

Advanced Placement Courses

Advanced Placement courses are taught at a college level and provide a student high school credit as well as the opportunity to earn college credit. In order to earn college credit, the student must attain a specific score on the AP exam and attend a college or university that recognizes the Advanced Placement Program. Taking the exam is required for all AP students; the cost is approximately \$90. AP Grades are weighted using a 5.0 scale. Students considering more than one AP course should consider taking one and a half study halls. Students with three AP courses should take two full study halls. All AP Courses require a teacher recommendation.

AP Calculus

Prerequisites: "A"s or "B"s in Pre-Calculus, Teacher Recommendation

AP Calculus centers on the concept of a limit that is fundamental to the 3 main topics studied: continuity, derivatives, and integrals. This course will focus on applications of derivatives, techniques of integration, and application of integrals. Students will also be introduced to sequences, series, and differential equations.

- Homework – Students will have at least one hour of homework / night.
- Summer requirements – none
- Spring requirements – Students meet one Sunday in April.

AP English Literature

Prerequisites: Teacher Recommendation

AP English seasons gifted student thinkers in the reading & critical analysis of literature, with the goal of inspiring them to use literature & their own writing voice as a powerful apologetic for the Christian faith. The literature studied by the students will take them on a literary tour of God's redemptive plan in history – i.e.: the paradise of creation, creation's fall, ensuing conflict, the wonder of redemption, the implications of grace, & a future hope. Toward that end, students will read both Christian & secular texts, such as: Paradise Lost, The Picture of Dorian Gray, Heart of Darkness, The Power and the Glory, Grapes of Wrath, Cry the Beloved Country, & The Great Divorce. The composition portion of the course stresses the mastery of writing skills – namely, ordering ideas into logical patterns, developing ideas with keen insight and analysis, and effectively communicating ideas to the reader with clarity and voice.

- Homework – Students have 1-1½ hours of homework each night depending on their reading speed.
- Summer requirements – Students read 4r novels & some selected anthology pieces. In the summer they meet & discuss these works.
- Spring requirements – Students meet one Saturday in April.

AP Government

Prerequisites: Teacher Recommendation

The main difference between AP Government and regular Government will be the level of reading and writing required by AP students. This course is designed to analyze the theory and practice of political institutions. Emphasis is placed on the themes of American government as a republic, federalism, separation of powers, checks and balances, and civic participation and responsibility. These themes assist the understanding of the American system of government and the impact it has had on other governments. This course also examines the Biblical Christian worldview in contrast to the humanistic worldviews of Secular Humanism, Marxism/Leninism, and Cosmic Humanism. This course also surveys the essential areas of study of theology, philosophy, law, politics, economics, and history.

- Homework – Students should expect approximately one hour of homework each night.
- Summer requirements – Students will be assigned several reading portions for the summer.
- Spring requirements – Students meet one Sunday in April.

AP Environmental Science

(Teacher Recommendation Required)

Prerequisite: A's and B's in Chemistry

AP Environmental Science is designed for any student interested in living out God's mandate to be good stewards of our world. This course is intended to enable students to undertake, as first-year college students, a more advanced study of environmental topics, or, alternatively, to fulfill a basic laboratory science requirement. Unlike most other AP science courses, this course is an interdisciplinary one, covering life, earth and physical sciences with topics in geology, biology, environmental studies and science, chemistry, and geography. This course will include all of these disciplines, but will be taught with an emphasis on the life sciences. It will provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving or preventing them. This course has a strong laboratory emphasis, so one day each week a study hall will be used to complete laboratory work. There may also be some time required outside of class for field work.

- Homework – Students should expect at least one hour of homework each night
- Summer requirements – Students will be assigned several reading selections for the summer and should come to class ready to discuss these on the first day of school. Students will also be asked to review several ideas for field study options (or come up with one of their own) that may be completed by our class during the year.
- Spring requirements – None

AP European History

Prerequisites: U.S. History; Western Civilization History; Teacher Recommendation

AP European History is a rigorous survey history course which addresses Europe from 1450 to the present. The course develops the major themes of political and economic history as well as nationalism, internationalism, the many components of cultures and specific focus on the role of Christianity. Implicit to the course is the on-going consideration of why this time period and place deserve an advanced placement course. The course is constructed around a secondary text and supplemented by a wide collection of original sources to aid in the development of the historical method of study. The final responsibility in the course will be a final examination which is a predictive paper on a specific of Europe in the next five years. Ultimately, the course will offer the student the opportunity to learn a great deal of history; to operate in a college level academic environment and to be prepared to do well on the Advanced Placement test in May.

- Homework: A student should figure on 1-1½ hours of outside study for each class period.
- Summer Requirements: There is a summer reading and writing requirement which is due the first day of class.
- Spring Requirements: none