

Meridian High School *Course Descriptions*



2009 - 2010

BUSINESS

Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS I) (Semester)

Do you want to spend less time doing homework? Do you want to have your other teachers think, “How in the world did they do that?” In this course you will learn how to use Microsoft Office so that you won’t have to spend as much time doing papers and projects in other classes. You will learn how to use Microsoft Office efficiently and effectively which will help you not only in high school but also in college and your career of choice. Students who earn a “B” or better qualify for Tech Prep college credit. Just think if you took this class, MOS II and Accounting you could graduate from Meridian High School with college credits and would have never had to leave campus.

Accounting (Semester)

Do you want to become a millionaire? This course offers basic principles of accounting for personal and business use. Students will learn to keep and prepare financial records for a small business. This is an excellent class for students who plan to operate a business, work in the business world, or plan to take accounting in college. Also, in the course we look at personal finances and learn how to become that “rich neighbor” that retired early and wealthy. Students who maintain a “B” average qualify for Tech Prep college credit. Just think if you took this class and MOS I and II you could graduate from Meridian High School with 10 college credits having never left campus.

Computer Applications (Semester)

Do you have aspirations of becoming a graphic designer? We will make CD covers, nameplates, movie posters, and web sites. You will find out what the starship Enterprise and a floppy disk have in common. You will learn what the pros do to every picture that you see in every magazine you look at. This is a project-based class with only one (yes only one) test.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE EDUCATION

Family and Consumer Science A and B (Over 2 Semesters)

This course is comprised of two semesters. Semester one focuses on Beginning Foods/Nutrition in which students are introduced to basic principles and skills in planning, preparing and serving nutritious, economical foods. Includes written, oral and practical laboratory experience and assignments. Second part of the first semester focuses on Human Relationships, understanding oneself and others in and outside the family unit. Semester two focuses on clothing selection, care and basic construction skills. Students will need to purchase sewing supplies and materials for three sewing projects; estimated cost is \$25-30. Second part of this semester includes study of housing/home furnishings, child development and consumer education. Written, oral and practical laboratory experience and assignment.

*\$20.00 Lab Fee Required 1st Semester

Introduction to Culinary Arts (Semester)

Prereq: Family and Consumer Science A
Grade 10 and above

“Food glorious Food!” Yes, you will get to eat **food!** This course is designed to introduce students to many aspects of the food industry. From the knowledge and application of fundamental cooking techniques, to an understanding and demonstrated practice of food safety and sanitation principles, to an exploration of careers within the food industry, students will be exposed to a wide range of culinary topics. Some of these include: kitchen proficiency, food safety and sanitation, career exploration, table setting/etiquette, nutrition, meal planning, garnishing/presentation, and much more. The course will consist of lecture, demonstration, video, guest speakers and practical lab applications. Students may receive credit from BTC.

*\$20.00 Lab Fee Required

Independent Living (Semester)

Prereq: Grade 10 and above

What do I need to live away from home? Yes, this course focuses on “Life Skills” for living on one’s own after high school graduation. Topics for knowledge and skill development include: career exploration, post high school education/training opportunities, banking, credit, Major purchases, (car, housing, insurance), income taxes, legal documents and other topics of interest.

Human Development (Semester)

Prereq: Grade 12 ONLY

Do you miss coloring? Playing with play dough? Having a nap? “You mean I have to wear that thing?” (the pregnant belly) What is it like to be a parent? Just a few of the topics we explore while learning about children. This course is designed to educate students on the different aspects of Human Development, from conception to birth; from toddlers to teens; from young adults to elderly. Within this course students wear an “Empathy Belly” and get to take home “Baby Think it Over” two aspects of parenting that simulate pregnancy and caring for a baby. This course is intended to help prepare students for their responsibilities in the lives of children, teens, young adults and the elderly around them now and in their future.

Teaching Academy

Prereq: Grades 11-12

The Teaching Academy is a yearlong course designed to give students the “total teaching experience.” First semester, instruction begins in a traditional classroom setting. Students learn about and explore learning theories and styles, teaching methods and classroom management. At the conclusion of first semester, students determine in which grade level they wish to intern. Students are placed with mentor teachers that match their grade and subject interest and receive the practical, hands-on experience to complement their academic training.

LEADERSHIP

This is year-long elective class for Student Government and ASB officers (or with permission of instructor)

Fulfills - 1 Occupational Ed Credit

This course is designed to help students learn the functions of student government, parliamentary procedure, organization and human relation skills related to fundraising and other activities. Topics will include record keeping methods, including ASB budget and spending. A technology and communication focus will be included as students learn to use various computer applications to produce products for use in advertisement and communications with regard to Student Government and ASB activities. Students can expect to perform some work outside of the regular class time to earn leadership hours as well as community service hours.

TECHNOLOGY

Computer-Aided Design (CAD) (Formerly Design and Construct)



Everything from video games to clothing, jewelry and homes is now designed using computers. This class is an introduction to design, manufacturing and shop processes. You will design, draw, and then construct various projects in the lab. You will also gain experience in planning, organizing and producing drawings and products commonly found in business and industry. Join this class and learn how to use both 2-D and 3-D Computer-Aided Design (CAD) software as well as designing and building test models.

Wood Technology 1 (Formerly Design and Construct)

In this course you will create personal projects in the wood shop! The goal of this class is to provide you with the opportunity to plan and construct products made of wood and other materials. Topics to be covered include use of hand and power tools, shop safety, methods of construction, and finishing techniques. Students learn how to select materials, plan, design, build, and finish a project. Students also learn about careers related to wood technology and the skills required to obtain these jobs. Components of employability and leadership skills are covered throughout the duration of the course. No previous knowledge or skills are required to take this class, just a strong interest to be creative. Students are to supply their own wood after the 1st project.

Lab fee required

Digital Photography & Graphic Design

Want to learn how to take better photos? How about creating your own t-shirt or poster? This class uses computers, digital cameras, a scanner, a large format color printer and a t-shirt press to help students create original work. You will design and make a wide variety of projects that you can take home. Several assignment projects will allow you to make your own choices so that your personal interests can be expressed. Join this class and have a great time while being creative and learning employable skills. No previous knowledge or skills are required to take this class. Lab fee required.

YEARBOOK

Fulfills – 1 Occupational Ed Credit

Prereq: Instructor permission

Grade 10 and above

This is a **year-long** course in which you will be instrumental in creating the school yearbook. You will be introduced to and work with Photoshop, InDesign and will use digital photography. Instructor permission and initials on your registration form are required to be in this class.

WORLD LANGUAGE:

Students must receive a passing grade from their world language class at the end of each semester in order to progress to the next semester of language study.

SPANISH

Spanish I (4 year college requirement)

Prereq: Grades 10, 11 or 12 with a recommended cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better with recommended “B” average in English. Must have pre-approval sign-off on registration form.

This course is an introduction to the Spanish language. Students will practice comprehending, speaking, reading and writing fundamental Spanish through oral and written exercises and classroom games. Second semester will expand on vocabulary and will include additional complex grammar structures, as well as introduce all present tense verb groups. Conversational and written language proficiency are emphasized.

Spanish II (4 year college requirement)

Prereq: Grades 11 or 12 and completion/passing of Spanish I

This course builds on principles covered in Spanish I. Students study more complex aspects of written and spoken Spanish, using methods applied in Spanish I. Past tense is thoroughly studied, as well as other vocabulary groups that broaden conversational and written skills. Oral participation is a significant part of the grade. Travel vocabulary is studied to prepare students for international travel.

ELECTIVES:

ASSISTANTS – LIBRARY/OFFICE/TEACHER

Students may take no more than one class per semester and a total of 2 credits of assistant classes.

Library Assistant

Prereq: Grades 11-12

Permission from librarian required

Library assistants will perform a variety of daily tasks such as collecting mail, taking statistics, checking materials in and out, filing and shelving materials, preparing and repairing books, and running errands. They will be expected to learn the operation of the library well enough to help students and teachers use the library.

Teacher Assistant

Prereq: Grades 11-12

Permission from teacher required

The TA course is designed to give students direct knowledge of the teaching profession by working closely with a selected teacher and his/her students.

Office Assistant

Grade level: 11-12
Principal/Teacher permission required
Repeat available: Yes

Course description: Need a chance to develop skills in customer service, business machine operation, and telephone etiquette? Earn an occupational or elective credit while growing your resume for countless jobs in your future. TA's will learn a variety of useful tasks, including how to run copy machines, use a multi-line phone system, and attend to customer needs in a busy office or classroom setting. Students are responsible for a pass/fail graded curriculum to include a total of 10 assignments (journal entries, resume, and reflection letter).

COMPARATIVE RELIGION (Semester)

Prereq: Grade 11-12

This course will examine the six major historic religions of the world: Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. We will also examine a variety of minor religions and sects within the major religions. While the focus will be on understanding each religion's beliefs and traditions, the course of study will also include historical background as well as each religion's impact on the social, political and cultural situations.

FLORAL DESIGN (Semester)

Prereq: Grade 11-12

Prerequisite: None
Class Fee: \$20

This course is a semester long course in floriculture that focuses on the art of arranging flowers and learning skills that you can apply to a floriculture related job. This course will include units on the principles and elements of design, floriculture careers, and most importantly, the basic skills in designing floral arrangements for all occasions. If you are interested in working with flowers, making boutonnieres or corsages, and bringing home arrangements to your family, this is a great class for you. Students are expected to be involved in leadership, career development, and service learning activities through class, FFA, school and community experiences.

FORENSICS (Semester)

Prereq: Grade 11-12

Students will learn basic forensic terms and skills for processing crime scenes and evidence. It will include analyzing hair, fibers, fingerprints, blood, and DNA. Inference and deductive reasoning will be applied to the investigation and potential solving of crimes.

PERSONAL FINANCE (Semester)

Prereq: Grade 11-12

Who wants to be a millionaire? Learn how! You will learn a variety of money management skills that you can use now and throughout your life. Budget, balancing a checkbook, manage savings, investing, tax forms, loans, credit cards, and retirement investing are just some of what you will learn about in this class. You probably know an adult that would have loved to take this class in high school so they wouldn't be in the financial mess they are in now.

YOGA (Semester)

Prereq: Grade 11-12

This is a semester long course offered to sophomore through seniors to gain the benefits of yoga. This class is designed to improve the students overall fitness level by flexibility, prevent injury, build muscle and endurance, and teach relaxation techniques.