



**Alliance Gertz-Ressler/Richard Merkin 6-12 Complex
2018-2019 Planned High School AP Course Offerings**



AP English Courses

Course Name	Available to
AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE & COMPOSITION (UC Approved)	11th graders (priority enrollment) and 12th graders

Description

An AP English Language and Composition course cultivates the reading and writing skills that students need for college success and for intellectually responsible civic engagement. The course guides students in becoming curious, critical, and responsive readers of diverse texts, and becoming flexible, reflective writers of texts addressed to diverse audiences for diverse purposes. The reading and writing students do in the course should deepen and expand their understanding of how written language functions rhetorically: to communicate writers' intentions and elicit readers' responses in particular situations. The course cultivates the rhetorical understanding and use of written language by directing students' attention to writer/reader interactions in their reading and writing of various formal and informal genres (e.g., memos, letters, advertisements, political satires, personal narratives, scientific arguments, cultural critiques, research reports). Reading and writing activities in the course also deepen students' knowledge and control of formal conventions of written language (e.g., vocabulary, diction, syntax, spelling, punctuation, paragraphing, genre). The course helps students understand that formal conventions of the English language in its many written and spoken dialects are historically, culturally, and socially produced; that the use of these conventions may intentionally or unintentionally contribute to the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of a piece of writing in a particular rhetorical context; and that a particular set of language conventions defines Standard Written English, the preferred dialect for academic discourse.

Course Name	Available to
AP ENGLISH LITERATURE & COMPOSITION (UC Approved)	12th graders

Description

The AP English Literature and Composition course engages scholars in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature and is intended to give scholars the experience of a typical introductory college literature course. Through the close reading of selected texts, scholars deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to create meaning. It includes intensive study of representative works from various genres, periods, and cultures, concentrating on works of recognized literary merit. Scholars will learn to read deliberately and thoroughly, taking time to understand a work's complexity, to absorb its richness of meaning, and to analyze how that meaning is embodied in literary form. Scholars learn to 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. Scholars will also learn to consider the social and historical values a work reflects and embodies. Writing is also an integral part of the AP English Literature and Composition course. Writing assignments in the course will address the critical analysis of literature and will include expository, analytical, and argumentative essays. In addition, creative-writing assignments will help scholars see from the inside how literature is written. The goal of both types of writing assignments is to increase scholars' ability to explain clearly and cogently what they understand about literary works and how they interpret them.

Application deadline for ALL courses is: Friday, April 27th at 4pm to the College Center.



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AP Math Courses

Course Name	Available to
AP CALCULUS AB (UC Approved)	11th and 12th graders <i>Prerequisite: Passing grade in Pre-Calculus</i>
Description	
This class is the beginning of calculus. Topics covered include functions, limits, continuity, and differentiation rules for elementary functions, trig functions, logarithmic and exponential functions. Applications of the derivative are covered extensively. An introduction to the definite integral and integration are also included.	

Course Name	Available to
AP CALCULUS BC (UC Approved)	12th graders <i>Prerequisite: Passing grade in AP Calculus AB</i>
Description	
This course is designed for students with a strong background in mathematics who want the challenge of a rigorous and fast-paced course in calculus. The content of the course is closely aligned to the College Board course description's outline of topics. The course is equivalent to the first 2 courses (whether semester or quarters) of a college sequence Calculus course.	

AP History Courses

Course Name	Available to
AP EUROPEAN HISTORY (UC Approved)	10th graders (priority enrollment) and 12th graders
Description	
European History Advanced Placement prepares academically-accelerated college-bound students for the College Board's AP national exam. This course is equivalent to a college level introductory course in European history, with an emphasis on the general narrative of European history from 1450. Students should be prepared for a rigorous course requiring approximately 30 pages of weekly college level reading assignments. Students are expected to evaluate historical materials, use and analyze primary sources, and writing examinations. This course fulfills the district Word history requirement.	

Course Name	Available to
AP UNITED STATES HISTORY (UC Approved)	11th graders
Description	
AP U.S. History prepares the academically-accelerated college-bound student for the College Board's AP national exam. AP U.S. History engages students in a detailed study of American history from our earliest origins to the present day. Emphasis is placed on understanding themes, cause/effect relationships and broad examinations of social, political, cultural and economic issues that have shaped our nation. AP U.S. History is an advanced college level course, which emphasizes research, writing, and discussion. Students will be expected to keep up with a rigorous reading schedule that averages 50+ pages per week.	

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Course Name	Available to
AP GOVERNMENT/POLITICS U.S. (UC Approved)	12th graders

Description

This is an accelerated college-level course focusing on the United States Government. Students will undergo a thorough examination of The Constitution, fundamental rights, political system and major governmental institutions. Students will engage in critical analysis of contemporary political events and will be encouraged to begin to develop their own involvement in both social and political institutions. The course prepares students for the May Advanced Placement American Government Exam.

Course Name	Available to
AP COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT (UC Approved)	12th graders <i>(Please note that students who enroll in AP Comparative Government will still need to take AP US Government or US Government in order to satisfy state of CA graduation requirements.)</i>

Description

This course introduces students to the rich diversity of political life outside the United States. The course uses a comparative approach to examine the political structures, policies, and political, economic, and social challenges among six selected countries: Great Britain, Mexico, Russia, Iran, China, and Nigeria. Additionally, students examine how different governments solve similar problems by comparing the effectiveness of approaches to many global issues.

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AP Science Courses

Course Name	Available to
AP BIOLOGY (UC Approved)	11th graders and 12th graders <i>Prerequisite: Passing grade in Biology</i>
Description	
<p>AP Biology is designed to be equivalent to a first year college-level general biology course. Students will study materials presented in a rigorous, biochemical oriented introductory college biology course. Required laboratory experiments are part of the course. Students are expected to be independent learners and to devote extensive studying beyond the basic concepts. Details of molecules, Chemistry, cells, genetics, evolution, organisms and populations are included in this course. Students will be prepared to take the Advanced Placement Biology exam in May.</p>	

Course Name	Available to
AP PHYSICS 1 (UC Approved)	12th graders <i>Prerequisite: Passing grade in Physics</i>
Description	
<p>AP Physics 1 is structured around the “big ideas” of physics, which encompass core scientific principles, theories, and processes of the discipline. The framework encourages instruction that allows students to make connections across domains through a broader way of thinking about the physical world. Big ideas cut across the traditional physics principles and are supported with enduring understandings, which incorporate the core concepts that students should retain from their learning experiences. Students will cultivate their understanding of physics and science practices as they explore the following topics: kinematics, dynamics, circular motion and universal gravitation, simple harmonic motion, linear momentum, energy and conservation of energy, rotational motion, mechanical waves, electrostatics, and DC circuitry. Laboratory work is a key component of the course, with an emphasis on inquiry-based investigations that provide students with opportunities to demonstrate the foundational physics principles and apply all seven science practices defined in the curriculum framework.</p>	

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AP World Language Courses

Course Name	Available to
AP SPANISH LANGUAGE (UC Approved)	10th, 11th, or 12th graders <i>(based on having completed prerequisite coursework with a passing grade)</i>
Description	
<p>The AP Spanish Language course should help prepare students to demonstrate their level of Spanish proficiency across three communicative modes (Interpersonal [Interactive communication], Interpretive [receptive communication], and Presentational [productive communication]), and the five goal areas outlined in the <i>Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century</i> (Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons and Communities). The course is meant to be comparable to third year (fifth or sixth semester) college and university courses that focus on speaking and writing in the target language at an advanced level.</p>	

Course Name	Available to
AP SPANISH LITERATURE (UC Approved)	11th or 12th graders <i>(based on having completed prerequisite coursework with a passing grade)</i>
Description	
<p>The goals of AP Spanish Literature are to prepare students to understand lectures in Spanish and to participate in discussions in Spanish on literary topics, to do a close reading of literary texts of all genres in Spanish, and to analyze critically the form and content of literary works, orally and in writing, using appropriate terminology. The AP Spanish Literature course is intended to be the equivalent of a third-year college Introduction to Hispanic Literature course. It covers authors and works from the literature of Spain and Latin America and centers on the understanding and analysis of literary texts. Students will read works that date from medieval epic poetry to 20th century lyric poetry; from 13th century didactic prose to modern existentialist stories; from Baroque era drama to the plays of Federico Garcia Lorca. By the end of the course, student language ability can generally be equated to that of college students who have completed the typical fifth or sixth semester Spanish Language course in composition, and grammar. AP Spanish Literature promotes and even goes beyond the usual proficiency achieved in the AP Spanish Language course by providing the equivalent of a first content course or, in other words, a survey course.</p>	

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AP Elective Courses

Course Name	Available to
AP STUDIO ART (UC Approved)	11th and 12th graders <i>Prerequisite: Passing grade in Art I</i>
Description	
<p>AP Studio Art is a course for students who are seriously interested in the practical experience of art. AP Studio Art is not based on a written exam; instead students submit portfolios for evaluation at the end of the school year. The AP Studio Art Program consists of three portfolios - 2-D Design, 3-D Design and Drawing - corresponding to the most common college foundation courses. AP Studio Art sets a national standard for performance in the visual arts that allows students to earn college credit and/or advanced placement while still in high school.</p>	

Course Name	Available to
AP COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES (UC Approved)	10th, 11th, and 12th graders (priority enrollment to upper grades) <i>Prerequisite: Passing grade in IM2 (Recommended)</i>
Description	
<p>The Computer Science (CS) Principles course aims to broaden participation in computer science and computing by introducing students to the main concepts of computer science, having them engage in computational thinking practices and learning how computing influences the world. The main goal of the CS Principles course is to provide students a foundation in computer science concepts and practices so that students learn to reason using computational thinking and critical thinking skills. This course will engage students in the problem-solving and creative aspects of the field by creating products that involve the computational process the same way real-world professionals do.</p>	

Course Name	Available to
AP SEMINAR (UC Approved)	10th (priority enrollment) and 11th graders <i>(Please note that students who enroll in AP Seminar are committing to a two-year course sequence called AP Capstone. The first year course is AP Seminar. The second year course is AP Research.)</i>
Description	
<p>Our application to College Board was accepted and we are excited to offer this AP course for the first time in the 2018-2019 school year! The AP Seminar course will promote cross-curricular connections to students' history, science, English, math, and art courses. Additionally, students will be asked to read about and discuss real-world ethical and futuristic issues and analyze divergent perspectives. The bulk of the coursework will allow students to engage in inquiry-based research by consuming a variety of complex texts and speeches. Students will synthesize from various sources in order to present their findings in class discussions, presentations, and written papers. The AP Seminar course will include the following culminating assessments: a Team Project and Presentation, an Individual Research-based Essay and Presentation, and an End-of-Course exam. The second year course, AP Research, will include the following culminating assessments: Academics Paper and a Presentation and Oral Defense.</p>	

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2018-2019 Gertz-Ressler Policy for Dropping an AP Course

At Gertz-Ressler, we are committed to supporting ALL students through challenging coursework in order to prepare them for success in college. If it is agreed upon by multiple stakeholders that a student can not execute the workload or perform the skills necessary to succeed in their advanced placement course load, even when provided with opportunities to receive support (i.e. tutoring, small group study sessions, additional resources, etc.), there are two points in the school year at which students will be able to be transferred out of an AP course:

· **At 5 week mark of the fall semester**, if a student is earning an NP in an AP course, the student will have the option to request to transfer out of the course OR the teacher may suggest that the student be placed on an academic contract for the remainder of the semester if the following steps are taken:

Step 1: Parent and student meet for a conference with a counselor or administrator and the teacher of the course to discuss the student's work ethic, academic performance, and usage of support services (i.e. tutoring).

Step 2: Parent, student, counselor or administrator, and teacher agree that the student needs to be placed on academic contract (to be revisited at end of Fall semester) OR transferred out in order to be placed in a course where they can demonstrate success.

· **At the end of the fall semester**, if a student has earned an NP in an AP course, the student will have the option to request to transfer out of the course OR the teacher may suggest that the student be placed on an academic contract OR transferred out if the following steps are taken:

Step 1: Parent and student meet for a conference with a counselor or administrator and the teacher of the course to discuss the student's work ethic, academic performance, and usage of support services (i.e. tutoring).

Step 2: Parent, student, counselor or administrator, and teacher agree that the student needs to be placed on academic contract for the Spring semester OR transferred out in order to be placed in a course where they can demonstrate success.

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