

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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Assumption College for Sisters
Denville, New Jersey

Course Descriptions

Division of Humanities

The division of humanities introduces students to the human heritage, awakening in them an understanding and appreciation of the contributions of the human race, as well as examining how the human experience is processed through literature, visual and performing arts, history, and communication. It brings into focus the intrinsic unity and universality of all people, sharing the creativity, richness, and embrace of God.

English

The courses in English have been selected to instill a love for the English language, the ability to speak correctly, and the power to write clearly and stylistically. Students will read in order to interpret and evaluate effectively; they will strive to understand the inherent merits of literary masterpieces through reading and writing critically about classics of various cultures and historic periods.

En 101 College English I 4 credits

This course is designed to present a review of grammar and to develop skills in writing, reading, and critical thinking. Students write essays with a purpose for a special audience, developing skills in expository, descriptive, narrative, and argumentative techniques.

En 102 College English II 3 credits

This course introduces students to the process of writing a research paper by using a systematic procedure for gathering, evaluating, and synthesizing information according to the format of The Modern Language Association (MLA). Throughout the process students continue to develop the skills of reading, critical thinking, and writing.

En 103 Fundamentals of Public Speaking 3 credits

In this course students learn and practice the listening and speaking skills necessary for success in their college courses. They work and participate in class discussions and deliver oral presentations. Students will gain an understanding of the communication process, audience analysis, effective message composition, and delivery including productive use of voice and diction.

En 203 Special Topics in English 3 credits

This course allows for a study of specific issues as determined by the needs and interests of students and that of English staff and visiting instructors.

En 203 A Special Topics in English: Women in Literature 3 credits

This course will provide students with a survey of literature from around the world with an emphasis on the experience of women in literature. Students will be introduced to context and themes to help them critically engage with literature. Additionally, students will pay special attention to the circulation of texts and how the reception of these works defined historical moments in which they were situated. Students will read a variety of works written by women authors such as Maya Angelou, Kate Chopin, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, and Edith Wharton. Through written responses, students will examine, analyze, question, and relate identified themes to themselves, their experiences, and society.

English as a Second Language

The primary purpose of the courses in English as a Second Language is to prepare students to mainstream into academic work. These courses are designed to help students master the English language skills necessary for success in college-level study.

ESL 101 ESL Fundamentals NC

This year-long course introduces beginning students to basic structures and vocabulary of the English language through the skills of reading, speaking, and listening. Students expand oral comprehensibility and become immersed in the culture as they examine American history and traditions.

ESL 102 Introductory Writing 3 credits

This course is designed to teach beginning level ESL students' instruction in grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, paragraph development, essay development, and critical thinking skills. Students will improve writing skills by learning to use simple and complex sentences in developing the writing process. The Rosetta Stone Program[®] is used for practice in speaking and listening and for developing vocabulary, grammar, and writing skills.

ESL 103 Introductory Reading 3 credits

This basic course in reading aims to help students build reading skills such as word recognition, expressing main ideas, context study, the ability to formulate questions on readings of different genres, and to summarize and analyze texts. This course prepares students to successfully read and report on topics of an academic nature. Phonics is used in learning to read and comprehend the English language.

ESL 104 Intermediate Writing 3 credits

This course reinforces the essentials of grammar, sentence structure, builds vocabulary, and integrates grammar instruction with writing practice. Students learn how to write effective, meaningful compositions and essays to persuade, compare/contrast, and narrate, skills which can be applied to academic writing across the curriculum. Rosetta Stone Program and other computer based programs enhance the curriculum.

ESL 105 Intermediate Reading 3 credits

This course uses contemporary literature to increase comprehension skills and vocabulary building, the ability to question, summarize, analyze, and write critically about literature of different genres. The internet is used to view performances of several literary pieces. Intensive and extensive reading, in class and independently, enables the students to build confidence in their academic commitments.

ESL 106 Advanced Writing 3 credits

This course focuses on grammar skills, vocabulary development, correct usage, sentence structure, mechanics of writing, and the ability to critically analyze various topics in literature. The use of internet programs enhances the learning process. Students develop the ability to organize, outline, and write coherent paragraphs and compositions.

ESL 107 Advanced Reading 3 credits

This course is designed for students to gain mastery of the skills needed for academic study in pre-reading, comprehension, understanding contextual critical reading through story clues, and recognizing inferences and parallels in literary works. Computer-based programs extend and improve the learning process.

Fine Arts

The courses in the following section guide students toward an understanding and enjoyment of the visual and performing arts. They concentrate on the best known examples of global achievement, providing insight into the variability and richness of human creativity.

Ar 101 Art History 3 credits

This one-semester course presents a chronological survey of the history of art from prehistory to the present. While focusing on the painting, sculpture, and architecture of Western Europe, it also endeavors to include global cultures as well as the decorative arts, print making, and photography. We will look at art in terms of the historical, cultural, and societal contexts in which it was made. Students will also learn to formally analyze a work of art by identifying such intrinsic qualities as subject matter, composition, and technique.

Note: Ar 101 is classified under both the Fine Arts and History subdivisions of Humanities.

FA 101 Fine Arts Appreciation 3 credits

This umbrella course consists of three abbreviated classes in the visual and performing arts, any of which may be taken separately for one credit. Although subject to change depending upon the interests of students and faculty, classes have been offered in Drawing, Ceramics, Dance, World Music, and Theater. These are general courses that offer an exploration of a given art discipline through its fundamentals and core concepts. Field trips to various museums and performance venues often complement the classes.

Ar 201 Special Topics in Art 3 credits

This course allows for a study of specific issues as determined by the needs and interests of students and that of Art staff and visiting instructors.

Mu 201 Special Topics in Music 3 credits

This course allows for a study of specific issues as determined by the needs and interests of students and that of Music staff and visiting instructors.

History

Through the study of history, students develop an appreciation of the people, events, thought processes, and cultures that have shaped the world to the present time. This knowledge will enable them to evaluate the present, view it as part of the movement of humanity through time, and be prepared to contribute to the shaping of the future.

Hi 098 Cultural Foundations NC

This course encourages students to gain a foundation in world history and geography by acquiring an understanding of various cultures through the use of basic map skills, primary and secondary readings, multimedia presentations, and lectures. Students will also be required to present various topics throughout the semester to facilitate the development of language skills. Successful completion of this non-credit course will provide students with the background necessary for college-level history studies.

Hi 101 World Civilization I 3 credits

Beginning with the creation of the world this course travels through the earliest beginnings of humans on the planet in prehistoric times and ends with the historical time of the Middle Ages in Europe and the parallel events in Asia and Africa. Classes attempt to introduce students to the earliest civilizations and all the aspects of culture as they unfold over time and the ways in which those civilizations and cultures interacted. Emphasis is placed on the developments in multiple areas of culture, especially the origins of the major religions of today: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism.

Hi 102 World Civilization II 3 credits

Beginning with the European Renaissance and its effect on other parts of the world, this class continues the themes of cultural developments initiated in World Civilization I. World-wide interactions increase as transportation and communication methods grow allowing both positive and negative interactions between cultures and peoples leading up to the mass communications of today.

Hi 201 The Church: Its Nature and History 3 credits

This course is a survey of the theology and history of the Church from the Apostolic Period to the 21st century, including doctrinal, institutional, and spiritual developments, and the significance of Vatican Council II on contemporary Christianity. See also Th 201.

Ar 101 Art History 3 credits

This one-semester course presents a chronological survey of the history of art from prehistory to the present. While focusing on the painting, sculpture, and architecture of Western Europe, it also endeavors to include global cultures as well as the decorative arts, print making, and photography. We will look at art in terms of the historical, cultural, and societal contexts in which it was made. Students will also learn to formally analyze a work of art by identifying such intrinsic qualities as subject matter, composition, and technique.

Note: Ar 101 is classified under both the Fine Arts and History subdivisions of Humanities.

Hi 202 Special Topics in History 3 credits

This course allows for a study of specific issues as determined by the needs and interests of students and that of History staff and visiting instructors.

Division of Natural Science and Mathematics

The division of natural science and mathematics aims to lead students to acquire not only the concepts basic to the structure of the science and mathematics courses but also an effective reverence for truth, a wholesome spirit of inquiry, a degree of scientific literacy, and a sense of responsibility for the wise and intelligent use of global resources.

Natural Science

The courses in natural science aim to give students knowledge of the fundamentals of biology and chemistry as part of their liberal education.

Sc 101 Introduction to Chemistry 4 credits

This course introduces students to the basic principles of chemistry. Included are scientific units of measure, chemical and physical changes, states of matter, atomic structure, chemical formulas and equations, molecular structure and bonding, periodic laws, acids and bases and a broad understanding of organic chemistry as it applies to food, nutrition, and current world events. Other special topics of current interest will be included as time permits. Selected qualitative and quantitative laboratory experiments and demonstrations will be used to illustrate the principals covered in the lectures.

Prerequisite Mt 101 or Mt 102 unless special permission given from the Academic Dean.

Sc 102 Introduction to Biology 4 credits

This course introduces concepts that contribute to the understanding of the nature of life and its cellular and chemical bases. The students working with common life experience and a defined structure of observation, build on what they know of life with concepts of biological macromolecules, structure for function of cells, energy production, cell division, genetics, and the influence of climate on life with emphasis on how all of life is interdependent. The course provides a clear, basic, practical understanding of the living world through lecture, discussion, laboratory experience, and audiovisual presentations.

Prerequisite Sc 101 unless special permission given from the Academic Dean.

Sc 204 Special Topics in Natural Science 3 or 4 credits

This course is intended as an introduction for students, whose main interest, such as nursing or nutrition, requires a basic knowledge of organic chemistry. The fundamental concepts surrounding the bonding of the carbon atom as it relates to the major organic functional groups and their reactions, stereochemistry and spectroscopic methods will be presented. Areas of special interest will be emphasized based on the needs of the students. A basic understanding of general chemistry is required.

Mathematics

Mathematics courses aim to develop the students' ability to think logically, analytically, and objectively, while imparting a basic knowledge of the fundamental concepts of mathematics.

Mt 098 Basic Mathematics NC

Developmental in nature, this comprehensive course provides the necessary background and review of whole numbers, fractions, decimals, ratio and proportion, as well as an introduction to algebra and geometry.

Mt 101 Introductory College Algebra 3 credits

This is an introductory course that takes the student through the topics basic to algebra. The course begins with the operations of real numbers, fractions, decimals, and percentages. It continues to introduce the student to polynomials, linear equations, exponents, factoring, quadratic equations, and various graphing techniques. Real life scenarios are used as much as possible to help the student with the concepts along with applications using a calculator.

Prerequisite Mt 098 unless special permission given from the Academic Dean.

Mt 102 College Algebra 3 credits

This course presents an overview of the fundamental concepts of algebra and analytical geometry. It explores the properties of various functions, including both real and imaginary and to exponential and logarithmic functions along with their applications. There is an introduction to limits and the basic concepts related to the derivative of a function. The student is introduced to the applications of a TI-73 graphing calculator. Real life problems are used as much as possible throughout the course. Basic algebra is a course prerequisite.

Prerequisite Mt 098 unless special permission given from the Academic Dean.

Division of Social Sciences

The division of social sciences, which includes education and psychology, investigates the interrelationship of the human person with self, others, and the environment. It introduces the technology necessary for continued studies and the development of strong communication skills.

Education

Courses in education are designed to broaden students' awareness and understanding of personal and communal health and to provide a foundation in the use of computers and library information skills necessary for students' development in future professions.

Ed 097 Computer Literacy NC

This course provides the fundamental skills needed to use a personal computer. Basic concepts of hardware, software, peripherals, and operating systems are covered. This course explains creating, saving, and organizing files to local and remote storage devices. This course teaches basic concepts of word processing, presentation, and spreadsheet software. Calendaring and communicating via email are also covered.

Ed 098 Keyboarding NC

This course introduces the student to the alpha-numeric computer keyboard and touch typing. Correct technique and proper posture is emphasized.

Ed 099 Library Information Resources NC

This course introduces the student to the basics of library usage, online library catalogs and systems including EBSCOHost Research Databases. Students are also introduced to the basics of MLA bibliographic citation, copyright laws, understanding and avoiding plagiarism.

Ed 101 Health and Wellness I 1 credit

This course broadens the student's understanding of personal, communal, and global health and wellness issues. Guest speakers from the health care community will be invited to speak on specific topics in their field of expertise to enhance the learning experience.

Ed 102 Health and Wellness II 1 credit

This course introduces students to the role of technology in common health issues in women and personal and community health management. Health and wellness management, components of physical fitness, nutrition and weight, and stress management are explored around a current topic in health. Guest speakers from the healthcare field will speak on their topics of expertise to enhance the learning experience.

Ed 103 Personal Computer Applications 3 credits

In this course students will learn to use word processing software, presentation software and be introduced to spreadsheets in a personal computer environment. Cloud computing will be used for file management and organization.

Psychology

The courses in psychology study the development of the human personality in its individual and social aspects.

Ps 101 General Psychology 3 credits

This is a basic course in the history, theories, principles, and methods of the study of cognition and human behavior. Topics will include a brief history of psychology, critical thinking, human development, motivation, emotion and stress, personality, social psychology, and psychopathology as examined through the biopsychosocial perspective.

Ps 202 Developmental Psychology 3 credits

This course surveys the physical, intellectual, emotional, and social developmental stages of the human being from conception through aging. The course will examine the genetic, environmental, and socio-cultural influences on development.

Ps 204 Special Topics in Psychology 3 credits

This course allows for a study of specific issues not covered by existing courses as determined by the needs and interests of students and that of Psychology staff and visiting instructors.

Division of Theology and Philosophy

Theology and philosophy are the integrating inspiration of the curriculum, offering academic, spiritual, and pastoral insights into the relationship between faith and reason, unity and truth. They direct the student toward a clearer understanding of the rational basis and scriptural/doctrinal foundation of the values, principles, and beliefs of the Catholic faith.

Theology

The courses in theology offer students the opportunity to explore religious truth and faith, especially as embodied in the Catholic faith tradition. Students are invited to discover the significance of Divine Revelation in shaping a theological understanding of the ultimate life questions. Through the study of theology and scripture, students strengthen their own spiritual life and are better prepared to give themselves to the service of the Church in building the Kingdom of God through their ministries.

Th 098 Fundamentals of the Catholic Faith NC

This course will familiarize students with the Articles of the Creed, the Sacraments, and the documents of Vatican Council II, in particular *Perfectae Caritatis*, *Gaudium et Spes*, *Lumen Gentium*, and *Nostra Aetate*.

Th 101 Sacred Scripture I 3 credits

This course is a survey of the Sacred Writings shared by Jewish and Christian faith communities. Through the study of selected books of the Old Testament students explore the background, formation, methods of interpretation, and message of the various types of Old Testament writings. Using the historical-critical method of biblical interpretation, students are given the tools for unlocking the beauty and depth of God's revelation and what it means for us in our everyday lives.

Th 102 Sacred Scripture II 3 credits

In this course students encounter the person and message of Jesus Christ, the Word of God, as handed down to us from the early Christian community. It focuses on the study of the four Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, selected Letters, and the Book of Revelation. Using the historical-critical method of scriptural interpretation, students are introduced to the background, formation, and contemporary approaches to New Testament scholarship in order to draw deeply from the richness of these sacred writings.

Th 104 Principles and Methods of Catechesis 3 credits

This course is an introduction to the basic principles, content, and practice of Catholic catechetical teaching. It presents the historical development of catechesis from the New Testament times to the present and introduces the students to the basic catechetical documents of the Church. It includes both content and methodology and draws upon the norms laid out in the National Directory for Catechesis. It includes a practicum which enables the students to apply the principles and methods they are learning to the experience of actual catechetical teaching and sacramental retreat programs for children and teenagers.

Th 201 The Church: Its Nature and History 3 credits

Beginning with the life of Jesus this class introduces students to the growth of the Church from Pentecost to the present day. From the infant Church in Israel to the global Church of post-Vatican Council II the structures, doctrines, and spiritual developments are examined. The effects of cultures and history are also studied. See also Hi 201.

Th 202	Sacramental Theology	3 credits
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This course is an in-depth study of the scriptural, theological, and historical dimensions of the seven sacraments with an emphasis on the Eucharistic Liturgy as the source and summit of all sacramental life. It draws upon the insights of patristic, medieval, and modern theologians to uncover the fundamental principles of sacramental theology. The nature of the liturgy, sacred time and space, sacramental symbol, and sacramental grace are examined in the context of a Trinitarian, Christological, and Ecclesial framework, drawing on the teachings of Vatican Council II. Particular attention is paid to the renewed understanding of the role of the sacraments in ongoing spiritual growth.

Th 203	Fundamental Moral Theology	3 credits
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Based on the scriptural, philosophical, and theological principles of morality, this course introduces the students to the development of moral teaching in the Catholic Church. It treats such topics as: the human person, natural law, conscience, the principle of double effect, freedom, sin, and moral living as the response to God's love. Contemporary moral issues are evaluated in the light of these principles and of magisterial teachings. These include the basic themes of Catholic Social Teachings, such as: the value and dignity of human life and of all persons, life issues, sexual morality,

social justice, and care of the earth, and related themes. Moral decision-making is presented in relationship to faith and to the living of one's baptismal commitment to be followers of Jesus.

Th 204 Spiritual Theology 3 credits

In this course students will explore the basic principles of the spiritual life. It presents a biblical, theological, and historical survey of the activity of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church and of individual persons and groups. The course explores such topics as: the universal call to holiness, the role of the Spirit in the life of believers, grace, virtue, prayer, the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit, and the journey of conversion. It provides a historical survey of the various spiritual traditions and schools of spirituality of the past and present that enrich the life of the Church. Students will become acquainted with contemporary approaches to spirituality in the ongoing renewal brought about by Vatican Council II.

Th 205 Mystery of God 3 credits

This course focuses on the Mystery of God and the ways in which people have reflected on, expressed, and responded to this mystery. It is a study of the biblical, historical, and contemporary formulations of the nature and activity of God. Topics include: atheism agnosticism, deism, theism, the existence of God, the relationship of faith and reason, the experience and knowledge of God, articulating the Mystery of God, and the problem of evil. Students will be introduced to the historical development of Trinitarian doctrine and will explore contemporary issues surrounding the mystery God. They will explore new approaches to pastoral practice in a secularized culture, and the challenges of Trinitarian faith in our personal lives and interpersonal relationships.

Th 206 Christology 3 credits

This course explores the varied ways the Church has attempted to understand, explain, and respond to the person and mission of Jesus Christ. It will examine the origins of belief in Jesus Christ in the apostolic church, the insights of the New Testament and the early Church Fathers, early creedal formulations about the nature of Jesus, the teachings of the Church Councils of the fourth through sixth centuries, and contemporary approaches to Christology. Through this study, students will encounter the God who entered our humanity to save us and call us to new life as His disciples.

Th 207 Mary in the Scriptures 3 credits

This course invites the students to explore the figure of Mary of Nazareth as she comes across through the Scriptures and the Church's Marian teachings. Students are introduced to the events where Mary appears in the New Testament writings and the connections with the Old Testament "types" of Mary. They have the opportunity to study how Mary has been presented throughout the centuries and in various cultures. Through this study, students are brought to a deeper understanding of Mary's role in salvation history and of her place in the Church as the first and most faithful disciple of Jesus, our companion on our own faith journey.

Th 208 Special Topics in Theology 3 credits

This course allows for a study of specific issues as determined by the needs and interests of students and that of Theology staff and visiting instructors.

Philosophy

Inherent in the rational and humanistic core of the Catholic faith, the philosophy offered at ACS seeks to develop students' potential for critical intellectual skills necessary in all academic fields, to discover and examine assumptions, to recognize various approaches to reality, to appreciate the dignity of the human person, and to find deeper meaning in existence and the moral life.

Ph 203 Philosophy of the Human Person 3 credits

This course is an overview of theories of human nature. It takes as its starting point the Greco-Judeo-Christian tradition rooted in ancient Greek thought as that tradition culminated in Scholasticism and Neo-Thomism. It then turns to modern and contemporary theories, including those of Hobbes, Pascal, Hume, Kant, Marx, Nietzsche, Kierkegaard, Heidegger, Sartre, and others, before finally turning to a brief examination of Eastern philosophical traditions (Confucianism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam). The class examines elements necessary for human flourishing, such as the human capacity for reason, the ethical life and human freedom, subjectivity and relationship, as well as human individuation, ontological unity, and the immortality of the soul.

Prerequisite Ph 205 unless special permission given from the Academic Dean.

Ph 205 Historical Introduction to Philosophy 3 credits

This course explores the basic philosophical questions regarding the relationship between the One and the many, the nature of truth and the limits of human knowledge, the relationship between philosophy and theology, existence, being and essence, the possibility of knowing metaphysical truths, ethics and ideas about the human soul. It will include major thinkers from ancient, medieval, modern, and contemporary philosophy.

Prerequisite En 101, Ed 097, and Ed 098 unless special permission given from the Academic Dean.

Ph 207 Special Topics in Philosophy 3 credits

This course allows for a study of specific issues as determined by needs and interests of students and that of Philosophy staff and visiting instructors.

Note: Each Special Topics Course will have a capital letter added after the Course Number in order to distinguish the course.

Online Course Offerings

With the approval of the Academic Dean certain courses may be offered online.

acsOCO: Online Course Orientation (prerequisite) NC

This course will introduce the student to the online learning format at Assumption College for Sisters. The student will be able to navigate the learning management system, access course content, upload assignments, and post on discussion boards. In addition, the student will engage in meaningful online interactions and create an online learning community.