

Geneva High School

Memorandum

To: Board of Education
From: Tom Rogers and Doug Drexler
Date: October 1st, 2015
Re: GHS New and Modified Courses for 2016-2017
Cc: Dr. Mutchler, Dr. Barrett, Mrs. Sims

Although it seems as if the current school year is just getting underway, we have already been hard at work planning for the 2016-2017 school year. We are recommending seven new courses as well as modifications to four existing courses. These changes to our course offerings will better enable us to meet the evolving needs of our students.

To date, these new and modified courses have been reviewed and approved by the GHS Department Chairs, Building Leadership Team, Building Administration, the Staff and Curriculum Development Council, and the District Department of Learning and Teaching. We await your approval before allowing students to register for these courses beginning in November.

Some of these recommendations do not require a change in staffing, space, or budget, while others will require those changes if they produce sufficient student enrollments. Funding requests for any expenses will follow the current procedures in the spring once our course registration process is complete. However, we have included the possible anticipated staffing and material costs for informational purposes. Additional information has also been included that provides greater detail for some of these recommendations.

Please let us know if you have any questions about the proposed changes that appear below:

Proposed Course Additions

Department:	Course:	Description:	Anticipated District Costs:
English	AP English Language and Composition	This year-long, senior-level course will replace the existing one-semester English IV Honors course. This will allow for a full 4-year program in Honors/AP level English coursework. See Appendix A	None
English	Television Production of Documentaries	This semester-long course will alternate years with the existing Television Production of Sitcoms course. This addition will provide more options for students interested in the area of television production. See Appendix B	None
Science	Physical Science	This junior/senior level science elective is intended for college-bound students not suited for the standard chemistry course. There is currently no course pathway for this population of students to meet the physical science Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) at GHS. The addition of this course will provide for this critical opportunity and will better prepare students for college. Although seeking approval now, this course will begin with the 2017-2018 school year. See Appendix C	* \$7,500 texts * up to \$39,000 for initial purchase of lab equipment
Social Studies	Contemporary Global Issues	This one-semester course will use the study of global current events to develop and reinforce research, communication, and problem solving skills. The existing Contemporary Issues course will be renamed Contemporary American Issues. With US History shifted to a sophomore year course, there will now be students seeking new social studies electives next year. See Appendix D	None
Social Studies	Political Campaigns and Elections	This one-semester course will provide students with the ability to delve into national political elections. This course will run during school years leading up to and/or including a national election. With US History shifted to a sophomore year course, there will now be students seeking new social studies electives next year. See Appendix E	\$6,000 texts
Special Education	Applied Foods	This course will serve instructional special education students as they focus on developing functional skills within a kitchen setting. This course will be team taught by a special education teacher and a foods teacher. See Appendix F	* \$2,200 in materials * Up to 0.2 FTE
Technology Education	PLTW Honors Engineering Design and Development	This course is the capstone course to the Project Lead the Way engineering sequence. This course provides students with open-ended research problems to solve using the engineering design process. See Appendix G	* Year 1 = \$8,000 * Year 2+ = \$1,200

Proposed Course Modifications

Department:	Course:	Description:	Anticipated Costs:
Business	Virtual Enterprises International	Increase the number of prerequisite business courses from 2 to 3 effective with the 2017-18 school year. Nearly all currently enrolled students already meet this prerequisite.	None
English	Structure of the English Language	The content of this course has now been imbedded into the required freshman English curriculum. As such, this course is being phased out. Next year it will be available to juniors and seniors. During the 2017-18 school year it will be available to seniors. During the 2018-19 school year the course will no longer exist as a stand-alone course.	None
Social Studies	AP Government	Expand availability of AP Government to juniors (currently only open to seniors). With AP US History now open to sophomores, many students will now have met the prerequisites for this course going into their junior year.	\$3,000 texts
Special Education	Resource Study Skills	Remove the existing 1/4 credit from this course. Although there is a curriculum for this program, students have increasingly utilized this program as more of a supported study hall that doesn't warrant credit.	None

Appendix A: AP English Language and Composition

Course Name:	AP English Language and Composition
Open to grades:	12
Credits:	½, ½
Prerequisite:	AP English Literature & Composition or English III
AP Program Fee:	c. \$95

Description: The AP English Language and Composition course aligns to an introductory college-level rhetoric and writing curriculum, which requires students to develop evidence-based analytic and argumentative essays that proceed through several stages or drafts. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Throughout the course, students develop a personal style by making appropriate grammatical choices. Additionally, students read and analyze the rhetorical elements and their effects in non-fiction texts as well as fiction texts, including graphic images as forms of text, from many disciplines and historical periods.

Additional Background: This year-long, senior-level course will replace the existing semester-long English IV Honors course. This will allow GHS to offer a full 4-year program in Honors/AP level English coursework. The course will help students become skilled readers of prose written in a variety of disciplines and rhetorical contexts, and become skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes, aware of the interactions among a writer's purpose, audience expectations and subjects. An integral part of the course will be the development of research skills that enable students to evaluate, use and cite source material.

Appendix B: Television Production of Documentaries

Course Name: Television Production of Documentaries

Open to grades: 10, 11, 12

Credits: ½

Prerequisites: TV Production Techniques and Broadcast Newswriting & Editing

Course Fee: c. \$25

Description: In this course, students will learn the process of developing and creating a documentary film. Students will gain knowledge of the history of documentaries and how they have developed over time. They will also learn the importance of this genre, and why these can be used to help to advocate for change. During the semester, students will work on their script writing skills, develop stronger camerawork principles, and understand the importance of sound and lighting in the filming process. At the end of the semester students will be required to submit their documentary and screen it to the class.

**Additional
Background:**

This course will focus on the production and writing of documentaries and the techniques of shooting them. This genre of filmmaking requires students to write about their subject in a similar format as a news story, but in a longer form. Student objectives will include: learning film techniques to help relay the message of their story; understanding important lighting, audio, and visual techniques; developing storylines; and utilizing advanced film writing techniques. This semester-long elective will alternate years with the existing Television Production of Sitcoms course. This addition will provide more options for students interested in the area of television production.

Appendix C: Physical Science

Course Name: Physical Science

Open to grades: 11, 12

Credits: ½, ½

Prerequisites: Biology
Algebra I or Algebra IB

Course Fee: c. \$15

Description: This course is a full year laboratory science course intended for college bound students who need a more concept-based Chemistry and Physics approach. This course will cover foundational concepts in both chemistry and physics including: states of matter, classification of matter, atomic properties, the Periodic Table and the elements, bonding, reactions, motion and forces, work and energy, electricity, magnetism, and waves. Departmental placement is required to enroll in this course.

Additional Background: This course is a junior-senior level science elective intended for students not suited for the standard chemistry course. There is currently no course pathway for this student population to meet the physical science Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) at GHS. The addition of this course will provide for this critical opportunity and will better prepare students for college. Although we are seeking approval now, this course will begin with the 2017-2018 school year.

Appendix D: Contemporary Global Issues

Course Name: Contemporary Global Issues

Open to grades: 10, 11, 12

Credits: ½

Prerequisites: Completion of Sociology with a grade of 'C' or higher

Course Fee: \$10

Description: This course is a one-semester elective course that will use theoretical perspectives gained in Sociology to explore and discuss various sociological issues in today's global environment. Topics may include such issues as international trade, foreign aid, terrorism, genocide, nuclear proliferation, global conflicts, and other student-generated topics. Students will be expected to complete substantial research to prepare for class discussions.

Additional

Background: This one-semester course will use the study of global current events to develop and reinforce research, communication, and problem solving skills. The existing Contemporary Issues course will be renamed Contemporary American Issues. With US History shifted to a sophomore year course, there will now be students seeking new social studies electives next year.

Appendix E: Political Campaigns & Elections

Course Name:	Political Campaigns & Elections
Open to grades:	11, 12
Credits:	½
Prerequisites:	US Government or AP US Government
Course Fee:	None

Description: As part of this course, students will gain a thorough understanding of American political campaigns, including their history, structure, as well as the strategies and behaviors of candidates and other political players. This course will allow students to develop the ability to independently evaluate news about campaigns and candidates. Students will also conduct political science research, including exploring relevant scholarly literature as well as collecting and analyzing their own data. This course will also provide students with opportunities to become directly engaged in the democratic process.

Additional Background: This one-semester course will provide students with the ability to delve into national political elections. This course will run during school years leading up to and/or including a national election. With US History shifted to a sophomore year course, there will now be students seeking new social studies electives next year.

Appendix F: Applied Foods

Course Name: Applied Foods

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Credits: ½

Prerequisites: Placement by IEP

Course Fee: c. \$30

Description: This course will serve instructional special education students as they focus on developing functional skills within a kitchen setting. Students will cook and prepare meals and focus on attaining specific cooking skills such as cutting, grating, stirring, cracking eggs, opening cans, spreading, microwaving, using a toaster, washing dishes, sanitizing kitchen surfaces, and understanding nutritional concepts. This will be a special education class that will be taught using a team teaching approach.

The following Core Instructional objectives will be addressed:

1. Understand and apply safety and sanitation principles.
2. Know names and uses of equipment.
3. Practice table setting and dining etiquette.
4. Demonstrate skills for cutting food safely in the lab.
5. Demonstrate basic cooking and preparation skills.
6. Prepare a variety of foods including meat, poultry, pasta, fruits, vegetables, and desserts.
7. Develop a basic understanding of nutrition.
8. Use applied math skills

**Additional
Background:**

The learning standards for this course have been derived from the Illinois Learning Standards for Special Education in the areas of: Daily Living, Home Care, Self Care, and Safety.

Appendix G: Honors Engineering Design & Development (PLTW)

Course Name: Honors Engineering Design & Development (Project Lead the Way)

Open to grades: 11, 12

Credits: ½, ½

Prerequisites: Successful completion of any two of the following:

- PLTW Honors Introduction to Engineering Design
- PLTW Honors Principles of Engineering Design
- PLTW Computer Science & Software Engineering

Course Fee: \$50

Description: Honors Engineering Design & Development is the capstone course in the PLTW engineering course sequence. It is an open-ended engineering research course in which students work in teams to design, develop, and test an original solution to a well-defined and justified open-ended problem by applying the engineering design process. While progressing through the engineering design process, students will work continually hone their organizational, communication, and interpersonal skills, their creative and problem solving abilities, and their understanding of the design process.