



An Introduction to the Advanced Placement Program®

St. Pius X- St. Matthias Academy



Welcome

Romans 12:6-8

God has also given each of us different gifts to use.

If we can prophesy, we should do it according to the amount of faith we have.

If we can serve others, we should serve.

If we can teach, we should teach.

If we can encourage others, we should encourage them.

If we can give, we should be generous.

If we are leaders, we should do our best.

If we are good to others, we should do it cheerfully.

Welcome

PMA is committed to every student's success.

We believe access to rigorous coursework such as Advanced Placement[®] (AP[®]) plays an important role in that success.

What We'll Cover

- What are Advanced Placement[®] Courses?
- The Benefits
- AP[®] Exams
- What Is It Like to Take AP?
- Next Steps: Help Your Child Make the Best Choices
- Q & A

AP[®]

What Are Advanced Placement[®] Courses?

Advanced Placement[®] : The Basics

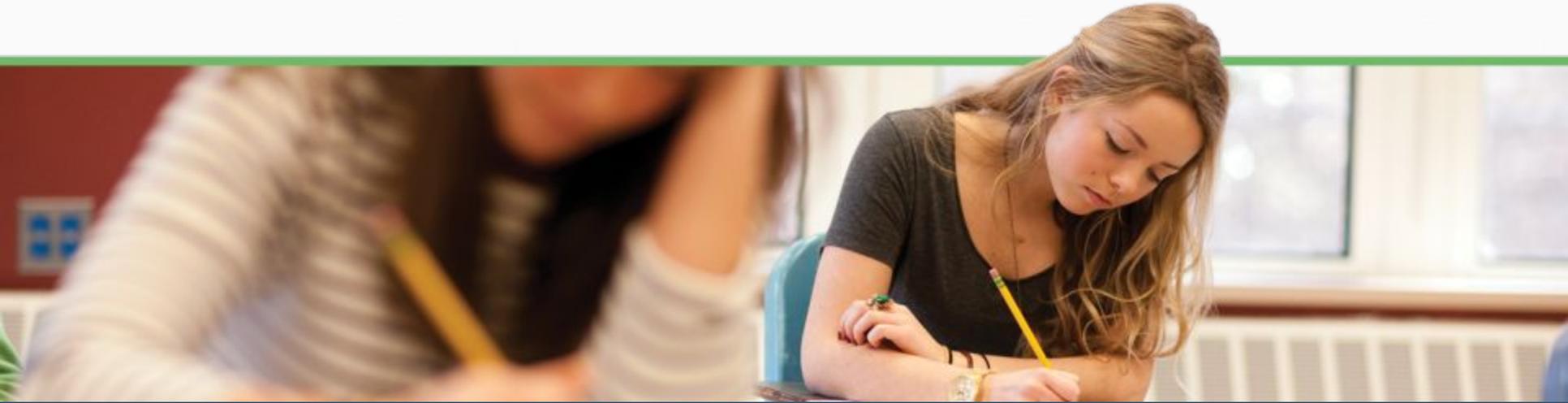
- AP[®] courses are college-level courses offered in high school
- Courses reflect what is taught in top introductory college courses
- Students take **AP Exams** beginning in May, measuring their mastery of college-level work
- A score of 3 or higher on an AP Exam can typically earn students college credit and/or placement into advanced courses in college

AP[®]

AP[®]: The Benefits

AP[®]: The Benefits

- Students learn rigorous college-level content and skills
- Taking AP is valued in the college admission process
- AP courses are interesting and rewarding academic experiences
- Opportunity to earn valuable credit and placement in college



AP[®] from the College Admissions Perspective

- 85% of selective colleges and universities report that a student's AP experience favorably impacts admission decisions*
- Colleges rank grades in college-preparatory courses and strength of curriculum as the two top factors in the admission decision
- AP courses tell college admission officials that students are challenging themselves and preparing for the rigors they'll encounter in their college careers

• **Unpublished institutional research, Crux Research Inc., March 2007*

AP[®]: Skills & Advantages that Last a Lifetime

- Taking an AP course helps students build critical thinking skills, confidence, and the essential time management and study skills needed for college success
- Nationally, research shows that students who score a 3 or higher on an AP Exam typically earn higher grade point averages in college and have higher graduation rates than their non-AP peers*

**2009, The College Board, "The Relationship Between AP Exam Performance and College Outcomes"*

AP[®] Helps Students Graduate on Time & Save Money

- Students who take AP courses and exams are much more likely to complete a college degree on time.* Graduating in four years represents a significant savings on the cost of college.
- Only 1 in 4 college students completes a bachelor's degree in 4 years.
- The average cost of college for a single year is \$23,410** for in-state schools (tuition, fees, room/board, misc. expenses).

*College Outcomes Comparisons by AP and Non-AP High School Experiences, *The College Board, 2008*

***The College Board, Trends in College Pricing 2014, Figure 1*

AP[®]: A More Engaging Learning Experience

AP courses challenge students to work and participate at a higher level:

- Opportunities to explore topics in depth
- More time in and out of the classroom required to complete assignments and projects
- High expectations for critical thinking, analysis, synthesis, evidence, multiple perspectives, and clear written and verbal communications

AP[®]

AP[®] Exams

AP[®] Exams

AP Exams are administered by schools worldwide on set dates in May each year.

- Exams are typically 2–3 hours and include:
 - Multiple-choice questions
 - Free-response items such as essays, problem solving, document-based questions and oral response



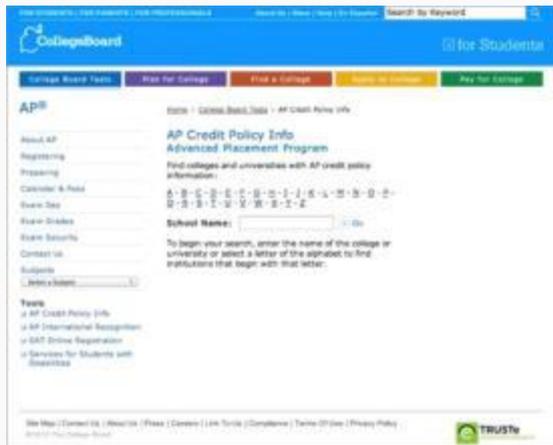
AP[®] Exam Fees

- Cost per exam \$95
- College Board Fee Reduction Program
 - Cost with Fee Reduction is \$65
 - Submit your Federal Eligibility Form in August

***Note: These are projected fees based on the 2018 exam costs. You will be notified in writing by September if fees increase.**

Credit and Placement Opportunities

Each college and university has its own policies regarding AP[®] credit and placement. The College Board offers information about AP credit at thousands of college and universities at www.collegeboard.org/apcreditpolicy.



- Search by school name or alphabetically
- Data for each school includes a direct link to that school's Web page detailing AP credit and placement policies
- A statement from the college or university about its AP policy

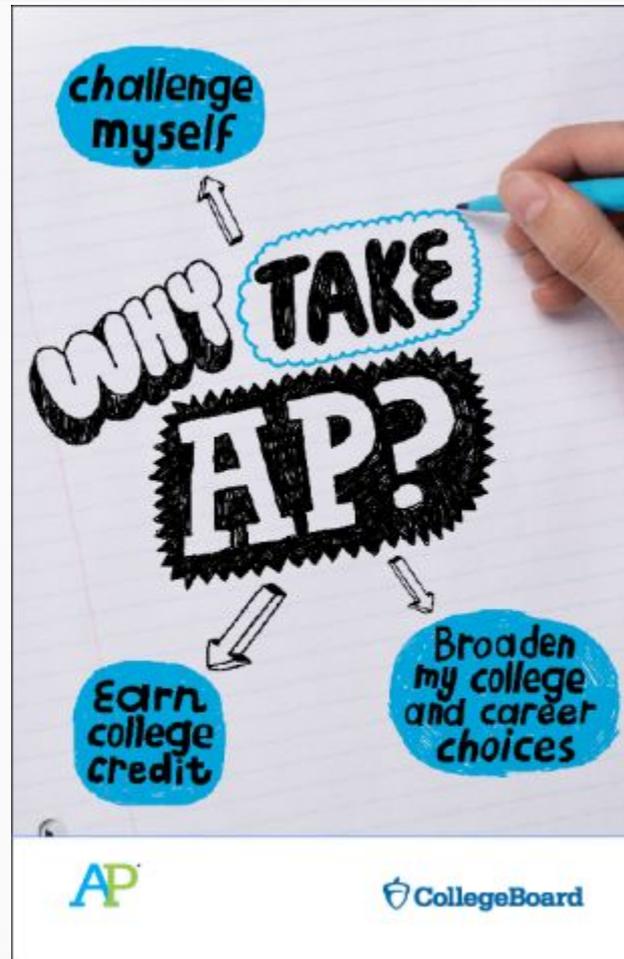
AP[®]

What is it like to take AP[®]?

AP[®] Myths & Realities

Myth	Reality
AP courses are for students who always get good grades.	AP courses are for any students who are academically prepared and motivated to take college-level courses.
AP courses are too stressful.	It's no secret that AP courses are challenging. But the support you receive from your classmates and teachers can help you manage the work load.
I don't think I will score high enough on the AP Exam to get college credit.	You don't need to score a 5. Many colleges grant credit — and placement as well — based on a 3 or higher on an AP Exam.
Taking AP courses could hurt my GPA.	<Describe any extra weighting for AP course grades that your school may offer.> Taking AP courses shows colleges that you're willing to challenge yourself academically.
I can't take AP because no one has recommended me.	If you think you're ready to take an AP course, then you're ready to advocate for yourself — just talk to a teacher or counselor.

Explore AP[®]: Take the Next Step



PMA AP[®] Agreement

[PMA AP Agreement 2018](#)

Due Date: June 15th (to secure spot in the class)

- Remember to submit your Federal Eligibility Form in August (if applicable) for the fee reduction
- Applied to Smart Tuition by 10/5 if not paid before (invoice will be issued in September)
- The AP Exam in May is **REQUIRED**. Mark the test date:

[2019 AP Exam Dates](#)

Our AP[®] Courses

- **English Language & Comp. (11th)**
- **English Literature & Comp (12th)**
- **Spanish Lang. & Culture (10-12th)**
- **Spanish Lit. & Culture (10th -12th)**
- **Calculus AB & BC (11-12th)**
- **European History (10th)**
- **United States History (11th)**
- **US Government & Politics (12th)**
- **Psychology (11th & 12th)**
- **Biology (11 - 12th)**

AP

English Dept.

AP[®] at PMA-- English Department

English Language and Composition

A college course that requires “students to become **SKILLED READERS** of prose written in a variety of rhetorical contexts and **SKILLED WRITERS** who compose for a variety of purposes.”

- “While writing represents a significant component of this course, **THE CORE SKILL REQUIRED IS THE ABILITY TO READ WELL.**”
- **Students most likely to be successful in the course are students who:**
- **Enjoy reading**
- **Comprehend what they read independently**
- **Write without obvious flaws in grammar, usage, and syntax.**
- **Students who enjoy intellectual conversations.**

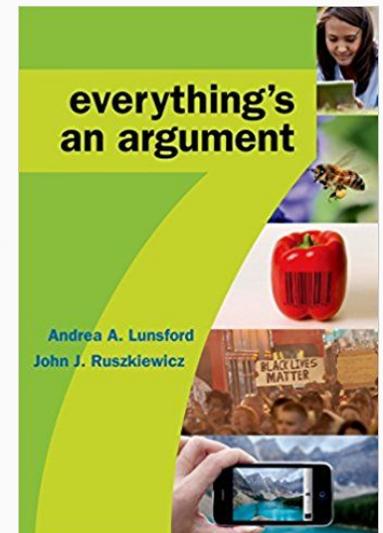
AP[®] at PMA-- English Department

Summer Assignment

- Email Teacher
- Google Classroom Discussion Posts:
 - On Writing Well by William Zinsser
- SOAPStone Analysis of Selected Text:
 - This Boy's Life by Tobias Wolff
 - Woman Warrior by Maxine Hong Kingston
 - Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt

Required Text

- **Textbook:** Everything's an Argument, 7th Edition (ISBN: 978-1-319-08575-9)
- **Novels (1 per quarter):** List will be provided



AP[®] at PMA-- English Department

English Literature and Composition

What makes the course interesting? Summary of course with...

- Engage in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature.
- Close reading of complex texts with a focus on English/British Literature
- Deepen your understanding of the ways writers use language to create meaning.
- 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.

AP[®] at PMA-- English Department

English Literature and Composition

What will I be expected to do over the summer?

- [Summer Assignment & Textbook Information](#)

AP[®]

Mathematics Dept.

AP[®] at PMA-- Mathematics Department

Calculus AB Overview

- **Limits:** The concept of a limit can be used to understand the behavior of functions. Continuity is a key property of functions that is defined using limits
- **Derivatives:** The derivative of a function is defined as the limit of a difference quotient and can be determined using a variety of strategies. A function's derivative, which is itself a function, can be used to understand the behavior of the function. The derivative has multiple interpretations and applications including those that involve instantaneous rates of change. Connecting the Mean Value Theorem to derivatives of a function.
- **Integrals and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus:** Antidifferentiation is the inverse process of differentiation. The definite integral of a function over an interval is the limit of a Riemann sum over that interval and can be calculated using a variety of strategies. Connecting The Fundamental Theorem of Calculus to differentiation and integration...as well as EU 3.4 & EU 3.5

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Challenges of Calculus AB

- **Workload:** Building enduring mathematical understanding requires students to understand the why and how of mathematics in addition to mastering the necessary procedures and skills. The Mathematical Practices for AP Calculus, which explicitly articulate the behaviors in which students need to engage in order to achieve conceptual understanding in the course, are at the core of this curriculum framework.
- **Time Commitment (Outside of Standard Class Time)** both independently, with peers and set scheduled days (tentative) with the instructor.
- **Exam Format:** AP Calculus exam requires a strong conceptual understanding of calculus in conjunction with the application of one or more of the mathematical practices. The exam is 3 hours long and has two sections — multiple choice/grid-in, and free-response weighed 50/50.

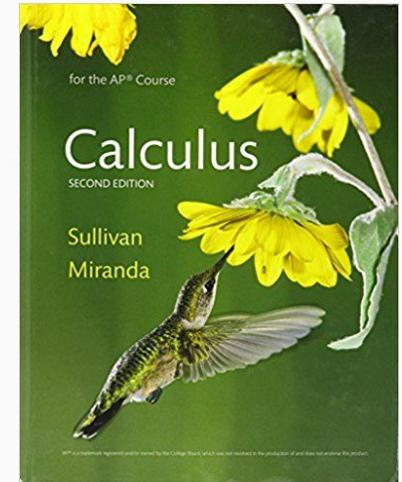
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Summer Assignment

- **Option 1:** Take a trigonometry course over the summer
 - Students that have signed up for the Trigonometry course over the summer will not be required to complete the EdPuzzle summer assignment.
- **Option 2:** Join Google Classroom - **zxl7x8**
 - A set of videos through EdPuzzle related to Trigonometry will be available along with related handouts. You will be tested on Trigonometry on the first day of class.

Required Materials

- **Textbook:** Calculus for the AP Course 2nd Edition, *Sullivan* ISBN 13: 978-1-4641-4226-0
- **Calculator:** Graphing Calculator (TI-84 model)



AP

Science Dept.

AP[®] at PMA-- Science Department

Biology Course Overview

- Students cultivate their understanding of biology through inquiry-based investigations as they explore the following topics: evolution, cellular processes — energy and communication, genetics, information transfer, ecology, and interactions.
- Twenty-five percent of instructional time is devoted to **hands-on laboratory work with an emphasis on inquiry-based investigations**. Investigations require students to ask questions, make observations and predictions, design experiments, analyze data, and construct arguments in a collaborative setting, where they direct and monitor their progress.
- The course is based on **four Big Ideas**, which encompass core scientific principles, theories, and processes that cut across traditional boundaries and provide a broad way of thinking about living organisms and biological systems.

AP[®] at PMA-- Science Department

Challenges of AP Biology

- **Workload:** The range and breadth of content covered in AP Biology is extensive. AP Biology differs significantly from the standards-based, high school biology course with respect to the range and depth of topics covered, the kind of laboratory work performed by students, and the time and effort required of the students.
- **Time Commitment (Outside of Standard Class Time):**
 - Readings and note taking are assigned and expected to be completed before we start content discussion in class.
 - Completion of lab work outside of standard class time (Zero Period & Saturday Sessions)
 - Saturday Practice Exams (April 2019)
- **Exam Format:** AP Biology exam requires extensive knowledge of many different topics and requires immense test stamina. The exam is 3 hours long and has two sections — multiple choice/grid-in, and free-response.

AP[®] at PMA-- Science Department

Summer Assignment

- **Completion of FLINN AP Biology Prep Course Assessments (Units -15).** Students will be required to pass a 20-question assessment at the end of each unit to complete a course. A passing grade for an assessment is (16/20). Students will be allowed to retake an assessment until they reach the necessary 16/20 mark.
- **Completion of handwritten notes from FLINN AP Biology Prep Course (Units 1-15) in a Mead Five Star 5- Subject Spiral Notebook.**

Required Materials

- **Textbook:** Campbell Biology in Focus 1E AP Edition (ISBN-13: 978-0-321-81380)
- **Prep Book:** Pearson Test Prep Series for AP Biology (ISBN-13: 978-0133458145)
- **Lab Manual:** AP Bio Investigative Labs Student Manual (College Board Item #:130085374)
- **Lab Notebook:** Life Science Student Lab Notebook (ISBN 978-1-930882-35-5)

AP Biology Mandatory Summer Prep Meeting
Thursday, May 24, 2018 (1:00pm-1:30pm)

AP

Social Science Dept.

AP[®] at PMA-- Social Science Department

European History Overview

- You will learn about why our world's political climate is the way it is today.
- You will gain an appreciation for the places, cultures, and perspectives of the European continent.
- You will gain an appreciation of history through exploring the role of politics, religion, philosophy, art, music, and literature in European affairs.
- You will learn how to read and write with college-level proficiency.

AP[®] at PMA-- Social Science Department

Challenges of European History

- You will be challenged to think critically about 500 years of European history, including but not limited to: dates, places, names, and historical concepts.
- You will critically read approximately 900 pages of a college-level history textbook
- You will write a 5 page research paper for your spring final exam.
- You will have exams that are timed, including timed-writes.
- You will need to come prepared to every class and be willing to participate in class discussions.

Note: It is important that your decision to take AP Euro is not based on taking a course to be with your friends. This course is challenging so it is important that you are taking this course for your own personal academic growth and that you are personally motivated to take this course.

AP[®] at PMA-- Social Science Department

European History

Summer Assignments

- **Due 6/29** Geography of Europe and the World : Complete a map identifying the political boundaries of Europe and the world (Prior to Reformation and Today)
- **Due 7/27** Read and take Cornell notes on the first chapter of the required textbook (see right)
- **Due 8/20** Read selections from Machiavelli's *The Prince* (See Right)

All assignments are posted with greater detail on our google classroom page. Please Join AP Euro's Google Classroom with this code: **ufd219**

Required Materials

Textbook: [RR. Palmer, *A History of Europe in the Modern World, 11th Edition*](#)

Primary-Source book: [Niccollo Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Skinner and Price \[editors\] \(Edition: Cambridge Texts in the History of Political Thought\).](#)

AP[®] at PMA-- Social Science Department

United States History Overview

- We will review and discuss content that relates to all United States History.
- We will learn how to research, identify and investigate people, themes and critical moments in history.
- We will make historical connections that reveal the practical use of history and its parallels throughout history.

AP[®] at PMA-- Social Science Department

Challenges of United States History

- **Student Preparation and Expectations:**

- The course requires an practiced level of critical thinking that is surrounded by thematic and content.

- **Maintain a consistent schedule:**

- Students that have a separate study and homework schedule can maintain personal and academic objectives and expectations.

AP[®] at PMA-- Social Science Department

Summer Assignment

Summer assignment will be available on google classroom.

Join Google Classroom to access summer assignment by June 7th.

Google Classroom Code: fit4jw

Required Materials

- **Textbook:** [A People's History of the United States \(Paperback\)](#) (ISBN-13-978-0062397348)
- **Prep Book:** [Princeton Review U.S. History AP Prepbook](#) (ISBN-13: 978-1524758158)

AP[®] at PMA-- Social Science Department

US Government & Politics Overview

- AP U.S. Government & Politics will give students an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States.
- Course includes both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. government and politics and the analysis of specific examples.
- Requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs and ideas that constitute U.S. government and politics.

Course Objectives:

- Describe and compare important facts, concepts, and theories pertaining to U.S. government and politics.
- Explain typical patterns of political processes and behavior and their consequences.
- Interpret basic data relevant to U.S. Government and politics.
- Critically analyze relevant theories and concepts, apply them appropriately and develop their connections across the curriculum.

AP[®] at PMA-- Social Science Department

Challenges of US Government & Politics

- Students will be held accountable for all information with various forms of evaluation and assessment. Students are expected to keep accurate and neat notes which will be studied for at least 15 minutes each night as assigned homework. Reading the assigned material is extremely important.
- Students are expected to follow news items of national and international importance. Each exam will have at least one essay question requiring students to reflect on current political news. In addition, many thoughtful students sometimes wonder how much they can trust information about politics they encounter when viewing political ads and reading political editorials. They also worry about the objectivity of media news reports. As a citizen and a student they not only should consider examining many different perspectives and sources of information.

AP[®] at PMA-- Social Science Department

US Government & Politics

Summer Assignment

Summer assignment will be available on google classroom.

Join Google Classroom to access summer assignment by June 7th.

Google Classroom Join Code: **oite97w**

Required Materials

- **Textbook:** Government in America, Edwards & Wattenberg, 2016 – AP Edition
- **Prep Book:** Barron's AP U.S. Government and Politics Test Preparation Study Guide

AP[®] at PMA-- Social Science Department

Psychology Overview

- A systematic introduction to the study of the behavioral and mental process of both human beings and other animals.
- Students are exposed to the psychological principles and phenomena associated with the major subfields within the discipline.
- Students will study the methods used in professional research and practice.

AP[®] at PMA-- Social Science Department

Challenges of AP Psychology

● **Workload:**

- The range and breadth of content covered in AP Psychology is extensive and requires students to do a lot of independent study to understand the concepts at hand.
- The workload is fast pace and students must stay organized and complete all assigned work
- Students will conduct their own research experiment and write a research APA paper
- This class will involve a lot of writing to help in preparation for the AP Exam
- There will be quizzes almost every week and tests at the end of each unit

● **Time Commitment (Outside of Standard Class Time):**

- Readings and note taking are assigned and expected to be completed before we start the unit in class. Lecture and class discussions are to add to further understanding of the content.
- Saturday Practice Exams (April 2019)

● **Exam Format:**

- AP Psychology exam requires extensive knowledge of many different topics and requires immense test stamina. The exam is 2 hours long and has two sections — multiple choice/grid-in, and free-response.

AP[®] at PMA-- Social Science Department

Psychology

Summer Assignment

Summer assignment available on google classroom.

[Summer Assignments](#)

3 Major assignments with Due dates
June 30, July 15, July 30

Google Classroom Join Code:

slki3m

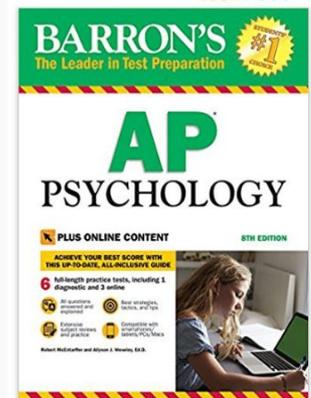
Required Materials

Textbook: Will be provided on GC PDF

Prep book: Barron's AP Psychology 8th ed

Cost is less than \$20 on Amazon

Must purchase to be able
to do the summer
assignment #1 (Due 6/30)



ISBN-13: 978-1438010694

ISBN-10: 1438010699

AP

World Languages Dept.

AP[®] at PMA-- World Languages Department

Spanish Language and Culture Overview

Emphasizes communication (understanding and being understood by others) by applying the interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes of communication in real-life situations. This includes vocabulary usage, language control, communication strategies, and cultural awareness.

Engages students in an exploration of culture in both contemporary and historical contexts. The course develops students' awareness and appreciation of cultural products (e.g., tools, books, music, laws, conventions, institutions); practices (patterns of social interactions within a culture); and perspectives (values, attitudes, and assumptions).

Structured around six themes:

- Beauty and Aesthetics
- Contemporary Life
- Families and Communities
- Global Challenges
- Personal and Public Identities
- Science and Technology

AP[®] at PMA-- World Languages Department

Challenges of Spanish Language and Culture

- You will need to make cultural comparisons between your community and a community, region or country in the Spanish-speaking world
- You will be challenged improve your written interpersonal communication skills by writing about your opinions on topics relevant to the Spanish-speaking world
- You will learn how to improve your interpretive communication skills by reading and writing about current events in the Spanish-speaking world

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Spanish Language and Culture

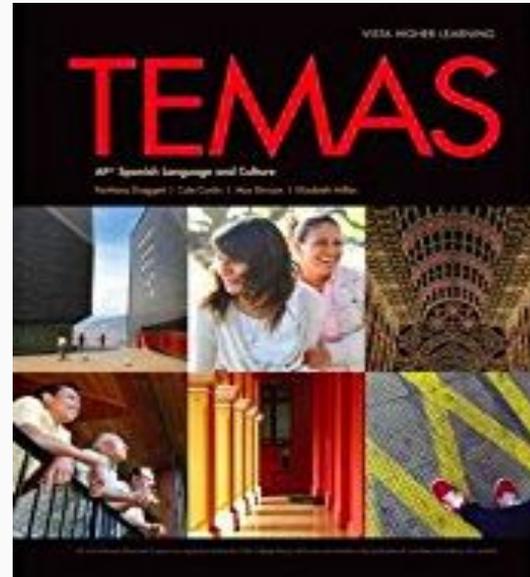
Summer Assignment

Summer assignment will be available on google classroom. Join Google Classroom to access summer assignment.

Google Classroom Join Code: **7AEOJK**

Required Materials

- **Textbook: *Temas*** (ISBN: 978-1-61857-244-8)



AP[®] at PMA-- World Languages Department

Spanish Literature and Culture Overview

- This course covers the evolution of Spanish literature. We cover the Spanish written in the 1300s up to present time.
- We analyze each text through history, art, politics and the literary devices used to conceive it and bring it to fruition.

The course is divided into 6 themes which are:

1. Societies in contact / *Sociedades en contacto*
2. Interpersonal relationships / *Las relaciones interpersonales*
3. Time and Space/ *El tiempo y el espacio*
4. The construction of genre/ *La construcción de género*
5. The duality of being/ *La dualidad del ser*
6. The creation of literature/ *La creación literaria*

AP[®] at PMA-- World Languages Department

Challenges of Spanish Literature and Culture

- Reading a literary text as a socio-political piece.
- Using art to understand the text and the society for which the text was created.
- Reading all of the genres and 38 authentic texts, meant to be written in Spanish for a Spanish speaking audience, in a short amount of time.
- Seeing the themes across the 38 authors and texts.

AP[®] at PMA-- World Languages Department

Spanish Literature and Culture

Summer Assignment

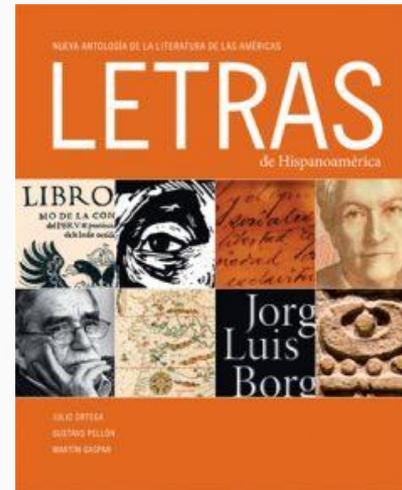
Summer assignment will be available on google classroom. Join Google Classroom to access summer assignment.

Google Classroom Join Code: **sglpmz**

There are three assignments that will help you to understand the themes before the class starts. You will be tested on this information the first day of class.

Required Materials

- **Textbook:** *Letras de Hispanoamérica : nueva antología de la literatura de las Américas* (ISBN: 9781618571731 1618571737)



AP[®]

Questions and Answers