



WESTLAKE
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

HIGH SCHOOL COURSE CATALOG

2025-2026

Bible

Apologetics

2 semesters | ½ credit per semester

Normally taken during freshman or sophomore year, in this course students start with an introduction to bibliology as the foundation for apologetics. Students develop skills to defend the uniqueness, accuracy, and trustworthiness of the Bible; followed by a defense of the claims of Jesus Christ and his finished work on the cross and subsequent resurrection. They then explore several other areas of apologetics (“the Big Questions”) including cults and world religions, reconciling science and Scripture, and the problem of evil.

Theology

1 semester | ½ credit | 9th or 10th Grade

Freshman or sophomore year. Students develop a systematic understanding of five major doctrines: bibliology, theology proper, ecclesiology, pneumatology, and angelology. Various evangelical viewpoints are discussed evenhandedly with supporting biblical texts.

Theology 2

1 semester | ½ credit | 9th or 10th Grade

Freshman or sophomore year. In this second part to Theology, students develop a systematic understanding of four major doctrines: anthropology, hamartiology, soteriology, eschatology. Various evangelical viewpoints are also discussed evenhandedly with supporting biblical texts.

Torah

1 semesters | ½ credit | 11th Grade

The goal of this course is for students to grow in their ability to responsibly read and interpret the Bible for themselves. This course emphasizes interpreting the Torah as divine-human literature. In other words, the books of the Bible should be read according to their ancient literary and historical context and simultaneously with the conviction God speaks authoritatively through these books to us today. In the Torah, students learn how to engage the unique genre and historical context of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy. We will wrestle through their ancient message and together work out their ongoing significance for us today.

The Prophets

1 semesters | ½ credit | 11th Grade

In this course, students build on the goal introduced in the Torah course. They will learn how to engage the unique genre and historical context of some of the minor and major prophets (e.g. Hosea, Joel, Isaiah and Jeremiah). Our aim will be to put ourselves as much as possible into the position of those who first heard these scriptures. We will regularly ask in class, what did this mean for its first audience? The Torah and Prophets form the key foundation block for understanding the entire Old Testament and the New Testament. By immersing themselves in the narratives, themes, images and symbols of these books students will be better positioned to live their lives as a participant in God's redemption story.

Luke/Acts

1 semesters | ½ credit | 12th Grade

Students study through Luke's two-part history. As they study his Gospel, emphasis will be placed on the Son of Man, His humanity, His crucifixion, and the implications of the Gospel for our lives. This is followed by (in Acts) Christ's ascension, the birth of the Church, the work of the Holy Spirit, and the spreading of the Gospel. Open discussion, understanding, critical thinking, a vibrant faith, and unity in the Spirit will be encouraged and particular attention paid to personal Bible study skills.

Romans & Revelation

1 semesters | ½ credit | 11th Grade

Students do a systematic study in “the most excellent treatise on the Gospel”—Romans—surveying topics like sin, atonement, baptism, predestination, tolerance, authority and more. Students will be pushed to come to their own, supported, conclusions on these and other theological questions. Our study in Romans will be followed by a survey of the apocalyptic book of Revelation. Students will explore different views of the book and their interpretations, ultimately coming back to how the message of Revelation informs and shapes our faith here and now. During Bible 12, students will commit significant time to preparing for a cross-cultural mission trip.

Introduction to Life Calling

1 semester | ½ credit | 11th or 12th Grade

Open only to juniors and seniors, Introduction to Life Calling assists students in discovering the concept of life calling in a holistic and faith-based setting by focusing on one’s God-given design as the basis for this calling. Students are led to understand how vocation is best understood from a life-calling perspective. They will focus on more than just a career; they will evaluate their foundational values, unique design, and personal mission and be challenged to integrate this into their life. During the semester, students will take the IMAGE spiritual gifting assessment and the IMAGE Career Compatibility Profile as they explore their own choice of vocation. The fee for the dual credit option is set annually by the university awarding the credits.

English

English 9- Creating Writing & Story Telling

2 semesters | 1 credit

This course creates a foundational understanding of the English language storytelling and poetic tradition through breaking down the components into manageable units on: Characters and Archetypes, Plots, Settings, Narrative structure, Dialogue, and Poetry. Throughout this course students will discuss, analyze, and compose stories and poetry that exemplifies different aspects of creative writing and ultimately they will compose their own collection of short stories, a short novel, or a portfolio of poetry based on what they learn throughout the year. They will also be exposed to the mechanics of grammar as a “tool” in their collection for composition. They will follow a process based structure for their compositions and be walked through all the steps of composing researched essays and projects; all through a Biblical lens that asks the question “Why and how do we tell stories?”

English 10- World Literature

2 semesters | 1 credit

This course expands on what was taught in 9th grade by using the different aspects of stories to discuss and analyze different time periods of literature. Students will engage with different stories from around the world that use similar narrative techniques in order to understand the cross-cultural value of storytelling and its worldwide effect on communication. They will be introduced to the idea of a universal story that can be found across national divides, along with the Christ narrative as the ultimate Hero's Journey and seeing God's story from a Literary perspective. Engaged learners will analyze literature through specific “lenses” to understand what components are shared cross-culturally and what components are unique to certain cultures.

English 11- American Literature

2 semesters | 1 credit

This course examines literary works that stretch throughout America's history, starting with the prehistoric oral traditions of Native Americans and ending with more modern classics from the 20th century. Over the course of the year, students will strive to not only strengthen their reading and writing skills, but also their ability to analyze and critically evaluate literary works through a Christian worldview. Emphasis will be placed on independent work, small group collaboration, and class discussions as the primary means of facilitating academic growth. Students will also strive to deepen their personal understanding of how literature reflects the experiences of Americans across time and how that allows us to recognize how past and present are connected.

English 12- British Literature

2 semesters | 1 credit

This course examines literary works that stretch throughout Britain's history, starting with Celtic and Anglo-Saxon oral traditions and ending with more modern classics from the 20th century. Over the course of the year, students will strive to not only strengthen their reading and writing skills, but also their ability to analyze and critically evaluate literary works through a Christian worldview. Emphasis will be placed on independent work, small group collaboration, and class discussions as the primary means of facilitating academic growth. Students will also strive to deepen their personal understanding of how literature reflects the values and beliefs of a culture and how that allows us to connect with those from the past, recognizing similarities and differences between life then and now.

Speech

1 semesters | ½ credit

This course covers the foundational elements of speaking in an effective and God-honoring manner. Students will explore excellent and historical speakers and speeches, and they will be provided with weekly opportunities to practice their own oratory skills. Types of speeches given include storytelling, persuasive and apologetics, demonstration, informative, job interviews, humorous, and impromptu, as well as giving a speech using a presentation app. This is an English elective and cannot be taken in lieu of a required English course.

Math

Algebra I

Typically 8th grade, 2 semesters, not for high school credit

Algebra I introduces students to the language and practical applications of algebra. Students explore core topics such as solving linear equations and inequalities, working with polynomials, understanding functions, factoring, and analyzing quadratic equations. Emphasis is placed on problem-solving, critical thinking, and mathematical reasoning—skills essential for success in higher-level math and real-world applications.

Key topics include operations with real numbers, graphing linear and quadratic equations, factoring expressions, working with exponents and radicals, and exploring systems of equations. Students will also use graphing and technology tools to visualize concepts and prepare for future courses such as Geometry, Trigonometry, Precalculus, and Calculus.

Geometry

2 semesters | 1 credit | Prerequisite: Algebra I

Geometry builds understanding of geometric concepts and their applications in two and three dimensions. Students study points, lines, angles, congruence, similarity, polygons, circles, and solid figures. They also learn geometric proofs, coordinate geometry, and theorems such as the Pythagorean Theorem.

The course emphasizes logical reasoning, problem-solving, and real-world connections, reinforcing the relevance of geometry in daily life and future studies. Students finish with a strong foundation in geometric reasoning and preparation for higher mathematics and standardized assessments.

Algebra II

2 semesters | 1 credit | Prerequisite: Algebra I

Algebra II expands on concepts from Algebra I and deepens understanding of algebraic principles. Students study linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions, as well as systems of equations, inequalities, complex numbers, sequences, series, and probability.

The course emphasizes reasoning, real-world application, and the use of technology for problem-solving. By the end, students are well prepared for advanced courses such as Precalculus and Calculus.

Pre-Calculus

2 semesters | 1 credit | Prerequisite: Geometry, Algebra II

Precalculus prepares students for the study of calculus and advanced mathematics. Students integrate concepts from algebra, geometry, and trigonometry while exploring a variety of functions—linear, polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric.

Topics include function analysis, trigonometry, conic sections, sequences and series, vectors, and analytic geometry. Students use graphing tools and technology to explore and model complex concepts. Successful completion equips students with a strong foundation for calculus and other higher-level studies.

Calculus

2 semesters | 1 credit | Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus

Calculus introduces students to the study of change through differential and integral calculus. Topics include limits, derivatives, integrals, and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. Students apply these concepts to solve real-world problems in physics, economics, and other fields.

The course develops reasoning and analytical skills while emphasizing technology use for graphing and computation. Students will gain a solid foundation for further studies in mathematics or related disciplines.

Statistics

2 semesters | 1 credit | Prerequisite: Algebra II | 3 college hours

Statistics introduces students to data analysis and interpretation. Students learn to collect, organize, and analyze data using measures of central tendency, probability, sampling methods, correlation, and regression.

Emphasis is placed on critical thinking, informed decision-making, and the use of technology for data visualization. By the end, students can apply statistical reasoning in real-world contexts and are prepared for advanced study in mathematics, data science, or related fields.

Intro to Engineering

2 semesters | 1 credit

This course introduces students to some STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics) disciplines not covered in other Westlake course. Engineering focuses on solving real needs for real people. Students strengthen communication skills through client interviews and collaboration. They apply math and science by designing and building projects– serving the Westlake community through their designs. This course may be taken for math or science credit.

See also **Applied Math & Science**.

Science

General Biology

2 semesters | 1 credit | Includes lab

This course is designed to give students an overview of the study of biology for an understanding of the living physical world around them. The course is foundational for further, more specific biology courses. The study includes the history of biological science, the scientific method, basic chemistry, cytology, genetics, origins, and an examination of all six kingdoms. The subject demonstrates the design in the world and gives the student a sense of awe in the Designer. The course goals are to fulfill science requirements and to prepare students for upper level high school science courses.

Chemistry (Honors option)

2 semesters | 1 credit | 1 lab

This course covers inorganic chemistry with an introduction to organic chemistry. The topics in this class include atomic structure, periodic table, bonding, chemical formulas, stoichiometry, chemical reactions, phases of matter, solutions, kinetics, and acid-base chemistry. The course goals are to fulfill science requirements and to prepare students for upper level high school science courses and Honors students may complete independent units.

Applied Math & Science

2 semesters | 1 credit | 1 lab

Students explore STEM disciplines not covered in other courses, including forensics, psychology, engineering, robotics, and mathematics. Emphasis is placed on real-world applications, collaborative projects, and problem-solving. This course may count for math or science credit.

Human Anatomy & Physiology (Honors)

2 semesters | 1 credit | Prerequisite: General Biology

This course follows the course in General Biology and focuses on the study of the human body. This study is more specific in the details (anatomy) and the function of the parts (physiology). Included are developmental, surface, regional, macroscopic, microscopic, systemic, and comparative anatomy. The course makes use of experiments, identification, memorization, and interaction of the various structural parts. This study shows the intelligent complex design of the human body.

Physics (Honors option)

2 semesters | 1 credit | includes lab | Prerequisite: Algebra I

Physics is foundational to other sciences like chemistry, biology, earth science, and astronomy. This is a lab course in which practicality and concepts are emphasized, but calculations are also explored. Students do a survey through units in mechanics, forces, properties of matter, energy, heat, sound and light, electricity and magnetism, and the make up of atoms. Students will interact with each of these conceptually, mathematically, and empirically. One significant project is the design and construction of a Rube-Goldberg project.

Advanced Biology (Honors)

2 semesters | 1 credit | Prerequisite: General Biology & Chemistry

This course content is more in-depth and greater expectation is placed upon interpretation and analysis of information than in General Biology. Topics include: Evolution (a thorough examination and understanding of the process of evolution from a Creationist perspective); Cellular Processes (Energy and Communication); Genetics and Information Transfer; Kingdom survey and Biological Interactions.

Social Studies

World History

2 semesters | 1 credit

In this course students will be guided chronologically through the cultural, political and geographical landscape of the ancient world up through the 20th century. Students will examine ways in which people of the past have made sense of who we are and why we are here by reading and analyzing cultural artifacts such as selections from The Epic of Gilgamesh, The Odyssey, Plato's Dialogues, The Confessions of St Augustine, letters and documents from the Medieval Church in Europe and Asia, early Islamic texts, sermons of Martin Luther, The journal of Christopher Columbus, voices from the Atlantic Slave Trade, Nabeel Qureshi's Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus, and others. Analytical reading and writing skills developed in Jr High will continue to be honed and applied in World History 9.

United States History

1 semester | ½ credit | 9th or 10th Grade

Required for graduation, this is a one-year overview of the history of our nation from the Colonial period to the present, using a primarily chronological approach. Emphasis is placed on the political, social, and historical developments that have shaped our nation today. The course is designed to encourage thoughtful analysis of current policy challenges within the context of lessons that can be learned from our past national experiences. Classroom work is supplemented with debates, research, and a primary source analysis project.

American Government

1 semesters | ½ credit

This course offers an in-depth look at American government through the Constitution. Students explore foundational questions such as the purpose of government, the role of citizens, and the relationship between church and state. The course covers the history and structure of the U.S. Constitution, including the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, federalism, and the Bill of Rights. Students also examine how interpretations of the Constitution have changed over time and finish with an overview of Illinois government and its connection to the federal system.

Geography

1 semester | ½ credit

Geography is a one-semester Social Studies elective course in which students study the various regions of the world, memorizing the location of each country, landform, and capital. Through interactive projects and independent studies, students will explore current events from around the world to learn more about international issues and draw all over the globe. For the exam, students will work throughout the semester to create a group based project to finish out the course.

History vs. Hollywood

1 semesters | ½ credit

History vs. Hollywood is a one-semester Social Studies elective course in which students will examine how history is represented in modern film to evaluate the impact movies have on our understanding of historic events, individuals and time periods. Through research and discussion, students will assess the accuracy of the film's representation of historic content in order to analyze the impact of historical revisionism in today's culture and how we can avoid its negative impact.

Consumer Education & Intro to Life Skills

1 semester | ½ credit

Consumer Education teaches students the basics of personal finance and practical life skills. Students learn to create a household budget, manage income and expenses, understand loans and credit, and navigate insurance, housing, and taxes. The course also explores how the Bible informs financial decisions. In addition, students gain practical skills for everyday life, such as car maintenance, finding an apartment, job applications, resume writing, event planning, and more. This course meets the Illinois State Board of Education graduation requirement.

Current Events

1 semester | ½ credit

This semester-long course for 11th and 12th graders teaches students to use digital information responsibly and evaluate the reliability of sources. Students learn to ask key questions: who is behind the source, what evidence is used, and how do other sources compare? They complete two major research projects—one on a country and one on a domestic issue—acting as “local correspondents” and giving regular reports. The course culminates in a portfolio and formal presentation, while also exploring the recent history of key nations to provide context for current events.

Spanish

Spanish I

2 semesters | 1 credit

Students learn foundational vocabulary and grammar, focusing on greetings, school, family, pastimes, and vacations. They form simple sentences in the present tense, practice number and gender agreement, and create projects such as an “All About Me” presentation. Instruction combines Spanish and English.

Spanish II

2 semesters | 1 credit | Prerequisite: Spanish I

Building on Spanish I, students expand vocabulary related to shopping, daily routines, food, and celebrations. Grammar instruction includes the preterite tense, object pronouns, and reflexive verbs. Students create presentations and read selected books while practicing conversational Spanish.

Spanish III

2 semesters | 1 credit | Prerequisite: Spanish II

Students expand vocabulary on topics like healthcare, technology, housing, nature, and city life. Grammar instruction covers the imperfect, imperative, and subjunctive tenses. Reading includes *Agentes Secretos*, *El Viaje Perdido*, and other individual selections. Students prepare presentations and are encouraged to speak predominantly in Spanish.

Spanish IV

2 semesters | 1 credit | Prerequisite: Spanish III

Students focus on advanced vocabulary for health, workforce, arts, and current events. Writing assignments include multi-paragraph compositions using advanced verb tenses. Reading includes *Rival*, an abridged *Don Quixote*, and the Gospel of John. Students participate in mission trip preparation through skits, testimonies, songs, and games. Instruction is conducted entirely in Spanish.

Technology

Computer Graphics

1 semesters | ½ credit

This course introduces basic techniques used in creating and modifying digital images using computer software or applications. Students master various graphics tools while creating, enhancing, and manipulating free-hand images and photographs in this project-based course.

Computer Aided Design

1 semester | ½ credit

This course explores the use of CAD software for engineering applications using Solidworks™. Students learn the basics of three-dimensional CAD while constructing a model of a mechanical device. The course introduces many of the principles of mechanical drawing, and reinforces concepts of plane and solid geometry.

Computer Programming

1 semester | ½ credit

This one-semester, project-based course teaches basic programming concepts using Python. Students learn to write well-formatted code that stores and manages data efficiently. Later in the course, they apply these skills to create a simple video game, build a program for analyzing and graphing data, and create a web app.

Fine Arts

Concert Band

7th-12th grades | 2 semesters | 0.8 credit | Prerequisite: Intermediate Band

Concert Band is for students having acquired the skills necessary to play music at an upper junior high and senior high school level, as determined by the director. Students through 8th grade will typically receive one group lesson per week.

High School Vocal Ensemble

9th-12th grades | 2 semesters | 1 credit

Using a variety of musical styles from traditional to contemporary, students in our vocal ensemble develop their vocal skills while glorifying Christ and representing Westlake at school concerts and in a number of church and community activities.

Leadership & Worship

2 semesters | 1 credit

This course develops a biblical understanding and skills in servant leadership, the theology and practice of worship, how to plan and prepare appropriate worship material, and the use of media and technology in worship. Students use their knowledge and skills while regularly leading worship in our weekly Upper School chapels. This course is normally restricted to juniors and seniors.

Art 1

2 semesters | 1 credit

Students study fundamentals of visual art, including color, line, shape, form, space, tone, and value, using a variety of mediums (pencil, charcoal, pastels, watercolor, etc.). Creativity and self-expression are emphasized, with historical and contemporary art references. Fridays are designated "free art days." Participation in the ACSI art show is encouraged.

Art 2

2 semesters | 1 credit | Prerequisite: Art 1

Students continue to refine skills through more challenging projects, with opportunities to revisit and improve previous assignments. Fridays remain free art days, and ACSI art show participation is encouraged.

Art 3

2 semesters | 1 credit | Prerequisite: Art 1 & 2

Students engage in independent study, producing multiple in-class projects per quarter, including at least one drawing in graphite/charcoal and one in acrylic/watercolor, plus a still life and self-portrait. Participation in the ACSI art show is encouraged.

Art 4

2 semesters | 1 credit | Prerequisite: Art 1, 2 & 3

Students focus on independent projects with a minimum of two to three in-class pieces per quarter, including a still life and self-portrait. ACSI art show participation is expected. Portfolio development support is provided for students considering art in college.

P.E. & Health

Physical Education

1 semesters | ½ credit

A ninth-grade course promoting physical fitness, social interaction, and lifetime fitness skills. Students engage in activities designed to improve cardiovascular health, muscle development, teamwork, and motivation.

Health

1 semester | ½ credit

Meets the Illinois State Board of Education requirement. The course covers spiritual, mental, physical, environmental, occupational, emotional, and social health from a biblical perspective. Units include anatomy, heredity, disease prevention, nutrition, mental health, substance abuse, safety, sexual abstinence, and Holy Sexuality, with basic first aid and CPR instruction.

Secondary Physical Education Elective

1 semester | ½ credit

A one-semester course covering traditional PE games, lifetime sports, and student-designed games. Meets graduation requirements for students not participating in varsity athletics.

Other Courses

College Preparation

1 semester | ½ credit

Students receive guidance on ACT/SAT preparation, college applications, and financial aid. Diagnostic exams identify areas for growth, and practice tests help improve performance.

Yearbook

2 semesters | 1 credit

Throughout this course, students design and publish the school yearbook, developing skills in photography, digital design, and marketing. They celebrate the school community while honoring God through their work.

Teacher Aide

1 semester | ¼ credit

Students work under a teacher's supervision, performing tasks such as grading, tutoring, and classroom support. The role emphasizes confidentiality, professionalism, and responsibility.

Special Services Internship

2 semesters | 1 credit

Open to select juniors and seniors, this course offers aspiring educators hands-on experience working with elementary students receiving intervention or re-teaching support. Under the guidance of the special services director and classroom teachers, students learn the philosophy and application of research-based interventions, support younger students using these strategies, and track their progress. This course is ideal for students interested in pursuing a career in education. Enrollment requires an application and interview.