

Syllabus Life Skills I

Heritage Academy A University-Model School®

The mission of Heritage Academy, a Certified University-Model School®, is to partner with Christian parents to prepare college-worthy, character witnesses for Jesus Christ.

I. Course Purpose and Content

This course is designed to be a hands-on experiential learning course for middle schoolers. Life Skills introduces all those little things one needs to know to launch into adulthood well. Students will gain hands-on experience learning the basics of autos; tools and woodworking; caulking and painting like a pro; cooking and baking from boiling an egg to planning and preparing an entire Thanksgiving meal and much more.

Pre-requisites: Student must be reading and writing at or above the 6th grade level.

II. Worldview Integration

Heritage Academy is committed to teaching all subjects in such a way that students develop a Biblical worldview out of which to think and act. The following are Biblical truths that undergird the course:

- (1) God is the creator of life and all good things (Genesis 1:1).
- (2) God fashioned people in His own image to reflect his nature, and therefore people have incredible capacities for innovation and creativity (Genesis 1:21; 1:28).
- (3) God is our provider of every good thing (James 1:17).
- (4) Life skills, like other skills, are gifts from God and lead to promotion (Exodus 35:3; Proverbs 22:29).
- (5) To fear the Lord is to gain knowledge and wisdom for living (Proverbs 1:7).

III. Required texts and materials

Clipboard. Materials provided in class. A 'materials fee' (TBD) will be collected in class.

IV. Course Guidelines / Student Responsibilities

A. Attendance and Participation

Attendance is imperative as concepts cannot be learned if a student is absent. Students are expected to attend class and contribute positively to the classroom environment. Tardiness is disruptive to other class members. Please arrive on time

and prepared. All absences and tardies are considered unexcused unless accompanied by a note from a parent or guardian. Please remember that three tardies generate one absence.

As communicated in Heritage Academy's Family Manual, a passing grade awarded at the end of the semester generally requires a secondary student to have attended at least forty-two class periods during the semester. Failure to meet this minimum attendance requirement may result in an F being awarded and recorded on the student's transcript.

B. Absences and Make-Up Work

In the case of planned absence(s), homework that is due during the student's absence must be completed and submitted to the instructor in advance.

See the Family Manual, page 15 for a detailed explanation of Absences, Tardies, and Make -Up Work policies.

C. Student Conduct and Preparation for Learning

For the sake of promoting a safe and focused learning environment, the student is expected to do the following throughout the course of the semester:

- 1) Arrive on time to each class period with the appropriate class materials available for access.
- 2) Arrive prepared to submit completed at-home assignments at start of each class period.
- 3) Arrive ready to listen, learn, take notes, and participate in teacher-directed classroom discussions and activities.
- 4) Ask for clarification or further explanation when a concept or direction remains unclear.
- 5) Demonstrate a spirit of cooperation, kindness, and respect toward the teacher and fellow classmates, in keeping with Heritage Academy's Code of Conduct.
- 6) Help keep the classroom area clean and orderly.
- 7) Cooperate with the parent-educator and the Heritage Academy teacher to complete homework in a timely fashion.
- 8) Communicate concerns regarding schoolwork to both the Heritage Academy teacher and the parent-educator, so that these concerns can be addressed quickly.
- 9) On the whole, conduct himself or herself in a manner that is worthy of Christ and reflects the life of the Holy Spirit in him/her: ". . . that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light" (Colossians 1:12).

D. At-Home (Satellite Classroom) Investment

Daily home-assignments will be outlined on the weekly Home-Communication Sheet the student will receive each Monday. The student can expect to invest approximately 2.5 to 3.5 hours each week completing coursework at home in preparation for class periods.

4. Assessments

The grades students earn on the assignments they complete will comprise the majority of each student's grade. Several tests related to terms, methods and history will be administered throughout the course of the semester.

5. Grades

Apportionment

Class Assignments and projects 85%

Tests 15%

Grading Scale

<i>100-95....A</i>	<i>89-87B+</i>	<i>79-77....C+</i>	<i>69-60.... D</i>
<i>94-90A-</i>	<i>86-83B</i>	<i>76-73... C</i>	<i>59 or belowF</i>
	<i>82-80B-</i>	<i>72-70....C-</i>	

The course grade the student is awarded at the end of the semester will indicate the grade that will also appear on the student's transcript. Only grades at or above a C- or 70% will be considered passing, and will also require the student to have fulfilled minimum attendance requirements.

V. Parent Responsibilities

A. Embracing the University Model®

University-Model Schooling at Heritage Academy is driven by two guiding principles: to preserve and strengthen God-ordained family relationships and to offer students the opportunity to achieve a high degree of academic excellence.

Parents, please consider ways you may maximize the benefits University-Model Schooling offers to your family. How can you as parents utilize the at-home study time this model provides to nurture deeper relationship and model and impart the faith, values, and life-patterns you desire your student to embrace?

B. Fulfilling the Parent Role

Within the University-Model School®, parents commit to fulfill a specified role related to each course in which their student is enrolled, as prescribed by the course's description. Each role identifies specific responsibilities that the teacher relies on the parent to perform, thus facilitating effective home/school partnership whereby students are assured of receiving needed support. For this course,

Heritage Academy has designated parents the role of **“Guide for Dependent Study.”**

This role recognizes that many courses at this level will begin to cover subject matter that may be unfamiliar to many parents. At the same time, the student is at a dependent age where disciplined study habits must be developed, not by parental force, but through positive encouragement and through the student’s growing awareness of personal consequences. In order for this class to be successful, I as a teacher am depending upon you as parents to ensure that your son or daughter keeps up with the course material and to communicate with me should any difficulties or concerns arise.

C. Monitor Gradelink and View Seven-Week and Thirteen-Week Gradelink Reports

As your student earns grades for completed tests, quizzes, and various projects and homework assignments, these will be recorded on Gradelink for you to view at your convenience. My general goal will be to post grades online within a week of their being awarded.

In Gradelink, missing assignments will also be noted by an “M.” Please take time to follow your student’s progress on Gradelink so that you can quickly recognize and explore/address areas of patterns of difficulty or concern that may appear and affirm positive accomplishments.

D. Attend Parent/Teacher Fellowship

I hope you will take time to come to Parent/Teacher Fellowship scheduled during the 7th week of each semester. This will give you and I brief opportunity to connect face-to-face and discuss your student’s progress, making the most of the partnership that is so vital to students’ success within the University Model®.

VI. Contacting the Instructor

Teacher contact information will be provided on the weekly communication sheets that will be distributed in class or may be found in the school directory.