

Year 3: Course Descriptions

U.S. History I

This U.S. History I course covers United States history from its pre-colonial days through the Civil War and Reconstruction period. The purpose of this course is for students to acquire an understanding of the political, economic, social, religious, military, scientific, and cultural events that have shaped our nation. Significant issues and individuals are highlighted helping students relate to history as a well-told story full of vivid struggle and triumph by men and women living in other times and places. As students study varying time periods, they create historical maps; analyze and interpret primary source documents; sharpen their oral and written communication skills; share talking points; demonstrate the ability to read and comprehend a variety of materials; make connections between historical events; learn the skills involved in critical thinking in order to question the meaning of what they read, hear, think, and believe; view events from a variety of perspectives through the use of fiction and nonfiction sources; and situate key events in terms of chronology. Topics such as American settlement and diversity, the shaping of democracy, the founding of a nation, the search for opportunity, the creation of the federal government, Westward expansion, the coming of the Civil War, and the end of Reconstruction are included. Students earn 1 full-year credit in U.S. History I upon completion of this course.

Government

This Government/Civics course uses *A Noble Experiment* to explore the foundations, principles, and organization of U.S. government from a Judeo-Christian perspective. Students consider how varying types of historical governments impacted the political heritage of our own nation, study the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, and discuss contemporary issues such as immigration and globalization. Built around primary source documents, twenty-four video lectures, and the classic film *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, *A Noble Experiment* alternates conversational video instruction with readings, activities, projects, quizzes, and tests. This course covers all national standards for high school civics and government, as well as subject matter traditionally included in secondary government courses. Students earn 1/2 credit in Government upon completion of this course. **Note:** For students in states that require a full credit in Government/Civics, this course can be combined with the Constitutional Literacy course scheduled in this guide to earn one-full credit in Government/Civics instead.

Bible: New Testament Survey

This course provides a survey of the New Testament books of the Bible using *The Most Important Thing You'll Ever Study: New Testament Survey*. As part of the course, students are guided to study each New Testament book to understand its part in the Bible's big picture. An overview is provided, showing how the individual books relate to one another and comprise the whole message revealed in God's Word. Thoughtful, inductive questions lead students to read for understanding and mastery. Students are challenged to study and analyze Scripture to discover what God is like, what He requires, and how to be in a right relationship with Him. Memorization, daily prayer, and hymn study are included to help students gain a greater knowledge and a deeper love of God and His Word. Readings, questions, and discussions from either *Beyond Beautiful Girlhood* or *Everyday Battles* and *Thoughts for Young Men* along with *Stay in the Castle* and *The Seven Royal Laws of Courtship* are also a part of the Bible credit. Students earn 1 full-year credit in Bible: New Testament Survey upon completion of this course.

Foreign Language: Spanish II

This Spanish II course builds upon previous Spanish skills, extending students' abilities to understand and express themselves in Spanish while expanding their vocabulary. Vocabulary practice related to restaurants, personal care, doctors' offices, weather, travel, transportation, neighborhoods, stores, and professions is included. Students practice engaging in conversation for informative and social purposes, write expressions or passages that show their understanding of sentence construction and the rules of grammar, read passages written in Spanish, and comprehend spoken Spanish more fully. Grammar rules include conjugation of irregular verbs, application of reflexive verbs, formation of Spanish adverbs, use of demonstrative adjectives, appropriate use of present and present progressive verb tenses, use of direct object pronouns, mastery of indirect object pronouns, and use of prepositions and prepositional pronouns. Pronunciation and conversational skills are practiced utilizing recordings that feature a native speaker and dialogue practice with a tutor or teacher. Students also explore the geography, customs, and history of South America and Spain to better understand the culture of Spanish-speaking countries. Students earn ½ credit in the first half of Spanish II upon completion of this course. **Note:** Students can wait to list Spanish II as a full credit on their transcript instead after they have completed the last half of the Spanish II credit in the *U.S. History II* Guide. Otherwise, students may list ½ credit of Spanish II for the *U.S. History I* Guide and ½ credit of Spanish II for the *U.S. History II* Guide on their transcript. Either option will work.

Constitutional Literacy

In this important high school level course, Dr. Michael Farris, founder and chancellor of Patrick Henry College and chairman of the Home School Legal Defense Association, brings the U.S. Constitution to life for modern Americans by examining the following questions: What does the Constitution actually say? What does it mean? What were the Founders' intentions for this document? And how is the Constitution being interpreted to shape our laws and way of life today? Lectures and study material within the course cover the Constitution's creation, the powers it grants, the second amendment, the fourth amendment, due process, international law, commerce and general welfare clauses, property rights, abortion "rights," and more. Video instruction, case studies, Supreme Court rulings, historical background on issues, definitions of legal terminology, study questions, research, written assignments, and exploration of how concepts relate to contemporary issues are all part of this course. Students earn 1/2 credit in Constitutional Literacy upon completion of this course. **Note:** For students in states that require a full credit in Government/Civics, this course can be combined with the Government/Civics course scheduled in this guide to earn one-full credit in Government/Civics instead.

English III: American Literature

In this course, students read and analyze short stories, novels, drama, and nonfiction written by American authors. Authors include Mark Twain, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Benjamin Franklin, Jonathan Edwards, Washington Irving, Frederick Douglas, Booker T. Washington, Jack London, Edgar Allan Poe, Gene Stratton-Porter, Owen Wister, Stephen Crane, Herman Melville, Martin Luther King, Jr., and others. Emphasis is placed on improving critical thinking skills as students determine the underlying assumptions and values within selected works and understand how the literature reflects the society of the time. As part of this course, students build upon previous literature and composition skills as they read, annotate, analyze, evaluate, critique, and actively respond to literary works. Exploration of themes, motives, and Biblical connections play

a key role. Students further strengthen their formal composition skills through writing eight narratives based on events and characters from Scripture. They also prepare and present both an oral and a written report. Assignments require students to approach writing systematically, with appropriate research, preparation, drafting, and revision. Students earn 1 full-year credit in English III upon completion of this course.

Chemistry with Lab

This college-preparatory course covers fundamental aspects of chemistry such as the classification of matter, atomic structure, spectroscopy, chemical bonding, molecular geometry, physical change, chemical change, stoichiometry, solutions, ideal gases, acid/base chemistry, reduction/oxidation reactions, thermochemistry, thermodynamics, kinetics, and chemical equilibrium. Weaving together concepts and their mathematical applications, the course teaches students how to think as chemists, so they can analyze the major changes that occur in matter. The course contains 46 experiments that illustrate various concepts being explored. Many are quantitative in nature, including measuring the wavelength of microwaves, determining the number of water molecules in a hydrated compound, calculating percent yield, measuring the concentration of a hydrogen peroxide solution, determining the concentration of acetic acid in vinegar, measuring the specific heat of a metal, and determining the change in enthalpy for a chemical reaction. Others are qualitative, such as performing flame tests, examining the interference of light waves, comparing metals to nonmetals, exploring Boyle's Law, doing litmus tests, and electroplating. The text for the course is written from a Christian perspective. Students earn 1 full-year credit in Chemistry with Lab upon completion of this course.

Algebra II Course Description (suggested math option)

This Algebra II course is designed to build on algebraic and geometric concepts. It develops advanced algebra skills such as field properties and theorems; set theory; operations with rational and irrational expressions; factoring of rational expressions; in-depth study of linear equations and inequalities quadratic equations; solving systems of linear and quadratic equations; graphing of constant, linear and quadratic equations; properties of higher degree equations; and operations with rational and irrational exponents. This course introduces students to key concepts and theories that provide a foundation for further study in mathematics and increases mathematical literacy, problem solving, and critical thinking skills. Students earn 1 full-year credit in Algebra II upon completion of this course.