

Live Course Catalog Addendum



HOMESCHOOL
CONNECTIONS



2016-2017

About HOMESCHOOL CONNECTIONS

Homeschool Connections was founded in October 2008. In the spirit of the New Evangelization and in the light of John Paul the Great's teaching on the domestic church, Homeschool Connections seeks to use technology to enhance a homeschool family's educational efforts by providing them the needed resources to achieve this endeavor.

Homeschool Connections offers two types of online classes. First, we offer live, interactive courses that meet in real time. Second, we offer recorded, independent courses that can be taken on your schedule and at your pace. Our instructors are college professors or working professionals. Courses are available for all subjects from math to science, from literature to writing, from theology to philosophy, and so much more.

HSC also provides other services to help homeschooling parents fulfill their God-given vocation including free webinars, eBooks, and educational videos. We are committed to making available the best Catholic instructors at the most affordable price for the home school family budget.

Mission

We connect your Catholic homeschool to the experts.

And in the spirit of the New Evangelization and in the light of John Paul the Great's teaching on the domestic church, Homeschool Connections seeks to use technology to enhance a homeschool family's educational efforts by providing them the needed resources to achieve this endeavor.

Goals

We aspire to help parents with the education of their children in two respects: (1) to provide free, informative webinars for parents; and (2) to provide affordable and engaging courses from University-level professors and practitioners for students.

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About Our Instructors



Peggy Morrow, Ph.D.

Dr. Morrow holds a Bachelor of Science in Computer Applications Management and a Masters of Science in Technology Management from the University of Maryland University College Campus, as well as a Ph.D. in Policy Science from University of Maryland Baltimore County. In the beginning of her career, she worked for 20 years as a software engineer, and she worked on a number of interesting projects for employers including the National Weather Service, D.C.'s Metro System, and Orbital Science. More recently, she has spent 17 years teaching computer science, business, and math at the university, middle, and high school levels.

Currently, Mrs. Morrow home schools her youngest son (a high school senior) and teaches a Financial Algebra course locally. She has taught Catholic religious education, helped with the middle and high school youth at her parish, and volunteered with Catholic Prison Ministries. She also enjoys singing in her parish choir with her youngest son.

Mrs. Morrow; her husband, Dennis; son, Ben; live about an hour north of Denver. Her two grown sons are on their own at this point, and she sees them whenever possible to catch-up and enjoy two beautiful grandchildren.



Kerrie Berends, Ph.D.

Kerrie Berends, PhD, has worked in the health and wellness field for over 25 years and has extensive education and experience teaching individuals with disabilities. Kerrie holds a Masters and Doctorate in adapted physical activity and is a Certified Adapted Physical Educator and Certified Therapeutic Horseback Riding Instructor (PATH), as well. Kerrie uses ASL professionally, and has taught deaf preschoolers in the Head Start program in Texas and traveled twice to the Jamaica Deaf Village for mission work. She is passionate about education, has home educated her three children for 14 years, and has worked in online higher education since 2008. Kerrie lives with her husband and children in Michigan.

Contact Information / Fees

To register for live, interactive courses:

<http://reg129.imperisoft.com/HomeschoolConnectionsOnline/Search/Registration.aspx>

Email address: info@homeschoolconnections.com

Toll-free phone number: (888) 372-4757

Website: www.homeschoolconnections.com

You can also find Homeschool Connections on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Pinterest.

Live, Interactive Courses:

Prices are shown with each course listing. Price varies for individual courses and is based on several factors: The length of the course; the difficulty level in grading homework; and the instructor's degree and experience

Course Materials:

To help keep your expenses down, we provide some course materials free online or as PDF files. In the case of literature courses, the books should be easily available from your library. A few courses require the purchase of lab materials, workbook, or a textbook. When possible, we provide information to find them inexpensively or used. See individual course listings for required course materials.

Equipment:

You need a computer, high speed Internet, and a headset with a microphone (easily found inexpensively). There is **no** need for a web camera. If you would like the option of watching recorded lectures (available within 24 hours) on a newer television instead of your computer, you may need an HDMI cable or wireless system (such as Chromecast) to hook the computer to the television (optional).

Software:

The software to participate in your classes is provided free. Generally speaking you should also have Microsoft Word to turn in homework assignments (or the ability to convert a document to Word) and the ability to read PDF files.

Additional Fees:

We do not charge registration fees, family fees, or orientation fees. However, there is a Late-Registration fee. Courses are closed for registration one week before the first class. We can re-open registration if requested with an additional \$20 fee per course.

Early Enrollment Discount:

Course fees are discounted \$10 to \$25 for early enrollment (per course). The deadlines are:

- Summer 2016: March 15, 2016
- Fall 2016: July 15, 2016
- Spring 2017: November 15, 2016

The discount is built in when you register. No need to remember special steps or discount codes.

Other Services Offered by Homeschool Connections:

- Unlimited Access (Recorded courses for independent learning)
- Instructor Access (Grading services for recorded courses)
- Free online conferences for Catholic homeschooling parents

Please visit our website or email us for more information.

INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER SCIENCE

Maximum number of students: 15

Class dates: Mondays and Wednesdays, September 7th to December 19th. No class Wednesday, November 23rd.

Total classes: 29 Class dates

Starting time: 4:30 p.m. Eastern, 3:30 p.m. Central, 2:30 p.m. Mountain, 1:30 p.m. Pacific.

Duration: 50 minutes

Prerequisite: You will need to access Graphical programming tools including Scratch, App Inventor, and Processing to assist you in building foundational computer science knowledge. The tools are available on the web, and you can either use them on the web or you can download and install them on your computer. App Inventor requires either Google Chrome or Firefox internet browsers, and to run your apps you may need to install an emulator if you do not own an Android device. Students should have a general familiarity with computers – the ability to open applications, use menu-driven commands, and type using the keyboard – so that the emphasis of time can be placed on specific programming lessons. To access the course tools:

TOOL WEBSITE	DOWNLOAD INSTRUCTIONS (OPTIONAL)
https://scratch.mit.edu	scroll to the bottom of the page and choose “offline editor”
https://processing.org/	Click on “download” near the top of the home page
http://appinventor.mit.edu/explore/	http://appinventor.mit.edu/explore/ai2/setup.html

Suggested grade level: 7th – 12th

Suggested high school credit: 1 semester

Fee: \$225 if you register on or before August 15th, 2016. \$250 after August 15th for all 15 classes. (\$270 after September 5th)

Instructor: Margaret Morrow, Ph.D.

Course description: This is an entry-level course which is designed to expose students to what computer scientists do on a daily basis. . Students will build games, illustrate stories, and create art, animations, and music during their exploration. The tools we will use have similar properties to building block toys used by children to construct model sized homes, stores, and towns. Students will learn about computing careers, the history of computer science, hardware and software design, and discovering ways for technology to serve people and communities. By the end of the class, students will be able to discern whether or not further studies in this field are their forte.

Course outline (week by week):

Week 1: introduction to computer science

Week 2: algorithmic discovery and design

Week 3: algorithmic efficiency

Week 4: building blocks: binary, Boolean, logic, and gates

Week 5: computer system organization

Week 6: Computer Operating Systems

Week 7: Computer Networks and Cloud Computing

Week 8: Information Security

Week 9: The Tower of Babel – The Proliferation of Programming Languages

Week 10: Program Language Machine Translation

Week 11: Models of Computation

Week 12: Simulation and Modeling

Week 13: Electronic Commerce, Databases, and Personal Privacy

Week 14: Artificial Intelligence

Week 15: Social Computing

Course materials: See prerequisite section for a list of required software applications. Extensive handouts and online resources will be provided free by the instructor. Some book recommendations will be made available, but are not required for purchase.

Homework: Assignments will have a Catholic theme to them such as create a video adventure game that illustrates a story from the Old Testament, create a quiz game that prepares someone studying for confirmation, research computer science projects at a Catholic University and report what you find, investigate how your Diocese/Church/Priest uses technology tools, completing programming exercises, and online quizzes which provide immediate scoring feedback. In this course, students have an option to share their programs with fellow students via a short in-class demonstration, or by uploading them to the tools website. All assignments are given and graded by the instructor. Students will also collaborate with fellow students and mentor them when needed so as to reinforce their knowledge by helping others. Students can expect 2 to 5 hours of time per week (outside of class time) dedicated to homework. Regular feedback will be provided to the students and their parents to ensure that all are aware of the progress being made throughout the course.

American Sign Language (ASL) I

Note: This is a full-year course covering a year's worth of content for beginning ASL, presented over eight weeks in the Fall Semester and eight weeks in the Spring Semester.

Maximum number of students: 25

Class Dates: Mondays; Fall semester: Sept. 26; Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24; Nov. 7, 14, 28 (no classes Oct. 31 and Nov. 21); Spring semester: Jan. 9, 16, 30; Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27; Mar. 6 (no class on Jan. 23, March for Life)

Total classes: 16

Starting Time: Mondays, 11:00 AM EDT; 10:00 AM CST; 9:00 AM MST; 8:00 AM PST

Duration: 1 hour

Prerequisite: None

Suggested grade level: 6th to 12th grade

Suggested high school credit: One year ASL or Foreign Language. Note: ASL meets many states' requirements for foreign language. This course is the equivalent of one full year of foreign language.

Fee: \$240 if you enroll on or before July 15, 2016; \$260.00 after July 15, 2016, for all 16 classes.

Instructor: Dr. Kerrie Berends, PhD

Course description: This course is a first year American Sign Language (ASL) course for those who would like a strong foundation in learning to communicate with American Sign Language. Students will learn and practice fingerspelling and identify and sign words used in everyday life, including the following: the special structure of sentences in ASL; asking questions, the role of expression (non manual markers) in communication; the foundations of ASL's history; Deaf culture; words, phrases, and sentences; classifiers, mouth morphemes, and quantifiers; and identifying and signing words used in everyday life, with practice conversations.

Class 1: Fingerspelling and Greetings

Class 2: The Family and Deaf History

Class 3: Around the House and Deaf Culture

Class 4: Numbers and Time

Class 5: Questions

Class 6: Building Vocabulary: Nouns

Class 7: Building Vocabulary: Verbs

Class 8: Conversations

-- Winter Break --**Class 9:** Learning classifiers

Class 10: Classifiers in conversation

Class 11: Learning mouth morphemes

Class 12: Quantifiers: more or less?

Class 13: Questions and feelings

Class 14: Building Vocabulary: Nouns

Class 15: Building Vocabulary: Verbs

Class 16: Conversations

Course materials: Everything is provided free online, by the instructor.

Homework: Weekly practice of the signs and conversations covered in the course and watching online videos of signing (one to three hours), and occasional quizzes with the system and “live” in class.

How to Get the Most Out of Your Live, Interactive Classes

Here are some tips to help you and your child prepare for Homeschool Connections classes and get the most out of them.

- ◆ Make sure you have the necessary equipment: A headset with microphone, high speed internet, and a computer
- ◆ Check the course details and collect any course materials that need to be purchased well in advance.
- ◆ Read the Welcome Message when you first sign into your Moodle account. There are helpful links on how to submit homework, complete a quiz, message your teacher, etc.
- ◆ Parents need to follow up on homework and keep track of grades. As with any homeschooling program, self-discipline and parental follow up is important.
- ◆ All classes are recorded. Recorded classes are uploaded to the course page at Moodle within 24 hours. If a class is missed: notify the instructor and watch the class recording.
- ◆ If homework will be late due illness or other unforeseen problem, notify the instructor ASAP.
- ◆ You can plug the computer into the television if you'd like to watch together with your family.
- ◆ Prepare a notebook for the course to write notes while participating in the classes. Also use the notebook for homework. Review as needed.
- ◆ Find a comfortable place and make sure you have everything you need for class before you start: pencil, paper, textbook, water, etc.
- ◆ Make sure distractions are kept to a minimum during class time.
- ◆ Use a headset to help block outside noises. The headset should have a working microphone so students can speak in class if needed.
- ◆ If you have wireless Internet, ask others in the household to refrain from Internet use during class time. This will open up more bandwidth so the class will stream smoothly.
- ◆ If review is needed, class recordings can be watched multiple times. You can fast forward or backup as you watch. Class recordings are available to you for 6 months after your course is completed.
- ◆ Take advantage of additional support materials if offered. These can include websites, reading materials, videos, etc.
- ◆ All courses have a Course Completion Certificate at the end. Once your child completes the course to your satisfaction, print out the certificate and complete it. Then file for your records.
- ◆ Record grades immediately upon completion. For transcript and diploma forms, visit <http://homeschoolconnections.com/homeschool-forms>.
- ◆ Email us at homeschoolconnections@email.com if you have any questions or ever need help.

Student Expectations for Live, Interactive Courses

A. Classroom Etiquette

1. The Classroom. Our Adobe classroom is a real classroom. It is a formal setting, and good manners are expected both in the chat box and when on the microphone. You are expected to treat your fellow students as you would like to be treated, which includes kind posts and responses that do not demean, ridicule, or present a negative attitude that is detrimental to the subject we are talking about or to a person, present or absent. Treat your instructor and monitor with respect.

2. Chat

a. Before Class. Chatting before class starts is both appropriate and encouraged. Before class chat is a great time to get to know your classmates and make friends around the globe!

b. During Class. Once the class has begun, all chat is to stay on topic and addressed to the instructor. If you and another student chat together in the chat box regarding a side topic, class will be stopped and you'll be asked to stop the chat.

c. Recorded Chat. Everything you write in the box will be viewable in the future by the instructor, your parent(s), and fellow students. If inappropriate chat continues, you'll be asked to leave the class. That said, lively, positive chat that's on-topic (and moves what we're learning in class forward) is wholeheartedly encouraged!

3. Technical Problems. If you have a technical problem during class, address the issue to the course monitor.

B. Deadlines

1. Deadlines are Firm. Assignments are due on the date noted in the course.

2. Late Assignments. Late assignments are graded at the discretion of the instructor; there is no guarantee late assignments will be graded.

3. Exceptions for Turning in a Late Assignment. If you have an extenuating circumstance (illness, death of a relative, etc.), if at all possible, please notify your instructor before the deadline to let him or her know you need an extension.

C. Grades

1. Grading Services. Most courses provide grading by the instructor. See the course description for details.

2. Feedback. Some homework assignments will receive feedback and comments appropriate to the assignment, to help you grow your skills in the subject.

3. Grade Records. Your grades are posted in Moodle, and you can access your grades there. You will have access to your grades for six months after the course is completed. The instructor does not keep record of your grades aside from the Moodle system.

4. Tracking Course Progress. It is the parents' responsibility to track a student's progress, including making sure assignments are turned in properly and on time.

5. Grade Records. Parents are the ultimate authority in their homeschool and assign the final grade on the student's transcript. Free homeschool forms, including record keeping forms, can be found at www.homeschoolconnections.com/homeschool-forms.

D. Communication (Questions, Comments, and Concerns)

1. Course Content

a. Contacting the Instructor. All questions about course content and student performance should be directed to the instructor. Instructors will respond within 24 hours, with the exception of Sundays, holy days, and breaks. Your instructor's email address can be found on the Moodle course page. If you have trouble locating it, you can email homeschoolconnections.com.

b. Timely Emails. Send your questions sooner than later. Instructors most likely will not be able to answer questions about an assignment if you send the email the day before the assignment is due. Be responsible by working on your assignments many days before their due date.

2. Technical Problems. Direct all technical problems with Adobe Connect or Moodle to homeschoolconnections@email.com. (Your instructor may not be knowledgeable about technical issues.)

3. Proper Emails. Because this is an educational course and not Twitter, Facebook, or instant messaging, address your correspondence "Dear Professor ..." Within the body of your email, use proper grammar, refrain from using slang, and sign your email with your full name.

4. Labeling Emails

a. Full Information Needed. When you have a question about content or an assignment, be sure to note the week and specific name of the content you're addressing. Give enough details so both the question and the area from which it came is clear.

b. The Subject Line. Because instructors often teach a number of courses, be sure to put the name of your course in the subject line of your email. This helps your instructor go to the content quickly and address your question in a timely way.

E. Academic Dishonesty (Cheating and Plagiarism)

1. Plagiarism Defined

a. A Detailed Definition. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, taking someone else's assignment and submitting it as your own; paraphrasing the ideas of another author without giving the name and source; submitting papers from the Internet as your own; and providing your work to another student to be copied (supporting plagiarism).

b. Theft and Lying. Plagiarism and cheating defraud the instructor of the opportunity to assess your work and ability. They are acts of theft and lying.

2. Cheating Defined

a. A Detailed Definition. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, using memory aids during tests or quizzes without the instructor's expressed permission; using summaries/commentaries (Spark Notes, Cliff Notes, etc.) instead of reading the required works; accessing answer keys before completing homework or taking a test/quiz; copying another student's homework; and using the computer/internet to translate your language assignment.

b. Help on Assignments. Having another person, student, friend, or family member assist with the work (beyond what has been expressed in the class as acceptable help) is also considered cheating.

3. Grading and Academic Dishonesty

The first incident of academic dishonesty results in an F for the assignment. Your parents will be notified, and you'll be placed on academic probation. The second incident results in expulsion from the course without a refund.

CONCLUSION

We hope these policies will help you be successful in your academic career and beyond. We are always open to your questions and suggestions, so please never hesitate to email your instructor or Homeschool Connections if you need clarification or have concerns.

