

**Cornerstone Christian School**  
**High School Course Catalog**  
**(updated August 2024)**

\* Optional Honors designation available in core classes

### **Bible**

*Introduction to Systematics\** – A systematic study of basic Christian doctrine in light of the creeds and councils of the early church. Particular emphasis will be given to the Trinity, the person and work of Christ, and the biblical doctrine of salvation, with practical applications to the social and cultural implications of the faith. Textbooks: *The Holy Bible* (AV); *Foundations of Social Order* by Rushdoony; *Introduction to Systematics* by Greg Uttinger; *Discovering the Fullness of Worship* by Engle.

*Biblical Theology\** – A study of the whole Bible as the story/history of redemption in Jesus Christ. Attention is given to God's covenants, with particular emphasis on Genesis and Exodus as foundational for everything that follows. Textbook: *The Holy Bible* (AV); plus one short book on biblical theology TBA.

*Introduction to Scriptures\** – A systematic study of what the Bible says about itself. Topics covered include general and special revelation, inspiration, infallibility and inerrancy, preservation of the text, presuppositional apologetics, and biblical principles of interpretation. Textbooks: *The Holy Bible* (AV); *Introduction to Scriptures* by Greg Uttinger; *The Lord Gave the Word* by Watts.

*Biblical Ethics\** – A study of God's moral law in both Testaments in the light of God's saving grace in Jesus Christ. Practical applications are given to the believer's walk with Christ, to society at large, and to Christian counseling. Textbooks: *The Holy Bible* (AV); *The Enemy Within* by Lundgaard; *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis; *Competent to Counsel* by Adams.

### **English Language and Literature**

*Expository Writing\** - Practice in writing essays (analysis, compare and contrast, process), narratives, dialogues, short stories, poems, and a journal, and practice in responding to written texts in writing. Includes a discussion of literary theory and two term papers. Texts: *Elements of Style* by Strunk and White; *Reading Between the Lines* by Veith; *Amusing Ourselves to Death* by Postman; *Outliers* by Gladwell; *Psychological Seduction* by Kilpatrick; *Crime and Punishment* by Dostoevsky; and *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* by Turabian.

*American Literature\** - A survey of America's literature from the early Colonial authors to Hemingway and Faulkner in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Attention to literary style and technique and to the religious philosophies behind the stories and poems. Includes the reading of five novels. Texts: *The Implications of Literature* (Text Word Press); *The United States in Literature* (Scott, Foresman); *A Handbook for American Literature* by Greg Uttinger; *Scarlet Letter* by Hawthorne; *Moby Dick* by Melville; *Huckleberry Finn* by Twain; *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Lee; *The Old Man and the Sea* by Hemingway; *Fahrenheit 451* by Bradbury, plus one American play.

*British Literature\** - A survey of Britain's literature from the Celtic legends of Arthur to the Christian and secular writers of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Attention is given to the literary styles and techniques and to the religious philosophies behind the stories and poems. Includes an overview of British religious and political history and practice in writing poetry. Includes the reading of at least four novels. Texts: *England in Literature* (Scott, Foresman); *A Handbook for British Literature* by Greg Uttinger; *Beowulf* translated by Heaney; *The Pilgrim's Progress* by Bunyan; *Pride and Prejudice* by Austen;

*Frankenstein* 1818 Edition by M. Shelley; *Perelandra* by C.S. Lewis; at least one Shakespearean play; and *Lit!* by Reinke.

*World Literature\** - A survey of the world's literature from the *Epic of Gilgamesh* to the French and Russian novels of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and extensive written interaction with the texts. Emphasis on literature as a reflection of world-view. Texts: *Epic of Gilgamesh*; *Enuma Elish*; *Iliad* by Homer; *The Apology* by Plato; *Aeneid* by Vergil; *On the Incarnation of the Word* by Athanasius; *Inferno* by Dante; *Don Quixote* by Cervantes; *Mythology* by Hamilton; *Les Miserables* by Hugo; *That Hideous Strength* by Lewis; plus at least one Shakespearean play.

### **History/ Economics and Government**

*U.S. History and Government\** - A survey of United States history (from the early explorers through the early 21<sup>st</sup> century) in light of God's redemptive purposes and providence. Special emphasis on the biblical roots of federalism, decentralization, free market economics, and the American sense of mission. Includes a study of the U.S. Constitution. Texts: *A Basic History of the United States* by Carson; *Up from Slavery* by Washington; *The Longest Day* by Ryan.

*World History\** - A survey of history from creation through the 20<sup>th</sup> Century in light of God's redemptive purposes. Emphasis is given to ancient history as preparation for Jesus Christ and to modern history as the expansion of His kingdom in the face of opposition. Texts: *The Holy Bible* (AV); *Gods, Graves, and Scholars* by Ceram; *The Histories* by Herodotus; *The Romans* by Barrow; *Prologue, A Christian Guide to Ancient History* by Greg Uttinger; *Blood of the Moon* by Grant; *Lost to the West* by Brownworth; *Daughter of Time* by Tey; *A Short History of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century* by Blainey; plus one other TBA.

*Church History\** - A survey of Church history from Pentecost to the present. Special emphasis on St. Augustine, the early Church councils, the Protestant Reformation, and the Puritan movement in Britain and America. Texts: *The Church in History* by Kuiper; *Book of Martyrs* by Foxe; *Total Truth* by Pearcey; *Idelette* by Gerstner

*Economics\** - (1 semester course) A study of the biblical principles governing stewardship, dominion, private property, money, debt, and State intervention into the market. Also includes an overview of free market economics and critiques of mercantilism, socialism, Marxism, and Keynesianism. Texts: *Honest Money* by North; *Economic in One Lesson* by Hazlitt; plus one book on investing or finance and an additional book on economic concerns. One required term paper.

*Government\** - (1 semester course) A study of biblical principles of self-government, family government, and civil government; American federalism; and the *United States Constitution*. Texts: *Dominion: A Biblical Primer* by Greg Uttinger; *The United States Constitution*; *The Federalist Papers* by Hamilton, Jay, and Madison; plus one book on work, dominion, or environmental concerns; and another on the current American system TBA. One required term paper.

### **Mathematics**

**Note:** *A satisfactory score on an entrance exam is required for some high school mathematics classes.*

*Algebra I* - A study of the basic concepts of algebra, including rational and radical functions and equations, positive and negative numbers, graphing, polynomials, factoring, and linear and quadratic equations, linear inequalities, statistics and probability, and geometry. Students will be required to take an entrance exam to assess their readiness. Text: *Algebra I* (Big Ideas Learning).

*Algebra II* - A continuation of Algebra I. Topics covered include factoring, linear and quadratic equations, systems of equations, functions, graphing, and basic trigonometry. Text: *Algebra II* (Big Ideas Learning). Supplements on factoring and three equations/three unknowns from other texts.

**Prerequisite: successful completion of Algebra I and a satisfactory score on the entrance exam.**

*Geometry* - A study of the basic principles of plane and solid geometry. Includes direct and indirect proofs, practical applications, and an introduction to trigonometry and statistics. Incorporates a heavy review of concepts from Algebra I. Text: *Big Ideas Math: Geometry* by Larson and Baswell.

**Prerequisite: successful completion of Algebra I.**

*Pre-Calculus* - Preparation for Calculus. The course includes a study of linear, polynomial, and rational functions and their graphs; trigonometry; polar coordinates and equations; complex numbers; conics; exponential and logarithmic functions; sequences and series; combinatorics and probability; statistics and data analysis; introductory derivatives and integrals; and the use of graphing calculators. Students must have a graphing calculator (recommended: TI-83) for use in class. Text: *Advanced Mathematical Concepts* (McGraw Hill Glencoe). **Prerequisite: successful completion of Algebra II.**

*Consumer Math* - A practical course in real-life applications using all aspects of arithmetic with an emphasis on business formulas, conversions, and use of percents. Units included are buying a car, income, budgeting, housing, food, clothing, taxes, and banking. Text: *Consumer Mathematics* (A Beka).

## Science

*Chemistry\** - A mathematical introduction to the principles of chemistry. Topics covered include naming ionic and covalent compounds, balancing ionic equations, stoichiometry, the gas laws, and atomic theory. Lab work required. Text: *Chemistry, Visualizing Matter* (Holt). **Prerequisite: successful completion of Algebra I and the completion of Physical Science or some equivalent or the teacher's permission.**

*Biology\** - A study of the beginnings of life at Creation, the processes that sustain life and the variety found in living organisms. Special emphasis on cytology, genetics, microbiology, botany, zoology, anatomy, and physiology using both classroom instruction and laboratory work. Text: *Biology for Christian Schools* (Bob Jones); *Creation: Facts of Life* by Parker; *Made in His Image* by Guliuzza.

*Physics\** - An introduction to mechanics, heat, sound, electromagnetism, optics, and modern physics (relativity, quantum physics, and nuclear physics), involving extensive use of algebra and trigonometry. Lab work required. Text: *Physics: Principles and Problems* (Glencoe/McGraw-Hill); *Six Easy Pieces* by Reynman; *Without Excuse* by Gitt. **Prerequisite: successful completion of (or, with teacher's permission, concurrent enrollment in) Algebra II. (Physical Science strongly recommended.)**

*Physical Science* - An introduction to the physical sciences with particular emphasis on the Christian presuppositions that under gird the sciences. Topics covered include basic chemistry; the laws of force and motion, electricity and magnetism, sound and light, heat and energy, basic geology, and basic astronomy. Text: *Matter and Energy* (A Beka); *One Race, One Blood* by Ham and Ware.

## Leadership Training

Students gain valuable experience in real-life project management through committee-based projects under the supervision and mentoring of staff advisors. Leadership class includes practical training in time management as well as the use of mind mapping, task maps, task lists, and taking minutes. Leadership skills are taught and modeled, including how to delegate, how to supervise others, and

conflict management techniques. Students do a book study of one Leadership or Finance book each year. The following standing projects which are active throughout the year: Governance, Yearbook, Spirit Week, Food Days, Candy Grams, Senior Banquet, and 1<sup>st</sup> Year Leadership. Text (rotate each year): *Spiritual Leadership* by Sanders; *12 Ways Your Phone Is Changing You* by Reinke; *What's Best Next* by Perman; *Know Yourself, Know Your Money* by Cruz.

## **ELECTIVES**

**Note:** *Not all electives are offered every year. Unless otherwise noted, elective courses are full year courses.*

\* Although Choir (our Fine Art course offering) and foreign languages are electives at Cornerstone, please note that, based upon UC and CSU college admissions practices, foreign language and fine art are required by these institutions. Please consult the specific college or university you plan on applying to and make certain you are fulfilling their specific admission requirements.

**Art** - This class will teach foundational skills in drawing, painting, illustration, printmaking and other medium as time allows. Basic drawing skills will include perception, composition, using grids and drawing in perspective. Students will create work in pencil, ink, washes, and various chalks. Additionally, students will learn how to analyze art, study art theory and historical context through reading and writing assignments. We will cover questions such as, "What is art, and does God care about the arts?" Study of various artists, countries, periods and art esthetics will also be included.

**Choir\*** - This course covers the basics of choral singing, music theory, the history of music in periods of time, including breathing, tone color, balance, and singing in parts. In addition to attendance in class, this course will also require the purchase of a choir dress or tux for performances and attendance at the Christmas Music Festival (December), ACSI Musicale (March), Spring Concert (May), Awards Assembly (June), Graduation Ceremonies (June), and other possible performances scheduled by the school. Because of the nature of working as a group for a year, students will not be permitted to drop choir after the standard drop period at the beginning of the year. Occasionally additional practices are required in preparation for a performance.

*Note, although Choir is an elective, CCS requires 10 credits of Choir as a graduation requirement.*

**Drama** - Offered both semesters with two different productions. Enrollment in each production is limited by the needs of each production.

**Drama A** – (1 semester course-Winter) Centers on the actual production of a play or dramatic recital. Includes the study of theatre history, the use of make-up and scenery, costuming, promotion and sales, the fundamentals of movement and voice, techniques of lighting and sound, stage management, and character and plot analysis. Movie reviews are required. Drama A will give two evening performances either before Thanksgiving or after Thanksgiving. The Winter play will usually be shorter or less involved than the Spring play.

**Drama B** – (1 semester course-Spring) Centers on the actual production of a play or musical. Also includes the study of the use of make-up and scenery, costuming, promotion and sales, the fundamentals of movement and voice, techniques of lighting and sound, stage management, and character and plot analysis. Movie reviews are required. Drama B will give four evening performances during the Spring. The Spring play will often be longer or more involved than the Winter play.

**Middle East Studies**— A survey of the geography, religions, and history of the Middle East in order to shape a biblical framework to understand and analyze the region. Special emphasis on the events of the twentieth century and on the countries of Israel, Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Syria. Texts: *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus* by Qureshi; *Son of Hamas* by Mosab Hassan Yousef; and text excerpts from *A Brief History of the Middle East* by Catherwood, *The Middle East* by Lewis, *Understanding the Middle East* by Trimnell, *Islam: A Short Guide to the Faith* edited by Allen and Toorawa, *The Book of Jewish Belief* by Jacobs, and others.

### **Physical Education**

*Boys' P.E.*—Students learn and practice skills for various sports, including basketball, tennis, and soccer. Students learn flexibility and strength-building techniques and pursue overall fitness through Presidential Physical Fitness Program conditioning and testing. Heavy emphasis on teamwork and the spiritual dimension of physical fitness and athletics.

*Girls' P.E.* - Students learn and practice skills for various sports, including basketball, tennis, and soccer. Students learn flexibility and strength-building techniques and pursue overall fitness through Presidential Physical Fitness Program conditioning and testing. Heavy emphasis on teamwork and the spiritual dimension of physical fitness and athletics.

*Note, although P.E. is an elective, CCS requires 20 credits of P.E. as a graduation requirement.*

**Spanish I \***— The emphasis will be on communication – conveying meaning for a purpose to a real audience and understanding what others have to say. A great deal of practice will be done orally in class. Students will be expected to learn the grammar, vocabulary, and spelling needed to read and write at a beginning level. Aspects of Hispanic culture will be discussed as they may pertain to the vocabulary or topic of the chapter. The students will learn: greetings, telling time, weather, physical and personality descriptions, school, clothing, family, food, home, sports, health, vacations, and present and past tense of verbs. Text: *Así Se Dice 1* (McGraw-Hill).

**Spanish II \*** –The emphasis will be on communication, with considerable practice will be done orally in class. Students are expected to learn the grammar, vocabulary, and spelling needed to read and write at an intermediate level. Aspects of Hispanic culture will be discussed as they may pertain to the vocabulary or topic of the chapter. The students will learn: travel on a plane or train, daily routine, food and restaurants, festivals, technology, hotels, cars and driving, cooking, and past and future tenses and command forms of verbs. Text: *Así Se Dice 2* (McGraw-Hill).

**Spanish III \*** –The emphasis will be on communication, with considerable practice will be done orally in class with one or more to read and write at an intermediate level. Aspects of Hispanic culture will be discussed as they may pertain to the vocabulary or topic of the chapter. The students will learn: exercise and injury, life events, errands, manners, travel, art, food, careers, and the subjunctive mood of verbs in present and past. Text: *Así Se Dice 3* (McGraw-Hill).

**Yearbook** - A hands-on class in which students plan and produce the school's annual yearbook. The goal is to produce an affordable, high quality yearbook that represents the entire school. The yearbook advisor oversees the class to ensure that deadlines are met. Students use a ladder diagram to plan the yearbook, learn basic camera handling and shooting procedures, and use software to crop and enhance pictures. Students will select eye-catching designs and headlines and use their writing skills to create copy for the various pages in the yearbook. Students also learn marketing and sales techniques related to selling the yearbook. Yearbook class is officially an aspect of Leadership Training, but it functions with considerable autonomy.