

ORONO HIGH SCHOOL

Freshman Course Description Booklet



2019 - 2020

ENGLISH

Introduction to Language and Literature (also referred to as English 9)

1 credit

Students learn to understand what they read by taking part in wide-ranging classroom discussions and to express their understanding in conversation and in writing. Students come to understand reading as a process. Considered over the course of the year are biography and drama, poetry and fiction, journalism and scientific writing. Grade 9 English affords students rich opportunities to show what they have learned and leaves them prepared to deepen their understanding of language and literature in the courses that follow. Assessment is by constructed response, both short-answer and essay exams, authentic performance, and research papers.

MATHEMATICS

Algebra I B – meets everyday

2 credits

This algebra course is for students who benefit from taking more time to learn algebraic concepts such as expressions and equations, and linear and quadratic equations. Students will have the opportunity to review the arithmetic operations that are the foundation for using algebraic formulas to solve problems. Efforts are made to connect the concepts to real world applications and to understand how each mathematical application fits into the larger context of mathematics. Students will be assessed by quizzes, tests, and homework.

Algebra I-A

1 credit

This course is for students who have no problem with basic number operations and have a solid understanding of fractions, decimals and integers. The major emphasis of the course is learning to use expressions and equations to describe problem situations and to solve equations. Student will study linear, rational and quadratic equations in one variable and systems of linear equations. Time is spent on graphing solutions sets and functions. Graphical methods are used to describe relationships and model problem situations. Assessment is based on homework, tests, and quizzes.

Algebra II-A

1 credit

This course follows Algebra I and may be taken concurrently with Geometry. It is designed especially for students who plan to do more advanced work in mathematics and/or science. It includes a review and extension of elementary algebra, and also features units in: matrices, relations and functions, quadratic equations, sequences, logarithms, polynomials, and some basic trigonometry as well as graphing calculator activities utilizing Algebra II concepts. Students will be assessed through homework, class participation, quizzes, and tests. *Note: If a freshman or sophomore student is enrolled in Algebra IIA and Geometry A simultaneously and starts failing either math class, they must drop the class they are failing and retake it the following year; the student will not be permitted to drop from the A to the B level.*

Geometry A

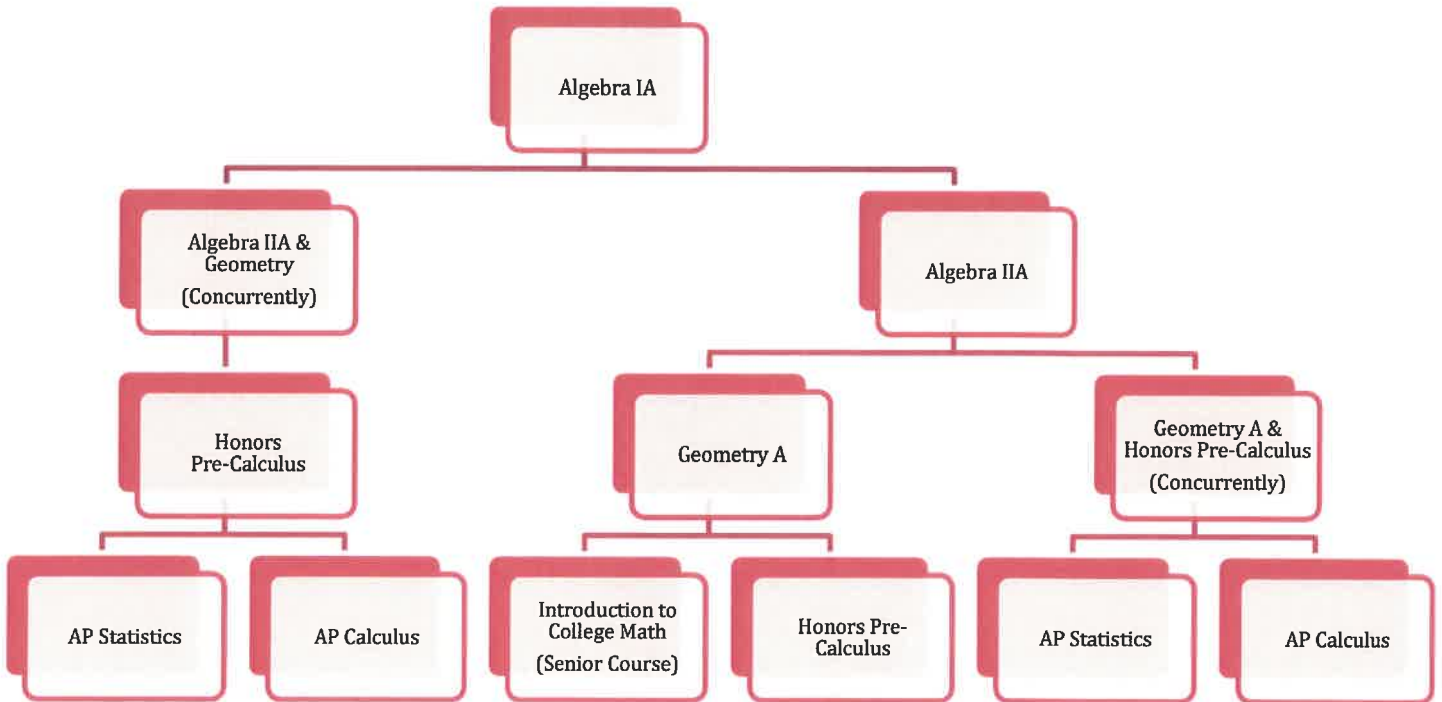
1 credit

***Teacher permission required for 9th grade students**

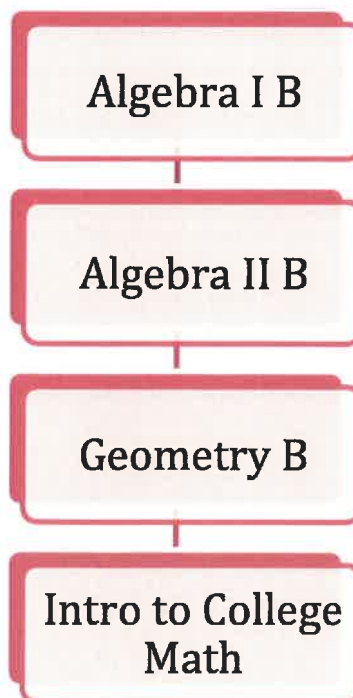
This course is the second class in a sequence following a successful completion of Algebra I-A. Four dimensions of understanding will be emphasized: visualizing and following algorithms; understanding of properties, mathematical relationships, and proofs; using geometric ideas in real situations; and representing geometric concepts with coordinates, networks, or other diagrams. Cooperative learning and computer activities will be integrated throughout the course. Geometry must be taken before Pre-Calculus or concurrent with Pre-Calculus. *Note: If a freshman or sophomore student is enrolled in Algebra IIA and Geometry A simultaneously and starts failing either math class, they must drop the class they are failing and retake it the following year; the student will not be permitted to drop from the A to the B level.*

Math Progression

Option One



Option Two



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Earth and Physical Science

1 credit

Students in this course will view natural phenomena the way scientists view them, making claims based upon their interpretation of data and observations. Specifically, students will study physical science concepts (such as forces and energy) and then use them to explain some central aspects of the earth system. Topics typically include: scientific methods; Earth's place in the universe; plate tectonics and the rock cycle; Earth's energy balance; and, climate and climate change. Methods of assessment are likely to include laboratory reports, projects, presentation, quizzes, and participation. This course meets for one block, every other day, for the entire school year.

Honors Earth and Physical Science

1 credit

Students in this course will view natural phenomena the way scientists view them, making claims based upon their interpretation of data and observations. Specifically, students will study physical science concepts (such as forces and energy) and then use them to explain some central aspects of the earth system. Topics typically include: scientific methods; Earth's place in the universe; plate tectonics and the rock cycle; Earth's energy balance; and, climate and climate change. The primary methods of assessments in the course are formally-written claims and tests. Adhering to the principles of Honors courses at Orono High School, students in this course should expect a fast pace and significant amount of independent work, which must be submitted fully and on time. This course may challenge students to learn in unfamiliar ways. This course meets for a full block, every other day, for the entire school year.

Honors Biology

1 credit

***Teacher permission required for 9th grade students**

This class must be taken in conjunction with Earth/Physical Science. Pre-AP Biology is designed to infuse rigor and set high expectations for students. The class meets for a block and a half. This class is recommended for high-achieving students and [for students](#) who have a particular interest in biology and the natural sciences. The Pre-AP Biology curriculum covers all of the topics in the biology class but differs by extending the breadth and depth of the topics examined. The Pre-AP course places a higher priority on [developing critical thinking](#) skills, analysis, and writing scientific essays. Laboratory investigations play a more prominent role in the Pre-AP course.

Intro to Robotics

½ credit

Intro to Robotics is a semester-long, project-based course that uses a hands-on approach to introduce the concepts of robotics, focusing on the construction and programming of autonomous mobile robots. Students will work both independently and cooperatively to complete a variety of robot construction and programming activities. Students will work in groups to build and test increasingly more complex mobile robots, culminating in an end-of-semester project.

Intro to Python (Coding I and II)

½ credit/semester

These two courses meet at the same time each semester, with students able to take just one of the courses, or both courses, as their interests dictate. Students in both courses deep dive into Python programming language as they gradually learn how to harness its power. Students who have little to no experience with coding their own projects register in Coding 1 in order to get started and learn the basics. Students may register in Coding 2 if they've taken Coding 1 and/or demonstrate to the teacher that they are able to code beyond the basics. Students in both courses learn while coding their own projects at their own pace, with Coding 2 students acting as mentors to Coding 1 students.

Computer Science Discoveries

½ credit

A half-credit, semester course, Computer Science Discoveries is an introductory computer science course that empowers students to create authentic artifacts and engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun. The course is designed to be an accessible and engaging course for all students, regardless of background or prior experience. By providing students opportunities to engage with culturally and personally relevant topics in a wide variety of computer science related fields, the goal is to show all students that computer science can be for them. **Graduation requirement*

HEALTH

Health

½ credit

This half credit course is a requirement for graduation. Students will be learning and practicing skills in the following areas: nutrition, mental health, stress, healthy relationships, violence prevention, personal care, body systems, human growth and development, substance abuse, diseases and environmental health.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education 9

½ credit

This course focuses on team building, problem solving, cooperation, and trust. Activities will utilize the low and high elements of the ropes course. Students will engage in activities that are specific to the health related components of physical fitness. Upon completion of this course, students will have attained the knowledgeable to design and implement a fitness plan that can be utilized throughout their adult life. Assessment procedures will include performance-based assessments, written tests of cognitive concepts, and self-responsibility evaluations.

SOCIAL STUDIES

WORLD CIVILIZATION AND GEOGRAPHY

1 credit

This course examines the rise and fall of world civilizations and their geography. Students undertake an exploration, analysis, and evaluation of the globe, its geographical features (both physical and human) and world civilizations of Eurasia, Africa, Oceania, and the Americas. The examination of world civilizations focuses on political, economic, cultural, and social development, while allowing students to assess the rise and fall of civilizations around the globe. Students will develop the following skills by examining and evaluating primary and secondary sources; information categorization, collaborative problem solving, critical thinking, evaluation of critical reading, critical writing and critical viewing of media. Students will demonstrate their knowledge through multiple pathways including but not limited to: research, multimedia presentations, document based essays, and short and long response questions.

AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

1 credit

**Ninth-grade students may enroll in AP Human Geography with permission.*

This course focuses on: use and consideration of maps and spatial data; interpretation and understanding of the implications of associations among phenomena in places; definition of regions and evaluation and analyzation of the regionalization process; and analysis and characterization of the changing interconnections among places. Students will develop the following skills by examining and evaluating primary and secondary sources; information categorization, collaborative problem solving, critical thinking, evaluation of critical reading, critical writing and critical viewing of media. Students will demonstrate their knowledge through multiple pathways including but not limited to: research, multimedia presentations, document based essays, and short and long response questions. Students in this class will be expected to take the Advanced Placement test in May. In addition to regular class meetings, after-school seminars will be offered and a summer project will be required.

FINE ARTS

DRAWING I

½ credit

This is a semester course that will provide students experience with a variety of drawing media that may include pencil, pen and ink, charcoal and ink washes. Techniques covered will include but are not limited to contour lines, angles, proportion, negative space, shading, perspective and drawing from observation, as well as the Elements of Art. Art history will also be incorporated throughout lessons where there is relevance. Students will produce their own works of art, have a quarterly sketchbook, and create a portfolio of work. This course will provide students with an understanding of visual language and will introduce them to critiquing artwork.

FUNDAMENTALS OF ART I

1 credit

This is a yearlong class designed to develop basic ideas, concepts and skills of art. In this course students will learn about art history, criticism and aesthetics, and studio concepts. Students will participate in a variety of studio experiences designed to increase appreciation of their cultural heritage; to teach the power of the visual image to influence behavior and ideas; develop sensitivity to the world around them; and cultivate the ability to solve problems creatively. This course will cover drawing and painting practices, elements and principles of design, art history projects, and written and verbal critiques and analysis of art works. Students will also be expected to keep a journal, which they will turn in at the end of every quarter.

DIGITAL ART

½ credit

***Students must complete Drawing I prior to taking this course or teacher permission.**

This semester course offers students a look at what professions an artist might have. It will explore some of the applied arts. Topics that may be covered are advertising, pottery, costume design, printmaking, cartooning, book making, fashion design, and interior design. Students will produce their own works of art, have a quarterly sketchbook, and create a portfolio of work. This course will provide students with an understanding of visual language and will introduce them to critiquing artwork.

PAINTING

½ credit

***Students must complete Drawing I prior to taking this course or teacher permission.**

This is a semester-long course that will explore painting in depth using a variety of techniques in tempera, acrylic, watercolor and ink washes. The focus for this course will be mostly on works from life; however, there will be projects that will be more abstract. Students will also learn about and experiment with techniques from important periods such as Impressionism, Expressionism, and Color Field Painting as well as techniques used by famous artists such as Van Gogh and Seurat. Students will produce their own works of art, have a quarterly sketchbook, and create a portfolio of work. This course will provide students with an understanding of visual language and will introduce them to critiquing work.

CONCERT CHOIR – MUSE offering

1 credit

The premier choral group representing Orono High School, Concert Choir is made up of students in grades 9-12 who are willing to bring their talents, great or small to sing together with others who are like-minded. Emphasis will be placed on preparing quality choral literature from many different musical periods, improvement in the understanding of the language and artistry of music and improvement in using the singing voice as an instrument to create quality music. Being a friendly person and getting along with others is a must. Students will be expected to make all performances. Scheduled performances include the Holiday Concert, the All-Choirs Concert and the Spring Concert and Graduation. Other performances may be added at the discretion of the director. The Concert Choir may tour in the spring to visit local schools as well as travel out of state to perform.

BAND – MUSE offering**1 credit**

Band provides the opportunity to further develop existing skills in reading, performing, and interpreting music. Band members are not only able to attain a high degree of proficiency on their instruments but also an awareness of and appreciation for fine music. The band performs several concerts each year of challenging, quality music and provides music at some football, basketball and hockey games. Activities may include exchange concerts, large-group audition festivals, community events, and performances at our state capitol. Members participate in regional, All-State, All-Eastern and national musical events. District and state solo and ensemble festivals attract many of our members.

MODERN BAND**½ credit**

In this semester long class, students will explore what it is like to be in a Modern Band. They will gain skills on guitar, bass guitar, ukulele, drum set, singing, as well as operating a soundboard, recording, and song writing. Prior experience is not necessary. Students will perform in a Final Jam at the end of the semester.

ORCHESTRA – MUSE offering**1 credit**

The Orono High School Orchestra is a group of advanced string players who meet daily and, once a week, combine with wind and percussion players to rehearse music selected from the vast amounts of literature for orchestra. Emphasis is placed on learning to play with different orchestral styles and to interpret music from most periods of musical history -- Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Contemporary. Throughout the year, the student will develop a proficiency in playing two to three octave scales (major and minor), and right and left hand techniques (fingerings and bowings). Assessments will be through performances and quarterly checks on fingertips and bow development.

BEGINNERS STRINGS**1 credit**

This class is just for you: A beginner student who would like to start or continue to play a stringed instrument such as the violin, viola, cello, bass, guitar, or...? In addition, this class is for the student who already plays but does not feel ready for the High School orchestra just yet. The objective of this class is to learn basic principles and then to continue at your own pace while having fun and developing your skills. Within a comfortable timeframe, students will be able to experience live, informal performance. Everyone is capable of setting their own goals and setting their own pace. The OHS orchestra program has a few instruments available. If you need an instrument, notify your parents and Mr. Caballero. These are the options: You may rent one at a reasonable cost or borrow one on a first-come first-served basis. Remember that the objective is to have a good time; if your goal is to play with the OHS orchestra, you may try through an audition. See Mr. Caballero with any questions and talk to students who have already taken the class.

ROCK AND ROLL (A VIDEO HISTORY)**Teacher and parent permission required for 9th grade students****1 credit**

In the beginning there was the blues from the cotton fields of the Mississippi delta, there was African-American gospel music, there was American country music, and there was jazz. By the late 1940's these elements would fuse into a music that would explode in the 1950's and forever change popular music, not only in America, but also in the rest of the world. Learn how it almost died away in the late 1950's, only to be reinvented and transformed in Liverpool, Detroit and Memphis and go on to become stronger than ever. We will watch and discuss The Time-Life History of Rock and Roll, and the WGBH/BBC's Rock 'n Roll: An Unruly History series. The time frame of our study is from the late 1940's with the rise of jump blues and R & B through the mid 1990's with the rise of rap and hip hop.

SING & PLAY UKULELE

½ credit

Ukulele is the ideal instrument to accompany your singing. In recent years, it has yet again become very popular. In this class, we will learn to play ukulele to accompany your singing. (You will be expected to sing as part of this class.) Students should provide their own ukulele. Please see Mrs. Nash if you need help with this before the class starts. If you already know how to play the ukulele, you can increase your skills. If you are a beginner, we will start there. Will play and sing individually, in groups, and as a whole class.

BEGINNERS ACTING

½ credit/sem

This is a beginner's course designed for students that are curious about acting. Students need no previous acting experience and will set out to learn the basic concepts of acting. Students will be expected to perform in class and possibly in front of larger groups.

WORLD LANGUAGES

(Orono offers 5 years of French and 5 years of Spanish)

FRENCH I

1 credit

Students are introduced to the concept and technique of learning a foreign language. Communication is stressed through the development of listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Concentration on language structure and an introduction to civilization and geography are an important part of this first year course.

FRENCH II

1 credit

The objectives of French I are continued and reinforced. Knowledge of the Francophone and culture is deepened. Students begin to be introduced to literature with appropriate French readings.

SPANISH I

1 credit

Students are introduced to the concept and technique of learning a foreign language. Communication is stressed through the development of listening comprehension, speaking, reading and writing skills. There is a concentration on language structure and the contemporary lifestyle of Spanish speaking countries.

ACCELERATED SPANISH II

1 credit

Prerequisite: Spanish I or permission of the instructor

The objective of Spanish II is the continuation of development of the four basic language skills with an emphasis on oral and written expression. Immersion and cultural field trips will be available for interested students.

GRADUATION WITH DISTINCTION

A unique honors program at Orono High School that:

- Provides a rigorous, depth-with-breadth, academic pathway for all interested students which encourages them to engage in challenging classes, plan and execute their own learning, and connect their learning to activities in the real world.
- Validates the achievements of these students to colleges and employers by attestation that completing students are Graduates of Distinction
- Reveals to the communities sending students to Orono High School the quality of academic enrichment the school provides.

Please contact the Jim Bulteel (jbulteel@rsu26.org) for details of this program.

Typical 9th Grade Schedule

OHS uses block scheduling – Four blocks per day, One Fine Art block per day

Maroon Day Schedule	White Day Schedule
English 9	Mathematics
Earth/Physical Science	World Civilizations & Geography
MUSE (Fine Arts)	MUSE (Fine Arts)
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">Health</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Physical Education 9</div> </div>	World Language
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">Comp. Sci</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Elective/S. Hall</div> </div>	Elective or Study Hall

Orono High School Freshman Courses

Name: _____

Middle School Attended: _____

Required Courses for ALL Freshman Students

CIRCLE A MINIMUM OF ONE CLASS FROM EACH OF THE 6 SUBJECT AREAS BELOW

ENGLISH

100/101 English 9

SOCIAL STUDIES

400 World Civilization & Geography

426 AP Human Geography

PHYS. ED & HEALTH

628 PE 9* & 626 Health

SCIENCE

Choose one Earth Science
Biology is optional as a 9th grader

300 Earth & Physical Science

303 Honors Earth & Physical Science

305 Honors Biology

TECHNOLOGY

736 Computer Science Discoveries*

302 Intro to Robotics*

299 Intro to Python*

MATH CHOICE

210 Algebra I-B (meets everyday)

220 Algebra I-A

224 Algebra II-A

234 Geometry A

Freshman Electives

FINE ARTS

650 Art Fundamentals I

654 Drawing *

662 Painting *

652 Digital Art*

667 Modern Band*

684 Beginners Strings

680 History of Rock 'n Roll

688 Sing & Play Ukulele

686 Movies & Music*

689 Songwriting*

681 Music Theory*

LANGUAGES

500 French I

505 French II

525 Spanish I

531 Accelerated Spanish II

TECHNOLOGY

356 3-D Modeling & Design*

MUSE Offerings

665 Band only

674 Orchestra only

670 Concert Choir only

685 Beginners Acting

672 Band & 675 Orchestra

675 Orchestra & 671 Concert Choir

671 Concert Choir & 672 Band

* = semester course (0.5 credit)

NOTE: Drawing is a prerequisite for taking Painting or Digital Art

CIRCLE if you wish for your son/daughter to have a block of study hall

Parent Signature _____ Date _____