



## COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE/SAMPLE

All students who completed coursework independently while homeschooled or preparing for the GED/HSED exam will need to send course descriptions of each individual course they took through this method. We require course descriptions for all core coursework and elective coursework taken at home. A course description should contain a summary of content covered in the course, and can include a list of resources used, the name of the instructor, and methods of examination and grading. You will find samples below detailing how one might approach writing a course description for various courses. The samples will include traditional coursework, along with more unique cases, such as AP coursework taken with an accredited online group, language courses taken with an external body, and honors coursework conducted by a credentialed individual. Please note that in order for a course to count as 1 full credit, it must be taken for 1 academic year at the high school level or 1 semester at the college level.

Students should follow their state's homeschool requirements in order to determine the length and hours needed to complete each course. The state of Wisconsin requires that students complete a minimum of 875 hours total per academic year across all courses, divided as the homeschool administrator sees fit between core and elective coursework. Ideally, a full year course should cover at least 125-150 hours, and a half year course should cover at least 60 hours.

### **SAMPLE 1: ENGLISH 9**

#### English 9- British Literature

Instructor: Bob Smith

Course Length: 1 academic year (September 2017- May 2018), approx. 140 hours.

Assignments: Pop quizzes, short/long essays (take-home and in-person test), creative writing.

Resources: Frankenstein by Mary Shelley, Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare, Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austin, A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens, Animal Farm by George Orwell, The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde, Dubliners by James Joyce, The Norton Anthology of English Literature

This course surveys British Literature from the late 1500s through the late 1900s. The student will learn both about the writing styles and history of Britain through the literature read and discussed in this course. The course covers a wide variety of genres and authors who made an impact in the trajectory of

British literature. The student will be expected to complete pop quizzes related to daily readings, write one-page summaries, and continue to refine their 5-paragraph essay. Additionally, the student will engage in creative writing exercises related to the literature being read. This course is a standard level college preparatory course which will prepare them for future college-level coursework.

## **SAMPLE 2: CHEMISTRY**

### Science 10- Chemistry

Instructor: Karen Rosenbloom

Course Length: 1 academic year (August 2018- May 2019), approx. 145 hours.

Assignments: Quizzes and tests, lab work

Resources: Exploring Creation with Chemistry, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition by Plourde and Hughes (Apologia)

This course is a first-year Chemistry course designed to cover the basic high school chemistry curriculum. Topics include measurement & units, atoms & molecules, atomic structure, molecular structure, polyatomic ions and molecular geometry, stoichiometry, acid-base chemistry, thermodynamics, kinetics, chemical equilibrium, and more. The student will also conduct home-based lab experiments in accordance with the above units, guided by the included resource. The student will be tested on their knowledge through unit-based quizzes and multi-unit-based exams, in addition to their performance in lab-based work. This course is a standard level college preparatory course preparing them for college-level science coursework.

## **SAMPLE 3: HONORS ALGEBRA II**

### Math 11- Honors Algebra II

Instructor: Thomas Renault (BS in Mathematics from Accredited University, MA in Mathematics Education (Secondary) from Accredited University).

Course Length: 1 academic year (September 2019- June 2020), approx. 160 hours.

Assignments: Homework, Quizzes, Exams

Resources: Algebra II Homeschool Kit by Saxon (includes student textbook and testing book).

The course is a continuation and deeper look into algebraic concepts. Topics include uniform motion, chemistry-related problems, simultaneous equations with 2 and 3 variables, non-linear equations, geometry, right-triangle trigonometry, conversion from rectangular to polar coordinates, addition of vectors, complex numbers, quadratic formulas. The student will be asked to regularly complete homework assignments, which will account for a small portion of the student's grade. They will

additionally complete occasional quizzes and multi-unit-based tests, which make up the largest portion of the student's grade. This course is being held at the honors level and was taught by an external, credential mathematics teacher.

#### **Sample 4: AP US History**

##### Social Science 12- AP US History

Instructor: The Potter's School, Leonard Mailiand (M.Ed from Accredited University)

Course Length: 1 academic year (September 2020- June 2021), approx.. 175 hrs.

Assignments: Research-based essays

Resources:

1. Fabric of a Nation: A Brief History with Skills and Sources, For the AP® Course, 1st Edition
  - This resource includes online study materials and digital courseware to complete required assignments plus the added bonus of a full eText (accessible on-line and downloadable to devices) of the required textbook.
  - Access to this digital courseware is provided by TPS when class begins. The cost is listed in the Course Catalog "Tuition and Fees" as a fee paid to TPS with your tuition payment.
  - Optional: Students who want a paper book version of the required textbook in addition to the included eText can purchase it anywhere it's available using the ISBN: 9781319178178
2. YouTube
  - Access to YouTube is required for some graded assignments. No alternate provision is made for students who cannot access YouTube.

This course analyzes political, social, economic, cultural, diplomatic, and intellectual factors to study the people, events and movements of the American past. At the same time, it connects events and issues from the past to the concerns of the present. Students develop and use the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; making historical comparisons; utilizing reasoning about contextualization, causation, and continuity and change over time; and developing historical arguments. The course also provides seven themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: American and national identity; migration and settlement; politics and power; work, exchange, and technology; America in the world; geography and the environment; and culture and society. The course uses a college-level text, but analyzes influences and movements from a biblical worldview. It prepares students not only for advanced history, political science, and social studies courses in college, but also specifically for the AP U.S. History exam.

## **SAMPLE 5: SPANISH II**

### Language 11- Spanish II

Instructor: Dr. Martina Estevez (BA in Spanish from Accredited University, PhD in Spanish Literature from Accredited University)

Course Length: 1 academic year (August 2019- May 2020), approx. 130 hours.

Assignments: Quizzes, Tests, Short Writing Assignments, Oral Tests, Presentations

Resources: [¡Expresate!](#) By Holt, external readings and videos.

This course is an intermediate-level Spanish course building on the foundation from Spanish I. Students begin to develop strong vocabulary and grammar skills through a study of culture, cultural readings, and writing. Additionally, the student will more confidently participate in conversation through class discussions and oral quizzes/exams. At the end of the year, the student will give an oral presentation covering a particular celebratory event hosted by a Spanish-speaking country of their choice. This course was conducted by an accredited instructor who conducted the class via virtual sessions with our student.

## **SAMPLE 6: LATIN I**

### Language 9- Latin I

Instructor: Kim McPhee

Course Length: 1 academic year (September 2017- May 2018), approx. 135 hrs.

Assignments: Quizzes, Test, Short Writing Assignments, Translations, Presentations

Resources: [Cambridge Latin Course: Unit 1, North American 4th Edition](#) by North American Cambridge Classics Project

This course is an introduction to the study of Latin. The included guiding text includes a stimulating continuous story line, interwoven grammatical development and cultural information, supportive illustrations and photographs, and a complete Language Information section. The student will focus on their reading comprehension skills, and all the elements of the program illustrations, vocabulary, grammar and syntax, cultural contexts and references, activities are carefully introduced and arranged to provide students with the skills they need to read with comprehension and enjoyment from the very first page. The student's understanding of the material will be assessed via conjugation quizzes,

vocabulary and grammar-based exams, translation assignments, and a presentation on a particular moment in Roman history, delivered in English. This course is a college preparatory level class designed to prepare the study for the second level of Latin study.

### **SAMPLE 7: INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC THEORY**

#### Music 10- Intro to Music Theory

Instructor: Jon Kreminski (BFA in Music from Accredited University, MFA in Music Performance from Accredited University)

Course Length: 1 HS semester (January 2018- May 2018), approx. 60 hours.

Assignments: Quizzes, Tests, Homework Assignments

Resources: Concise Introduction to Tonal Harmony by L. Poundie Burstein and Joseph N. Straus

This elective course is focused on introducing the student to basic music theory concepts, in preparation for college-level music theory coursework. This course will introduce students to the theory of music, providing them with the skills needed to read and write Western music notation, as well as to understand, analyse, and listen informedly. It will cover material such as pitches and scales, intervals, clefs, rhythm, form, meter, phrases and cadences, and basic harmony. This course covers the fundamentals of Western music theory, from the absolute basics to some more advanced concepts.

### **FINAL THOUGHTS**

These samples should serve as a strong guide when creating your own course description document. All of the above information is useful in helping us assess your student's educational journey. Please note that every single course should be reported separately and clearly, as shown above. If any questions remain regarding how to write a course description or about any academic concerns, please email [onwisconsin@admissions.wisc.edu](mailto:onwisconsin@admissions.wisc.edu) for guidance.