

Year 4: Course Descriptions

U.S. History II

This U.S. History II course covers United States history from 1877 to modern times. This course is designed to familiarize students with America's past in order to better understand the present and future of this nation. This course examines the development of the United States from the Industrial Revolution to the present, in which a very different nation is shown to emerge from the one that existed before the Civil War. As the explosive growth of the nation is traced, the uniquely democratic flavor of America's development will be explored. Students answer period-specific questions, make key decisions about turning points in American history, read and reflect upon primary source documents, prepare graphic organizer notes from documentaries, narrate orally and in writing, share talking points with visual aids, and work on history-related activities. In covering history in this manner, students gain a sound basis for understanding the last century's great wars, the rise of world Communism, the struggle for freedom at home and abroad, the tensions in the Middle East, the War on Terror, and the triumph of liberty. Upon completion of this course, students will demonstrate the ability to make rational and informed decisions about questions confronting the individual, the nation, and the interdependent world. Students earn 1 full-year credit in U.S. History II upon completion of this course.

Economics

This Economics course is built around a combination of resources including video sessions from Chad Hovind's *Money-Wise DVD: Biblical Principles of Work & Finance* combined with lessons from *Intro to Economics: Money, History & Fiscal Faith*; articles from noted economists with corresponding study questions in *Economics: A Free Market Reader*; vignettes from Larry Burkett in *Money Matters for Teens*; stories and methods of entrepreneurs who fueled economic growth in the U.S. from 1850-1919 in *The Myth of the Robber Barons: A New Look at the Rise of Big Business in America*; and letter-style readings that explain the effects of velocity/money demand in modern history in *The Money Mystery* combined with vocabulary, questions, discussion, and essay topics from *Solving the Money Mystery*. As part of the course students explore God's principles for the economic decisions of individuals, families, and nations. Students also gain understanding of free market economics, study the role of government in the economy, learn the difference between market entrepreneurs and political entrepreneurs, interpret economic problems in history, learn potential economic pitfalls in business and investments, and gain solid money management skills. Students earn 1/2 credit in Economics upon completion of this course. **Note:** For students in states that require a full credit in Economics, this course can be combined with the Finance course scheduled in this guide to earn one-full credit in Economics instead.

Bible: Worldview and Apologetics

All worldviews are in search of truth, including atheism. But does one belief system possess more truth than another? Both faith and logic are involved in either belief in Jesus Christ or in atheism. The premise of this course is that logic and evidence provide far more support for belief in Jesus than they do for belief in atheism. This apologetics course uses the classical method of natural theology to guide students through arguments for the existence of a Creator God and prepares students to effectively defend their faith. During this study students tackle questions about absolute truth, postmodernism, and moral relativism, as they move logically toward the inescapable truths of the Christian faith. This course uses the book *I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be*

an Atheist paired with coordinating student workbook lessons with terms to define, profiles of well-known philosophers to read, discussion questions to discuss, exercises to encourage personal reflection, and research projects to complete. Keeping a daily prayer journal based on the biblical model of prayer is also part of the Bible credit. Weekly readings, questions, and discussions using *Created for Work* completes the Bible credit. Students earn 1 full-year credit in Bible: Worldview and Apologetics upon completion of this course.

Foreign Language: Spanish II

In this Spanish II course, students continue their study of Spanish by expanding their knowledge of key vocabulary topics and grammatical structures. Students are expected to comprehend listening and reading passages more fully and to express themselves more meaningfully in both speaking and writing. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concepts along with more advanced reading, writing, listening, and speaking activities. There is an emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts in each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, understand common vocabulary terms and phrases, use a wide range of grammar patterns in their writing and speaking, respond appropriately to conversational prompts, and learn about the cultural perspectives and practices of Spanish-speaking countries. Students earn ½ credit in the last half of Spanish II upon completion of this course. **Note:** For transcript purposes, students may combine the ½ credit of Spanish II earned from the *U.S. History I* guide with the ½ credit of Spanish II earned from the *U.S. History II* guide to list 1-full year credit in Spanish II on their transcript instead.

Foreign Language: Latin/Greek

This Latin/Greek course is designed to introduce students to Latin and Koine Greek. The course explains the fundamentals of Latin grammar and the basic structure of Koine Greek, introducing new words and concepts in a gradual systematic way. Basic translation exercises at the end of each lesson allow students to immediately apply what they have learned. Greek lessons focus on helping students to study the Bible more deeply to better understand the original Biblical text. Students also have the opportunity to practice pronunciation skills utilizing online and DVD recordings. Students earn 1/2 credit in Latin/Greek upon completion of this course.

Finance

In this *Foundations in Personal Finance* course, students learn sound principles of personal financial management as financial expert Dave Ramsey combines instructional video presentations with a coordinating Student Text to teach students about budgeting, saving, investing, credit, insurance, debt, financial responsibility, money management, income, giving, and more. An accompanying Teacher's Edition on CD-ROM contains printable activities, case studies, assessments, and answer keys. Credit in Foundations in Personal Finance is earned through reading accompanying lessons, watching video presentations, completing video viewing guides, responding to journal prompts, working on activities, discussing findings, applying new learning to case studies, summarizing concepts, working on challenges, and completing reviews. Students earn 1/2 credit in Finance upon completion of this course. **Note:** For students in states that require a full credit in Economics, this course can be combined with the Economics course scheduled in this guide to earn one-full credit in Economics instead.

Speech

In this *Secrets of Great Communicators'* course, students learn essential elements of good public speaking as well-known speaker Dr. Jeff Myers combines instructional video presentations with a coordinating student text to teach students about organization, presentation, audience analysis, conquering fear, and more. Each chapter of the student text focuses on the strengths of a famous speech-giver (like Winston Churchill, Abraham Lincoln, Teddy Roosevelt, Ronald Reagan, Patrick Henry, or Billy Graham), showing how their example can help students of today become better communicators. An accompanying Teacher's Edition on CD-ROM contains printable discussion questions and lesson summaries. The book *How to Become a Dynamic Speaker* provides additional insights into public speaking by focusing on great American speakers through the centuries and the profound sense of mission in their oratory. Credit is earned through watching video presentations; completing video viewing guides; reading and annotating accompanying lessons; responding to "Personal Application" scenarios; and planning, outlining, and presenting speeches. Students earn 1/2 credit in Speech upon completion of this course.

English IV: British Literature

This British Literature course enables students to become skilled readers of a range of literature, including novels, plays, allegories, short stories, and poetry written by British authors. Authors include John Bunyan, William Shakespeare, T.S. Eliot, John Donne, George Herbert, John Milton, Charlotte Bronte, Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Anthony Hope, Agatha Christie, and others. As students read from a variety of literary genres, they become readers who can appreciate a variety of works and can analyze and interpret what they read to gain meaning and understanding. As part of this course, students build upon previous literature and composition skills as they annotate, evaluate, synthesize, integrate, relate to, and connect with various literary works. Themes, allusions, Biblical connections, and literary elements are addressed. Thought-provoking written reflections and personal responses help students refine their critical thinking skills. Students further strengthen formal composition skills through narrative, descriptive, persuasive, expository, and prose writing assignments. These assignments require students to approach writing systematically and to use the writing process. Grammar, mechanics, sentence structure, and usage are also taught and incorporated in the course. Students earn 1 full-year credit in English IV: British Literature upon completion of this course.

Astronomy, Geology & Paleontology with Lab

This Astronomy course offers students an opportunity to study the solar system, stars, galaxies, and interstellar bodies. Astronomic instruments are introduced, and theories regarding the origin and evolution of the universe, space, and time are explored. Evidences for an evolutionary model of the universe and for a Biblical model of the universe are weighed. Orbital speeds, sunspot cycles, and the retrograde motion of Mars are examples of lab topics within the Astronomy part of this course. The Geology/Paleontology part of the course provides a study of the forces that formed and continue to affect the earth's surface. Earthquakes, volcanoes, glaciers, and floods are examples of topics that are presented. The course also studies the differences between a Biblical and a secular view of fossils, dinosaurs, and cave men. Topics include the philosophy behind the Geologic Time Table, the fossil evidence, how dinosaurs fit into a secular and a Biblical perspective, the search for transitional fossils, how to read the rock layers using both a secular and a Biblical view of Earth history, and more. Identification of rocks, minerals, and fossils are included as part of the labs within the

Geology/Paleontology part of the course. Students earn 1 full-year credit in Astronomy, Geology & Paleontology with Lab upon completion of this course.

Precalculus (One suggested math option)

This Precalculus course is an advanced math course that combines the study of trigonometry, functions, analytic geometry, and math analysis topics as preparation for calculus. Topics include the study of complex numbers; polynomial, logarithmic, exponential, rational, trigonometric, and circular functions, including their relations; inverses and graphs; trigonometric identities and equations; solutions of right and oblique triangles; vectors; the polar coordinate system; conic sections; symbolic logic; mathematical induction; matrix algebra; sequences and series; limits and continuity. A strong emphasis is placed on critical thinking skills and written communication of methods for problem solving. The intent is to develop a deep conceptual understanding of each topic, making connections to other areas and topics in mathematics and to develop strong problem-solving skills. Students are asked to explain answers and show methods, not just state answers. Students earn 1 full-year credit in Precalculus upon completion of this course.

College Algebra (One suggested math option)

This College Algebra course reviews and extends algebraic concepts for students who have already taken Algebra II. Topics in the College Algebra course include rational and irrational expressions, factoring of rational expressions, quadratic equations, linear equations and inequalities, solving systems of linear and quadratic equations, graphs and functions, coordinate geometry, properties of higher degree equations, negative and rational exponents, operations with rational and irrational exponents, composite and inverse functions, and logarithms. At the close of this course to earn actual college credit in College Algebra, the student will **either** need to take the College Algebra CLEP exam **or** take related exams that result in transferable ACE credit. Students may list 1 full-year credit in College Algebra upon completion of this course.