

FRESHMAN COHORT 1

ENGINEERING / BIOLOGY / WORLD GEOGRAPHY / ENGLISH



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

INTRODUCTION TO ENGINEERING DESIGN (IED)

A Project Lead the Way (PLTW) certified course designed for students who are interested in design & engineering. The main focus of IED is to expose students to design processes, research & analysis, teamwork, communication methods, global & human impacts, engineering standards & technical documentation. Paired with PBL, this course challenges students to continually hone their interpersonal skills, creativity & understanding of the design process.

[Click here for Ms. Kristick's Introduction](#)



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WORLD GEOGRAPHY

Once students have mastered the themes, elements & skills of World Geography, they will be able to interpret learning in other classes through a physical, spatial, or cultural lens. Students will study the people, places, and politics that inhabit our individual neighborhoods and our shared city, state, nation, and planet.

[Click here for Ms. Haas's Introduction](#)



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BIOLOGY

An introductory, laboratory-based course designed for students to study living organisms & their physical environment. Students will apply scientific methods of inquiry & research in examining the following topics: biochemistry, cell structure, function & reproduction, cell energy, molecular basis of genetics, natural selection & diversity, and evolution & ecology.

[Click here for Ms. Myers' Introduction](#)



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ENGLISH

English I will advance students' reading, writing, speaking, listening & critical thinking skills. Students will read various fiction & non-fiction texts, as we delve into the theme of identity & personal growth. The literature & writing done in this course will help students further understand the cross-curricular connections within cohort projects.

[Click here for Mr. Vohlers' Introduction](#)



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PROJECT BASED LEARNING IN A BLENDED ENVIRONMENT

At Energy Institute, we teach all curriculum through merged-content Project Based Learning (PBL). Throughout the year, students will embark on in-person and virtual projects. These projects are designed to cultivate global graduate skills, such as team collaboration and problem solving, alongside the content of all four courses.

REQUIRED SUPPLIES

- School-Provided Laptop
- Writing Utensils
- Loose-Leaf Paper
- 2 Boxes of Tissues (Last names A-M)
- 2 Rolls of Paper Towels (Last names N-Z)

*note: the tissue and paper towel will be required upon return to in-person learning

OPTIONAL SUPPLIES

- USB Mouse
- Headphones
- Stylus

DIGITAL LEARNING GUIDE

LIVE INSTRUCTION (SYNCHRONOUS)

During Remote Learning, HISD is implementing the use of two types of learning. The first - "synchronous" instruction, is otherwise known as "live" instruction. Students will have **one synchronous period per class period, per week. During the scheduled period, students are required to join the synchronous lesson using a provided Microsoft Teams Link, participate in class, and submit an assignment.** This will function similarly to an "in-person" class period, with time for teacher interaction, group collaboration, and independent activities.

In order for students to be successful during synchronous learning:

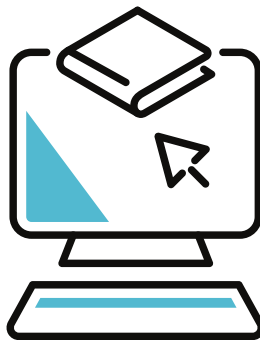
- Students must be **present and on time** in the Microsoft Teams meeting at the **beginning of the class period** and remain "in" class for the **duration of the learning period.**
- **Students must participate in class activities** - discussions, group work, independent activities and frequent checks-for-understanding.
- Students must **complete the daily in-class assignment** and submit it for a grade.

INDEPENDENT LEARNING (ASYNCHRONOUS)

The second type of learning is called "asynchronous" instruction - otherwise known as independent learning. Students will also have **one asynchronous period per class period, per week.** During the scheduled period, students are required to be working on independent class work for that particular class period. **Students will not be required to be "live" with their classmates and teachers, but still must complete the required work.** **Teachers remain available during the asynchronous period for tutorials, questions, or to offer assistance** in completing assignments, and to facilitate student learning and understanding in general - so **don't hesitate to log on and communicate with your teacher during these periods!**

In order for students to be successful during asynchronous learning:

- Students must **log onto the HUB** for the particular class period and **complete the asynchronous lesson for the day.**
- Students must **complete the required assignment** and submit it for a grade.
- If students have questions or are struggling with the lesson, students must **contact the teacher** during that class period for help.



ATTENDANCE DURING VIRTUAL LEARNING

HISD requires attendance of **90% of a students' classes in order to receive credit.**

Students who have not logged on to either the PowerUp HUB or communicated with their teacher by 2:30 PM during the school day will be marked **ABSENT** for the class period.

The best way to be marked "Present" for every class period is for STUDENTS to maintain communication with their teachers, especially if they are experiencing technical difficulties!

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance and punctuality are necessary for success in this cohort. If you are absent, check the HUB and contact classmates for missed work - especially pertaining to group work for projects. Remember that the contract for Energy includes maintaining good attendance; **if a student exceeds five unexcused absences in a semester, per course, credit may be denied for that course.** Please refer to the student code of conduct for a full list of consequences related to unexcused absences and tardies.

When learning in-person, **if a student arrives to the instructor's room after the tardy bell without a pass from the office,** (s)he will be denied entry to the room and will be sent to receive a pass. Any time spent going to get a pass, such as during a warm-up or quiz, is not extended for the tardy student upon late entry.

GRADING POLICY

Major Assignments (tests, projects, papers) – **55% of course grade**

Minor Assignments (quizzes, homework, classwork) – **45% of course grade**

Semester Exam - **10% of overall semester grade (pending district approval)**

- There will be **2 grades per week per course**. During online instruction, one of these grades will be from a **synchronous** class period, and the other will come from an **asynchronous** class period.
- Students are allowed to **retake one major grade per 6 weeks** in each course. Students wishing to do so should contact the teacher to find out how and when this can be done.
- **Tutorials** are available to students during teacher office hours in online instruction and during the first half of lunch during in-person learning. **If your grade is below an 80%, you should attend tutorials.** Remember that the contract for attending Energy includes **maintaining good grades!** Students are required to maintain above a 75% average in all classes. However, tutorials are available for all students, regardless of their grade.

LATE WORK POLICY

Turning in assignments in a timely manner is the ultimate habit for academic success. **Minor grades may be turned in within 5 instructional days of the due date with a penalty of 10 percent per day.** **Major grades may be turned in within 5 days of the due date with a penalty of 5 percent per day.** Students will be required to submit an email following this Late Work Email Template in order to have late work graded. If late work is habitual, students will receive disciplinary action, be placed on a growth plan with a mandatory parent meeting.

ONLINE SAFETY POLICY

Students will complete all HISD Digital Citizenship Trainings and adhere to HISD's Online Behavior Code of Conduct. Students will also complete Cohort Activities to ensure safe use of technology. If families wish to discuss online safety, a suggested resource is Common Sense Media. A sample media contract for families can be found here.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY POLICY

Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to disciplinary penalties and grade penalties on assignments or tests.

Academic dishonesty includes: **cheating, copying work of another student, copying a published or online resource (plagiarism), and unauthorized communication between students during an examination, including using a cell phone during a Test, Exam, or Quiz.** The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty shall be based on the judgement of the classroom teacher or other supervising professional employee, taking into consideration written materials, observation, or information from students.

Students who are found to be in violation of HISD's Academic Dishonesty Policy **will receive an automatic grade of a "zero" on the assignment.** **Students will not be allowed to 'redo,' resubmit, or retake assignments.** in which they have been found to have violated the Academic Dishonesty Policy.

COHORT POLICIES

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS OUR DIGITAL COHORT CULTURE GUIDE FOR FURTHER DETAILS.](#)

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

A Cohort 1 Student is fully engaged in daily academic work, excited to learn, willing to take risks, and always respectful of their peers and teachers.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

A Cohort 1 Parent is supportive of their child's learning, available to communicate with teachers, and curious about their child's academic experiences.

TEACHER RESPONSIBILITIES

A Cohort 1 Teacher is fully present with their students, excited to teach, pushes students to try their best, and always assumes good intent.

****Note:** Further classroom and school policies/cohort policies will be visited when we return to in-person learning.

REMIND!

Remind is a tool used by teachers to communicate important information to either students or parents regarding Cohort or School Announcements, important due dates, field trip reminders, or exhibition reminders. Remind is used strictly for announcements only. Students and parents should utilize email for all other inquiries, such as grades, assignments, or personal concerns.

You can join Remind by:

- Texting
 - Students: text the code @eihsc01 to 81010
 - Parents: text the code @colparents to 81010
- Downloading the App



PARENT COMMUNICATION FORM

In order to ensure that we are able to communicate with you during our digital learning experience, Cohort 1 teachers are asking that you please fill out a Parent Communication Google Form.

You can access this form in three ways:

- By clicking [this link](#).
- By scanning the QR code below with your phone.
- By typing in the link below into a browser.

We are looking forward to getting to know each and every one of your students!



[HTTPS://BIT.LY/COHORT1PARENT](https://bit.ly/cohort1parent)