

# ADVANCED PLACEMENT

The college application process is more competitive than ever before. Therefore, colleges and universities have prioritized the importance of student course load above standardized test scores and extra curricular activities. Advanced Placement (AP) courses are among the most challenging in the country, with a standardized curriculum and exit examination. If you intend to go to a four year college or university, you need to be prepared to take several AP courses throughout your high school career.

Advanced Placement courses are challenging and time consuming. There is an emphasis on reading for comprehension, writing, and critical thinking. Before enrolling in an AP course, understand it is a substantial commitment you must make. Throughout the curriculum guide, we have set minimum prerequisites for all of our courses, including AP. Even if you meet these prerequisites, you still need to understand that AP courses are challenging in both content and time commitment. With that said, **no** other courses will prepare you for the rigor of college like AP. Research shows that students who take AP courses in high school are more successful at the college and university level.

## **Advanced Placement Test (AP)**

This test is given at the completion of an advanced placement course in May of each year. Scores range from 1 to 5 and are mailed to the student, high school, and specified colleges. A score of 3 or higher may result in the award of college credit hours by most colleges and universities. Students should inquire at the college they wish to attend about acceptance of Advanced Placement credit.

Taking an AP course not only prepares you for college but depending on your AP score, it can earn you college credits. Students can earn between 3 to 9 college credits depending on the AP exam taken here at Apopka High. Check with the college or university you plan to attend for exact awards.

Students are required to take the AP exam at no cost. Failure to take the scheduled AP exam, however, will result in a student reimbursing \$65 to Apopka High School.

## **Freshmen Courses**

### **AP Human Geography**

**2103400**

**1 Credit**

The purpose of the AP course in Human Geography is to introduce 9th grade students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human social organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their science and practice. Students will take an AP test at the end of the year.

## **Sophomore Courses**

### **AP World History**

**2109420**

**1 Credit**

A course designed to develop greater understanding of the evolution of global processes and contacts in interaction with different types of human societies. This understanding is deepened through a combination of selective factual knowledge and appropriate analytical skills. The course highlights the nature of changes in international frameworks and their causes and consequences, as well as comparisons of major societies. Students will take an AP test at the end of the year.

## **Junior Courses**

### **A.P. English Language**

**1001420**

**1 Credit**

Written assignments totaling at least 12,000 words are required for successful completion of this college-level course. This course emphasizes use of levels of diction, variety of sentence structure, logical and functional relationships, modes and aims of discourse, various rhetorical strategies in writing, and awareness of audience. The course is fast-paced and requires constant reading and writing. Students should be consistently good writers and should have mastered the basics of English grammar and composition.

### **A.P. United States History**

**2100330**

**1 Credit**

This is a college-level course designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in United States history. This course is a two-semester survey of U.S. History from the Age of Exploration to our present time that can earn a student up to six college credits. Through in-depth study, students will learn to assess historical materials, their relevance to a given interpretive problem, their reliability and their importance, and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. The course will involve challenging reading and writing assignments and heavy emphasis will be placed on the use of outside primary and secondary sources. The pace of the course is fast and students are expected to have strong reading and writing skills.

## Senior Courses

**A.P. English Literature                      1001430                      1 Credit**

Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition is a seminar course designed to develop the student's abilities as an independent reader and writer. The course is a college-level class; upon successful completion of course work and a passing score on the AP exam in May, the student may qualify for up to one year's credit at his/her college. AP English Lit is both demanding and intellectually stimulating. Reading and writing assignments are important features of this course. Classroom discussion and active participation are vital and serve as a means of testing ideas. Through various class activities, especially student-conducted seminars, the teacher acts as facilitator, allowing the student to assume responsibility for learning.

**AP Macroeconomics                      2102370                      0.5 Credit**

*Prerequisites: Algebra 2*

An AP course in Macroeconomics is designed to give you a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. Such a course places particular emphasis on the study of national income and price determination, and also develops your familiarity with economic performance measures, economic growth, and international economics. Students will take an AP test at the end of the year.

**AP U.S. Government & Politics/Economics Honors    2106420                      1 Credit**

AP U.S. Government & Politics is a college-level course designed to provide students with an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. This rigorous course will focus on general concepts and theories pertaining to U.S. government, typical patterns of political processes and behavior, the institutions, groups and beliefs that comprise the American political system, and citizen's rights and responsibilities in a democratic society. One of the aspects that separates this AP course from other American government courses is the focus on politics. Students are expected to have strong reading, critical thinking, and writing skills. Students who take AP U.S. Government & Politics will also take Economics (Honors) from the same instructor. Both Economics and Government are one-semester classes. Economics (Honors) will be completed before the end of the first semester and the study of AP U.S. Government & Politics will begin then and carry on for the remainder of the school year. This will provide students with additional time for study of the government curriculum and a better opportunity to be successful on the AP U.S. Government & Politics exam in May.

### **Courses that can be taken if prerequisites are met Sophomore/Junior/Senior year:**

**AP Art History                      0100300                      1 Credit**

This course covers the history of art from prehistoric man to modern art. College credit (humanities) can be earned for those students who earn passing marks on the national AP test. This is not a course to create art, but rather to study the history of art, artistic movements and great works.

**A.P. Biology                      2000340                      1 Credit**

*Prerequisites: Chemistry Honors recommended Biology Honors*

This course is designed to be the equivalent of the biology majors course usually taken during the first year in college. In depth laboratory work is an important component for successful completion of the course. Students take the AP test in the spring.

**A.P. Calculus AB/BC                      1202310/1202320                      1 Credit**

These courses are equivalent to college level courses. Topics include elementary functions, limits, differential calculus, related rates, and integral calculus, all coupled with applications. Graphing calculators are required. Students take the AP test in the spring.

**A.P. Chemistry                      2003370                      1 Credit**

*Prerequisites: Chemistry Honors*

Topics include, but are not limited to, atomic theory, chemical bonding, molecular geometry, gas laws, solutions, stoichiometry, equilibrium, chemical kinetics, and thermodynamics. Students take the AP test in the spring.

## Courses that can be taken if prerequisites are met Sophomore/Junior/Senior year:

### **A.P. Environmental Science 2001380 1 Credits**

A college-level course emphasizing the sustainability of our resources and human induced pollution. College level lab and field work are a part of the course. Students take the AP test in the spring.

### **AP European History 2109380 1 Credit**

This college level survey course focuses on analytical skills and factual knowledge to deal critically with problems, content and materials of European historic development. Students will take an AP test at the end of the year.

### **AP Macroeconomics/Microeconomics 2102370/60 1 Credit**

*Prerequisites: Algebra 2*

Students will be enrolled in both classes and will take two AP tests in May. An AP course in Macroeconomics is designed to give you a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. Such a course places particular emphasis on the study of national income and price determination, and also develops your familiarity with economic performance measures, economic growth, and international economics. The purpose of an AP course in Microeconomics is to provide a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to the functions of individual decision makers, both consumers and producers, within the larger economic system. It places primary emphasis on the nature and functions of product markets, and includes the study of factor markets and of the role of government in promoting greater efficiency and equity in the economy.

### **A.P. Physics B 2003420 1 Credit**

*Prerequisite: Physics Honors is recommended but not required. Math Analysis, Pre-Calc, AP Calc, and AP Statistics can be taken concurrently.*

The course is designed to provide a systematic introduction to the main principles of classical and modern physics and emphasizes the development of problem-solving ability. The content will include, but not be limited to, Newtonian mechanics, thermal physics, fluid dynamics, electro magnetism, wave and optics, and modern physics. Students take the AP test in the spring.

### **A.P. Physics C – Mechanics, Electricity and Magnetism 2003430 1 Credit**

*Prerequisite: Physics Honors or AP Physics B is highly recommended. Must be enrolled in AP Calculus concurrently.*

This course is intended for students planning scientific or engineering careers and has two parts: mechanics and electricity and magnetism. Both parts will have a separate AP test. This course is designed for serious, self-motivated, successful science and math students seeking a challenge with the rewards of possible college credit. Students can expect a strong lab component throughout the course. Students take the AP test in the spring.

### **AP Psychology 2107350 1 Credit**

The purpose of the AP course in psychology is to introduce the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and the mental process of human beings and other animals. Included is a consideration of the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. Students also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice. Students will take an AP test at the end of the year.

### **A.P. Statistics 1210320 1 Credit**

*Prerequisites: Analysis of Function*

This course is designed for motivated, college bound student. The course is equivalent to an introductory college course in statistics. Topics covered involve the study of descriptive and inferential statistics and probability. The course follows the College Board Advanced Placement outline to prepare for the A.P. Statistics exam given near the end of the course. Graphing calculators are used

## Courses Requiring Instructor Approval

### AP Music Theory

1300330

1 Credit

*Prerequisite: Instructor Approval*

AP Music Theory is an intensive study of the melodic and harmonic structure of music from the 1500's through the present day including notation, ear training, and sight singing. All students are required to have some previous experience in instrumental or vocal music. A background in private piano is also acceptable. At a minimum, students must demonstrate the ability to read music and are expected to sit for the AP Music Theory exam administered in May by the College Board.

### AP French Language

0701380

1 Credit

*Prerequisite: Instructor Approval*

Develops student's oral and written fluency in the language, including concepts determined by the Advanced Placement Program. Students will take the advanced placement exam in May.

### AP Spanish Language

0708400

1 Credit

*Prerequisite: Instructor Approval*

Develops student's oral and written fluency in the language, including concepts determined by the Advanced Placement Program. Students will take the advanced placement exam in May.

### AP Studio 2D

0109350

1 Credit

*Prerequisites: Drawing I and Teacher Approval*

Students may focus on drawing or painting skills or they may focus on the design aspects of 2D art. AP Art is a studio art class that stresses the creation of art with a concentration on individual style and subjects (summer work required).

### AP Drawing/Portfolio

0104300

1 Credit

*Prerequisites: Drawing I and II, Teacher Approval*

College level drawing course. A collection of past art work is required for evaluation and approval in order to be admitted into class.

### AP Studio 3D

0109360

1 Credit

*Prerequisites: Ceramics I and teacher approval*

Students will focus on three dimensional mediums to create a college level portfolio utilizing central design concepts. AP Art is a studio art class that stresses the creation of art with a concentration on individual style and subjects (summer work required).