THE WOODHALL SCHOOL COURSE GUIDE

Grades and Credits

CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

For all students graduating from The Woodhall School, the requirements for diploma are a minimum of seventeen credits and good standing within the community. Credit is granted for the successful completion of certain courses from previous schools. Distributional requirements include:

SUBJECT	CREDITS
English	4
Social Sciences	3
Mathematics (Algebra I & II and Geometry are required)	3
Sciences (2 Lab Sciences are required)	3
World Languages	2
Arts/Humanities	2

ARTS (2)

VISUAL ARTS

- ☐ Art I
- ☐ Art II
- ☐ Art III*
- ☐ Sculpture and Design

PERFORMING ARTS

- ☐ Film
- ☐ Drama

ENGLISH (4)

- ☐ **Foundations of Literature and Composition**
  - ☐ Creative Writing
  - ☐ Myth and Legend
  - ☐ American Literature
  - ☐ College Literature and Composition
  - ☐ AP Language and Composition*
  - ☐ AP Literature and Composition*

MATHEMATICS (3)

- ☐ **Algebra I**
- ☐ **Geometry**
- ☐ **Algebra II** → ☐ Applied Mathematics & Engineering
- ☐ Precalculus
- ☐ Calculus
  - ☐ AP Calculus AB*
  - ☐ AP Calculus BC*
  - ☐ AP Statistics*

SCIENCES (3)

- ☐ Biology
- ☐ Environmental Science
- ☐ Anatomy and Physiology
- ☐ General Chemistry
- ☐ Chemistry
- ☐ Physics
- ☐ STEM
- ☐ Computer Science
- ☐ AP Biology*
- ☐ AP Chemistry*
- ☐ AP Physics*

SOCIAL SCIENCES (3)

- ☐ **Regional World Studies**
  - ☐ **American History**
  - ☐ **Civics**
  - ☐ World War II and the Holocaust
  - ☐ Modern World History
  - ☐ Ancient Civilizations
  - ☐ Terrorism and Extremism
  - ☐ Introduction to Philosophy
  - ☐ World Religion and Philosophy
  - ☐ Social Psychology
  - ☐ AP US History*
  - ☐ AP US Government*

WORLD LANGUAGES (2)

- ☐ **Spanish I**
- ☐ **Spanish II**
- ☐ Spanish III
- ☐ Spanish IV
- ☐ **Latin I**
- ☐ **Latin II**
- ☐ Latin III
- ☐ Latin IV

KEY:

Bold = required
*** =** Teacher and administrative approval needed

Arts

To meet graduation requirements, students must complete one year of Arts, which can be achieved through courses in either visual or performing arts. Additional Arts classes may also be used to fulfill the Humanities requirement.

Art I

This course offers a comprehensive introduction to the world of visual arts, providing students with the fundamental skills, techniques, and concepts necessary for creative expression. Through hands-on projects, discussions, and exploration of various artistic mediums, students will develop their artistic abilities while gaining an understanding of art history, aesthetics, and visual communication.

Art II

Art II is an intermediate-level course designed to further develop artistic skills, critical thinking, and conceptual depth. Building on the fundamental knowledge gained in Art I, students will engage in more advanced projects, explore diverse artistic styles, and deepen their understanding of art history and contemporary artistic practices.

Art III: Studio Art

Art III builds upon fundamental artistic skills and concepts learned in the previous courses of Art I and Art II. Students will delve deeper into various art mediums and techniques, exploring advanced topics such as composition, color theory, perspective, and personal artistic expression. The course will also involve art history discussions and analysis of contemporary art trends. Students will complete more complex projects that challenge their creativity and technical abilities, fostering growth as well-rounded artists. ***(Prerequisite: Teacher and administrative approval)***

Sculpture and Design

Sculpture and Design offers an in-depth exploration of three-dimensional art forms and design principles. Students will engage in hands-on projects that emphasize the creative process, from conceptualization to execution. This course covers a variety of materials and techniques, including clay, plaster, wire, wood, and mixed media. Students will learn about the historical and contemporary context of sculpture, gaining inspiration from prominent artists and movements.

Film Studies

Film is an extraordinarily dynamic, expressive, and pliable medium. The world's films, and especially those of Hollywood, are an essential part of the cultural DNA of the last one hundred-plus years, and the seminal works of Hitchcock, Welles, Coppola, Spielberg, and many others have influenced our communal dream-life. In this class we will seek to understand how films work upon viewers, what their essential elements are, and how their constituent parts are harmonized to create emotional effects. We will devote most of our in-class time to watching and discussing films, and the bulk of our homework will be comprised of reading and annotating film-related writings.

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Drama and Acting

Drama and Acting is a course designed to introduce students to the fundamental principles of theater and performance. Through a combination of practical exercises, scene study, and performance projects, students will develop essential skills in acting, improvisation, voice, and movement. The course covers various aspects of theater production, including script analysis, character development, stage presence, and collaboration.

The goal of this course is to dispel the notion that acting starts once you stand on stage and ends when you exit. That is just one piece of the puzzle. Acting is about the work you put in, the skills you pick up, and the dedication that you have to your craft before you say a single line. Although our main text for this course will teach the methods of the Stanislavski System, I encourage you to branch out. There is no one right way of acting except the right way that works for you.

Introduction to Theater

Introduction to Theater is a foundational course designed to provide students with an understanding of the technical aspects of theater production. While this course will examine dramatic works and use them as an anchor of focus, that is not the only goal of this course. In this course, we want to figure out how to take the play from the written word onto the stage. As we discuss the texts, we will figure out what the sets require, what props each scene demands, and what the stage and sound design would need. Utilizing our analyses of these plays, this class will explore essential elements of stagecraft, including set design, lighting, sound, costume design, and stage management. Students will learn the principles and techniques involved in creating the visual and auditory components of a theatrical performance.

English

To meet graduation requirements, students must earn four credits in English. They must pass Foundations of Literature and Composition or an equivalent course before enrolling in upper-level English options. After successfully completing a foundational course, students can choose from various English courses to fulfill the remaining graduation requirements. Additional English classes can also be used to satisfy the Humanities requirement.

Foundations of Literature and Composition

This is a foundational course designed to deepen students' reading, writing, vocabulary, and grammar skills by focusing on literary analysis and interpretation of rhetorical, creative, and long-form narrative texts. While content and mediums will vary, conceptually, students will explore the theme of human nature through careful study of how leaders manipulate and oppress their people. Through detailed readings, classroom discussions, debates, and comprehensive forms of composition, students will build toward a better understanding of the 5-paragraph essay as a way of organizing their thoughts and ideas.

Myth and Legend

Myth and Legend is an upper-level English option offered by the TWS English Department. While this course will explore a variety of texts and mediums from across cultures and eras, including the historic and modern, it aims to examine not just the variance in these texts by region and time, but also to find the enduring across elements such as themes, characters, purpose, and structure. Through a better understanding of these concepts, stories can provide a lens through which to analyze customs, values, and practices that have evolved and persisted over time. These stories can help one understand and relate to that society's culture and history; in that vein, the stories that are passed on both help to illustrate culture while also helping to shape culture.

Creative Writing

Creative Writing is an upper-level English elective designed to inspire and develop each student's literary talents. It provides a structured yet flexible environment for young writers to explore and hone their creative skills across various genres, including fiction, poetry, drama, creative nonfiction, investigative journalism, satire, and screenwriting. The course emphasizes the writing process, from brainstorming and drafting to revising and editing, workshopping, and publishing, encouraging students to discover their unique voice and style. In order to write, the best training you can get is by writing. You need to write, write again, and then write some more. In this class, this is what our main focus will be.

American Literature

This class is an upper-level English course that is an exploration of American literature from the mid-19th century to the present day. Through readings, classroom debate, and various forms of composition, we will attempt to navigate the evolution of our country's rich literary tradition. Essential figures will include Poe, Hawthorne, Dickinson, Fitzgerald, O'Connor, Frost, Miller, and Morrison. Our reading of classic texts will focus on formal analysis of style and structure, as well as on the development of themes, plot, and character. We will attempt to grapple with the nature of the American vision beyond its purely geographical distinction. Though the course will broadly proceed chronologically, it will draw diachronic connections: 19th-century literature will be brought to bear on more recent work and vice-versa. Major texts will include *Adventures in American Literature, All My Sons, Miss Lonelyhearts,* and *Beloved*. Students will be assessed based on written work, weekly quizzes, classroom participation, and a final exam each term.

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College Literature and Composition

Storytelling is perhaps the oldest and most fundamental tool by which human beings make sense of their world and their lives. With that notion as a guiding principle, this course will examine how we all shape and organize our experience through the construction of a kind of ongoing life story, and societies and cultures base their religions, mythologies, and histories on continually evolving written narratives. Even legal and political systems are based on and built upon writings. It is the duty and privilege of each new generation to rigorously reinterpret, revise, refine, and extend the body of knowledge and wisdom preserved in the world library. This class emphasizes literary analysis through daily readings, discussions, and written responses to great texts.

AP Language and Composition

AP English Language and Composition is a college-level course designed to develop students' understanding of rhetorical strategies in reading, writing, and speech. Students will analyze texts for style, structure, voice, and purpose, with an eye to cultivating a deeper knowledge of the language. The reading will include memoir, essay, poetry, drama, spoken word, and long and short fiction. Using the texts as springboards, students will engage with the writing process, composing a variety of essays and creative pieces throughout the year. Class time will be devoted to textual analysis of literature, debate, quizzes, writing workshops, presentations, and completing practice tests in preparation for the official AP Exam in May. ***(Prerequisite: Administrative approval)***

AP Literature and Composition

AP Literature and Composition is an intensive, college-level course designed to engage students in the careful reading and critical analysis of literature. Through the close reading of selected texts, students will deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure. As they read, students will consider a work's structure, style, and themes, as well as smaller-scale elements such as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone.

Students will read a diverse range of literary works, including poetry, drama, and fiction from various periods and cultures. The course will involve frequent writing assignments that aim to develop skills in literary analysis, argumentation, and synthesis. Emphasis will be on developing students' ability to produce clear, cogent, and sophisticated analytical essays and preparation for the AP Exam in May. ***(Prerequisite: Administrative approval)***

Math

To meet graduation requirements, students must earn three credits in Math, including the completion of Algebra II or a more advanced equivalent.

Algebra I

In Algebra I, students begin to encounter the abstraction of arithmetic and numeric concepts covered at the primary level. Throughout the year, questions evolve from "What is the answer to this problem?" to "How do we solve this type of problem?" to "How does this set of problems relate to that set?" Developing facility with various types of equations and mathematical expressions, students begin to systematize approaches and develop new algorithms for various types of problem-solving. Algebra I lays the groundwork for higher-level and more advanced mathematics and connects to simple topics within other branches of mathematics—including geometry, probability, and statistics.

In addition to more abstract derivation and application of formulas and equations, this class will focus on the conversion of everyday problems into mathematical models that we can quantitatively analyze; this helps to make pure mathematical concepts more explicit. Students are taught to approach a specific problem using more than one method—e.g. graphically and algebraically—and present completed work in more than one way—e.g. orally and in writing. This multimodal approach to the material helps students who may have a preference for one mode of learning. Additionally, the comparison of more than one method for the same problem elucidates the fundamental, underlying structures and concepts.

Geometry

In our ever-increasing data-saturated world, an in-depth study of logical and mathematical ways of constructing arguments is a powerful tool in finding the signal in the noise of this data. By studying geometry, students are given the opportunity to develop skills in reasoning and in constructing formal mathematical arguments known as "proofs." Furthermore, geometric study aids a student's ability to recognize, describe, and appreciate the awe-inspiring beauty of some of the structures that are inherent in our world and beyond.

In studying geometry, students are encouraged to build on learning developed in earlier math courses, namely, relationships between angles, triangles, quadrilaterals, circles, and simple three-dimensional shapes. As progress is made in the course, further emphasis is placed on the development of analytical and spatial reasoning. Students are asked to apply what they have learned about two-dimensional figures to three-dimensional figures in real-world contexts, thereby building spatial visualization skills. The course includes an exploration of right triangle trigonometry and associated ideas. This material allows for the implementation of a variety of interesting real-world problems, which is hoped to further develop geometric reasoning skills. ***(Prerequisite: Algebra I or teacher and administrative approval)***

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Algebra II

In Algebra II, students continue the work begun in Algebra I and Geometry, abstracting, manipulating, and evaluating expressions and formulas. Initially reviewing straightforward characteristics of linear functions and systems of linear equations, as well as developing the idea of functions and inverses, students explore a range of topics related to equations and expressions with exponents—quadratic and higher-order polynomials, rational functions, and logarithmic/exponential functions. With these topics, the explicit relationships between characteristics of the algebraic expressions and their associated graphs are key. Additionally, students focus on recognizing types of equations and developing concrete methods and algorithms for analyzing them. The course concludes with students concentrating on the development of rigorous approaches to discrete topics, such as probability, series and sequences, and elementary number theory.

Students are taught to approach a specific problem using more than one method—e.g. graphically and algebraically—and present completed work in more than one way—e.g. orally and in writing. In comparing multiple methods to solve the same problem, the fundamental underlying structures and concepts at the source of the problem are more clearly revealed. This multimodal approach to the material also benefits students who may prefer a specific mode of learning. An awareness of the varying ways to manipulate or abstract a problem helps connect a specific problem with multiple application methods. ***(Prerequisite: Geometry or teacher and administrative approval)***

Applied Mathematics and Engineering

Applied Math is a one-year, in-depth study of the applications of mathematics found in the real world today. It strengthens the skills developed in earlier math courses and reinforces the relevance of the material covered in the classroom. Topics include, but are not limited to, mortgages, automobile depreciation, stocks and shares, time cards, earnings and taxes, real estate, fuel efficiency, insurance claims and deductibles, gradebooks and weighting, credit cards, cell phone plans, car rentals, making budgets, retirement plans, automobile depreciation, financial savings, tipping, discounts, vacation planning, and personal loans. Technology is integrated into class whenever possible to help understanding and make conceptual connections even more clear. In addition, several notable people in the fields of math and science are examined. Significant events that dictated and shaped the course of progress within the field of engineering are also explored.

Precalculus

Precalculus provides students with the core concepts and mathematical sophistication necessary to succeed in a college-level or college-preparatory course in elementary differential and integral calculus. Additionally, the course seeks to help students develop habits of learning and discipline necessary not only for future mathematical progress but also for all-around academic and personal growth.

The course is roughly divided into three parts. During the first part, students begin by reviewing algebraic techniques and learning about the general nature of the mathematical function. The course then proceeds into a discussion of function manipulations of all types, including algebraic and graphical approaches. Finally, several different specific types of functions are defined and explored, including polynomial functions, rational functions, exponential functions, and logarithmic functions.

The second part of the course consists of trigonometry. Initially, the trigonometric functions are defined and explored as functions, allowing for the discussion of domain and range and for the exploration of phenomena involving rotation and vibration. The course then moves to a classical introduction of trigonometry motivated by the triangle and related problems. The major trigonometric identities and the inverse trigonometric functions are defined and discussed. Finally, the course explores applications of trigonometry such as the complex plane, the polar form for complex numbers, vectors in the plane, and conic sections.

The third part of the course contains several topics, including sequences and sums, the binomial theorem, and systems of linear and nonlinear equations. By the end of the year, students will be prepared to enroll in more advanced classes in mathematics. ***(Prerequisite: Algebra II or teacher and administrative approval)***

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Calculus

In Calculus, students will extend their experience with functions as they study the fundamental concepts of calculus: limiting behaviors, difference quotients and the derivative, the definite integral, antiderivatives and indefinite integrals, and the fundamental theorem of calculus. Students review and extend their knowledge of trigonometry and basic analytic geometry. In particular, students learn how to apply the tools of calculus to a variety of problem situations. ***(Prerequisite: Precalculus or Algebra II and teacher and administrative approval)***

AP Calculus AB

AP Calculus AB is a college-level class designed to mirror a college calculus course. This rigorous course aims to provide students with a deep understanding of the concepts and applications of differential and integral calculus. Throughout the year, students will explore the fundamental principles of calculus and develop the skills needed to solve complex mathematical problems.

The course emphasizes a multi-representational approach to calculus, where concepts, results, and problems are expressed graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally. AP Calculus requires students to use definitions and theorems to build arguments and justify conclusions. Students will learn to understand the connections between these representations and apply them to real-world scenarios. AP Calculus focuses on students' understanding of calculus concepts and provides experience with methods and applications. Through the use of big ideas of calculus—e.g., modeling change, approximation and limits, and analysis of functions—the course becomes a cohesive whole, rather than a collection of unrelated topics. This course is structured to prepare students for the AP Calculus AB Exam in May. ***(Prerequisite: Administrative approval)***

AP Calculus BC

AP Calculus BC is an advanced placement course equivalent to a college calculus course. This comprehensive and rigorous course aims to extend the concepts covered in AP Calculus AB and introduce additional topics such as sequences and series, parametric equations, polar coordinates, and vector-valued functions. Throughout the course of study, students will explore these advanced calculus topics and develop the skills needed to solve complex mathematical problems.

This course adopts a multi-representational approach to calculus, integrating graphical, numerical, analytical, and verbal methods to explore concepts, results, and problems. Students will learn how to connect these various forms of representation and apply them to practical, real-world situations. In addition to preparing students for the AP Calculus BC Exam in May, this course aims to foster a deep appreciation for the beauty and utility of calculus in describing the world around us. ***(Prerequisite: Administrative approval)***

AP Statistics

AP Statistics provides a comprehensive introduction to the key concepts and methods used in the field of statistics. It is designed to develop students' skills in collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data. Foundational concepts to be explored will include exploring data; sampling and experimentation; probability and random variables; and making statistical inferences. By the end of the course, students will be prepared to take the AP Exam in May and have developed statistical thinking skills, applied concepts into practice, utilized technology effectively, and communicated findings with supporting evidence. ***(Prerequisite: administrative approval)***

Science

To meet graduation requirements, students must earn three credits in Science. Additionally, at least two of these classes must be core laboratory courses, with one in the physical sciences and one in the life sciences.

Biology

Biology is an introductory life science course designed to teach students about how living things function. The course will allow students to expand their organizational and critical thinking skills, as well as to develop practices in independent study. Students will learn about the scientific method and then will go on to explore systems ranging in size from cells to ecosystems. Specifically, topics will include the central themes of structure and function of cells, interactions between organisms, cellular metabolism, cell reproduction, DNA and inheritance, ecology, and organ systems.

Chemistry

In this introductory physical science course, students will learn about the structure and function of matter as it exists on Earth. Students will engage in hands-on laboratory exercises in order to visualize and analyze chemical reactions. An emphasis will be placed on the organization and notation of the elements and their chemical formulas. When a foundational understanding of chemistry concepts is achieved, students will dive deeper into more specific chemical reactions in order to gain practical experience in the applications of chemistry.

Throughout the year, students will develop keen observation and critical thinking skills to learn the causes and effects of chemical reactions. Students will acquire laboratory skills that help them conduct experiments effectively and safely. Students will engage with both two-dimensional and three-dimensional models to comprehend abstract concepts. The course will likely culminate with the completion of a lab with a full report in order to demonstrate an understanding of scientific practices and literacy.

General Chemistry

The goal of this introductory physical science course is to examine chemical epistemology, understand the properties and structure of matter and how it is categorized, observe and record phenomena, including chemical reactions, and comprehend the causes of chemical interactions. By engaging in these activities, students will gain an understanding of the foundations and development of the science of chemistry. In addition to the specific content of this abstract and central science, students will develop critical thinking and reasoning skills in problem-solving through using the scientific method and mathematical expressions, record data and communicate effectively through scientific writing, and perform investigations that demonstrate core laboratory practices.

Physics

This advanced-level physical science course sees the concept of physics as a unifying theme, and topics will integrate a wide range of disciplines, both within and outside the "standard" science arena. In one way, the course will serve as a logical and natural continuation of previous science courses, incorporating both a review of studied concepts along with an emphasis on the subsequent extensions of these concepts and topics and the introduction of new advanced topics and concepts. Moreover, this class will provide an opportunity to relate scientific concepts and principles to the everyday happenings of life and to other disciplines through examples and activities demonstrating these relationships. Finally, this class will act as a means to provide a wide range of "hands-on" activities that will be exciting and challenging. Projects, both individual and group, laboratory experiments, and research will all be integral characteristics of the scope and sequence of the course. ***(Prerequisite: Algebra II or concurrent enrollment)***

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Environmental Science

Environmental science is an introductory-level life science course that provides an overview of the world around us. We will study earth systems and learn about the relationship between humans and nature, as well as various ecosystems and resources. We will also study the scientific method and practice skills such as making observations, analyzing data, and drawing conclusions. This course is designed to provide a foundation for upper-level science courses, to spark interest through hands-on learning, and to teach students to be more conscientious and thoughtful citizens with an understanding and appreciation for the natural world and its processes.

Anatomy and Physiology

Anatomy and Physiology is an advanced elective life science course offered for upper-level students interested in the field of human and animal biology, designed and intended for students who have taken previous classes in biology and are interested in health and biomedical-based studies. Laboratory investigations, 3-D visual images, and text-based activities explore the structure and function of different organ systems in the human body and the interdependency of the organ systems in the regulation of physiological functions involved in maintaining homeostasis. The course focuses on the process of understanding and applying the concepts taught through hands-on activities and written and oral expressions of the material. Inquiry-based laboratory investigations and dissections are an integral part of the course. ***(Prerequisite: Biology or teacher and administrative approval)***

Computer Science

Computer Science introduces students to the fundamental principles of computer science, with emphasis on problem-solving, software design, data structures, and iterative development. Students will explore imperative, functional, and object-oriented software paradigms through stimulating projects including solving logic and word puzzles, drawing fractals, designing interactive chatbots, and creating simple games. Secondary focuses will include the basics of system architecture, networking technologies, POSIX operating systems, GUI development, and the technologies of the Internet and the World Wide Web. The primary language of development will be Python, but students will also be introduced to HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. ***(Prerequisite: Algebra II or concurrent enrollment)***

STEM

We live in a world that is highly engineered. From the technology we use, the clothes we wear, the homes we live in to the foods we eat, the organizations we participate in, and the landscapes we walk through—most of it has been designed and engineered by other human beings. Because these design decisions influence who we are and how we develop, it is essential that all human beings be aware of and actively participate in the engineering design process constantly occurring around us.

STEM is the study of mathematics and science in the engineering of technology, and technology is the tools humans invent and design to solve problems. In this course, students will begin by learning how to use the myriad of tools in the STEM Lab and how those tools work. Along the way, they will engage in systems thinking: analyzing the relationships and interactions among various components, recognizing that design is the intentional balancing of trade-offs, evaluating secondary and tertiary effects of design decisions, and optimizing designs by identifying and addressing bottlenecks. Using the STEM Lab as their foundation, students will then research the properties of different materials and modern manufacturing techniques, and finally engage in the engineering design process in order to improve their local community and develop an appreciation for how design can impact our world and influence our personal growth. ***(Prerequisite: Administrative approval)***

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AP Chemistry

AP Chemistry is a rigorous course designed to deepen students' understanding of the fundamental concepts of chemistry and develop their ability to think critically and solve complex problems. Through a combination of multimodal activities, students will explore the principles of chemical reactions, atomic structure, molecular bonding, stoichiometry, thermodynamics, kinetics, and equilibrium. Students will engage in hands-on experiments to investigate and understand chemical phenomena, collect and analyze data, and draw evidence-based conclusions. This course also prepares students for the AP Chemistry Exam in May. ***(Prerequisite: Chemistry, Algebra II or concurrent enrollment, administrative approval)***

AP Biology

This advanced, upper-level life science course is structured around the four big ideas that encompass the essential knowledge and enduring understandings necessary for success in this course. Students will explore in depth the following concepts: The process of evolution drives the diversity and unity of life; Biological systems utilize free energy and molecular building blocks to grow, reproduce, and maintain dynamic homeostasis; Living systems store, retrieve, transmit, and respond to information essential to life processes; Biological systems interact, and these systems and their interactions possess complex properties.

These concepts will be employed to develop scientific practices, principles, and habits of mind, skills required in exploring and investigating the scientific processes and material learned throughout the duration of this course and in preparation for the AP Exam in May. ***(Prerequisite: Biology and administrative approval)***

AP Physics

AP Physics is an advanced, physical science course designed for high school students who are seeking a challenging and comprehensive introduction to the advanced principles of physics. This course covers a wide range of topics, including mechanics, electricity and magnetism, waves, optics, and modern physics. Through a combination of theoretical study, problem-solving, and hands-on laboratory experiments, students will develop a deep understanding of physical laws and their applications. This course fosters critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and a deep appreciation for the laws that govern the natural world and prepares students for a strong foundation for further studies in science and engineering. By the end of the AP Physics course, students will be well-prepared to take the AP Physics Exam in May and pursue further studies in physics, engineering, and related fields. ***(Prerequisite: Physics, Algebra II, and administrative approval)***

Social Sciences

To meet graduation requirements, students must earn three credits in Social Science. Two of these credits must be in Civics and American History (or their equivalents). Additional Social Science classes can also be used to fulfill the Humanities requirement.

Regional World Studies

Regional World Studies introduces students to fundamental principles of social science, with emphasis on primary source analysis, evaluation of sources, logical argumentation, drawing connections, and writing. Students will explore topics of importance to understanding the past and present, including economic systems, colonialism, technological development, race, and diverse government systems. Each term, students will engage in a deep study of a particular country or region of the world, examining current events in that country through a historical lens.

United States History

United States History is a course designed to provide students with an in-depth understanding of the major events, people, and themes that have shaped the history of the United States from its earliest days to the present. Students will develop critical thinking and analytical skills as they examine historical documents, participate in discussions, and explore diverse perspectives on American history, enabling them to engage with the nation's history from the perspective of both a citizen and historian. The course emphasizes the connections between historical events and contemporary issues, helping students understand the relevance of history in today's world. Through lectures, readings, projects, and assessments, students will gain a solid foundation in U.S. history and the skills necessary for informed citizenship. ***(Meets the United States History requirement)***

Ancient Civilizations

Ancient Civilizations is an introductory course designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the early societies that laid the foundations for modern civilization. This course explores the development, culture, and contributions of ancient civilizations from various regions, including Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Rome, India, China, and the Americas. Students will investigate the political, social, economic, and religious structures of these societies and examine their lasting impacts on the world.

The course emphasizes the interconnectedness of human history and encourages students to draw connections between ancient and contemporary societies. By the end of the course, students will have a solid understanding of the key events and contributions of ancient civilizations and their significance in shaping the world today.

Modern World History

Modern World History is a comprehensive course designed to provide students with an in-depth understanding of global historical developments from the Renaissance to the present day. This course covers key events, movements, and figures that have shaped the modern world, including the Enlightenment, the Industrial Revolution, the World Wars, decolonization, and the Cold War. Students will also examine themes such as imperialism, nationalism, globalization, and human rights. By the end of the course, students will explore the political, economic, social, and cultural transformations that have influenced contemporary global society.

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World War II and the Holocaust

This course examines the causes, characteristics, and aftermath of the Holocaust. We will first trace the history of antisemitism as it existed in Europe from the Middle Ages through the first half of the twentieth century, then examine more specifically the state of European Jewry in the decades leading up to WWII. This background dovetails with analysis of the rise of the Third Reich in Germany. We will examine the political and socioeconomic factors that set the stage for the Nazi accession to power, with special attention to the combination of nationalism and racial theory. We will trace the evolution of an anti-Jewish policy that proceeded in stages from intimidation, through disenfranchisement and expulsion, to extermination. We will also consider in detail the material circumstances that made extermination possible: most notably, the military conflict between the Nazi and Soviet empires in Eastern Europe. We will then examine the nature of life and death in the ghettos and the camp system. The course will close with the liberation of the remaining camps, a final reckoning of the damage done by Nazi policy, modern incarnations of antisemitism, and reflections on war, power, and race.

Readings will combine secondary and primary sources, including concentration camp memoirs, diaries, journalism, and Nazi propaganda. The readings will emphasize multiple perspectives on the same or similar events and periods and will attempt to provide not only a record of the horrors of the period but also their personal and psychological context.

Terrorism and Extremism

The world we live in has been shaped by the Global War on Terror, extremist groups, the governmental and societal reactions to them. In the aftermath of September 11, 2001, terrorism became a significant and present security concern to both the United States government and the civilian population. While this class will examine the origins, motivations, and goals of different terror organizations, as well as governmental and international responses, we will also ask ourselves the tough questions and challenge our preconceptions of who or what are terrorism and extremism.

Civics

Civics is a comprehensive course designed to provide students with a thorough understanding of the principles, structures, functions of government, and the responsibilities of citizenship. While the course will cover the foundations of the United States government, including the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the development of democratic institutions, and the roles and powers of the three branches of government, the course will emphasize critical thinking, analysis of current events, and underscore the importance of active and engaged participation in civic life. Through a combination of varied activities, students will learn about the structure of government, the rights and responsibilities of citizens, the importance of the rule of law, and the impact of government policies on society. By the end of the course, students will have a deeper understanding of how government works and their role as informed and engaged citizens. ***(Meets the Civics requirement)***

Introduction to Social Psychology

Social Psychology examines one's mind and behavior with other people. This course uses guided practice, projects, case studies, articles, and discussion to introduce students to the basic principles of social psychology. Students examine the complexities of obedience to authority, social dynamics, social thinking, influence and behavior, and how to read and conduct research. Class time will be centered on concept development and exploration of the important psychological themes in each unit. Students will demonstrate understanding of course content in a variety of methods, including, but not limited to, journaling, creating projects, writing a research paper, and completing presentations that allow them to both reinforce concepts taught via lecture and explore topics further.

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World Religions and Philosophy

This course explores different philosophies, practices, and religions people have used to help guide themselves along their life journey as we simultaneously explore ourselves and travel our own journey. The course mainly focuses on the main tenets and practices and what people are trying to attain through various schools of belief, how texts are affected through translations, and what we find helpful for our own journey. Religions, spiritual practices, and philosophies of focus include, but are not limited to: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Taoism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Native American practices, Hawaiian thought, and current trends in contemporary philosophy. In addition to core texts, this course will have numerous guest speakers who are experienced in their fields of practice under study.

Introduction to Philosophy

This course investigates the history of philosophy as it has developed from ancient Greece to the modern day. Through readings, classroom debate, and various forms of composition, we will attempt to navigate the evolution of human thought over the last twenty-six hundred years. Essential figures will include Plato, Aristotle, Boethius, Aquinas, Descartes, Kant, Nietzsche, Russell, and Searle. Through these and other thinkers, we will explore the ideas that shaped society, as well as the social forces that shaped thought. Key philosophical concepts will include gorm, etiology, epistemology, ontology, free will and determinism, God, ethics, aesthetics, the mind-body problem, subjectivity and objectivity, idealism, and pragmatism. There will also be discussion of relevant social movements, from the spread of Christianity and Islam to the birth of democracy and totalitarianism. Though the course will proceed chronologically, it will draw diachronic connections; ancient thought will be brought to bear on contemporary issues and vice-versa. The course readings will combine an accessible textbook with challenging primary and secondary sources. Additionally, students will be expected to grapple with philosophy as expressed in art—including stories, poems, painting, and architecture—as well as religious doctrines.

AP United States History

In AP U.S. History, students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in nine historical periods from approximately 1491 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical connections; and utilizing reasoning about comparison, causation, and examining patterns in continuity and change. The course also provides eight themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: American and national identity; work, exchange, and technology; geography and the environment; migration and settlement; politics and power; America in the world; American and regional culture; and social structures. Over the duration of the course, students will prepare for the AP Exam in May. ***(Prerequisite: Administrative approval; meets the United States History requirement)***

AP American Government and Politics

AP United States Government and Politics is an advanced course designed to provide students with a thorough understanding of the foundations, institutions, processes, and policies of the U.S. government. This rigorous course covers the structure and functions of the three branches of government, the roles of political parties, interest groups, and the media, and the rights and responsibilities of citizens. Students will explore key concepts such as federalism, the Constitution, civil liberties and rights, public policy, and political behavior.

The course emphasizes critical thinking, analytical writing, and the interpretation of data and primary sources. Students will engage in discussions, debates, simulations, and research projects to deepen their understanding of American government and politics. They will read, interpret, and analyze the 11 foundational documents and 15 U.S. Supreme Court cases associated with the course, emphasizing that a commanding knowledge of the U.S. Constitution is necessary for informed citizenship and scholarship.

Inspired by Aristotle's assertion that humankind is a "political animal," this course underscores the importance of active participation in civic life. Students are expected to be analysts, not spectators, actively participating in the course to fully grasp the content. This course also prepares students for the AP United States Government and Politics Exam in May. ***(Prerequisite: Administrative approval; meets the Civics requirement)***

World Languages

To meet graduation requirements, students must earn two credits in World Languages and attain at least the second-year level in the language of their choice. Additional World Language classes can also be used to fulfill the Humanities requirement.

Latin I

The Latin I course serves as an engaging introduction to the Latin language, Roman culture, and ancient history. This foundational course is designed to build students' reading proficiency in Latin while immersing them in the rich cultural and historical context of the ancient Roman world. Through a blend of linguistic study and cultural exploration, students will develop a deep appreciation for the impact of the Roman civilization on modern society. By the end of the Latin I course, students will have developed a foundational reading knowledge of Latin, gained a comprehensive understanding of Roman culture and history, and recognized the enduring connections between the ancient Romans' lives and their own.

Latin II

The Latin II course builds on the foundational skills acquired in Latin I, further developing students' reading proficiency and deepening their understanding of Latin grammar and syntax. Students will be introduced to more complex texts and the works of ancient Roman poets and prose authors, enhancing their appreciation of Latin literature. This course also continues to explore the rich cultural and historical context of the Roman world. By the end of the Latin II course, students will have achieved a higher level of reading proficiency in Latin, gained an appreciation for the literary achievements of ancient Roman authors, and understood the broader cultural and historical context of their works. ***(Prerequisite: Previous level of the language or teacher and administrative approval)***

Latin III

Latin III is an intermediate course designed to bridge the gap between foundational Latin studies and advanced proficiency. Building on the skills developed in Latin I and II, this course deepens students' understanding of Latin grammar and syntax, enhances their translation abilities, and introduces them to more sophisticated literary texts and historical contexts. Through intensive reading and cultural exploration, students will further appreciate the richness of the Latin language and the legacy of Roman civilization. This course prepares students for the rigorous challenges of Latin IV and beyond, fostering a lasting appreciation for the classical world. ***(Prerequisite: Previous level of the language or teacher and administrative approval)***

Latin IV

Latin IV is an advanced course that builds on the linguistic and cultural knowledge acquired in Latin III. It aims to further develop students' proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and understanding Latin. By engaging with complex texts and exploring advanced themes in Roman literature, history, and culture, students will achieve a high level of competence in the Latin language and a deep appreciation for the Roman world. ***(Prerequisite: Previous level of the language or teacher and administrative approval)***

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Spanish I

Spanish I is an introductory course designed to provide students with the foundational skills necessary to communicate effectively in Spanish. Emphasizing basic vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation, students will develop their abilities in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course also includes an exploration of culture, including music, film, and art to enhance students' understanding of the diverse Spanish-speaking world.

Through interactive activities, dialogues, and multimedia resources, students will engage in practical language use and cultural experiences. By the end of the course, students will be able to carry out simple conversations, understand basic written and spoken Spanish, and appreciate cultural practices and traditions from various Spanish-speaking countries.

Spanish II

Spanish II builds on the foundational skills acquired in Spanish I, advancing students' proficiency in the language. This course focuses on expanding vocabulary and grammar knowledge while improving listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Students will engage with more complex sentences and conversational scenarios, enhancing their ability to communicate in everyday situations.

Cultural studies continue to be an integral part of the course, offering deeper insights into the traditions, customs, and history of Spanish-speaking countries. By the end of the course, students will be able to discuss past and future events, describe experiences, and express opinions with greater confidence and accuracy. ***(Prerequisite: Previous level of the language or teacher and administrative approval)***

Spanish III

Spanish III is an intermediate course designed to further develop students' language skills and cultural knowledge. Emphasizing advanced grammar and vocabulary, students will improve their fluency and accuracy in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course encourages more sophisticated conversation and composition, focusing on themes such as personal identity, community, and global issues.

Students will explore diverse literary and media sources from the Spanish-speaking world, enhancing their comprehension and appreciation of different cultural perspectives. By the end of the course, students will be able to engage in detailed discussions, analyze texts, and write cohesive essays in Spanish. ***(Prerequisite: Previous level of the language or teacher and administrative approval)***

Spanish IV

Spanish IV is an advanced course designed to refine students' language skills and deepen their cultural understanding. This course emphasizes complex grammatical structures and extensive vocabulary, enabling students to achieve a high level of proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will engage in advanced conversations, debates, and presentations on a variety of topics, including social issues, current events, and literary works.

Through the study of authentic texts, films, and other media, students will gain a nuanced understanding of the cultural, historical, and social contexts of the Spanish-speaking world. By the end of the course, students will be able to articulate complex ideas, critically analyze cultural content, and produce sophisticated written and spoken Spanish. ***(Prerequisite: Previous level of the language or teacher and administrative approval)***

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