



## **ACADEMIC COURSE OFFERINGS**

**2025-2026**



# Fork Union Military Academy

## UPPER SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS, 2025-2026

Completion of these courses will earn the cadet one full high school credit, unless specified.

English Course Offerings	
On-Level Courses	Honors, AP, or Dual Enrollment
<a href="#">English 1 – World Literature I</a>	<a href="#">Honors English 2 – World Literature II</a>
<a href="#">English 2 – World Literature II</a>	<a href="#">Honors English 3 – American Literature</a>
<a href="#">English 3 – American Literature</a>	<a href="#">PVCC English 111 – College Composition<sup>2</sup></a>
<a href="#">English 4 – British Literature</a>	
<a href="#">English 5<sup>1</sup></a>	
<a href="#">African American US History &amp; Literature</a>	
<a href="#">PG Writing<sup>1</sup></a>	

Social Sciences Course Offerings	
On-Level Courses	Honors, AP, or Dual Enrollment
<a href="#">Western Civilization 1</a>	<a href="#">Honors Western Civilization 1</a>
<a href="#">Western Civilization 2</a>	<a href="#">PVCC HIS 121 (US History to 1877)<sup>2</sup></a>
<a href="#">US History: Colonial &amp; Rev. America</a>	<a href="#">PVCC PLS 135 (US Government)<sup>2</sup></a>
<a href="#">US History: Antebellum-Reconstruction</a>	<a href="#">PVCC PLS 136 (State &amp; Local Government)<sup>2</sup></a>
<a href="#">US History: 20th Century US</a>	<a href="#">Honors Leadership and Ethics</a>
<a href="#">US History: US Military and War History</a>	
<a href="#">US Government</a>	
<a href="#">World Cultures and Geography</a>	

Math Course Offerings	
On-Level Courses	Honors, AP, or Dual Enrollment
<a href="#">Pre-Algebra/Math 8</a>	<a href="#">Honors Geometry</a>
<a href="#">Algebra 1</a>	<a href="#">Honors Algebra 2</a>
<a href="#">Geometry</a>	<a href="#">Honors Pre-Calc &amp; Trigonometry</a>
<a href="#">Algebra 2</a>	<a href="#">AP Calculus BC</a>
<a href="#">Advanced Algebra &amp; Trigonometry</a>	<a href="#">Honors Computer Science</a>
<a href="#">Statistics</a>	

Science Course Offerings	
On-Level Courses	Honors, AP, or Dual Enrollment
<a href="#">Environmental Science</a>	<a href="#">Honors Biology</a>
<a href="#">Biology</a>	<a href="#">Honors Chemistry</a>
<a href="#">Chemistry</a>	<a href="#">Honors Physics</a>
	<a href="#">AP Environmental Science</a>

World Language Course Offerings	
On-Level Courses	Honors, AP, or Dual Enrollment
<a href="#">German 1</a>	<a href="#">Honors Spanish 2</a>
<a href="#">Spanish 1</a>	<a href="#">Honors Spanish 3</a>
<a href="#">Spanish 2</a>	
<a href="#">Spanish 3</a>	

Elective Course Offerings	
On-Level Courses	Honors, AP, or Dual Enrollment
<a href="#">Economics</a>	<a href="#">Honors Band</a>
<a href="#">Personal Finance</a>	<a href="#">AP Microeconomics</a>
<a href="#">Sociology</a>	<a href="#">AP Psychology</a>
<a href="#">Band</a>	
<a href="#">Art 1</a>	
<a href="#">Art 2</a>	
<a href="#">Debate and Forensics</a>	
<a href="#">Sports Marketing and Management</a>	

Seminar Offerings	
Courses	Courses
<a href="#">Health/PE<sup>3</sup></a>	<a href="#">Senior Seminar<sup>3,4</sup></a>
<a href="#">Biblical Literacy<sup>3,4</sup></a>	<a href="#">Resource<sup>5</sup></a>
<a href="#">Servant Leadership<sup>3,4</sup></a>	

**Notes:**

- 1 – class typically reserved for post-graduate (PG) cadets
- 2 – dual-enrollment course with Piedmont Virginia Community College; successful completion also earns transferrable credit in the Virginia Community College system
- 3 – required seminar class for graduation
- 4 – half-credit class
- 5 – optional class with additional fee; credit awarded is dependent on number of terms enrolled

## MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS, 2025-2026

These courses do not offer high school credit.

Course Offerings	
Grade Level	Course
7th Grade	<a href="#">Humanities 7</a>
7th Grade	<a href="#">Math 7</a>
7th Grade	<a href="#">Integrated Science 7</a>
8th Grade	<a href="#">English 8</a>
8th Grade	<a href="#">History/Civics 8</a>
8th Grade	<a href="#">Physical Science 8</a>

# UPPER SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

### **English 1 – World Literature I**

English I provides a comprehensive review of standard grammar and usage, with a focus on parts of speech, sentence structure, subject-verb and pronoun-antecedent agreement, punctuation, and commonly misused or confused words. Instruction integrates both theoretical understanding and practical application through writing. Short writing assignments reinforce correct usage of targeted vocabulary and current grammar concepts, while longer compositions emphasize expository writing, the writing process, coherence, and stylistic development. Daily reading selections are used to model effective writing strategies and enhance reading comprehension, with particular attention to critical and evaluative thinking skills.

**Prerequisites:** none

### **English 2 – World Literature II**

This course provides a survey of significant authors and texts from various cultures, highlighting their contributions to national and global literary traditions. Instruction emphasizes the development of expository and analytical writing skills through structured practice in planning, drafting, editing, and revising essays. Cadets will also gain experience in basic research techniques, including the use of credible online sources to support thesis-driven writing. The course includes targeted grammar review, particularly as it applies to sentence structure and writing clarity.

**Prerequisites:** English 1

### **Honors English 2 – World Literature II**

Honors English II focuses on advanced reading, writing, and critical thinking skills through the study of world literature, emphasizing universal themes and cultural relevance. This course is intended for sophomores who have demonstrated above-average proficiency and interest in English studies. Cadets will engage in more rigorous analysis and composition assignments, preparing them for upper-level honors coursework, including Advanced Placement or Dual Enrollment English in their senior year. The long-term objective of the honors sequence is to prepare cadets for the opportunity to earn college credit through high-level academic performance.

**Prerequisites:** B- or higher in English 1

### **English 3 – American Literature**

English 3 offers juniors a chronological survey of American literature, emphasizing the relationship between historical context and literary development. The course reinforces core grammar and usage principles, with particular attention to parts of speech, sentence structure, punctuation, and frequently misused words. Writing assignments—ranging from brief responses to formal essays—incorporate targeted vocabulary, literary analysis, and rhetorical techniques. Cadets will develop essay-writing skills focused on clear organization, literary interpretation, and precise grammatical control. Daily reading selections serve to model effective writing strategies and deepen understanding of literary themes, while promoting critical and evaluative thinking.

**Prerequisites:** English 1

### **Honors English 3 – American Literature**

Honors English 3 is an advanced course for cadets who have demonstrated exceptional ability and motivation in English studies, typically following successful completion of Honors English 2 or its equivalent. The curriculum includes a rigorous chronological survey of English and American literature, with a particular emphasis on poetry and thematic interpretation. Cadets will engage in extensive reading, daily analytical writing, and cumulative assessments that challenge critical thinking and literary insight. A research project exploring universal themes in literature will further develop scholarly writing and inquiry skills. While the primary focus is literature, grammar and composition instruction are integrated throughout all written assignments to reinforce academic writing standards. This course prepares cadets for Advanced Placement or Dual Enrollment English in their senior year.

**Prerequisites:** B- or higher in Honors English 2 or English 2

### **African American US History & Literature**

This interdisciplinary course explores the African American experience in the United States through a combined study of literature and history. Beginning with the pre-colonial and slavery era and continuing through the Civil Rights Movement, the course uses African American literary works as primary sources to provide historical context and deepen understanding of major cultural and social developments. Readings include traditional literature, religious and political writings, poetry, music, and film. Emphasis is placed on critical analysis, cultural relevance, and historical interpretation. Cadets will be required to complete at least one formal research paper in MLA format. This course may be applied toward either the English 3 or U.S. History graduation requirement or may be taken as an elective.

**Prerequisites:** English 1

### **English 4 – British Literature**

A minimum course requirement for all graduating seniors, English 4 includes the fundamental components of all English courses at Fork Union: writing (through a recursive process approach), literature, research, and a review of basic grammar. More specifically, the course will consist of instruction in research methodology and writing, a chronological approach to selected works of British literature, and reviews of grammatical/mechanical functions as they apply to the writing process. The instructor will employ the electronic resources available in the English classrooms (the internet, digital projectors, etc.) and FUMA library resources as vehicles to expose students to research media.

**Prerequisites:** Completion of three previous English classes

### **PVCC ENG 111 – College Composition I**

This dual enrollment course introduces cadets to the principles of academic writing and critical thinking. Through the writing process, cadets learn to refine topics, develop and support ideas, evaluate and integrate appropriate sources, and adapt their style, tone, and structure to a variety of audiences and purposes. Assignments emphasize exposition and argumentation, with at least one formal research-based essay. English 111 serves as the Honors-level option for English 4 and is offered in partnership with Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC). Upon successful completion, cadets earn three college credits through PVCC.

**Note:** a fee of \$75 will be added to a cadet's account when enrolled in a dual-enrollment course.

[More information about ENG 111 is available here.](#)

**Prerequisites:** B- or higher in previous English course; 3.0 cumulative GPA (weighted); junior/senior/postgraduate class standing

**English 5 (Postgraduate)**

Required for most postgraduate cadets, English 5 focuses on refining core language and composition skills while preparing cadets for the verbal components of standardized college entrance exams, such as the SAT. Key areas of instruction include vocabulary development, reading comprehension, sentence completion, and test-taking strategies. Cadets will also complete a formal research paper using proper academic formatting and citation. The course incorporates digital tools and online resources to support the research and writing process. Assigned readings throughout the term reinforce analytical reading and critical thinking skills.

**Prerequisites:** Completion of four years of high school English.

**PG Writing (Postgraduate)**

PG Writing is designed for college-bound postgraduate cadets seeking to strengthen their academic writing and reading skills. The course emphasizes mastery of the writing process—from brainstorming and planning to drafting, revising, and editing—and includes focused instruction on organizing research and applying MLA citation standards. In addition to academic writing, the course incorporates a standardized test preparation component to support cadet performance on the reading and writing sections of the SAT, ACT, and similar exams.

**Prerequisites:** Completion of four years of high school English.

## SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT

### **Western Civilization I**

Western Civilization I is a survey course that explores the development of European history from the earliest Greek civilizations through the High Middle Ages. The course examines significant political, cultural, religious, and intellectual developments, as well as the interactions between Western societies and other regions, such as during the Persian Wars, Hellenistic expansion, and the Crusades. As the introductory course in the Upper School Social Studies curriculum, it emphasizes foundational historical thinking skills, including chronological reasoning, comparison, contextualization, and synthesis. This course may fulfill either a core history requirement or be taken as an elective.

**Prerequisites:** none

### **Western Civilization II**

Western Civilization II surveys European history from the High Middle Ages to the conclusion of the Cold War. Key areas of study include the Renaissance, Reformation, Enlightenment, revolutions, world wars, and the ideological conflicts of the 20th century. The course also addresses Europe's global interactions, such as the Age of Exploration, imperialism, and global warfare. Like its predecessor, this course emphasizes essential historical thinking skills, including chronological reasoning, comparison, contextualization, and synthesis. It may serve as a core Social Studies requirement or as an elective offering.

**Prerequisites:** none

### **World Cultures and Geography**

World Cultures and Geography is a survey course that explores the historical development, cultural identity, and global significance of seven major world civilizations: Russia, China, India, Mexico, Turkey, Nigeria, and Japan. Cadets will examine the geographic factors that shaped these societies, their historical origins, and their evolving roles in the global community.

The course emphasizes cross-cultural connections, geographic literacy, and the impact of historical events on modern global dynamics. Through comparative study, cadets will gain a deeper appreciation for cultural diversity and the interdependence of nations across time and space.

**Note:** This course may be used to fulfill the Western Civilization graduation requirement.

**Prerequisites:** none

### **Honors Western Civilization I**

Honors Western Civilization I is an advanced survey course examining the foundations of European history from the earliest Greek civilizations through the High Middle Ages. In addition to studying major political, cultural, and intellectual developments, the course explores the West's interactions with other regions of the world, such as the Persian Wars, Hellenistic influence in Asia, and the Crusades. As the introductory course in the Upper School Social Studies curriculum, it emphasizes essential historical thinking skills, including chronological reasoning, comparison, contextualization, and synthesis.

The Honors section offers a more rigorous experience than the standard course, with elevated expectations for depth of analysis, written expression, and independent research. Cadets will engage in sustained critical inquiry into questions central to the study of Western civilization, such as:

- What is the West?
- What defines a civilization as "Western"?
- Is "the West" still a meaningful framework for understanding the past or present?

This course may fulfill a core history requirement or be taken as an elective.

**Prerequisites:** B+ or higher in a previous Social Sciences class **AND** a B+ or higher in a previous English class

### **U.S. History: Colonial and Revolutionary America**

This intensive-format course explores the foundations of American history from the early 1600s through the War of 1812. Cadets will examine the political, economic, and social forces that led to the unification of the American colonies and the pursuit of independence from Great Britain. The course also addresses the challenges faced by the new republic in its formative years.

Major units include:

- The colonial era, including regional development and the establishment of indentured servitude and slavery
- The Revolutionary and Founding period, from pre-Revolutionary tensions to the surrender at Yorktown
- The early American republic, including the Articles of Confederation, the Constitution, and the War of 1812

**Prerequisites:** completion of Western Civilization (or World History) class

### **U.S. History: Antebellum – Reconstruction**

This intensive-format course focuses on the causes, events, and consequences of the American Civil War and the Reconstruction period that followed. Emphasis is placed on the historical significance of each era, encouraging cadets to draw connections between past events and contemporary issues.

Major units include:

- The Antebellum period, beginning with the Missouri Compromise and the growing sectional divide
- The Civil War, from the election of 1860 through major battles and key political developments
- Reconstruction, from the end of the war through the contested election of 1876

**Prerequisites:** completion of Western Civilization (or World History) class

### **U.S. History: Twentieth-Century U.S. History**

This intensive-format course examines the defining events, movements, and presidential administrations of the 20th century, beginning with Theodore Roosevelt and ending with George H. W. Bush. Cadets will study both domestic and foreign affairs, analyzing how the United States evolved into a global superpower and how the events of the century continue to shape American society.

Major topics include:

- U.S. imperialism and the Progressive Era
- World Wars I and II
- The Great Depression and New Deal
- The Cold War, Korean War, and Vietnam War
- The Civil Rights Movement and postwar cultural shifts

**Prerequisites:** completion of Western Civilization (or World History) class

### **U.S. History: U.S. Military and War History**

This intensive-format course explores the major wars that have shaped the United States, with a focus on military strategy, leadership, technological advancements, and their broader historical significance. The course begins with the Revolutionary War and concludes with the Vietnam War, examining how each conflict influenced both American and global history. This course may fulfill either a core U.S. History requirement or serve as an elective.

Major units include:

- Revolutionary America: American Revolution and War of 1812
- Antebellum & Civil War America: Mexican-American War and Civil War
- American Internationalism I: Spanish-American War and World War I
- American Internationalism II: World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War

**Prerequisites:** completion of Western Civilization (or World History) class

### **PVCC HIS 121 – United States History to 1877**

This dual enrollment course offers a survey of American history from the earliest colonial settlements through the end of the Civil War (pre-1607 to 1865). Cadets will examine major political, social, cultural, and economic developments that shaped the early United States, with an emphasis on historical thinking and contextual analysis. HIS 121 serves as the Academy's Honors-level U.S. History option.

Upon successful completion, cadets will earn three college credits through Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC).

**Note:** a fee of \$75 will be added to a cadet's account when enrolled in a dual-enrollment course.

[More information about HIS 121 is available here.](#)

**Prerequisites:** B- or higher in a previous Social Sciences course; 3.0 cumulative GPA (weighted); junior/senior/postgraduate class standing

### **U.S. Government**

U.S. Government is a survey course that introduces cadets to the foundational principles, institutions, and functions of the American political system. The course explores the U.S. Constitution, the role of federal and state governments, the impact of political behavior on policymaking, and the balance of power in a democratic society. Cadets will study key constitutional amendments, landmark Supreme Court decisions, and relevant current events. Emphasis is placed on concepts such as freedom, liberty, justice, equality, and the tension between individual interests and the common good.

**Prerequisites:** completion of a US History **and** Western Civilization (or World History)

### **PVCC PLS 135 – U.S. Government & Politics**

This dual enrollment course provides an in-depth study of the structure, functions, and processes of the U.S. national government. Cadets will examine the three branches of government, their interrelationships, and how they influence policymaking. Additional topics include federalism, civil liberties and civil rights, political socialization, public opinion, the media, interest groups, political parties, elections, and public policy. Coursework emphasizes college-level reading comprehension and written communication. PLS 135 serves as one of two Honors-level U.S. Government options at the Academy.

Upon successful completion, cadets will earn three college credits through Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC).

**Note:** a fee of \$75 will be added to a cadet's account when enrolled in a dual-enrollment course.

[More information about PLS 135 is available here.](#)

**Prerequisites:** B- or higher in a previous Social Sciences course; 3.0 cumulative GPA (weighted); junior/senior/postgraduate class standing

### **PVCC PLS 136 – State and Local Government & Politics**

This dual enrollment course examines the structure, powers, and functions of state and local governments within the United States, with emphasis on their relationship to federal government systems. Topics include constitutional frameworks, elections, legislative, executive, and judicial authority, intergovernmental relations, fiscal management, and regional policy issues such as healthcare, education, criminal justice, and welfare. Cadets will engage in college-level reading and written assignments requiring critical analysis and clear communication.

**Note:** a fee of \$75 will be added to a cadet's account when enrolled in a dual-enrollment course.

[More information about PLS 136 is available here.](#)

**Prerequisites:** B- or higher in a previous Social Sciences course; 3.0 cumulative GPA (weighted); junior/senior/postgraduate class standing

### **Honors Leadership and Ethics**

This advanced course challenges cadets to explore the central question: *What is right, and how do you decide?* The first portion of the course introduces foundational moral reasoning theories through the works of influential thinkers such as Aristotle, Cicero, John Stuart Mill, Immanuel Kant, and Vice Admiral James Stockdale. Cadets will examine and compare various ethical frameworks, gaining insight into how these philosophies shape decision-making.

In the latter portion of the course, cadets learn to synthesize these theories into a comprehensive approach to moral reasoning, with a focus on real-world application. Emphasis is placed on ethical decision-making in personal conduct, leadership roles, and future professional environments. The ultimate objective is to equip cadets with a robust set of ethical principles that guide both their leadership at Fork Union Military Academy and their lives beyond.

**Prerequisites:** B- or higher in a previous Social Sciences course; junior/senior/postgraduate class standing

# MATH DEPARTMENT

## **Pre-Algebra/Math 8**

Pre-Algebra is offered as a non-credit course for grade 7 cadets and as an elective credit for grades 8–12. The course serves as a bridge between basic arithmetic and more advanced algebraic concepts, preparing cadets for success in Algebra I and Geometry. Topics include operations with fractions, decimals, and mixed numbers, as well as the introduction of percentages, ratios, and the order of operations.

**Prerequisites:** none

## **Algebra I**

Algebra I introduces cadets to foundational algebraic concepts essential for higher-level mathematics. The course covers variables, linear equations, slope-intercept form, exponents, polynomials, quadratic equations, factoring, and basic functions. Geometry concepts are integrated where appropriate. Successful completion of Pre-Algebra is a prerequisite for this course.

**Prerequisites:** none, for 9th grade and up; C- or higher in Pre-Algebra for 8th grade

## **Geometry**

Geometry builds upon concepts introduced in Algebra I and presents a traditional Euclidean approach to geometric reasoning. Cadets explore definitions, theorems, postulates, and logical proofs while studying lines, angles, triangles, circles, polygons, polyhedra, and the Cartesian plane. Emphasis is placed on problem-solving and real-world applications. Successful completion of Algebra I is a prerequisite.

**Prerequisites:** C- or higher in Algebra I or in Algebra II

## **Honors Geometry**

Honors Geometry offers a more rigorous and accelerated version of traditional Euclidean Geometry. Cadets reinforce and apply Algebra I skills while developing logical reasoning through inductive and deductive proof structures. Emphasis is placed on analytical thinking, geometric applications, and real-world problem-solving. Completion of Algebra I with a grade of A or B+ is required for enrollment.

**Prerequisites:** B- or higher in Algebra I or in Algebra II

## **Algebra II**

Algebra II reinforces key concepts from Algebra I while introducing more complex algebraic topics. Cadets explore quadratic, exponential, and rational expressions, functions, and systems of equations. Application through word problems is emphasized, along with structured review, testing, and enrichment activities. Successful completion of Algebra I is required.

**Prerequisites:** C- or higher in Algebra I

## **Honors Algebra II**

This advanced course is designed for cadets who have demonstrated strong mathematical ability and motivation. Honors Algebra II explores a wide range of functions, including linear, quadratic, exponential, logarithmic, rational, and radical, with an emphasis on application and real-world modeling. Algebraic manipulation and analytical reasoning are central components. Completion of Algebra I with a grade of A or B+ is required.

**Prerequisites:** B- or higher in Algebra I

### **Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry**

This course is designed to prepare cadets for Pre-Calculus and Calculus. The algebra component strengthens and extends the concepts introduced in Algebra II, while the trigonometry portion introduces the Unit Circle, identities, the Reference Chart, and real-world applications.

**Prerequisites:** C- or higher in Geometry **and** Algebra II

### **Statistics**

Statistics introduces cadets to the fundamentals of data collection, organization, analysis, and interpretation. Designed for those with a basic algebra background, this course takes a non-theoretical, example-driven approach and does not include formal proofs. Emphasis is placed on practical application using the TI-84 calculator.

**Prerequisites:** C- or higher in Algebra II

### **Honors Pre-Calculus and Trigonometry**

Modeled after PVCC's MTH 167 course, Honors Pre-Calculus/Trig covers advanced algebra and trigonometry topics needed for success in AP Calculus. Cadets study equations, inequalities, polynomial and rational functions, logarithmic and exponential functions, systems of equations, trigonometric identities, analytic geometry, sequences, and series. The course emphasizes both review and rigor, with a strong focus on problem-solving. Completion of Advanced Algebra/Trig with a grade of A or B+ is required. This course offers one full high school credit but does not confer college credit.

**Prerequisites:** B- or higher in Algebra II

### **AP Calculus BC**

AP Calculus BC is an advanced placement course that follows the College Board's national curriculum for college-level calculus. This course covers differential and integral calculus, with AP Calculus BC extending into parametric equations, polar coordinates, and series.

[Click here for the full course and exam description.](#)

**Prerequisites:** A- or higher in Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry **or** B- or higher in Honors Pre-Calculus and Trigonometry

### **Honors Computer Science**

Honors Computer Science introduces cadets to foundational programming skills and core computer science concepts, with an emphasis on problem-solving and logical reasoning. Cadets will develop proficiency in writing code using the Java programming language while also exploring the broader societal impacts of computer systems and digital technologies. The course emphasizes algorithmic thinking, structured design, and technical precision.

A strong background in mathematical reasoning is essential for success in the course. Completion of Advanced Algebra & Trigonometry is required, though this prerequisite may be waived at the discretion of the instructor.

**Prerequisites:** B- or higher in Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry **or** Honors Pre-Calculus and Trigonometry

## SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

### **Environmental Science**

Environmental Science is an interdisciplinary course designed for cadets in grades 8 and 9. The course explores the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies necessary to understand the interrelationships within the natural world. Cadets will investigate both natural and human-induced environmental problems, evaluate associated risks, and examine potential solutions. A laboratory component is included to reinforce scientific process skills and real-world application.

**Prerequisites:** none

### **AP Environmental Science**

Advanced Placement Environmental Science is a rigorous college-level course that explores ecological principles, environmental challenges, and sustainability issues through both classroom instruction and laboratory investigation. Topics include ecosystems, biodiversity, population dynamics, land and water use, energy resources, pollution, and global change.

[More information about AP Environmental Science can be found here.](#)

**Prerequisites:** B- or higher in both Biology and Chemistry; junior/senior/postgraduate class standing

### **Biology**

Biology is a comprehensive course focused on the study of living organisms and their processes. Cadets will explore fundamental topics including cell structure and function, genetics and heredity, evolution, ecological relationships, and an introduction to human anatomy and physiology. The course includes hands-on laboratory work and emphasizes scientific inquiry, observation, and experimentation.

**Prerequisites:** Environmental Science or equivalent

### **Honors Biology**

Honors Biology offers an accelerated and in-depth study of biological systems and the interdependence of living organisms. Cadets will investigate core topics such as cell biology, photosynthesis and cellular respiration, genetics, evolution, ecology, and human anatomy. A strong emphasis is placed on laboratory investigation, analytical thinking, and scientific writing. Honors Biology is a fast-paced course requiring self-motivation and academic discipline.

**Prerequisites:** B+ or higher in previous Science class

### **Chemistry**

Chemistry introduces cadets to the composition and behavior of matter through the study of atomic theory, chemical bonding, reactions, and energy changes. Emphasis is placed on problem-solving, quantitative analysis, and hands-on laboratory investigations. Key topics include the periodic table, stoichiometry, gas laws, thermodynamics, acids and bases, and chemical equilibrium.

**Prerequisites:** Biology **and** Algebra II

### **Honors Chemistry**

Honors Chemistry is an advanced, lab-intensive course for upper-level cadets who demonstrate strong mathematical and scientific aptitude. The curriculum covers all foundational chemistry topics in greater depth and includes over 30 formal laboratory experiments. Cadets maintain a structured lab notebook and complete an independent elemental research project.

Topics include quantum mechanics, thermodynamics, chemical equilibrium, acid/base theory, stoichiometry, and gas laws.

**Prerequisites:** B+ or higher in both Biology and Algebra II

**Honors Physics**

Honors Physics provides cadets with a foundational understanding of Newtonian mechanics, thermodynamics, and the interactions between matter and energy. Topics include motion, velocity, acceleration, force, energy, momentum, and electric charge. Emphasis is placed on developing strong problem-solving abilities and applying mathematical reasoning to physical concepts.

This course challenges cadets to think critically and analytically about the physical world and to model real-world phenomena through both conceptual and quantitative approaches.

**Prerequisites:** B- or higher in all three: Biology, Chemistry, and Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry

## WORLD LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

### **German I**

German I is an introductory course open to cadets in grades 8–12 and serves as the first level in the Academy’s sequential German language program. The course builds a foundational understanding of German through listening, speaking, reading, and writing activities. Emphasis is placed on basic communicative functions such as introducing oneself, telling time, asking questions, and conducting simple conversations.

Cadets will study fundamental grammar concepts, including sentence and question structure, while developing reading comprehension through short passages and dialogues in German. Instruction is supported by video segments that reinforce vocabulary and grammar and promote conversational fluency. Cultural literacy is also a central component of the course. Cadets will explore German-speaking countries, their major cities, and capitals, while learning about cultural traditions and contemporary life through textbook notes, online projects, and multimedia assignments.

***Prerequisites:*** none

### **Spanish I**

Spanish I is the introductory course in the Academy’s Spanish language sequence. The course provides cadets with foundational vocabulary, essential grammar, and cultural context for communicating effectively in everyday situations. Instruction follows a natural, thematic progression through dialogues, narratives, and real-life scenarios centered around young people and daily activities. Cadets develop proficiency in the four core language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Cultural units integrated throughout the course enhance appreciation for the traditions, daily life, and historical significance of Spanish-speaking communities.

***Prerequisites:*** none

### **Spanish II**

Spanish II builds upon the foundational skills acquired in Spanish I and is designed for cadets who have successfully completed the first-level course. The curriculum includes a comprehensive review of basic grammar and vocabulary, with increased emphasis on verb conjugation in various tenses, complex sentence structure, translation, pronunciation, and reading comprehension. Instruction promotes the simultaneous development of the four core language skills. Vocabulary and grammar are presented in a cultural context, encouraging cadets to further explore the traditions and daily life of Spanish-speaking countries.

***Prerequisites:*** C- or higher in Spanish I

### **Spanish III**

Spanish III is a third-level course designed for cadets who have successfully completed Spanish II. This course reinforces and expands upon previously learned grammar and vocabulary, while introducing more advanced linguistic structures and thematic content. Emphasis is placed on improving fluency and accuracy in the four core language skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Cadets will engage with longer texts, more complex conversations, and culturally rich materials that explore the diversity of Spanish-speaking countries. Vocabulary and grammar are taught in context to deepen cultural understanding and enhance real-world language application.

***Prerequisites:*** C- or higher in Spanish II

### **Honors Spanish II**

Honors Spanish II begins with an accelerated review of Spanish I material, followed by the introduction of new grammatical structures, tenses, and vocabulary. Cadets are expected to demonstrate mastery in reading, writing, listening, and speaking through daily assignments, extended homework, and challenging assessments. Cultural exploration is embedded throughout the curriculum. Honors Spanish II prepares cadets for advanced study and demands a higher level of independence, accuracy, and engagement than the standard Spanish II course.

***Prerequisites:*** B- or higher in Spanish I

### **Honors Spanish III**

Honors Spanish III offers an in-depth review of prior grammar and vocabulary while introducing more advanced linguistic structures and thematic units. Cadets will continue to refine their speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills through targeted practice, interactive lessons, and literature-based study. Honors Spanish III incorporates cultural analysis and special projects that deepen understanding of the Spanish-speaking world and its influence on global and American culture. The course prepares cadets for continued language study in a college-level setting and fosters greater fluency and cultural competence.

***Prerequisites:*** B- or higher in Spanish II

## ELECTIVES

### **Art I**

Art I introduces cadets to the foundational principles of visual art through a combined study of early art history and hands-on studio practice. Cadets will explore the elements of art and design while developing skills in drawing, painting, and other media. The course emphasizes art vocabulary, aesthetics, cultural context, and the process of art criticism. Historical study of early artistic periods provides the inspiration and techniques for studio projects.

**Note:** Art I is a stand-alone elective course and is not a prerequisite for Art II.

**Prerequisites:** none

### **Art II**

Art II continues the integration of studio practice with art history, focusing on later artistic movements and modern traditions. Cadets will expand their technical abilities and creative expression through more advanced projects while deepening their understanding of art's cultural and historical significance. The curriculum reinforces vocabulary, aesthetic appreciation, and critical analysis through both classroom discussion and individual artistic development.

**Note:** Art II is a stand-alone elective course and does not require completion of Art I.

**Prerequisites:** none

### **Debate & Forensics**

Debate & Forensics is a 0.5-credit, pass/fail seminar course open to cadets in grades 8–12. (Grade 7 cadets may audit the course with permission.) Designed for cadets participating on the Academy's Debate and Forensics Team, the course prepares students to compete in events primarily sanctioned by the Virginia Catholic Forensics League (VCFL).

The debate component introduces rhetorical strategy and structured argumentation through formats such as Student Congress, Lincoln-Douglas, and Public Forum. Cadets will also develop skills in extemporaneous speaking and Oratorical Declamation. The forensics component emphasizes interpretive and performance-based events, including Dramatic Performance, Duo Interpretation, Oral Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, Poetry, Prose, and Storytelling.

**Prerequisites:** none

### **Economics**

Economics is an elective course designed to prepare cadets for college-level coursework by introducing the fundamental principles of economic theory and practice. Cadets will analyze both historical and contemporary economic issues, applying knowledge from lectures and readings to real-world current events. Emphasis is placed on developing critical thinking, problem-solving, and effective communication skills.

Through the study of economic systems, supply and demand, market structures, fiscal and monetary policy, and global trade, cadets will gain insight into the challenges facing modern economists. The course fosters academic excellence while encouraging creativity, collaboration, and cultural awareness in the context of economic decision-making.

**Prerequisites:** none

### **Personal Finance**

Personal Finance is an elective course designed to equip cadets with the knowledge and practical skills necessary to make informed financial decisions throughout their lives. The course emphasizes real-world applications of personal money management, including budgeting, saving, banking, investing, credit use, taxes, insurance, and financial goal setting.

Cadets will engage in critical thinking and problem-solving as they explore the foundations of financial literacy. Instruction incorporates lectures, case studies, interactive activities, and current economic trends to foster a deeper understanding of financial responsibility. The course supports academic excellence while promoting communication, collaboration, and long-term planning skills essential for personal and professional success.

**Prerequisites:** none

### **Sociology**

Sociology is an elective course open to cadets in grades 9–12 that explores the structure, development, and influence of human societies. The course begins with an examination of American culture before expanding to a comparative study of global cultures. Cadets will analyze how cultural values, norms, and institutions shape individual behavior and collective human development.

Class sessions emphasize active discussion and participation, with lectures kept to a minimum. Instruction is primarily discussion-based, evolving from assigned textbook readings and homework reviews. Assessments are analytical in nature and often include essay-based evaluations to promote critical thinking and cultural insight.

**Prerequisites:** 10th grade or higher

### **Sports Marketing & Management**

Sports Marketing & Management is an elective course that introduces cadets to key concepts in both sports marketing and sports management, with an emphasis on their intersection within the modern athletic industry. Designed as a survey course, it provides foundational knowledge in areas such as branding, sponsorship, event planning, media relations, facility operations, and career pathways in the field.

This course is ideal for cadets considering a college major or career in sports business but is open to all cadets in grades 10–12. Instruction includes real-world case studies, collaborative projects, and exposure to current trends in the sports industry.

**Prerequisites:**

### **AP Microeconomics**

AP Microeconomics is a college-level course that introduces cadets to the principles of economics as they apply to individual decision-makers—both consumers and producers—within various market structures.

The course focuses on supply and demand, resource allocation, production costs, market equilibrium, competition, and the role of government in promoting efficiency and equity.

Cadets will learn to analyze economic outcomes using graphs, data interpretation, and written explanations. Emphasis is placed on developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills through real-world applications of microeconomic theory. The course prepares cadets for the AP Microeconomics Exam, which may lead to college credit depending on exam performance and institutional policies.

[More information about AP Microeconomics can be found here.](#)

**Prerequisites:** A strong foundation in algebra. Completion of a US Government course with a B or higher. Prior completion of or concurrent enrollment in a high school economics course is recommended but not required.

## **AP Psychology**

The AP Psychology course introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. While considering the studies that have shaped the field, students explore and apply psychological theories, key concepts, and phenomena associated with major units of study, including biological bases of behavior, cognition, development, learning, social psychology, personality, and mental and physical health. Throughout the course, students apply psychological concepts and employ psychological research methods and data interpretation to evaluate claims, consider evidence, and effectively communicate ideas.

[More information about AP Psychology can be found here.](#)

**Prerequisites:** Cadets should be able to read a college-level textbook and to express themselves clearly in writing.

## **Band**

The Fork Union Military Academy Band serves as a musical ambassador of the Academy, performing more than 15 times annually at both campus and community events. This ensemble plays a vital role in ceremonial parades, admissions events, off-campus appearances, and pep band performances.

Cadets enrolled in Band will study and perform music appropriate for military and public ceremonies, with an emphasis on discipline, teamwork, and musical growth. The primary goal of the program is to develop cadets into proficient, confident performing musicians who understand the value of collaboration and service through music.

Note: For more information about the Band program, please contact Mr. John Warren at

[WarrenJ@fuma.org](mailto:WarrenJ@fuma.org).

**Prerequisites:**

## **Honors Band**

Honors Band is an advanced performance ensemble for cadets who have demonstrated exceptional musical ability, commitment, and leadership within the Fork Union Military Academy Band program. In addition to fulfilling the duties of the standard Band course (performing in ceremonial parades, campus events, and community engagements), Honors Band cadets take on elevated responsibilities, including musical leadership, solo performance opportunities, and expanded repertoire.

Cadets are expected to demonstrate a high level of technical proficiency, musical literacy, and professionalism. Emphasis is placed on advanced ensemble performance, leadership within the band, and mentorship of younger cadet musicians. Public performance continues to serve as the primary measure of progress and proficiency.

Enrollment is by invitation or audition, and cadets must maintain a strong academic and disciplinary record to remain in the program.

Note: For more information or audition details, please contact Mr. John Warren at [WarrenJ@fuma.org](mailto:WarrenJ@fuma.org).

**Prerequisites:**

## SEMINARS

### **Health/PE**

Health/PE is a required course for all cadets in grade 9 and is mandatory for graduation from Fork Union Military Academy. The course provides cadets with current, evidence-based information on a broad range of health-related topics to support informed decision-making and the development of lifelong wellness habits.

Cadets will explore personal health practices, environmental awareness, safety, physical fitness, nutrition, substance use, and human development. Emphasis is placed on building critical thinking skills, evaluating health information from various sources, and understanding the impact of personal choices on overall well-being. The course integrates physical education with classroom instruction to promote a comprehensive view of health and wellness grounded in sound judgment and moral responsibility.

This course meets during the cadet's designated planning period and is completed over two and a half academic terms.

**Prerequisites:** none

### **Biblical Literacy**

This half-credit seminar course offers cadets an introduction to the core beliefs, history, and practices of the Christian faith. A required course for all cadets in grade 10, the course explores key theological concepts, biblical narratives, major figures, and denominational distinctions within Christianity. Cadets will also examine Christianity's influence on Western civilization, ethics, and cultural traditions.

The course encourages thoughtful reflection, respectful discussion, and personal inquiry, providing cadets with a foundational understanding of Christianity in both historical and contemporary contexts.

This course meets during the cadet's designated planning period and is completed over two and a half academic terms.

**Note:** Successful completion earns 0.5 academic credit.

**Prerequisites:** none

### **Servant Leadership**

Servant Leadership is a required seminar course for all cadets in grade 11 and is a graduation requirement at Fork Union Military Academy. Rooted in Christian leadership principles, the course challenges cadets to lead by example through humility, service, and moral integrity.

Cadets will explore biblical models of leadership, study the life and teachings of Jesus Christ as the ultimate servant leader, and examine contemporary applications of servant leadership in personal, academic, and professional settings. The course encourages reflection on character, responsibility, and the importance of using influence for the benefit of others.

Through guided discussion, real-world case studies, and service-oriented projects, cadets will develop leadership skills grounded in respect, empathy, and purpose.

This course meets during the cadet's designated planning period and is completed over two and a half academic terms.

**Note:** Successful completion earns 0.5 academic credit.

**Prerequisites:** none

### **Senior Seminar**

Senior Seminar is a required seminar course for all members of the senior class during Terms 1 and 2 of their senior year. The course is designed to prepare cadets for the transition to post-secondary education through targeted instruction in standardized test preparation, college applications, and college essay development.

Cadets will learn how to navigate the college admissions process, build a personal résumé, research institutions, and submit applications. The seminar also includes support for drafting and refining college essays and understanding financial aid options.

Senior Seminar is graded on a pass/fail basis. While completion of the course is strongly encouraged, successful completion is not a graduation requirement.

**Note:** Successful completion earns 0.5 academic credit.

**Prerequisites:** none

### **Resource**

The Academic Resource Program is designed to support cadets who have diagnosed learning differences or who demonstrate consistent difficulty achieving academic success. The program provides structured, individualized academic support focused on building executive functioning skills, including organization, time management, study strategies, and self-advocacy.

Cadets enrolled in the program meet with the Resource Instructor four times per week for 45-minute sessions. Instruction is tailored to each cadet's academic needs and coordinated in collaboration with classroom teachers. The goal is to foster independent learning and equip cadets with the tools needed for success within the Academy's rigorous academic environment.

**Note:** Enrollment requires a fee of \$1,500 per academic year (or \$300 per individual term) and is processed through the Business Office. Placement in the program is based on academic need and/or documented learning plans and is subject to approval.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## GRADE 8

*Note: [Pre-Algebra 8](#) is listed as part of the Math offerings above because it offers high school credit.*

### **English 8**

English 8 provides a review of grammar, usage, sentence structure, and punctuation, with emphasis on parts of speech and commonly misused words. Cadets will strengthen their expository writing through both informal exercises and formal assignments focused on coherence, organization, and style. The course also includes reading comprehension development through assigned texts, including at least two age-appropriate novels, used to explore key literary elements.

### **History/Civics 8**

History/Civics 8 explores the foundations of American government, citizenship, and economic systems. Cadets will study the U.S. and Virginia Constitutions, examine the structure and functions of local, state, and national governments, and investigate the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a democratic society.

The course also introduces key concepts in economics, including decision-making in the American market economy and the government's role in economic systems. Emphasis is placed on civic virtues such as patriotism, public service, and respect for the rule of law. Through discussion, activities, and real-world application, cadets will build the skills needed for informed and responsible citizenship.

### **Physical Science 8**

Physical Science 8 provides a foundational introduction to physics and chemistry in preparation for high school science courses. In the physics unit, cadets explore motion, forces, energy, waves, and electricity. The chemistry unit covers atomic structure, states of matter, and the interactions of elements and compounds. Emphasis is placed on scientific inquiry, safe laboratory practices, and the integration of mathematical concepts to understand physical phenomena.

## GRADE 7

### **Humanities 7**

Humanities 7 is a year-long, integrated course that combines American history and English language arts. Using the History 7 curriculum as a foundation, the course weaves in literature, writing, grammar, vocabulary, and presentation skills with a historical focus. Cadets will study American history from the Antebellum period through the Cold War, while exploring age-appropriate historical fiction to reinforce key themes. Emphasis is placed on civic understanding, historical significance, and connecting past events to the present through reading, writing, and discussion.

### **Math 7**

This year-long course emphasizes problem-solving and real-world math applications. Cadets will develop accuracy and fluency in basic operations with whole numbers, fractions, and decimals—without the use of calculators. The curriculum also introduces percentages, ratios, measurement, geometry, statistics, probability, and introductory algebra. Focus is placed on organization, logical thinking, and preparing cadets for success in Pre-Algebra or Algebra I.

### **Integrated Science 7**

Integrated Science introduces cadets to foundational concepts in earth, life, and physical sciences, with a focus on real-world connections and scientific literacy. Cadets will explore the interrelationships among scientific disciplines through lecture, lab work, discussion, and projects. This course follows a modified One-Subject Plan and is typically offered during Term 5 for all 7th-grade cadets.