

# Mount Royal Academy

High School Course of Study



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## **MISSION:**

Mount Royal Academy's mission aims to educate the whole person through the spiritual, academic, and physical formation of each student. Our aspirations direct all temporal efforts toward our Father's Eternal Kingdom through:

- Inspiring our students to grow in their knowledge of and love for God, which will enable them to love and serve those around them.
- *Implementing a rigorous academic curriculum that teaches the truth* which is the foundation of all knowledge.
- Fostering the physical development of each student through our athletic programs.
- Developing responsible and qualified leaders for all vocations within the Church, their families, and in their communities.

## **EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY:**

Mount Royal recognizes each student's dignity as a child of God, uniquely created with his or her own strengths, weaknesses and "calling". Our curriculum is classical in that we appreciate the developmental stages of our students and use that understanding when making important curriculum decisions. In the elementary years the focus is on developing a strong foundation in phonics, reading comprehension, writing, spelling, penmanship, grammar, composition, math concepts and math facts. We believe it is important for our students to learn about our world through religion, science and history and have a strong foundation in the arts.

In the high school students study in this "classical" approach by reading challenging "Great Books"; analyzing the authors' worldviews and the books' themes and supporting details; evaluating their transcendent truths, measuring them in light of errors, comparing them with Natural Law, the Church's teachings and Scripture; and relating these truths to the students' real life experiences. This in-depth study, illuminated by our Catholic faith, makes Mount Royal's academics unique in many ways. The high school offers college-preparatory math, science, literature, history and Latin as well as theology, art, choir, and physical education.

Mount Royal Academy's Catholic faith is central in our educational philosophy. As stated in our mission, we are called to inspire students to grow in their knowledge of and love for God, which will enable them to love and serve those around them. To accomplish this mission we look to Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, as both our model and our means. We also acknowledge the vital witness of our parents, teachers, administrators, board of trustees, and priests as they reveal the Christian message, not only by word but also by their example. We understand that the teaching of our Catholic faith is not limited to religious instruction in the classroom or during liturgical celebrations throughout the year but through modeling Christianity as a comprehensive way of life. It should animate our attitudes and be integrated into all our activities as we strive to create an environment in which students' faith and virtue will gradually mature.

\* Adapted from *The Holy See's Teaching on Catholic Schools* by Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB \*

# English Department

## Statement of Purpose

The English department at Mount Royal Academy teaches the important skills of the liberal arts: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students receive instruction in the rudiments of grammar, rhetoric, and logic in the writing of many essays required in all of their English classes. Because writing is an art that requires instruction, practice, and correction, students learn this skill by virtue of repetition, reinforcement, and self-discipline. The English department introduces students to the classics of good and great literature, the great books of Western civilization that Matthew Arnold described as “the best that has been thought and said”—enduring works that embody the accumulated wisdom of the civilized world and illuminate the sublime realities—the glimpses into the divine-- that philosophers call “the one, the true, the good, and the beautiful.” Through its study of literature the English department instills in students both the delight and truth of great works of art as they awaken in students a sense of wonder and cultivate the moral imagination—the attractive beauty of goodness and the repulsive ugliness of evil. These courses intend to develop critical thinking, the ability to compare and contrast the old and the new, to judge between unchanging universal truths and fashionable trends and current opinions, and to discriminate between that which *is* and that which *ought to be*. Through the reading “of old books” to use C.S. Lewis’s phrase from his essay “On the Reading of Old Books,” the English department seeks to nourish the human spirit and uplift the human mind-- to accomplish what Dr. Johnson identified as the primary end of the study of literature: the ability “better to enjoy life, or better to endure it” and to provide the what C.S. Lewis called “the fresh sea breeze of the centuries” blowing through the mind to clear it of the prejudices of the modern world.

## 101 – Composition and Literature: American and British Classics I

Level: CP

Grade 9

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: N/A

This course will consist of several components: (1) instruction in the basic rules of English grammar, rhetoric, and usage; (2) vocabulary building; (3) the memorization and recitation of poetry; (4) the reading of the good and great books in American and British literature; (5) the writing of several expository essays based on the classics discussed in class. Readings will include works such as Howard Pyle’s *The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood*, Twain’s *Tom Sawyer*, Hawthorne’s *A Wonder Book*, Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, Swift’s *Gulliver’s Travels*, Johnson’s *Rasselas*, and Alcott’s *Little Men*.

## 201 – Composition and Literature: American and British Classics II

Level: CP

Grade 10

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: N/A

This course continues the work of English 101 with its emphasis on grammar, vocabulary, the memorization of poetry, essay writing, and study of literature. The study of literature continues with the reading of the classics, works such as Grahame’s *The Wind in the Willows*, Alcott’s *Little Women*, Stowe’s *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, Orwell’s *Animal Farm*, Shakespeare’s *The Merchant of Venice*, Twain’s *Huckleberry Finn*, Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice* and Hughes’ *Tom Brown’s School Days*.

**301 – Composition and Literature: Great Books I****Level: CP****Grade 11****Credit: 1****Prerequisite: N/A**

This course continues the teaching of grammar, composition, and essay-writing with longer and more complex writing assignments. The readings introduce students to the masterpieces of literature from the ancient classical world of Greece and Rome to the Renaissance. Readings include works like Homer's *Odyssey* or *Iliad*, Virgil's *Aeneid*, Cicero's *On Obligations*, Marcus Aurelius's *Meditations*, Plato's "Allegory of the Cave," *Crito*, and "Phaedo," the *Oresteia*, St. Augustine's *Confessions*, Montaigne's "On Experience," Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and *King Lear*, and St. Francis de Sales' *Introduction to a Devout Life*.

**401 – Composition and Literature: Great Books II****Level: CP****Grade 12****Credit: 1****Prerequisite: N/A**

This course provides the sequel to Great Books I and offers more practice in the art of essay writing and the liberal arts of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. It continues with the study of the great masterpieces of literature from the Renaissance to the modern world. It includes works such as Boswell's *Life of Johnson* (abridged), Jane Austen's *Emma*, Dickens' *Great Expectations*, Thoreau's *Walden*, Golding's *Lord of the Flies*, Willa Cather's *Death Comes for the Archbishop* Robert Frost's *Poems*, Flannery O'Connor's Short Stories, and C.S. Lewis's *Screwtape Letters or That Hideous Strength*.

# Fine Arts Department

## Statement of Purpose

John Paul II boldly claims that man's creativity sets him apart from creation. He says, "God... called man into existence, committing to him the craftsman's task. Through his 'artistic creativity' man appears more than ever 'in the image of God', and he accomplishes this task above all in shaping the wondrous "material" of his own humanity and then exercising creative dominion over the universe which surrounds him." This artistic ability must be fostered and developed; creativity is a skill that once mastered applies to all areas of life.

Beauty and art are keys to the mysteries of life and invitations to enjoy this world and to dream of the future; they stir our hidden longing for God. This is why created things can never fully satisfy and why The Vatican II fathers gave this appeal on behalf of the arts: "This world in which we live needs beauty in order not to sink into despair. Beauty, like truth, brings joy to the human heart and is that precious fruit which resists the erosion of time, which unites generations and enables them to be one in admiration!"

The Fine Arts Program then has a threefold purpose: first, to understand the human, creative process; second, to understand the principles of art; and third, to experience the power, beauty, and joy of the arts. Through the program students will study and create a variety of art in a variety of mediums including paintings, photography, music, poetry, and drama.

### **102 – Choir**

**Level: CP**

**Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12**

**Credit: .25**

**Prerequisite: None**

Choir is a mandatory full year, once per week course. The student will be challenged to improve their singing abilities throughout the year by using several techniques including proper posture and breathing techniques. Students will also be learning to read musical notation and sight reading choral literature while being introduced to various styles and periods of music history. The focus will be on singing in harmonies and preparing for several performances per year including the weekly Mass held at the school.

### **112 – Intro to Art: Creativity and the Visual World**

**Level: CP**

**Grades: 9, 10**

**Credit: .25**

**Prerequisite: None**

This course explores the relationship between the creative process, self-expression, and communication through the visual arts. Students will experience the creative process through a variety of studio art projects with an emphasis on *process* rather than *product*. The language of art will be studied through consideration of formal elements and aesthetic principles. Contemporary and historical art works will be reviewed as they relate to specific themes. The creative process leads to the generation of new ideas and new interpretations of existing ones. The goal of the course is to broaden the basis for student self-confidence in creative skill development, originality, and critical thinking. It also serves to encourage students to view themselves as creative beings, to appreciate creativity in others, and to regard the creative process as a valuable problem-solving approach relevant to all fields of human endeavor.

**122 — Drawing****Level: CP****Grades 9—12****Credit: .25****Prerequisite: None**

This is a studio course (for all skill levels) that introduces the techniques and materials of drawing. Visual concepts and methods will include: gesture, contour, value, perspective and proportion. Students will build their visual vocabulary by working from two dimensional and three dimensional sources and through direct observation from nature. A variety of media will include graphite, charcoal, ink and colored pencils. Classroom instruction will cover simple exercises on how to depict a single object through line and tone, then move on to the more complex relationship of two or more objects in space and finally to the organization of the entire drawing surface. Weekly sketchbook assignments will encourage each individual student's personalization of concept.

Each student's grade will be determined by his or her commitment to learning and personal growth. Grades will not be based on talent and knowledge the student may have possessed prior to taking this class but in gaining of skill and knowledge through hard work and accomplishing the tasks assigned.

**202 – Photography****Level: CP****Grades: 11, 12****Credit: .25****Prerequisite: Intro to Art**

This course will provide students with a basic understanding of digital photography as an art form. In addition to understanding the fundamental functions of the digital camera, students will also learn cropping and color correction once their images are downloaded to a photography software program. Historical context of photography will be discussed, as well as viewing and discussing the images of other photographers. Assignments will include the art of photo documentation, light and shadow, texture, motion, portraiture and candid. Students will be asked to display their work in a creative way at the end of the course. While digital photography and computer software replaces traditional darkroom techniques, *composition and content* remains at the heart of what makes a powerful photograph. A study of the elements and principles of design will cover composition. Content will vary for each individual student as their personal voice and vision emerge. All will serve to strengthen the visual aesthetics of their photos.

**212 – Music Appreciation****Level: CP****Grades: Open****Credit: .5****Prerequisite: Intro to Art**

This course is a general survey of Western music focusing on recorded performances. It provides an approach to perceptive listening and an introduction to musical elements, forms, and stylistic periods. Interactive discussions of composers' lives, individual styles, and representative works are encouraged. This curriculum format aims not merely to impart facts but also to stimulate curiosity and enthusiasm. The approach is chronological with each stylistic period divided into short, relatively independent sections. While music examples are offered throughout, the discussions of the pieces require no previous knowledge of musical notation.

# Mathematics Department

Completion of a minimum of 3.0 credits in Math is mandatory for all students to graduate, although 4 credits are suggested. The normal yearly sequence of course completion is Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II and meets the minimum requirement. Students who have already taken Algebra I in grade 8 may begin grade 9 with Geometry. The instructor may require Algebra I placement tests in order to progress in this fashion. Honors levels for Geometry, Algebra I and Algebra II are offered on an as needed basis to those students who are qualified, have obtained department approval and who plan on taking math for all four years. Other elective math courses are available upon determination of interest level and staffing requirements. Such courses may consist of Pre-Calculus, Statistics and Probability, Business Math, and Trigonometry.

## **103 - Algebra I**

**Level: CP**

**Grades: 9**

**Credit: 1**

**Prerequisite: N/A**

This year-long course is designed as a basic introduction to various algebraic concepts utilizing necessary procedures and techniques.

Topics covered include algebraic expressions, algebraic fractions and algebraic functions, real number operations and radical expressions. Students will learn to solve equations with one unknown as well as systems of equations with two unknowns.

Students are expected to prepare and maintain an organized notebook and to understand and use the vocabulary of algebra in their work. Student mastery of the material will be evaluated via tests, daily assignments, board work, group work and special projects.

*This course is a prerequisite for CP Geometry*

## **203 - Geometry**

**Course Level: CP**

**Grades: 9, 10**

**Credit: 1**

**Prerequisite: Algebra I**

This year long course is designed as a basic introduction to various geometric concepts utilizing necessary procedures and techniques. It covers an extensive number of proofs from Euclid's Elements. Some of the topics covered are basic plane geometry, geometric algebra, circles, angles, construction of regular polygons, the theory of ratio and proportion, abstract algebra, similar figures and geometric proportions, basic number theory, and the relation between number and magnitude.

First, students are assigned proofs out of Euclid's Elements. There is nothing to solve. The student is actually looking at the solution, where Euclid is trying to justify a proposition he has made. The student's task is to understand Euclid's solution well enough that given the same proposition the student could go to the board and justify the proposition to the rest of the class – without looking at the book.

Second, students are asked to apply their knowledge of the Euclidian propositions to various geometric figures, solve various concrete problems, and apply Algebra to Geometry (Cartesian Geometry).

This final step is vital, for it ensures that geometry does not remain just an abstract art, and it also prepares the students for the SAT.

Students are expected to prepare and maintain an organized notebook and to understand and use the vocabulary of geometry in their work. Student mastery of the material will be evaluated via tests, daily assignments, board work, group work and special projects.

### **303 - Algebra II with Trigonometry**

**Level: CP**

**Grades: 10, 11**

**Credit: 1**

**Prerequisite: Algebra I**

Algebra II is a continuation of Algebra I where various problem solving techniques and procedures are emphasized. Topics covered will include linear and quadratic functions, systems of equations, and probability and statistics. Furthermore, the course is an introduction to more complex functions such as polynomial, logarithmic, exponential and conic sections, basic trigonometric identities, right triangle trigonometry, as well as the Law of Sines and Law of Cosines.

Students are expected to prepare and maintain an organized notebook and to understand and use the vocabulary of geometry in their work. Student mastery of the material will be evaluated via tests, daily assignments, board work, group work and special projects.

*This course is a prerequisite for CP Pre-Calculus*

### **403 - Pre-Calculus**

**Course Level: CP**

**Grades: 11, 12**

**Credit: 1**

**Prerequisite: 80% in Algebra II**

This course is designed to be a preparatory course for Calculus. Topics covered include functions, analytic geometry, trigonometry, polynomial functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, complex numbers, matrices and determinants, polar coordinates and graphing as well as sequences and series. Students are expected to examine numerical data, create graphical descriptions from the data and interpret both the data and the graph with the appropriate equation.

Students are expected to prepare and maintain an organized notebook and to understand and use the vocabulary of geometry in their work. Student mastery of the material will be evaluated via tests, daily assignments, board work, group work and special projects

### **921 - Business Math/Economics**

**Level: CP**

**Grades: 11, 12**

**Credit: 1**

**Prerequisite: Algebra II**

This course is designed for students who wish to pursue a more business-based approach to mathematics rather than the traditional mode. Emphasis will be placed on techniques used in businesses such as accounting, bookkeeping and tax preparation. Use of various software packages will be invoked as well as statistical sampling, graphing, and analysis utilizing scatter plots, median, mean and mode.

The economics part of this course will provide a basic background of the capitalist system of supply and demand; the banking system, the stock market, investments and retirement.

Students are expected to prepare and maintain an organized notebook and to understand and use the vocabulary of geometry in their work. Student mastery of the material will be evaluated via tests, daily assignments, board work, group work and special projects

**113 - Computers: *Microsoft Office 2003 - Introductory Course***

**Level: CP**

**Grades: 9, 10**

**Credit: 1**

**Prerequisite: N/A**

Computers are becoming more integral to our daily lives. We use computers for work and school almost on a daily basis. This course is built around the Office 2003 Introductory Textbook written by Pasewark and Pasewark. The book is ideal for computer users of different abilities and varying computer experiences. It is a course designed with a wide range of learning experiences from activities with one or two commands to simulations and projects that challenge and sharpen learners' problem solving skills. This course will focus on units on the software in Office that the students in the class are least familiar i.e. Publisher, Outlook, and Access.

# Science Department

## Statement of Purpose

Science is a human activity that seeks to employ our rational capacity to discover observable and natural truths in the created order. Our science program strongly emphasizes the human component of scientific investigation. Therefore, we not only rigorously examine the scientific truths of our universe using interactive and engaging forms of instruction, but we also arm the students with the tools needed to nurture moral evaluations about the scientific truths that are discovered. A crucial objective of our science curriculum is to emphasize the bioethical component of scientific study. Science is only useful if its objectives and methods protect the dignity of human life.

## Course of Study

Completion of a minimum of 3.0 credits in Science is mandatory for all students to graduate. The normal yearly sequence of course completion is Biology, Chemistry and Physics and meets the minimum requirement.

### 104 - Biology

**Level: H**

**Grades: 9, 10**

**Credit: 1**

**Prerequisite: N/A**

Biology, a life science, covers the study of life from basic cell structure to the organization and function of an organism. Students will learn areas of concentration which include the scientific method, chemical basis of life, botany, cell structure, mitosis and meiosis, DNA, genetics, the history of living things, microbiology, ecology and human body systems.

Students are expected to prepare and maintain an organized notebook and to understand and use scientific vocabulary in their work. In addition, student lab skills will be developed in the areas of observation, analysis and conclusion as well as proper use of lab equipment. Student mastery of the material will be evaluated via tests, assignments, labs and special projects.

### 204 - Chemistry

**Level: CP**

**Grades: 11, 12**

**Credit: 1**

**Prerequisite: Completion of/or current enrollment in Algebra II**

Chemistry, a physical science, covers the following topics: the nature of chemistry, atomic structure, electron configuration, the periodic table, chemical formulas, ionic and covalent bonding, chemical reactions and equations, the mole, stoichiometry, the ideal gas laws, solutions, equilibrium, solubility, precipitation, reactions of acids and bases, and oxidation and reduction.

Students are expected to prepare and maintain an organized notebook and to understand and use the vocabulary of chemistry in their work. Students' analytical abilities will increase through mastery of laboratory techniques, demonstrating critical thinking, and problem-solving through practical lab applications and testing.

**304 – Physics****Level: H****Grades: 11, 12****Credit: 1****Prerequisite: Completion of/or current enrollment in Algebra II**

Physics, a physical science, is designed to introduce the general principles of physics. Topics include the scientific method, measurement skills, Newtonian mechanics, linear and rotational momentum, momentum and energy conservation, gravitation, thermodynamics, waves, light, electricity and magnetism, nuclear forces and atomic structure. Physical concepts will be studied through demonstrations and labs.

Students are expected to prepare and maintain an organized notebook and to understand and use the vocabulary of physics in their work. Student mastery of the material will be evaluated via tests, daily assignments, lab work, and special projects.

# Social Studies Department

## Statement of Purpose

The Social Studies department at Mount Royal offers a curriculum that focuses primarily on cultivating analytic skills, while internalizing historical content from central periods of human history. By cultivating interpretive abilities, students will learn how to abstract universal truths from history amidst changing social conditions and relationships. Through the lens of Christian ethics and Gospel values, students learn to evaluate critical historical decisions made in the past and present by individuals and societies, promoting an awareness of how their actions can positively influence the society in which they live.

## Course of Study

All students must complete 3 credits in Social Studies to graduate. A typical progression of courses begins with World History, then shifts to a series of courses covering United States History. Other Social Studies courses can be taken to fulfill the required credit and/or as electives per staff decisions.

### 105 World History

**Level: CP**

**Grades: 9, 10**

**Credit: 1**

**Prerequisite: N/A**

College Preparatory World History covers important political, religious, economic and intellectual developments. Students will learn about early Middle Eastern and Mediterranean civilizations, the classical Greco-Roman world, the Byzantine heritage and Islam, the Medieval period, the Renaissance and Reformation, the Age of Exploration, Discovery and Absolutism, the Scientific Revolution and Age of Reason, Revolution and Change, the Industrial Revolution, Nationalism, and Imperialism.

Students will use a variety of methods to study historical topics. Class discussions, research, and expository writing are all critical parts of this course. Students will be encouraged to think about historical events in a critical manner while understanding how those events have impacted the world today.

*World History is a mandatory course and fulfills one credit of the Social Studies requirement for graduation.*

### 205 U.S. History I

**Level: CP**

**Grade: 11**

**Credit: 0.5**

**Prerequisite: World History**

This course will cover political, economic and cultural themes in American history from the Age of Exploration and Colonization through the present. Topics to be pursued will include Colonization, the Revolution, Sectional Conflict and Civil War, and Reconstruction. Both major primary and secondary sources will be employed.

Students will build upon historical skills developed in the World History courses, such as analysis of

sources, construction of historical arguments, historical research and critical thinking and writing. Some emphasis will be placed on analyzing conflicting historical interpretations.

*This course fulfills a half credit of the Social Studies requirement for graduation.*

### **215 Government and Politics**

**Level: CP**

**Grade: 11**

**Credit: .5**

**Prerequisite: World History**

Civic education is essential for active participation by informed citizens. Students will examine the following topics in government: growth of democracy, federalism, separation of powers, checks and balances, civil liberties, civil rights, civic participation, comparative government, political processes, public policy, free enterprise, and cultural pluralism. This course will emphasize a study of government and individual rights and responsibilities. Civic understanding increases as students develop the skills to make informed decisions, to resolve conflicts peacefully, to articulate and defend positions, and to engage in the civic and political life of their communities.

*This course fulfills a half credit of the Social Studies requirement for graduation.*

### **305 U.S. History II: Modern 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

**Level: CP**

**Grade: 12**

**Credit: 1**

**Prerequisite: U.S. History I**

College Preparatory United States History is designed to cover the modern history of the US from post Civil War through the present. Topics to be pursued will include the rise of a national economy, the development of twentieth century foreign policy, World War I, the Progressive Movement, the Depression and New Deal, World War II, and the Cold War. Both primary and secondary sources will be employed. Students will build upon the historical skills developed in US History I and Government and writing skills will be enhanced throughout the course.

*This course fulfills one credit of the Social Studies requirement for graduation.*

### **405 ECONOMICS**

**Level: CP**

**Grades: 11, 12**

**Credit: .5**

**Prerequisite: U.S. History I and II**

This one semester course provides a basic introduction to the free enterprise system and how it affects our lives as consumers. Students will study how producers and consumers make choices. They will discuss, study and interpret the free market system. Students will understand the concepts and functioning of supply and demand, marketing, banking, and inflation. Students will learn how to create and read graphs, understand income tax forms, and participate in a mock stock market. Students will also be required to learn economic vocabulary. A key component of this course includes examining the moral value of economic theories and systems.

**125 Life Skills****Level: CP****Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12****Credit: .5****Prerequisite: N/A**

The course is divided into two parts. Initially, students will be guided through various activities that will enable them to discern what gifts, talents, personality traits, or temperaments they possess. By examining these character attributes, students will begin to track potential career callings that cater to their specific skill set. The second part of the course attempts to apply what was learned through self-awareness exercises. In particular, searching for employment, resume-building, public speaking, and norms for interviews will all be discussed. The objective of the course is to prepare students for various activities that are essential for life, but not necessarily covered in an academic, subject-based course.

*Adequate pre-registration numbers are necessary to run any elective course*

# Theology Department

## Statement of Purpose:

God “calls man to seek him, to know him, and to love him with all his strength” (CCC 1). The theology program aims therefore to lead the students to know God, so as to assist them in welcoming His loving care. Experiencing the love of Jesus Christ will consequently inspire the students to live out their faith in adoring service to God the Father. The program endeavors to guide students toward critical reflection of the human experience within the context of truths professed by the Catholic Church for the faithful. Students are challenged to practice the Gospel values spiritually, joyfully, morally, justly, and devotedly through the grace of the Holy Spirit. The theology program formally considers our relationship with God by presenting the Church’s perennial teaching in its fullness and free of dissent.

## Objectives:

- To communicate the fundamental truths and values of the Catholic faith.
- To witness personally to the reality of Christ’s presence in our lives.
- To increase awareness of, and participation in issues that affect human dignity.
- To provide opportunities for students to serve the community.
- To develop an understanding of the Sacraments.
- To identify and familiarize students with the Sacred Scriptures.
- To empower students to explain and defend the teachings of the Church.

## Course of Study:

Students are responsible for successfully completing 4.0 credits in Theology courses. In addition, students will complete a service portfolio as part of their graduation requirement. Half a credit will be allotted upon completion of the portfolio. The standard course of study is Foundations of Catholicism and Christian Discipleship in freshmen year; Scriptures, Old Testament and New Testament in the sophomore year; Catholic Morality and Catholic Social Teaching during junior year; and a course covering various Apologetic themes in senior year. The service portfolio must be completed by the end of senior year.

### **106 - Foundations of Catholicism**

**Level: CP**

**Grade: 9**

**Credit: .5**

**Prerequisite: N/A**

The fundamental truths of the Catholic faith will be presented and carefully explained. The course begins with a general discussion of Jesus Christ, faith, spirituality, the existence of God, and then reviews key Catholic doctrines and the importance of the Church. This course endorses both an intellectual understanding and spiritual admiration for the Catholic faith.

### **116 - Christian Discipleship**

**Level: CP**

**Grade: 9**

**Credit: .5**

**Prerequisite: N/A**

An examination of the life of grace from its beginning in baptism; its growth through sacraments, liturgy, prayer, and the moral life; and its fulfillment in the union of friendship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Maintaining and nourishing the life of God within the human soul is the principal objective.

**206 - Scriptures: Old Testament**

**Level: CP**

**Grade: 10**

**Credit: .5**

**Prerequisite: N/A**

A review of the literature that is the foundation of the Judaeo-Christian tradition. A critical and historical background will be used to discover the major beliefs and moral convictions found in the Old Testament. God's relationship with Israelites insofar as it represents His loving relationship with all of humanity directs the catechesis of this course. An integral part of this course will include commentating and meditating upon the Scriptures using the *lectio divina* method .

**216 - Scriptures: New Testament**

**Level: CP**

**Grade: 10**

**Credit: .5**

**Prerequisite: N/A**

A survey of the literature that is the source of all Christian belief, theology, and moral practice. The major theological and ethical teachings of Paul, the Gospels and Acts, and the other New Testament writings will be explored. Jesus Christ as the fullness of God's revelation to humanity and the emergence of early Church are the primary themes. A major goal is to encourage the students to discern how the materials and events covered within the course relate to their own lives.

**306 - Catholic Morality**

**Level: CP**

**Grade: 11**

**Credit: .5**

**Prerequisite: N/A**

A detailed examination of the foundations of Christian morality including contemporary applications. Basic moral principles for living a Christian life will be studied, such as formation of conscience, responsible decision-making, virtue, sin, and the defense of human dignity. Scripturally, considerable concentration will be devoted to moral law as revealed in the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount. The primary aim is two-fold: to guide students as they develop well-formed consciences and to appreciate the centrality of human dignity in Catholic morality.

**316 - Catholic Social Teaching**

**Level: CP**

**Grade: 11**

**Credit: .5**

**Prerequisite: N/A**

A broad study of general Church teachings on social questions. Major issues explored include poverty and the distribution of wealth, prejudice and racism, war and peace, criminal justice, the Gospel and the State, and the international community. Essential principles such as solidarity, subsidiary, social

justice, the universal destination of goods, and the common good will be learned and applied to these contemporary concerns. This course aims to provide a better understanding of the facts regarding these critical issues, as well as the applicable Catholic principles and values.

**406 - Apologetics**

**Level: CP**

**Grade: 12**

**Credit: .5**

**Prerequisite: N/A**

Apologetics prepares students to explain and defend Church teachings. Topics such as the harmony between faith and reason, natural law, and the natural capacity of humanity to seek out transcendent values are explored under the direction of the Magisterial teaching of the Catholic Church. The fact of divine revelation, as well as the centrality of Jesus Christ as the perfect revelation of God and humanity will receive significant consideration. The principle objective is to prepare students to give an orderly presentation that the Christian revelation has on the assent of every rational mind, so as to lead others to recognize the reasonableness and trustworthiness of revelation as realized in the Catholic Church. Students themselves will be challenged to understand and to articulate the splendor of accepting the credentials of the Catholic faith and to discredit the skeptic of rational faith.

**126 - Service Portfolio**

**Level: CP**

**Grade: 9-12**

**Credit: .5**

**Prerequisite: N/A**

In addition to the regular course of studies offered by the Theology Department, an independent service project is required of each student. The project obliges a total of 65 hours of community service at an approved site, or any combination thereof, to be completed on an incremental basis. The course extends through the senior year, and culminates in a Service Portfolio. Included within the portfolio are essays, reflections, pictures, or any item that will help the student catalogue the experience.

# Senior Seminar

## Statement of Purpose

Senior Seminar functions as a capstone of various academic disciplines including the following: literature, philosophy, history, and theology. Students refine higher reasoning skills, vocalizing their respective interpretations on a consistent basis, while supporting their thoughts with textual evidence, in an overt discussion based setting.

## 407 – Senior Seminar

**Level: CP**

**Grade: 12**

**Credit: 1**

**Prerequisite: N/A**

This course provides an intellectual history that surveys survey the major moral, political, religious, and philosophical ideas that shaped Western civilization and formed the Classical-Christian tradition—a body of knowledge known as “the perennial philosophy” (*philosophia perennis*). It introduces students to such notions as Plato’s idea of Forms, Aristotle’s idea of the golden mean, the natural law, the cardinal virtues, the age of chivalry, Renaissance humanism, Divine Providence, the seven deadly sins, the Enlightenment, the industrial revolution, the American Dream, the age of ideology, and moral relativism. The course includes works such as Plato’s *Gorgias*, Cicero’s *On Duties*, Boethius’s *The Consolation of Philosophy*, Dante’s *Purgatorio*, Shakespeare’s *King Lear* and *The Tempest*, Montaigne’s *Essays*, Cervantes’ *Don Quixote*, Benjamin Franklin’s *Autobiography*, Dickens’ *Hard Times*, C.S. Lewis’s *The Great Divorce*, and Pope John Paul II’s *Evangelium Vitae*.

# Appendix

## The Habits of Study for a KNIGHT of Mount Royal

The school athletic teams at Mount Royal are the Knights of our Lady. Knights during the Middle Ages followed a code of law called “chivalry.” Student at Mount Royal will work to develop the following habits (or code) of study which will enable them to be successful and foster a positive learning environment in the school.

- I. **K**ind and thoughtful participation: Good students are not passive creatures who are simply present and merely attend class. They come prepared with homework completed, ready to contribute to class discussion, and attentive to the teacher’s instruction.
- II. **N**oble and professional work ethic: Students are expected to contribute to the serious, dignified activity of learning by their proper conduct.
- III. **I**ndustrious independence: They need to inform themselves of homework assignments, consult with teachers about completing missing work, and taking tests.
- IV. **G**ratefulness: Education is a gift and a privilege, and the proper response to a gift is gratitude and appreciation—to cherish the gift and use it wisely, not waste it. In the words of Leonardo da Vinci, “Lord, you give us all things at the cost of an effort.”
- V. **H**onesty: Copying another student’s homework, lending one’s own homework for other students to copy, and attempting to write an essay on a book a student has not read are dishonest acts, forms of deception that amount to lies.
- VI. **T**imeliness: Students who miss the deadline and turn in late work of any kind must provide a note from a parent explaining the reasons (if any) for tardy work.
- VII. **S**teadfast attendance: Students who are absent for various reasons have an obligation to complete all homework and take missing tests.

## Mount Royal Academy’s Graduation Requirements

All high school students must earn the following credits required for graduation:

4 credits . . . . . English	4 credits . . . . Religion
3 credits . . . . . Math	1 credit . . . . Art
3 credits . . . . . History	1 credit . . . . Music
3 credits . . . . . Science	1 credit . . . . Physical Education
<u>2 credits . . . . . Foreign Language</u>	<u>3 credits. . . . Electives</u>

for a total of 25 credits to graduate. A full academic year of work in a major subject equals 1 credit. Four years of work in a minor subject equals 1 credit (art, music, physical education). All seniors must take a full course load which is a minimum of 5 full credit classes.





