



Secular Studies Curriculum

“Guiding our students to a successful life in the 21st Century”

Yeshiva Tiferet Zion’s vision for our General Studies is based on “Guiding Our Students to a Successful Life In the 21st Century”. Our General Studies Department will be readying the students to live productive and meaningful lives in today’s world. Our students will be given the opportunity to take their skills should they so choose, into a college setting, and fully prepare them to advance to a higher degree. The curriculum set in place meets high school accreditation requirements for New York State and would award an Advanced Regents Diploma or Regents Diploma to any student completing our program.

YTT SECULAR STUDIES COURSE OUTLINE

AP U.S. History

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Advanced Placement United States History is a college level course in United States History covering the time period from Colonial America (1491) to the present. This is a one-year credit-bearing course. The Advanced Placement program in United States History is designed to provide students with the analytic skill and factual knowledge to deal critically with the problems and issues in United States History. The course prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands equivalent to those made by full year introductory college courses. Students will learn to assess historical materials – their relevance to a given interpretive problem, their reliability, and their importance, and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. Throughout the course students will be provided with the opportunity for instruction in the learning objectives in each of the seven themes as described in the AP U.S. History curriculum framework. Solid reading and writing skills, along with a willingness to devote considerable time to homework and study, are necessary to succeed. Emphasis is placed on critical and analytical thinking skills, essay writing, and on interpretation of primary and secondary sources.

Students will take the COLLEGE BOARD AP Exam at the end of the course.

AP Literature

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Advanced Placement literature course will engage students in careful reading and analysis of a challenging set of literary works from a range of genres including the novel, short story, poetry, and drama. This is a one-year credit-bearing course. The focus of the course will be on intensive reading and discussion of the literature, as well introduce secondary critical essays for discussion and evaluation. Emphasis will be placed on thoughtful and cogent analysis of the readings using a variety of theoretical frameworks and devices. The course is intended to provide students with an academic experience parallel to that of a college level literature course. This course will also include a writing component that focuses on expository, analytical and argumentative writing about the literature through both discussion and essay format. Students are expected to be active readers as they analyze and interpret textual detail, establish connections among their observations, and draw logical inferences leading toward an interpretive conclusion.

Students will take the COLLEGE BOARD AP Exam at the end of the course.

STEM- Engineering

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is a 2-year credit-earning course that will provide an interdisciplinary approach to integrating STEM into practice across multiple classes. The course will involve the participation in problem-based and project-based learning activities, mathematics and science inquiries learning tasks, and using technology to gain and display information. Students will practice backwards design to develop their own STEM learning activity. Graduate students will implement their activity in a classroom and monitor student learning outcomes.

Common Core Algebra

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is a one-year credit-bearing course. This course counts towards a student's mathematical commencement requirements and meets New York State's mathematics requirements towards earning a Regents Diploma or Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation. Students are expected to maintain a high classroom average. This course is aligned to the Common Core Learning Standards, intended to be the first of a three-year sequence. Students will study linear equations and inequalities; linear regression models, quadratic and exponential expressions (including rational exponents), quadratic functions, and formalize and extend the concept of functions (including function notation, domain and range, and exploration of many types of functions). This course is typically followed by Geometry in tenth grade.

Students will take the New York State Regents Examination in Algebra at the end of the course.

Common Core Geometry

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is a one-year credit-bearing course that counts towards a student's mathematical commencement requirements and meets New York State's mathematics requirements towards earning a Regents Diploma. It is aligned to the Common Core Learning Standards and is intended to be the second year of a three-year sequence. This course employs an integrated approach to the study of connecting algebra to geometric relationships and proofs. Properties of triangles, quadrilaterals, and circles will receive particular attention. Congruence and similarity of triangles will be established using appropriate theorems; transformations including rotations, reflections, translations, and glide reflections and coordinate geometry will be used to establish and verify geometric relationships; and topics in trigonometry extending to three-dimensional geometry will be explored.

Students will take the New York State Regents Examination in Geometry at the end of the course.

Common Core Algebra 2

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is a one-year course intended to be the third course in mathematics for high school. This course builds on students' work with linear, quadratic, and exponential functions. Students extend their repertoire of functions to include polynomial, rational, and radical functions. Students work closely with the expressions that define the functions and continue to expand and hone their abilities to model situations and to solve equations, including solving quadratic equations over the set of complex numbers and solving exponential equations using the properties of logarithms.

Students will take the New York State Regents Examination in Algebra 2 at the end of the course.

Living Environment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Living Environment is a required course for all students seeking a Regents diploma. The course focuses on conceptual understanding that emphasizes relationships, processes, mechanisms, and application of concepts. The Regents exam assesses students' ability to explain, analyze, and interpret biological processes and phenomena more than students' ability to recall specific facts. As a prerequisite for admission to the Regents Exam in Living Environment, students must have successfully completed 1200 minutes of laboratory experience with satisfactory written lab reports for each laboratory investigation.

Students will take the New York State Regents Examination in Living Environment at the end of the course.

Earth Science

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Physical Setting/Regents Earth Science course of study is designed to encourage students to understand the processes of change in earth and space through first-hand observation and inference. Throughout the various units, including Rocks and Minerals, Earthquakes, Landscapes, Geological History, Meteorology and Astronomy, emphasis is placed on scientific inquiry of data relevant to the NYS Learning Standards. Throughout the year, timely environmental issues such as global warming and environmental pollution will be explored, with an emphasis on how we interact with the planet Earth, and our responsibility to understand and value our natural environment.

Students will take the New York State Regents Examination in Earth Science at the end of the course.

Chemistry

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Physical Setting/Regents Chemistry course is designed to give you an in-depth view of chemistry and prepare you for college level chemistry courses in the future. The course itself consists of both a class and a laboratory section in which we will explore micro and macro levels of chemistry. We will explore scintillating topics such as atomic structure, the periodic table, stoichiometry, chemical bonding, physical behavior of matter, kinetics, equilibrium, acids and bases, redox and electrochemistry, organic chemistry, and nuclear chemistry.

Students will take the New York State Regents Examination in Chemistry at the end of the course.

Global History I

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Global History and Geography provides students with the opportunity to explore what is happening in various regions and civilizations at a given time. In addition, it enables students to investigate issues and themes from multiple perspectives and make global connections and linkages that lead to in-depth understanding. As students explore the five social studies standards, they should have multiple opportunities to explore the content and intellectual skills of history and the social sciences disciplines. **Although there isn't a regent exam this year for this course, students will be taking a Final Exam in June and will be expected to recall their learning from 9th grade in order to pass the 10th grade Global II regent.**

Global History II

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course consists of the continued study of Europe and Non-European World History. It consists of the study of the political, historical, social, cultural and economic events that shaped history from the 1700's to the present. All students will take the Global History & Geography Regents Examination (a comprehensive exam consisting of both Global I and II courses.)

Students will take the New York State Regents Examination in Global History at the end of the course.

U.S. History

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines the political, social, and economic history of the United States from the colonial period to the present day. Emphasis is placed on the analysis of primary documents within the context of American studies. There is also discussion of American Government and the effects of the Constitution on American life. Students take the New York State Regents' Examination in U.S. History upon completion of this course.

Students will take the New York State Regents Examination in U.S. History at the end of the course.

Economics/Government

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines the political, economic history of the U.S. world. Emphasis is placed on the analysis of different Economic and political theorems. There is also discussion of American Government and the effects of the Constitution on American life.

Students will take a final in January and one in June for each course.

English Language Arts- 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The English Language Arts curriculum is aligned to the New York State ELA learning standards and reflects a process-oriented approach to balanced literacy. The focus of literacy instruction is to help students construct meaning as listeners, speakers, readers, and writers in authentic situations and for purposes that are personally relevant and meaningful. Students will read different types of literature; short stories, poetry, fictional and non-fictional novels that emphasize close reading so that students comprehend what they have read. Essay writing will be emphasized and improved upon throughout the course. We will also stress grammar and vocabulary, as these are the tools that make students stronger readers and writers.

The English Regent Exam is usually given at the completion of 12th grade and students' scores will be greatly affected by their performance in the ELA classes for 9th, 10th & 11th grade.

Health

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Health class will be given to students entering 12th grade. The focus of this course is on personal health and the health system. Topics explored will be how to recognize situations that require professional health service and where to acquire these services.

Identify situations where research and medical advances have changed the outlook on health problems.

Learn about real life situations and how to engage in safe practices.

Students will write a weekly research paper highlighting various diseases, prevention, cures and general pertinent information.

Identify food choices that decrease risks of disease and promote achievement of health goals.

Recognize the importance of regular examinations and self-examinations in detecting and treating disease.

Describe the short term and long term effects of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs in individuals as well as adverse consequences on the community.

Trace physical, mental, emotional and social changes that occur throughout life.

Hebrew I, II, and III

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Hebrew language class will be given to students entering 10th grade. The focus will be on conversational Hebrew along with a heavy focus on vocabulary. Students will not only become comfortable with the language at the end of the three-year course but will be able to pass the Hebrew Language Comprehensive Exam which counts towards an Advanced Regents Diploma. This course not only fulfills a language requirement, but proves to be especially useful in our students' current and future development.

The Hebrew (LOTE) Exam is usually given at the completion of 12th grade and students' scores will be greatly affected by their performance in the Hebrew classes for 10th & 11th grade.

Mock Trial

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This one year credit-bearing course asks students to delve into the world of law. By interpreting, analyzing, and portraying the major issues of a case, students obtain a unique insider's perspective of the American legal process. Participants develop self-esteem, poise, and confidence through both individual and team efforts. The program helps students develop public speaking skills, encourages deductive and inductive reasoning, sharpens reading comprehension, stimulates interest in governmental studies, and increases appreciation for our judicial system as a means of enforcing societies laws.

Introduction to Business

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The major purpose of this one year course is to provide students the skills needed to effectively organize, develop, create, and manage a business. Students will learn the significance of math, reading, writing, and communicating to their future within the framework of operating a small business. They will understand how the market economy and ownership leads to wealth creation. Students will learn not only the skills necessary to become a successful business person but also the attitudes, characteristic, and techniques needed to succeed. They will learn to be able to save and make future investments in order to meet their financial goals in life. Students will build analytical skills through solving complex problems and making sound decisions in order to produce a viable business.

Other Electives & Enrichment Courses:

Speech, Debate & Public Speaking

Students learn the effective methods of proper speech writing and public speaking, enabling them to pursue areas in their learning and future careers. Course work will include research based and opinion speech writing, individual and team debates, public speaking presentations and in depth analysis of famous speeches.

Fundamentals of Microsoft Office Suite

Students learn the basic principles of Microsoft Word, Excel & PowerPoint; a crucial element in any career or further education. Course work will include collections of writings, financial documents and charts and power point presentations accompanied by live guidance.

Algebra Enrichment, Geometry Enrichment, Algebra 2 Enrichment

Enrichment courses are geared to students that can gain from focused math instruction in the math subject of the grade they are in. Through enrichment courses, students are able to solidify and expand on their current learning.