit. From fingerprinting to DNA analysis, students will get a front row seat into the inner workings of our criminal justice system. Moreover, they will learn how the guilty get convicted and the innocent get exonerated in the United States.

Physical Science

This course blends basic chemistry with basic physics to give students a solid foundation from which to understand a variety of natural phenomena. Real world application of topics is emphasized, along with an understanding of what scientists in the field are still seeking to learn. Topics range from chemistry trends and reactions, to the study of motion, simple machines and alternative energy options.

Social Studies

Course Sequence:

World History
United States History I
United States History II
Economics

Electives:

Sociology
20th Century History
Modern World History
Psychology
US Government

Course Descriptions:

World History

World History traces the development of civilization from the Neolithic Revolution to the Age of Industrialization. This course includes the study of past civilizations and their influences on modern societies. The purpose of World History is to develop a greater understanding of how geography along with cultural institutions and beliefs shape the evolution of human societies.

United States History I

This course studies the United States from the Age of Exploration through the Civil War. US History I course looks at the very first settlements in America, and the dramatic development of the New World. The course introduces the themes of balance between unity and diversity, the shaping of democracy, the search for opportunity, and the influence of geographical factors through the topics of slavery, revolution, and inalienable human rights.

United States History II

United States History II traces how the U.S. became a modern nation and explores the challenges of modernization and America's place in the world today. Students will examine the impact of global conflicts on the United States in World Wars I & II and the Cold War as well as the human struggle for rights and equality through the Great Immigration at the turn of the 20th century, the impact of manufacturing, the creation of unions, the rise of the women's and civil rights movements. An in-depth investigation of historical events and periods, the fostering of multicultural awareness, the recognition of ethical, civic, and democratic values present in American history, and the development of a historical perspective in relation to contemporary events represent the major aspects of the course.

Economics

This course explores the choices and decisions that people make about how to use the world's limited resources. The goal of this course is to provide students with knowledge that is strongly established in economic principles so that he or she will be able to differentiate between economic models, understand issues related to global and national economics, gain insight into choices that businesses

makes, and learn about the importance of managing personal finances and planning for one's financial security.

Sociology

This course will introduce students to the study of humankind's most important creation-- the social group. Sociology is based on the concept that everything that we, as humans, do is either directly or indirectly influenced by the society in which we live. In this course, students will examine the various skills and techniques that sociologists employ when studying groups of people. Students will then examine a wide variety of groups and the behaviors that characterize them.

20th Century History

This course is designed to be an in-depth study of social injustice, including slavery, genocide, and present-day racism. Students will be examining the immediate and enduring consequences of genocide and hatred, especially how they continue to impact the world we live in today. The course will culminate with a participatory action-research project where students assume a proactive role as citizens in their own communities.

Modern World History

Students in Modern World History study the major turning points that shaped the modern world, from the Renaissance through the present, including the cause and course of the World Wars I & II. They trace the rise of democratic ideas and develop an understanding of the historical roots of current world issues, especially as they pertain to international relations. They extrapolate from the American experience that democratic ideals are often achieved at a high price, remain vulnerable, and are not practiced everywhere in the world.

Psychology

In this course, students will discuss how people think, feel, and behave in various social contexts. Students will cover the major topics in Social Psychology, with examples from "real world" situations. Students will be able to see how they can apply the information discussed in the course to situations outside the classroom, as well as improve their critical thinking skills as a result of taking this course.

US Government

This course studies the principles of the American system of government so that students will be able to understand the rights and responsibilities that come with U.S. citizenship. US Government looks at the various branches of government and the roles they play. Students will analyze how laws are enacted and how civil rights are protected under law. Most importantly, this course will follow current events as they unfold.

Spanish

Course Sequence:

Spanish I
Spanish II
Spanish III

Course Descriptions:

Spanish I

Spanish I will teach students to communicate in present tense, simple future and simple past tenses in order to express basic needs, opinions and form questions in a real life situation. By the end of the course, students will have a solid understanding that language and culture are intertwined and that communication is not only speech, but also understanding the products of another culture, which in turn will help them understand their own selves as well. At this level, the primary emphasis is on developing listening and speaking skills in Spanish. Students talk about everyday situations using simple questions and short answers at the phrase or sentence level. Cultural awareness of the world where Spanish is spoken is an integral component of the course. Lastly, students will understand that successful communication is knowing how, when and why to convey a message to different audiences.

Spanish II

The second year expands the basic listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills so that students can begin to create with the language. Students feel more at ease with simple conversations and brief written descriptions on familiar topics. Students also gain a deeper appreciation of, and sensitivity to, diverse cultures and customs of Latin America and Spain. Students will see that (a) Language reflects and is influenced by the culture in which it is found, (b) Cultural perspectives are gained by using the language and through experience with its products and practices, and that (c) Strategies for communication must go beyond vocabulary acquisition and that circumlocution is just as important as word retention in terms of making meaning.

Spanish III

During the third year of study, students begin to feel comfortable communicating in the language. As more complex language patterns are introduced, students become increasingly able to describe, narrate, and state opinions on familiar situations and cultural themes. To maintain whatever level of proficiency students have acquired over the course of their lingual education, students must develop habits that offer them opportunities to use the language in different settings (ie. writing to a pen pal, visiting a Latino market, traveling aboard, watch/listen to Spanish programming ...etc.). Students will be aware that members of one culture may make assumptions about other cultures based on their own attitudes, values and beliefs. Lastly, students will discover strategies needed to communicate in linguistically and culturally appropriate ways.

Visual Art

Courses Offered:

Foundations of Art

Fine Arts I

Fine Arts II

Fine Arts III

Fine Arts IV

Drawing and Painting I

Drawing and Painting II

Art III

Sculpture

Pottery

Three Dimensional Design

Course Descriptions:

Foundations of Art

This course serves as an introduction to the elements of art and principles of design using basic art materials and techniques. Students will receive a foundation with which to build skills in more challenging and focused studio courses later on in their academic careers.

Fine Arts I

This course will incorporate drawing, design, painting, and art history. The introduction into the world of drawing focuses on the elements of art: line, shape, and form. This course also offers the beginning of proper shading techniques to show contrast and 3 dimensions. Students will also explore basic color theory and experiment with abstract design. The course will conclude with the understanding of the basics of watercolor painting. They will understand basic terminology including, wash, transparent and coats. Throughout the year, students will also be introduced to artists such as Van Gogh, Di Vinci, Michelangelo, and Picasso.

Fine Arts II

This course will continue the students' study of drawing, design, painting, and art history. Students will review the elements of line, shape and form, focusing on form and using the element of form to make objects. They will also focus on color theory through the principles of design focusing on complementary and monochromatic colors. In Fine Arts II, students will be introduced to additional artists such as Hopper, Andy Warhol, and Pollack.

Fine Arts III

This course will advance the students' study of drawing, design, painting, and art history. Students will review the elements of art and the introduction to the element of texture, value and harmony. They will focus on abstract art and the use of color through free expression. The advanced theory of transparent watercolor painting through landscapes will be introduced. This skill will also serve to enhance problem

solving skills. In art history, students will focus on artists such as Faith Ringgold, Jacop Lawrence, and Lichtenstein.

Fine Arts IV

In this final art course of the students' high school career, they will focus on all the elements of art. Specifically, they will work to develop an understanding of critique and advanced shading technique. Their design work will continue with advanced color theory, the mixology of colors, and the use of mosaics and plaster for 3D design. This year they will be introduced to acrylic paint and use their advanced skills in watercolor painting focusing on still life and portraits. Students will explore famous artists' self portraits and delve deeper into the skill of peer critique. Students will study primitive-21st century artists showing diversity of different cultures in the art history component of the course.

Drawing and Painting I

This course will encourage authentic creative expression in the form of two dimensional artwork through the use and experimentation of art mediums inspired by personal themes. Students will make connections through art history and understanding how artists translate themes into tangible and symbolic pieces of art. Students will utilize art criticism as a way of understanding the themes and techniques used in art and will use it to support and explain their own art making journey.

Drawing and Painting II

In Drawing and Painting II, students will continue to use problem solving skills and critical thinking in order to design projects and understand connections to art history and the present. They will gain a deeper understanding of the purpose of art and the artist's place in the world around him. Students will focus on design as it pertains to both aestheticism and function and will understand real life applications of art and techniques in society.

Art III

In addition to continuing the work of Drawing and Painting, students enrolled in this course will be introduced to various techniques in printmaking such as block printing, collagraphs, chine colle, mono-prints, use of the rolling press and silk screening. Students will utilize these fine arts techniques as they learn the design process, layout, history and function of these processes. Students will create for both aesthetic and function and understand the historical, cultural and conceptual aspects of printmaking.

Sculpture

This course will teach students the basics of sculpture from building armatures to molding with plaster and clay. Students will investigate various sculptural methods by studying historical sculpture across multiple cultures and time periods. They will create their own three-dimensional artwork by employing these construction techniques using modified materials such as armature wire, cardboard, newspaper/aluminum foil, and tape.

Pottery

This course will encompass the different ways of using clay, or other materials, to make pots and other vessels. They will explore three different techniques; pinch method, slab construction, and coil technique. They will also learn to glaze or paint their creations following historical understandings of how these vessels came to be important to both civilization and the arts.

Three Dimensional Design

This course will explore a variety of ways students can use various mediums including papier-mâché and mixed media in three dimensional design. Students will use critical thinking skills to build three dimensional art forms which include projects such as nichos, three dimensional landscapes, product prototypes and mobiles. Emphasis will be on basic design elements, function, aesthetics, creativity and craftsmanship. Students will understand the historical and functional aspects of three dimensional design.