ORANGEBURG PREPARATORY SCHOOLS, INC. COURSE DESCRIPTIONS GUIDE

Course Descriptions

Updated 10.13.16

Courses are determined on a yearly basis, and offered according if class size allows.

Course	Description
	ENGLISH
LANGUAGE SKILLS 6	A basic grammar and composition course. Emphasis is on the parts of speech and their function in the sentence. Introductory writing instruction develops and supports those other skills necessary in 6 th grade.
READING 6	A course designed to: A) Develop a student's understanding and appreciation of literature; B) Continue the development of reading, vocabulary, and spelling skills. Parallel and summer reading is required
LANGUAGE ARTS 7	The basics of grammar and writing, as well as basic research methods, are stressed.
READING 7	A course designed to: A) Develop a students' understanding and appreciation of literature; B) continue the development of reading, vocabulary, and spelling skills. Parallel and summer reading is required.
LITERATURE 8	A comprehensive study of literature along with the skills of reading. The traditional literary genres – short fiction, poetry, the novel, and drama – are examined. Parallel and summer reading is required.
ENGLISH I 1 Credit Weighted	A comprehensive study of literature along with the skills and mechanics of composition. The traditional literary genresshort fiction, poetry, the novel, and dramaare examined. Paragraph and essay construction, as well as reading and research skills, are continued. Parallel and summer reading is required.
HONORS ENGLISH I 1 Credit Weighted	A comprehensive study of literature along with the skills and mechanics of composition. The traditional literary genresshort fiction, poetry, the novel, and dramaare examined. Paragraph and essay construction, as well as reading and research skills, are continued. Parallel and summer reading is required.
ENGLISH II 1 Credit Weighted	A chronological / genre study of important American authors, literary works, and historical periods. Writing skills, essay construction, and research also are covered. Parallel and summer reading is required.
HONORS ENGLISH II	The second year of a three-year Honors program, American Literature

1 Credit Weighted	(Honors) works toward preparing the student for success in AP English. The course involves an in-depth study of American literature which emphasizes literary analysis. Parallel, and summer reading assignments are required.
ENGLISH III 1 Credit Weighted	A chronological survey of British literature along with continued refinement of students' composition and writing kills. Parallel and summer reading are required.
HONORS ENGLISH III 1 Credit Weighted	The third year of a three-year Honors program, British literature (Honors) works toward preparing the student for success in AP English. The course involves an in-depth survey of British literature with an emphasis on literary analysis and on honing writing skills. A literary research paper, parallel, and summer reading assignments are required.
ENGLISH IV 1 Credit Weighted	An introduction to various literary works and informational texts, ancient to contemporary. Classical and Western masterpieces are emphasized. Writing skills, essay construction, and research also are covered. Parallel and summer reading is required.
AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION 1 Credit Weighted	An in-depth study of the main literary genres with an emphasis of literary analysis and essay construction, the course stresses the fundamentals of close reading and literary history and terminology. It also provides an introduction to and extensive preparation for the Advanced Placement (AP) English Literature and Composition Exam. Parallel and summer reading assignments are required.
PUBLIC SPEAKING SAT PREP	An in depth study of the kinds of speeches and techniques used to deliver any of the speeches successfully that one might be required to give. SAT Prep is a course designed to prepare our students for taking the SAT
SATTREI	and ACT tests. Students will be taught test-taking strategies as well as be exposed to practice problems like they will see on the actual test.
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT HONORS CRITERIA	 Minimum of 85% yearly average in current Honors English course Teacher Recommendation Enrollment Restrictions (class size) Recommendation of 8th Graders for Honors English I: Generally, the top 18-20 students based on final yearly averages in both Reading 8 and Language 8 (perhaps coupled with standardized test scores) shall determine the selection of those students for English I. Qualifying Test (call the Guidance Office for details.)
MATH	

MATH 6	A course emphasizing mastery of basic mathematical concepts and operations involving whole numbers, fractions, and decimals. Geometry, percentages, and integers are introduced.
MATH 7	This course is the first course that students take in the Prentice Hall series in the OPS curriculum. Course 2 consists of a structured approach to a variety of topics such as ratios, percents, equations, inequalities, geometry, graphing, and probability. It is intended for 7 th grade students of low to high average ability levels. It is followed by Pre-Algebra in the 8 th grade.
PRE-ALGEBRA 8 th Grade	This course is designed to provide an introduction to algebra and aid in the transition from elementary mathematics to algebra. Emphasis is on prerequisite skills and concepts for algebra.
ALGEBRA I 1 Credit Weighted	Algebra I covers basic algebra including simple equations, polynomials, quadratic equations, graphing linear equations, solving systems of linear equations, quadratic relations and functions, radicals, and giving the student techniques to solve everyday problems.
HONORS ALGEBRA I 1 Credit Weighted	Honors Algebra I covers basic algebra including simple equations, polynomials, quadratic equations, graphing linear equations, solving systems of linear equations, quadratic relations and functions, radicals, and giving the student techniques to solve everyday problems. (Prerequisite: A student must met a minimum of 3 of the following criteria: Prediagnostic Algebra Test (Orleans-Hanna) score of 54 or above, Math Stanford Achievement Test score of 90 or above, Reading Comprehension Achievement Test score of 90 or above, Average of 93 or above in previous math course (Math 7 or Pre-Algebra), Work ethic/teacher recommendation must be strong.
ALGEBRA II 1 Credit Weighted	Honors Algebra II covers and extends concepts from Algebra I with the additional topics of matrices, logarithms, conic sections, rational expressions and equations, and giving the students techniques to solve real world problems.
HONORS ALGEBRA II 1 Credit Weighted	Honors Algebra II covers and extends concepts from Honors Algebra I with the additional topics of matrices, conic sections, rational expressions and equations, sequences and series, logarithms, and giving the students techniques to solve real world problems. (Prerequisite: Must maintain an average of 89 or above throughout the year in Honors Geometry and receive teacher recommendation.)
GEOMETRY 1 Credit Weighted	In general geometry, applications of geometric concepts are stressed with an introduction to formal proof. (Prerequisite: Algebra I and II,.)
HONORS GEOMETRY 1 Credit Weighted	In Honors Geometry, applications of geometric concepts are stressed with an emphasis on critical thinking and formal proof. Must maintain an average of 89 or above throughout the year in Honors

	Algebra I and receive teacher recommendation.
COLLEGE ALGEBRA 1 Credit Weighted	College Math is a year-long comprehensive study of advanced mathematical concepts including trigonometry, exponential and logarithmic functions, conic sections, and sequences and series.
PRE-CALCULUS 1 Credit Weighted	A comprehensive study of advanced mathematical concepts with a strong emphasis on trigonometry, function theory, and analytical geometry. (Prerequisite: A student must have a strong background in the fundamentals of Algebra and Geometry. A graphing calculator is required.)
HONORS PRE-CALCULUS 1 Credit Weighted	A comprehensive study of advanced mathematical concepts with a strong emphasis with a strong emphasis on trigonometry, function theory, and analytical geometry. (Prerequisite: Must maintain an average of 89 or above throughout the year in Honors Algebra 1 and receive teacher recommendation.)
AP CALCULUS 1 Credit Weighted	AP Calculus AB is roughly equivalent to a first semester college calculus course devoted to topics in differential and integral calculus. The AP course covers topics in these areas, including concepts and skills of limits, derivatives, definite integrals, and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. All students taking this AP Calculus class are required to take the AP Calculus AB exam that is given by the College Board. (Prerequisite: Must maintain an average of 90 or above throughout the year in Honors PreCalculus and receive teacher recommendation.)
SAT PREP ½ Credit Weighted elective	SAT Prep is a semester course designed to prepare our students for taking the SAT and ACT tests. Students will be taught test-taking strategies as well as be exposed to practice problems like they will see on the actual test.
PROB. / STATISTICS 1 Credit Weighted Elective	STATISTICS is a year-long course in elementary statistics and probability. (Prerequisite: Algebra I and Algebra II).
STATISTICS / APPLIED MATH	STATISTICS is a semester course in elementary statistics and probability and APPLIED MATH is a 2 nd semester course in basic mathematical compulations and using these skills to become a wiser consumer.
SCIENCE	
SCIENCE 6	An introduction and general overview of the scientific method and procedures, classifications of life, botany, zoology, weather & climate, energy, electricity, and magnetism. A science fair project may be offered as well as some lab work.
LIFE SCIENCE 7	An introduction to biology in the study of scientific processes, kingdoms of life, cellular function, matter, chemistry, botany, genetics, human anatomy, and ecology. A science fair project is required as well as some lab work.
EARTH SCIENCE 8	Earth Science is the study of the Earth including rocks, soils, oceans, and

	the atmosphere.
PHYSICAL SCIENCE 9 1 Credit Weighted	Physical science involves the study of basic concepts in physics and chemistry. This course will prepare students for further study in the secondary school by involving them in inquiry, investigation and discovery. Students will develop process skills and critical thinking skills to be prepared for later study in physics and chemistry-oriented classes.
HONORS PHYSICAL SCIENCE 1 Credit Weighted	Honors Physical Science involves the study of basic concepts in physics and chemistry. This course will prepare students for further study in the secondary school by involving them in inquiry, investigation and discovery. Students will develop process skills and critical thinking skills to be prepared for later study in physics and chemistry-oriented classes.
BIOLOGY I 1 Credit Weighted	This course is designed to form a foundation for studies in the science of living things.
HONORS BIOLOGY I 1 Credit Weighted	This course is designed to form a foundation for studies in the science of living things in an accelerated format. (Prerequisite: teacher recommendation.)
BIOIOGY II 1 Credit Weighted	This course is designed to be a comprehensive coverage of plants, invertebrates, vertebrates, and human anatomy and physiology.
HONORS BIOLOGY II 1 Credit Weighted	A comprehensive coverage of human organ systems, plants, invertebrates and vertebrates in an accelerated format. (Prerequisite: teacher recommendation.)
CHEMISTRY I 1 Credit Weighted	Students will acquire a knowledge of the composition, properties and interactions of substances. This knowledge will serve as a foundation for postsecondary education and provide them with the skills necessary to be successful in chemistry-oriented technical careers. Students will engage in problem solving, decision making, critical thinking and applied learning.
HONORS CHEMISTRY 1 Credit Weighted	Chemistry will provide a fundamental knowledge of the substances in our world – their composition, properties, and interactions-that should not only serve them as a foundation for the more advanced science courses in secondary and postsecondary education but should also provide them with the science skills that are necessary in chemistry-oriented technical careers. Students will engage in problem solving, decision making, critical thinking, and applied learning.

PHYSICS 1 Credit Weighted	This is designed to enable students to acquire a fundamental knowledge of basic concepts and problem-solving techniques of classical physics.
HONORS PHYSICS	This course is designed to enable students to acquire a fundamental knowledge of basic concepts and problem-solving techniques of classical physics.
FORENSIC SCIENCE	In Forensic science, the emphasis is on providing students with the basic foundations of the Forensic Science discipline, and providing opportunities for hands-on experience with individual concepts.
APBIOLOGY	AP Biology is an introductory college-level biology course. Students cultivate their understanding of biology through inquiry-based investigations as they explore the following topics: evolution, cellular processes-energy and communication, genetics, information transfer, ecology, and interactions.
HONORS SCIENCE CRITERIA	Teacher recommendation – strong work ethic, a positive attitude, extremely motivated, minimal disciplinary infractions. • The student must be currently enrolled in an honors math class. This is mandatory for Honors Physical Science and Honors Chemistry.
	 Science grades for the first semester and third nine weeks must be a 89% or better for honors science courses and a 98% or better for regular science courses.
	 Additional criteria may be looked at including science scores and reading comprehension on the Stanford Achievement Test (minimum 90%).
	SOCIAL STUDIES
HISTORY 6	World History from pre-history to the great empires of Central and South America.
HISTORY 7	A survey of world history from the Renaissance to Modern times. Emphasis is given to countries contributing to the civilization of the Western World. One quarter will be a study of civics to introduce basic government principles and how to be a responsible American citizen.
SOUTH CAROLINA	A SURVEY COURSE COVERING South Carolina from the first Americans

INGEODY OF A TO C	a coth
HISTORY GRADE 8	to the 20 th century.
GLOBAL STUDIES 8	Three quarters will be a survey of world cultures and geography with brief history on each country. One quarter will be a study of civics to introduce basic government principles and how to be a responsible American Citizen.
WORLD HISTORY 9 1 Credit Weighted	A survey of world history from the Renaissance to Modern History. Emphasis is given to the countries contributing to the civilization of the Western World.
U.S. HISTORY 10 1 Credit Weighted	In this course, you will learn not only the facts of U.S. History, but also explore the reasons for and the results of the events. You will discuss the dilemmas faced by Americans, the choices available to them, and the reasons they chose to act as they did. In addition, you will study and interpret primary sources to get a clearer picture of historical events.
HONORS U.S. HISTORY 10	In this course, you will learn in an accelerated format not only the facts of U.S. History, but also explore the reasons for and the results of the events. You will discuss the dilemmas faced by Americans, the choices available to them, and the reasons they chose to act as they did. In addition, you will study and interpret primary sources to get a clearer picture of historical events.
AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY	The purpose of the course is to guide students in developing an understanding of how and why intercultural relationships affect and influence one another and how those influences have changed over time. To do this, students must learn to interpret and analyze maps and geospatial representations and identify and evaluate the political, economic, and cultural processes that affect change. Included in this is a study of the spatial distribution and interaction of human groups, unique characteristics of place, and alteration of the physical environment in which they are found.
AP UNITED STATES HISTORY 1 Credit Weighted	An in-depth study of U.S. History from colonization to the present. This course familiarizes students with the Advanced Placement exam format.
GOVERNMENT 1/2 Credit Weighted	A semester course survey of the government of the United States with an emphasis on the U.S. Constitution is covered in one semester
ECONOMICS 1/2 Credit Weighted	Economics is a semester course study of basic principles and practices of economics in one semester
SPORTS IN AMERICAN LIFE	This class will examine the past of many different kinds (elective-semester) of sporting activities and study certain individuals who revolutionized the game.

½ Credit Weighted	
FOREIGN LANGUAGE All of the foreign language classes utilize the Language Learning Laboratory featuring the Robotel Smart Class + Language Learning Platform for aural as well as oral comprehension.	
FRENCH 6 (Required)	French 6 th grade is a Foreign Language exploratory program. Students have class once a week for one class period. Emphasis is on culture, civilization, geography, and language of France and the French speaking world as it relates to the world of a 6 th grade student.
FRENCH 7 (Required)	French 7 th grade is a Foreign Language exploratory program and a continuation of French 6. Students meet once a week for one class period. Emphasis is on culture, civilization, and language of France and the French speaking world as it relates to the world of a 7 th grade student.
FRENCH I 1 Credit Weighted *Required	An introduction to the French language and diversity of the French speaking world. Emphasis is placed on oral communication and cultural awareness supplemented by grammar and vocabulary. Students learn to read as well as express themselves in writing. A research project may be required.
FRENCH II 1 Credit Weighted *Required	A continuation of the methods used in French I. Emphasis is placed on improving oral proficiency through in-depth study of grammar and vocabulary. Reading and writing skills are reinforced. Cultural awareness is expanded and a research project may be required. (An 80 average in French I is strongly recommended.)
FRENCH III 1 Credit Weighted Elective	A continuation of French II with increased on proficiency in all areas of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Cultural materials are expanded to include classic literary works, and contemporary problems. Students will maintain a portfolio of written and oral presentations. A research project may be required. (An 80 average in French II is strongly recommended.)
HONORS FRENCH IV 1 Credit Weighted Elective	A continuation of French III with increased proficiency in all areas of speaking, listening, reading and writing, through the study of French and Francophone literature. Students will be expected to use French extensively in the classroom and maintain a portfolio of written and oral presentations. A research project may be assigned. (Prerequisite: An 85 average in French III and teacher recommendation.)
SPANISH I 1 Credit Weighted *Required	This course is an introduction to the study of the Spanish language and its culture. Students will begin their adventure with the Spanish language by grasping the fundamental concepts of Spanish grammar and memorizing/using various vocabulary words. Students will perform the most basic functions of the language and become familiar with some elements of its culture. The emphasis is placed on the development of

	the four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing within a given context extending outside of the classroom setting when possible. Students will also develop an understanding for the geography of Latin America and Spain. Research projects will be assigned.	
SPANISH II 1 Credit Weighted *Required	Students will advance in skill during their adventure with the Spanish language by grasping fundamental concepts of Spanish gramma (present and past) and memorizing/using various vocabulary words. This will enable students to participate in Spanish conversation, read short stories of varied degrees of difficulty, and compose various written assignments. The students will develop an understanding of Latin American and Spanish culture and the geography of Latin America and Spain. Students will be expected to draw from Spanish I knowledge on a regular basis. Research projects will be assigned.	
	(Prerequisites: An 80 average in Spanish I is strongly recommended.	
SPANISH III 1 Credit Weighted Elective	A continuation of Spanish II with increased emphasis on proficiency in all areas of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Cultural material is expanded to include reading, classic literary works, and contemporary problems. A research project may be required. Debates and speeches may be presented on an informal/formal basis to practice verbal skills. Literal analysis will begin to be introduced. (Prerequisites: An 80 average in Spanish II is strongly recommended.)	
HONORS SPANISH IV 1 Credit Weighted Elective	The student must be able to work independently, since much of the course will consist of independent assignments in the student text as well as other <i>realia</i> . Emphasis will be on Spanish culture and civilization as well as selected readings from classic and contemporary Spanish literature. Oral proficiency in the language will also be stressed. The teacher will be a guide and a resource for the learning process. (Prerequisite: An 88 average in Spanish III and teacher recommendation.)	
	COMPUTER	
COMPUTER	A comprehensive overview of the workings and parts of the personal	

CONCEPTS I 9 th grade 1 Credit Weighted *Required	computer. Students learn how to set up a computer system and how to maintain it at peak performance. This course gives students a Hands-on approach to learning the computer and some of the programs they will need throughout the years.
	PHYSICAL EDUCATION
PHYSICAL EDUCATION 6	A comprehensive overview of the workings and parts of the personal computer. Students learn how to set up a computer system and how to maintain it at peak performance. This course gives students a Hands-on approach to learning the computer and some of the programs they will need throughout the years.
PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7	A course in sports and games with emphasis on developing basic fundamental skills, improving physical fitness, and stressing good sportsmanship in team play.
PE/HEALTH 8 1 Credit Non-weighted *Required	A program of physical activity stressing physical fitness, knowledge of the rules and regulations of sports and games, and promote sound attitudes and practices in the proper care of their bodies.
LIFETIME FITNESS 1/2 Credit Non-weighted Elective	This is a semester course with participation in activities that stress the importance of lifetime activities on stress reduction and healthy lifestyles.
WEIGHT LIFTING 1/2 Credit Non-weighted Elective	This course will allow students to learn proper weight-lifting techniques through hands-on experience, participation, and guidance.
	ARTS AND HUMANITIES
ART 6 (Required)	The weekly 6 th grade music rotation class is the underlying support for the OPS beginning band program as well as the middle school drama program. Since the weekly class is such an integral part of these two programs, the students will be able to have a variety of experiences each week during the year. These students also play a very big part in the OPS Christmas program as well as the SCISA Fine Arts Festival. The class meets once per week.
ART 7 (Required)	The weekly 7 th grade music rotation class is the underlying support for the OPS beginning band program as well as the middle school drama program. Since the weekly class is such an integral part of these two programs, the students will be able to have a variety of experiences each week during the year. These students also play a very big part in the OPS Christmas program as well as the SCISA Fine Arts Festival. The class meets once per week.
HIGH SCHOOL ART	Students will study the principles and elements of art and design. High School art classes study modern art periods and famous artist from the

½ Credit Non-weighted Elective	19th-21st centuries. This exploration will focus on Modern and Post Art Periods of Western Art and the influences on Graphics and Architectural Structure. Projects will range from printmaking, sculpture, painting, and drawing in various media. Students will have the opportunity to develop techniques and methods for self-expression.
ART HISTORY GRADES 10-12 1/2 Credit Weighted Elective	This course on the history of art is based upon looking at artworks for art's sake to broaden and enlighten the cultural background of the student. It introduces the creative expressions in their various forms and functions which includes a critical evaluation of selected works of painting, sculpture, and architecture. The categories of these artistic expressions are analyzed. No prior art background or training is assumed or required. Students will look artwork from all periods of art history from the Prehistoric period to suitable art from the present.
MUSIC 1/2 Credit Weighted Elective	This course is a combination of music theory, music history and the performance of percussion instruments. World music cultures will also be examined. Students will learn how to write a music critique, have appropriate listening experiences and discuss the effect of music on our culture.
MUSIC APPRECIATION 1/2 Credit Weighted Elective	Although usually studied as an abstract art, American music often finds itself at the center of controversies involving race, politics, gender, and cultural identity. This course will explore these intersections between American cultural and musical life. Although the body of the course will focus on music between the Middle Ages and the present, we will investigate the role of music in a wide variety of America's defining moments as well. These range from the search for an American symphony, to rap and hip-hop culture. We will also examining music's role in such movements as Prohibition, Abolition, and the Harlem Renaissance. Students will be tested on lectures and notes from a wide variety of scholarly sources. Students will demonstrate their understanding of the course materials through class discussion, a research paper, Power Point presentation and testing. No prior musical background or training is assumed or required. Students will listen to musical selections from all periods of music history from the medieval period to suitable music from the present.
MUSIC 6 (Required)	The weekly 6 th grade music class is the underlying support for the OPS beginning band program as well as the middle school drama program. These students will have a variety of music/music culture experiences each week during the semester. These students also play a very big part in the OPS Christmas program, SCISA Choral Clinic participation, and the SCISA Fine Arts Festival.
MUSIC 7 (Required)	The weekly 7 th grade music class continues the music education/experience that was begun in 6 th grade. These students will study basic music theory, history and world music cultures during the semester. These students also

	play a very big part in the OPS Christmas program, SCISA Choral Clinic participation, and the SCISA Fine Arts Festival. ✓
WORLD MUSIC	This course is primarily aimed at developing musical listening skills in regards to the variety of styles found in world music. The competent use of basic musical terminology and terminology found in the study of world music is also required. The repertoire through which these skills are developed is predominately European, African and Asian art music primarily from the seventeenth to the twentieth centuries.
PUBLIC SPEAKING ½ Credit Weighted	Public Speaking is a semester course with an in-depth study of the kinds of speeches and the techniques used to deliver any of the speeches successfully that one might be required to give.
SENIOR SEMINAR (Required No academic credit)	Senior Seminar is a course for all seniors which will meet every Friday during sixth period. This course will include etiquette, public speaking, "real life" experiences, job/college interviewing, appropriate attire for special occasions, personal finances, and other topics pertinent to those moving on to college or a career. This course will be required for all seniors.
YEARBOOK 1/2 Credit Non-weighted Elective	Yearbook is a production class centered on creating the school yearbook. Students will engaged in establishing a theme, cover design, section and individual page layouts, how to implement coverage, while learning photography techniques and time management. Journalism skills such as copy writing, publication ethics and legal responsibilities will also be part of students training, while meeting real world deadlines as part of a team in a defined role.
	GENERAL OFFERINGS
STUDY SKILLS 6 & 7 STUDY HALL	(Semester course only) The students will learn strategies and skills to help them become stronger in the classroom and at home. Topics covered include: learning styles, organization and time management, note taking, reading for comprehension, studying for different types of tests, effective use of Gradelink and the daily planner/agenda, short and long-term goal setting, library discus training. Students receive a class period during the school day to work independently
	or receive academic help from a teacher or from the Tutorial Center. Students may also utilize this time to complete research projects in the school library.
DUAL CREDIT COURSES	

ECO 211 Microeconomics

Dual Credit

ENG 101 English Composition I

Dual Credit

ENG 102 English Composition II

Dual Credit

PSY 201 General Psychology

Dual Credit

This course includes the study of the behavior of households and firms including supply and demand, elasticity, price/input in different market structures, pricing of resources, regulations, and comparative advantage and trade.

This is a university transfer course in which the following topics are presented: a study of composition in conjunction with appropriate literary selections, with frequent theme assignments to reinforce effective writing. A review of standard usage and the basic techniques of research are also presented.

This is a university transfer course in which the following topics are presented: development of writing skills through logical organization, effective style, literary analysis, and research. An introduction to literary genre is also included. Prerequisite: ENG 101 with a grade of "C" or better.

This course includes the following topics: an introduction to the basic theories and concepts in the science of behavior, scientific method, biological bases for behavior, perception, motivation, learning, memory, development, personality, and abnormal behavior.