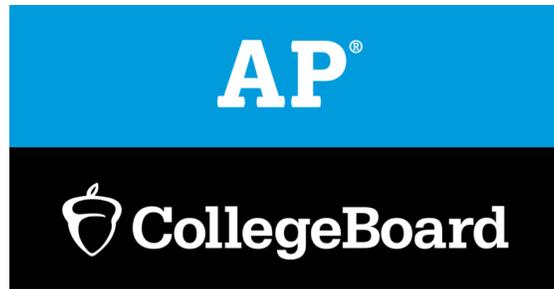




CollegeBoard

Advanced Placement
Program

Seckinger High School
AP Course Catalog
SY 2024-2025



Advanced Placement (AP) is a program for college-level courses and exams that gives high school students the opportunity to receive advanced placement and/or credit in college. About 1.2 million students participate in the AP Program each year, usually through an AP course.

What are AP Courses?

AP courses are introductory college courses, so they are not easy, but neither are they impossibly difficult. An AP course will be more demanding than a regular high school course. They often require more time and work, but the AP courses give you greater depth. A student should realize that taking an AP class is a serious commitment. Students should give careful thought to which and how many AP courses to take in one year. The purpose of this booklet is to help students clearly understand course requirements and expectations.

For students from many backgrounds, the challenge of AP courses helps to focus students' interests as they begin to plan for their future. In fact, recent research following AP students into college shows that these students are more likely than other students to take additional courses in the academic departments for which they received AP credit, and to major in the subject of their AP course work. AP courses, modeled on rigorous, evidence-based standards, give students the preparation they need to not only enter college but to graduate.

Why Participate?

With many courses to choose from, AP offers something for everyone. The only requirements are a strong curiosity about the subject you plan to study and the willingness to work hard. Here are just a few reasons to take on the challenge:

Broaden Your Intellectual Horizon

- Explore the world from a variety of perspectives, most importantly your own.
- Study subjects in greater depth and detail.
- Assume the responsibility of reasoning, analyzing, and understanding for yourself.

Gain the Edge in College Preparation

- Get a head start on college-level work.
- Improve your writing skills and sharpen your problem solving techniques.

- Develop the study habits necessary for tackling rigorous course work.

Stand Out in the College Admissions Process:

- Demonstrate your maturity and readiness for college.
- Show your willingness to push yourself to the limit.
- Emphasize your commitment to academic excellence.

It is important to Note

As students plan their schedules, they should also consider time commitments required in extracurricular and outside activities. Carefully review the course descriptions before you make your decisions.

Why take an AP Exam?

Satisfactory grades on AP examinations offer many benefits, which may enhance your applications for college admissions, placement, and scholarships. You may also receive college credit based on your AP scores.

AP exams are administered each year in May. An exam contains both multiple-choice and free-response questions that require essay writing, problem solving, and other skills. Every examination receives an overall grade on a five-point scale.

AP Exam Score Scale:

- 5 – Extremely Well Qualified
- 4 – Well Qualified
- 3 – Qualified
- 2 – Possibly qualified
- 1 – No recommendation

AP Grade Reports are sent in July to each student's home address, high school, and if the student has requested it, to the designated colleges. Each college decides how much credit to award for AP scores. You can find this information for the college(s) you are interested in by using the AP Credit Policy search at www.collegeboard.com/ap/creditpolicy.

Seckinger High School

AP Course Catalog

SY 2024-2025

<p style="text-align: center;">Mathematics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AP Calculus AB ● AP Calculus BC ● AP Precalculus ● AP Statistics 	<p style="text-align: center;">Computer Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AP Computer Science A ● AP Computer Science Principles 	<p style="text-align: center;">Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AP Biology ● AP Chemistry ● AP Environmental Science ● AP Physics I ● AP Physics C: Mechanical
<p style="text-align: center;">Language Arts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AP English Language & Composition ● AP English Literature 	<p style="text-align: center;">Social Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AP American Government ● AP Human Geography ● AP Macroeconomics ● AP Psychology ● AP U.S. History ● AP World History 	<p style="text-align: center;">World Languages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AP French ● AP Spanish
<p style="text-align: center;">Fine Arts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AP Art History ● AP Studio Art 2D Design ● AP Studio Art - Drawing 	<p style="text-align: center;">AP Capstone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AP Research ● AP Seminar 	<p style="text-align: center;">Contact Seckinger High School:</p> <p>Chris Bess - Assistant Principal Phone: (678) 288-0834 Email: chris.bess@gcpsk12.org</p>

Visit College Board AP Course Descriptions
<https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/courses>



AP Course Offerings
Mathematics

AP Calculus AB

Course Description:

AP Calculus AB is roughly equivalent to a first semester college calculus course devoted to topics in differential and integral calculus. The AP course covers topics in these areas, including concepts and skills of limits, derivatives, definite integrals, and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. The course teaches students to approach calculus concepts and problems when they are represented graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally, and to make connections amongst these representations. Teachers and students regularly use technology to reinforce relationships among functions, to confirm written work, to implement experimentation, and to assist in interpreting results. Through the use of the unifying themes of calculus (e.g., derivatives, integrals, limits, approximation, and applications and modeling) the course becomes cohesive rather than a collection of unrelated topics.

Specific Skills for Success

Before studying calculus, all students should complete four years of secondary mathematics designed for college-bound students: courses in which they study algebra, geometry, trigonometry, analytic geometry, and elementary functions. These functions include linear, polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, trigonometric, inverse trigonometric, and piecewise-defined functions.

In particular, before studying calculus, students must be familiar with the properties of functions, the algebra of functions, and the graphs of functions.

Students must also understand the language of functions (domain and range, odd and even, periodic, symmetry, zeros, intercepts, and so on) and know the values of the trigonometric functions at various numbers.

Expectations Outside of Class OR Out of Class Commitments

Homework is assigned daily but is not collected. There is the expectation that it will be completed lest exam performance suffer.

This is your chance to enhance your ability to be proactive and personally responsible for your own learning.

Summer assignment? Yes

Textbooks and Resources: Calculus for the AP Course 3rd Edition by Sullivan and Miranda

- Access to a TI-nSpire/TI-84 outside of class is required

Supplemental Textbooks: Study Guides, and/or Resources (in addition to e-class):

College Board website: <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-calculus-ab>

Paul's Online Calculus Notes: <https://tutorial.math.lamar.edu/Classes/Calcl/Calcl.aspx>

Contact Person: Lauri Springer

Teacher Name: Raluca Buzangia

Teacher Email address: Raluca.Buzangia@gcpsk12.org

AP Calculus BC

Course Description:

AP Calculus BC is roughly equivalent to both first and second semester college calculus courses and extends the content learned in AB to different types of equations and introduces the topic of sequences and series. The AP course covers topics in differential and integral calculus, including concepts and skills of limits, derivatives, definite integrals, the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus, and series. The course teaches students to approach calculus concepts and problems when they are represented graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally, and to make connections amongst these representations. Students learn how to use technology to help solve problems, experiment, interpret results, and support conclusions.

Specific Skills for Success:

Before studying calculus, all students should complete four years of secondary mathematics designed for college-bound students: courses in which they study algebra, geometry, trigonometry, analytic geometry, and elementary functions. These functions include linear, polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, trigonometric, inverse trigonometric, and piecewise-defined functions. In particular, before studying calculus, students must be familiar with the properties of functions, the algebra of functions, and the graphs of functions. Students must also understand the language of functions (domain and range, odd and even, periodic, symmetry, zeros, intercepts, and so on) and know the values of the trigonometric functions at various numbers.

Expectations Outside of Class OR Out of Class Commitments:

Homework is assigned daily but is not collected. There is the expectation that it will be completed lest exam performance suffer. This is your chance to enhance your ability to be proactive and personally responsible for your own learning. There is no summer assignment.

Summer assignment? n/a

Textbooks and Resources: Prentice Hall: Calculus – Graphical, Numerical, Algebraic, 3rd ed.

Supplemental Textbooks, Study Guides, and/or Resources:

- Access to a TI-nSpire/TI-84 outside of class is required

College Board website: <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-calculus-bc>

Contact Person: Lauri Springer

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AP Statistics

Course Description:

In AP Statistics, students will learn how to collect, organize, analyze, and interpret data. Students will learn the content while working on several real-world projects throughout the school year. These projects reinforce the content while displaying how Statistics is becoming an increasingly important field in today's society.

Specific Skills for Success

AP Statistics is for students on an advanced track in mathematics who have already taken their second year of algebra. AP Statistics brings the real world and the math world together in a way that other math courses do not, requiring students to be able to reason both quantitatively and qualitatively.

Expectations Outside of Class OR Out of Class Commitments

Students should be prepared for at least 1 hour of studying and/or homework per night. AP Statistics is a college level course with a lot of curriculum to cover. Students will also be expected to complete projects in small groups throughout the year outside of class.

Summer assignment? No

Textbooks and Resources:

Bock, Velleman, De Veaux. Stats Modeling the World. 3rd ed. Boston: Addison Wesley, 2010.

Supplemental Textbooks, Study Guides, and/or Resources:

5 Steps to a 5 AP Statistics study guide

Barron's AP Statistics study guide

Access to a TI-nSpire/TI-84 outside of class is required

Contact Person:

Lauri Springer Lauri.Springer@gcpsk12.org

Aaron VanKempen Aaron.Vankempen@gcpsk12.org

AP Precalculus

Course Description:

AP Precalculus is designed to be the equivalent of a first semester college precalculus course. AP Precalculus provides students with an understanding of the concepts of college algebra, trigonometry,

and additional topics that prepare students for further college level mathematics courses. This course explores a variety of function types and their applications—polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, trigonometric, polar, parametric, vector-valued, implicitly defined, and linear transformation functions using matrices.

Specific Skills for Success

Before studying precalculus, all students should develop proficiency in topics typically found in the Algebra 1-Geometry-Algebra 2 (AGA) content sequence. Students should have developed proficiency with manipulating, solving, and graphing linear, quadratic and polynomial functions. Students should be proficient in solving systems of equations in two and three variables. Students should have proficiency with solving right triangle problems involving trigonometry. They should also be familiar with radicals, complex numbers, and working with piecewise defined functions.

Expectations Outside of Class OR Out of Class Commitments

Homework is assigned daily but is not collected. There is the expectation that it will be completed lest exam performance suffer.

This is your chance to enhance your ability to be proactive and personally responsible for your own learning.

Summer assignment? Yes

Textbooks and Resources:

Precalculus with Limits: A Graphing Approach, 8th, Student Edition

Access to a TI-nSpire/TI-84 outside of class is required

Contact Person:

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AP Course Offerings
Computer Science

AP Computer Science Principles

Course Description:

AP Computer Science Principles is an introductory college-level computing course that introduces students to the breadth of the field of computer science. Students learn to design and evaluate solutions and to apply computer science to solve problems through the development of algorithms and programs. They incorporate abstraction into programs and use data to discover new knowledge. Students also explain how computing innovations and computing systems—including the internet—work, explore their potential impacts, and contribute to a computing culture that is collaborative and ethical.

Prerequisite Skills:

It is recommended that students in the AP Computer Science Principles course have successfully completed a first-year high school algebra course with a strong foundation of basic linear functions, composition of functions, and problem-solving strategies that require multiple approaches and collaborative efforts. In addition, students should be able to use a Cartesian (x, y) coordinate system to represent points on a plane. It is important that students and their advisers understand that any significant computer science course builds upon a foundation of mathematical reasoning that should be acquired before attempting such a course. Prior computer science experience is not required to take this course.

Summer assignment: A summer assignment will be posted after May 10th.

Exam Format:

The AP Computer Science Principles Exam assesses student understanding of the computational thinking practices and learning objectives outlined in the course framework. The exam consists of the Create performance task and an end-of-course AP Exam. The Create performance task requires at least 12 hours of dedicated class time for students to complete. The end-of-course exam is 2 hours long and includes 70 multiple-choice questions

Contact Person: Kevin Smith

Contact Email: Kevin.Smith@gcpsk12.org

AP Computer Science A

Course Description: The AP Computer Science A course introduces students to computer science with fundamental topics that include problem solving, design strategies and methodologies, organization of data (data structures), approaches to processing data (algorithms), analysis of potential solutions, and the ethical and social implications of computing. The course emphasizes both object-oriented and imperative problem solving and design. These techniques represent proven approaches for developing

solutions that can scale up from small, simple problems to large, complex problems. Following is an outline of the major topics considered in AP Computer Science A Exam. This outline is intended to define the scope of the course, but not the sequence.

<p>Object-Oriented Program Design (Program and Class Design)</p> <p>Program Implementation (Implementation techniques; Programming constructs; Java library classes and interfaces included in the AP Java Subset)</p> <p>Program Analysis (Testing; Debugging; Runtime exceptions; Program correctness; Algorithm Analysis; Numerical representations of integers)</p>	<p>Standard Data Structures (Primitive data types (int, boolean, double); Strings; Classes; Lists; Arrays (1-dimensional and 2-dimensional))</p> <p>Standard Operations and Algorithms (Operations on data structures ; Searching; Sorting)</p> <p>Computing in Context (System reliability; Privacy; Legal issues and intellectual property; Social and ethical ramifications of computer use)</p>
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Specific Skills for Success:

The assumed prerequisites for entering the AP Computer Science A course include knowledge of basic English, algebra, and strong problem solving and reasoning skills.

A student in the AP Computer Science A course should be comfortable with functions and the concepts found in the uses of function notation, such as $f(x) = x + 2$ and $f(x) = g(h(x))$.

It is important that students understand that any significant computer science course builds upon a foundation of mathematical reasoning that should be acquired before attempting such a course.

Expectations Outside of Class OR Out of Class Commitments:

Computer Science A skills build on each other, so practicing what is covered in class at home through homework and completion of the daily formative assessments is essential. Students who get behind may find it difficult to catch up. One of the most important things to consider is the level of mathematics required in the course; This course should be regarded as a mathematics course as mathematics plays a central role in computer science. Students are expected to have a strong background in Algebra. Algebraic competency is expected and assumed! The development tools used in class are freely available online; Students are expected to work on assignments both in and outside class. No summer assignments are required.

Exam Format:

The AP Computer Science Principles A Exam assesses theoretical knowledge and practical coding skills, preparing students for further studies in computer science and related fields. The multiple-choice section will test students' understanding of data types, algorithm development, object-oriented programming, error correction and debugging, and program analysis . In addition, students will be asked to complete several Free Response Questions that require students to develop algorithms to complete a program.

Summer assignment:

A summer assignment will be posted after May 10th.

Textbooks and Resources:

1. Horstman, Cay, AP Edition Java Concepts, Wiley, 2005
2. [CS Awesome!](#) Online book and curriculum delivered on the Runestone Academy site (See Mr. Smith for course code)
3. College Board Website: <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/>

Development Environment:

1. Blue J IDE and development environment: <http://www.bluej.org/>
2. Java SDK (Software Development Kit):
<http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/java/javase/downloads/index.html>
3. JDoodle online Java IDE: <https://www.jdoodle.com/online-java-compiler>

Contact Person: Kevin Smith

Contact Email: Kevin.Smith@gcpsk12.org



AP Course Offerings
Science

AP Biology

Course Description: AP Biology is the equivalent of an introductory level college course. The course is intended to challenge student abilities to understand problems, develop and implement a plan, manipulate data, draw conclusions, think analytically, and develop hypotheses within the realm of biological science. Laboratory applications play a major role in this class. Students who are interested in pursuing a science degree or a career in a health-related field should take this course.

Specific Skills for Success

Prerequisites include successful completion of both biology and chemistry.

Students must have a strong work ethic to take AP Biology.

Students should be comfortable with writing, as scientific writing is a large component of the course.

Expectations Outside of Class OR Out of Class Commitments

It is important that students have previewed the material before coming to class, so students should be reading the textbook nightly. It is impossible to “cram” for the class!

Students should also form study groups and review frequently. Expect to spend a minimum of an hour outside of class studying per every hour in class.

Lab reports must also be completed outside of class.

Summer Assignment? [There is a summer assignment.](#)

Textbooks and Resources: Biology in Focus, 2nd edition.

Supplemental Textbooks, Study Guides, and/or Resources: Lecture materials and helpful documents are posted on the class website. A study manual for the AP exam, such as the Barron’s AP Biology review guide, is highly recommended.

Contact Person: Julianna Simmons

Contact Email: julianna.simmons@gcpsk12.org

AP Chemistry

Course Description: AP Chemistry is a rigorous second year science course that is equivalent to a first year college course. This course covers all of the material covered in the first year course, but at a more in-depth level. It is the study of matter and its changes including the study of atomic theory, thermochemistry, analytical chemistry, and inorganic chemistry. It is a rigorous course both in depth and breadth with a major focus on high-level problem solving. Students will perform many lab experiments throughout the year. It also moves at an accelerated rate.

Specific Skills for Success

Students wishing to take AP Chemistry need to have a basic knowledge of chemistry by taking a first year of chemistry and possess good mathematical skills.

The student should have either already completed or are concurrently taking Algebra II.

Working at the pace of the course can be daunting and a strong, organized work ethic is recommended.

Willingness to learn new and difficult material, a commitment to do homework, an intrinsic motivation to work hard, pace oneself on homework, and seek help when needed are highly recommended skills.

A willingness to develop strong lab skills through manipulation (conducting the lab experiments and collaborating with your group members) and through developing written reports.

Students should have a strong sense of reading graphs and tabular data to develop patterns and relationships.

Students should also feel comfortable with the basics of graph building.

A student that regularly attends class and keeps up with eClass pages!

Access and use the AP Classroom platform to preview material that is discussed in class!

Expectations Outside of Class OR Out of Class Commitments:

Students are expected to manage their time well to complete lab reports, to complete weekly classroom assignments, and to study for assessments. The amount of time all this takes varies from student to student, but should average 2 hours outside of class time weekly.

Summer assignment? Yes, assignments are available after May 10th.

Contact Person: Dr. Rupa Gokal

Contact Email: rupa.gokal@gcpsk12.org

AP Environmental Science

Course Description: Regardless of whether you are pursuing a career in the environmental field or not, everyone needs to understand their impact on the planet. The unifying theme for Advanced Placement Environmental Science is impact on the environment based on population growth and the use/abuse of resources during human development of our planet. This is a college level laboratory course that aims to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world. The course aims to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and manmade, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them.

General topics studied are pollution, animal interactions, energy, world population, and land and water use. Specific topics include fracking, mountaintop mining, organic farming, environmental interactions, weather, climate change, alternative energy sources, and environmental health and risk analysis.

Specific Skills for Success

- Interest in the topic
- Good reasoning skills
- Commitment to reviewing materials
- Good study skills and time management
- Lab Skills: manipulations and report
- Ability to turn in assignments on time

Expectations Outside of Class and Out of Class Commitments:

Classwork and homework will include short answer questions, essays, case studies, online assignments, debates, and on-going lab work. Assessments will include unit tests, projects, research, structured discussions, laboratory activities, and final exams. Students should expect 2-3 hours of work outside of class per week for AP Environmental Science. In addition, field trips may be taken to supplement the class lessons. There will be no summer assignment.

Summer assignment: No summer assignment

Textbooks and Resources: Environmental Science for AP Second Edition by [Andrew Friedland \(Author\)](#), [Rick Relyea \(Author\)](#)

Supplemental Textbooks, Study Guides, and/or Resources: Highly recommend any AP reader such as Barron's, Kaplan, and Princeton Review

Contact Person: Rhonda Zambo

Contact Email: rhonda.zamob@gcpsk12.org

AP Physics I

Course Description: AP Physics 1 is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course. Students cultivate their understanding of physics by developing models of physical phenomena through inquiry-based investigations. (**FROM COLLEGE BOARD AP PHYSICS 1 COURSE EXAM AND DESCRIPTION*). Topics to be discussed include motion, forces, energy, momentum, rotation, oscillations and fluids.

An emphasis on constructivist pedagogy will be used to foster students' critical thinking skills. The classroom activities are designed to help students develop deep conceptual understandings of the concepts being taught while challenging their prior misconceptions. Students will be encouraged to investigate new concepts through guided inquiry and open inquiry labs as well as to peer review their findings.

Students who are interested in pursuing a science or engineering degree should take this course.

Specific Skills for Success

- Strong understanding of algebra
- Read, understand and interpret physical information.
- Use/apply scientific methodology to analyze a physical phenomenon or problem.
- Use mathematical reasoning, in a physical situation or problem.

- Perform experiments, interpret data and communicate results.
- Disciplined study skills and habits.

Out of Class Commitments: Expect to spend between 30 and 45 minutes of homework (reading/problems solving/lab investigations) per night.

Summer assignment? Yes

Textbooks and Resources:

College Physics: A Strategic Approach - 3rd edition Knight, Jones and Field"

Supplemental Textbooks, Study Guides, and/or Resources:

- www.physicsclassroom.com
- [Flipping Physics for AP Physics 1](#)
- Highly recommend getting 5 Steps to a 5 test prep book

Contact Person:

Kristen Carter - Kristen.Carter@gcps.k12.ga.us

James Holden - James.Holden@gcps.k12.ga.us

AP Physics C: Mechanics

Course Description:

AP Physics C: Mechanics is the equivalent of a one-semester, calculus-based, college-level physics course. The course is a rigorous mathematical approach to an in-depth study of concepts such as change, force interactions, fields, and conservation. Students work in study groups both in and out of class. Peer-teaching and peer-review are incorporated into the course.

Specific Skills for Success

Read, understand and interpret physical information.

Use/apply scientific methodology to analyze a physical phenomenon or problem.

Use mathematical reasoning, in a physical situation or problem.

Perform experiments, interpret data and communicate results.

Disciplined study skills and habits.

Completed AP Calculus or concurrently taking AP Calculus.

Expectations Outside of Class OR Out of Class Commitments:

Expect to spend between 30 and 45 minutes of study per night reviewing the day's lessons or completing homework.

Summer assignment: Yes

Textbooks and Resources:

Physics for Scientists and Engineers: 9th ed. W.H Freeman & Company by Serway and Jewett

Supplemental Textbooks, Study Guides, and/or Resources:

- [Flipping Physics for AP Physics C](#)
- Highly recommend getting 5 Steps to a 5 test prep book

Contact Person: Kristen Carter

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AP Course Offerings
Language Arts

AP English Language and Composition

Course Description:

An AP course in English Language and Composition engages students in becoming skilled readers of nonfiction written in a variety of rhetorical contexts, and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. This course focuses on non-fiction essays that explore the themes of family, gender, ethics, education, and politics and how all of those influence our identity. We will analyze what makes a written piece effective and practice incorporating those conventions in our own pieces.

Specific Skills for Success:

strong writing and textual analysis skills, high sense of self-motivation, strong reading comprehension ability

Prerequisites:

This course is designed for high-achieving English Language Arts 11th grade students who are also seeking to earn an American Literature credit, as AP Lang and American Literature are combined at Seckinger High School. It is recommended for students to have taken either AP Seminar or Honors/Gifted 10th Grade Literature and Composition prior to taking AP Lang. While this course is designed to improve written performance and analytical skills, students need to have strong reading and writing abilities. Also, students must be prepared to budget their time appropriately, as we work on many different types of assignments simultaneously.

Expectations Outside of Class:

Homework is not always assigned nightly, but students will typically be reading a passage, constructing/revising an essay, or working on a project. Therefore the student needs to have strong time management skills. Also, students have weekly quizzes that require preparation for outside of class.

Summer assignment? No

Textbooks and Resources:

There is no textbook for this course, however, students will read a wide variety of excerpts, passages, articles, speeches, etc. that will be provided. Due to the course being combined with American Literature, students will also read *The Crucible*, *The Great Gatsby*, and other major American literary works, which will be provided as well.

Contact Person: Rebecca Jones

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Kristen Davis - kristen.m.davis@gcpsk12.org

Beth Wright - beth.wright@gcpsk12.org

AP English Literature

Course Description:

AP Literature is a focused study of fictional texts, in particular short stories, plays, novels, and poetry. We may use nonfiction texts to bolster our study of a novel, but nonfiction study is the central focus of AP Language. We study literature in order to become stronger analytical, critical, and creative writers and thinkers. We ask the big questions about human existence: what does it mean to live a meaningful life? What is the nature of evil? What is the link between what we consider normal and the conforming power of the majority? What does it mean to be a human being? Are we really free?

Specific Skills for Success:

- AP Literature is a senior level course. Students will need to be open-minded and eager to discuss and debate their unique theories about the texts we read.
- We do many group presentations, Socratic Seminars, dramatic performances, essay writing, creative writing (poetry and short stories), in class writing and multiple choice practice for the AP exam, and whole class discussion.
- Because novel reading is a central focus of the class, students will want to be careful and active readers who love to ask questions.

Expectations Outside of Class OR Out of Class Commitments:

Students will have a summer reading assignment with a novel. Throughout the year, we read four-six novels/plays together and individually. Students will need to be committed to reading a lot outside of class and doing several essays over the course of the year.

Summer assignment? Yes (one novel of choice from approved list)

Textbooks and Resources:

There is one, but we mostly use external texts! Instead, we read various books, plays, short stories, and poetry. These are some of the possible texts we may read: *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *The Laramie Project*, *Song of Solomon*, *Beloved*, *The Stranger*, *No Country for Old Men*, and various post-modern and dystopian texts. We also watch films that pair well with the novels we're reading.

Supplemental Textbooks, Study Guides, and/or Resources: To prepare for AP Lit, you can find some great practice tests on the College Board website, and 5 Steps to a 5: AP English Literature is another great resource. In terms of a writing book, Richard Lanham's *Revising Prose* and for reading, Thomas Foster's *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* are both recommended.

Contact Person: Kim Cochran or Logan Gruenfelder

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AP Course Offerings

AP Capstone

About the AP Capstone Diploma Program:

[CLICK HERE](#) for additional information from College Board

[CLICK HERE](#) for AP Capstone testimonials from students

What It Is

AP Capstone is not a course. It's a two-year program based on two AP courses—AP Seminar and AP Research. Other AP courses teach you, in depth, about a specific subject, like biology or U.S. history. AP Seminar and AP Research are different. They focus on helping you develop academic skills you can use in any discipline. These skills include:

✓ Critical thinking: View issues from multiple perspectives and create arguments based on evidence.
✓ Collaboration: Work alone, in a group, and with expert advisers to communicate your ideas.
✓ Conducting research: Explore various research methods and complete research projects on topics of your own choosing.
✓ Public speaking: Present and defend your work as a group and individually.

What It Can Do for You

Participating in AP Capstone can help you:



Develop key skills you'll use in college and career



Become a self-confident, independent thinker and problem solver



Study topics you're passionate about, in depth



Earn academic awards recognized by colleges worldwide



Stand out in the college admission process



Earn college credit

How It Works

You must take AP Seminar before AP Research. Each is a yearlong course. (Your school must be part of the AP Capstone Diploma program to offer AP Seminar and AP Research.)



Take AP Seminar

In AP Seminar, you'll investigate topics in a variety of subject areas, write research-based essays, and design and give both individual and team presentations.



Take AP Research

In AP Research, you'll build on what you learned in AP Seminar to design, plan, and conduct a yearlong research-based investigation on a topic of your choice.



Earn Awards

You can earn 1 of 2 AP Capstone awards if you take both courses and fulfill other requirements. And you'll receive an AP score for each separate course.

AP Capstone

(A two-year program)

AP Capstone:

Developed by College Board, is a two-year seminar and research course designed to complement and enhance the in-depth, discipline-specific study provided through AP courses. It cultivates curious, independent, and collaborative scholars and prepares them to make logical, evidence-based decisions.

AP Seminar:

The first year features Interdisciplinary Investigations and Critical Reasoning Seminar in which a specific topic or issue of cultural relevance is presented to students. With this topic as the centerpiece of class discourse, students learn to employ critical thinking skills such as analysis, synthesis, differentiation, and interpretation; students will engage in collaborative teamwork and project-based learning. (Students are required to take an AP exam upon conclusion of this year one course).

AP Research:

The second year of this program allows students to put the skills acquired in year one into practice in a Capstone Research Project. This independent study, executed under the mentorship of a teacher, culminates in a 5,000 word (roughly 20 pages) paper whereby the student defends and articulates his or her position on his or her chosen subject (in lieu of a seated AP exam). Ultimately, this two-year process reveals a student's ability to collect, evaluate, analyze, and synthesize knowledge and information, and then communicate his or her findings.

Participating in AP Capstone can help students:

- Stand out to colleges in the application process.
- Develop key academic skills they'll use in college and beyond.

- Become self-confident, independent thinkers and problem solvers.
- Earn college credit: Many colleges offer credit for qualifying scores.

Summer assignment? Seminar does not have a summer assignment. Research does, and it will be posted on the AP Website on the Seckinger Page.

Contact: Hillary Lowe

Contact Email: hillary.lowe@gcpsk12.org



AP Course Offerings
Social Studies

AP Human Geography

(9th grade only)

Course Description:

The AP Human Geography course provides students with a foundational understanding of the patterns and processes that shape human interaction with the Earth's surface. Using AI as a framework, students explore spatial concepts, analyze geographic data, and predict human behaviors through technological innovations. Topics such as population trends, urbanization, and cultural landscapes are examined using data-driven models and AI-powered tools to simulate real-world geographic scenarios. The course emphasizes critical thinking and problem-solving, encouraging students to interpret and visualize data through geospatial technologies and AI applications. Students will engage in hands-on projects where AI assists in analyzing global systems like migration, development, and political organization. By the end, students will grasp the significance of human geography in an AI-driven world, preparing them for both academic and professional opportunities in the field.

Specific Skills for Success

To be successful in AP Human Geography, students need discipline, critical thinking skills, and writing analysis skills. They must be able to apply geographic concepts to real-world scenarios. Consistent engagement with course materials, effective time management, and participation in hands-on projects will help students master the content and perform well on assessments.

Expectations Outside of Class OR Out of Class Commitments:

Students will have 3-4 hours of studying a week, will scaffold a variety of learning types, and prepare for formative and summative assessments daily.

Summer assignment? Yes

Supplemental Textbooks, Study Guides, and/or Resources: An Introduction to Human Geography: The Cultural Landscape by James M. Rubenstein 8th Edition ISBN: 0-13-192019-7

Contact Person: Scott Gaffney

Contact Email: Scott.Gaffney@gcpsk12.org

AP Macroeconomics

Course Description:

The purpose of an Advanced Placement course in Macroeconomics is to give students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to national income, price level determination, economic performance measures, financial sector, stabilization policies, economic growth, and international economics. Students will learn to manipulate a variety of graphing models, and analyze the economic developments each represents.

Specific Skills for Success

- Strong math and graph interpretation skills
- Regular study habits

Expectations Outside of Class OR Out of Class Commitments:

Study material daily

Since this is a second semester course, there is a winter break assignment.

Supplemental Textbooks, Study Guides, and/or Resources:

Morton, John. Advanced Placement Economics: Macroeconomics Student Activities, 3rd ed. New York: National Council on Economic Education, 2003.

Activities from this workbook provide practice opportunities of concept application, graphing, and analysis of economic impact of changes in society. Students work with charts, generate, interpret, graph, and analyze economic data to explain economic concepts.

Summer assignment? No Summer Assignment

Contact Person: Laura Platé

Contact Email: laura.plate@gcpsk12.org

AP Psychology

Course Description:

The AP Psychology course introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. While considering the studies that have shaped the field, students explore and apply psychological theories, key concepts, and phenomena associated with major units of study, including biological bases of behavior, cognition, development, learning, social psychology, personality, and mental and physical health. Throughout the course, students apply psychological concepts and employ psychological research methods and data interpretation to evaluate claims, consider evidence, and effectively communicate ideas.

Specific Skills for Success

The course is taught at an accelerated level and student study habits should reflect this fact. We will have a lot of fun in class, but students absolutely must be willing to spend legitimate time outside of class each week dedicated to this course. AP Psychology is a cumulative class, meaning “old” content is constantly reinforced through quizzes and unit tests. Students should understand that there is always homework and must be prepared to master both the advanced content and the hundreds of vocabulary terms that accompany this course.

Expectations Outside of Class OR Out of Class Commitments:

At the conclusion of each of our five units, there is a multiple choice question test. There will also be Evidence Based Questions and Article Analysis Questions tests throughout the year. All testing is aligned to the College Board test you will take in May. Many chapters in the textbook are long, and it is recommended that you read approximately each night. During class we will have discussions and activities to support the reading and unit guides. It is important to be prepared each day for class by reading the material beforehand.

Summer assignment: See Mrs. Holmes in Room T440.

Contact Person: Mrs. Sherri Holmes

Contact Email: sherri.pascale-holmes@gcpsk12.org

AP American Government and Politics

Course Description:

AP American Government and Politics is an intensive study of the formal and informal structures of government and the processes of the American political system, with an emphasis on policy-making, and implementation. Included is a study of the U.S. Constitution, including significant Supreme Court decisions. The course will be taught on a college level, and it requires a substantial amount of reading and preparation. Students will develop a critical understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the American political system, as well as the United States Constitution, and their rights and responsibilities as citizens.

Specific Skills for Success

- Strong writing and reading skills are essential for this course.
- More importantly, a strong work ethic and concentration in class are important for success in this course.
- Class participation is essential as we have several simulations in class such as debates, mock trials, and mock elections.

Expectations Outside of Class OR Out of Class Commitments:

We will cover about a chapter per week, and there will be reading and homework on a weekly basis. Also, we have a summer assignment which includes five summaries of current events, an essay differentiating Democrats and Republicans, and an essay summarizing the importance of the U.S. Constitution.

Summer assignment? Yes

Supplemental Textbooks, Study Guides, and/or Resources:

We recommend that the students purchase the AMSCO AP U.S. Government and Politics book by David Wofford (2018).

Also, we put resources on the school's eClass and Google classroom page, such as study guides, videos and PowerPoint Presentations.

Furthermore, the students need to use AP Classroom to answer multiple choice questions, FRQs, and view resources such as videos and notes.

Contact Person: Coach Byron Shells

Contact Email: Byron.Shells@gcpsk12.org

AP U.S. History

Course Description:

This class can be used to satisfy the U.S. History requirement for graduation. This course is designed to provide students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to think critically about the problems and materials in U.S. History. The students will learn to assess historical materials, identify their relevance and significance to a given issue through discussion and interpretation, and to weigh available evidence through historical scholarship. The content of this course begins in 1491 with Native American cultures and concludes with current events in the present day.

Specific Skills for Success

- This is a college level history course that requires advanced reading and writing skills that will prepare them to respond to long essay questions, short answer questions, and document-based questions.
- It requires daily reading of the textbook, primary sources, and other historical documents. Students will be asked to interpret and analyze these documents for class discussions, debates, and weekly formative standards-based assessments.
- The AP test requires students to be above average writers and the ability to analyze and determine significance of historical events.

Expectations Outside of Class OR Out of Class Commitments:

Students will be expected to read through their AMSCO textbooks and complete Reading Guides prior to each unit test.

Summer assignment? Yes

Supplemental Textbooks, Study Guides, and/or Resources: AMSCO AP United States History 4th Edition.

Contact Person: Garrett Shaffer and Matt King

Contact Email: garrett.shaffer@gcpsk12.org and matt.king@gcpsk12.org

AP World History: Modern

Course Description:

This course satisfies the World History requirement for graduation. The purpose of this class is to develop greater understanding of the evolution of global processes and contacts. In other words, what factors, people, and events have shaped interactions among people throughout world history? The study of World History begins c.1200 CE and the students continue their studies through the present day.

Specific Skills for Success

- Students will need to be able to critically analyze major historical trends and documents within and between time periods and cultures.
- Students are expected to exhibit mature study habits by reading and studying on a daily basis. The teacher will also emphasize the various types of writing that appear on the AP World History exam: short answer

questions, a long essay, document based essay, comparison/contrast, and continuity and change over time.

Expectations Outside of Class OR Out of Class Commitments:

- Students are expected to actively participate in class.
- Students are expected to read/study nightly.

Summer assignment? Yes

Supplemental Textbooks, Study Guides, and/or Resources:

AMSCO World History: Modern [1200-Present]

Textbook to be determined to reflect changes to the curriculum

Contact Person: Trey Brennan and Nicole Spierman

Contact Email: Trey.Brennan@gcpsk12.org or Nicole.Spierman@gcpsk12.org



AP Course Offerings
World Languages

AP French Language and Culture

Course Description:

The AP French Language and Culture course takes a holistic approach to language proficiency and recognizes the complex interrelatedness of comprehension and comprehensibility, vocabulary usage, language control, communication strategies, and cultural awareness. The AP French Language and Culture course strives to promote both fluency and accuracy in language communication. In order to best facilitate the study of language and culture, the course is taught in the target language.

Language, content, and culture are interrelated through the study of six themes: Global Challenges, Science and Technology, Contemporary Life, Personal and Public Identities, Families and Communities, and Beauty and Aesthetics. The course seeks to develop language skills (reading, writing, listening and speaking) that can be used in various activities and disciplines. Students are encouraged to think independently, to learn to find information, and to react and respond to others.

Specific Skills for Success:

Students should have a strong motivation to learn French and be willing to participate in all four skills. Students enrolled in this course are usually juniors or seniors enrolled in their fourth and fifth year of French.

Summer assignment? No

Expectations Outside of Class OR Out of Class Commitments: There are regular homework assignments, as well as individual and group presentations and projects, tests, and quizzes.

School-Issued Texts and Resources:

AP French: Preparing for the Language and Culture Examination, ISBN: 978-0-13- 317537-0

Recommended Supplemental Textbooks and Novels: Le Petit Prince, ISBN: 2-07-051328-9 and Interaction, ISBN: 978-1- 285-48083-1

Contact Person: Rachel Fowler

Contact Email: Rachel.Fowler@gcpsk12.org

AP Spanish Language

Course Description:

This course is intended for students who wish to develop proficiency and integrate their language skills using authentic materials and sources. This course adheres to the College Board AP Central® course description and is comparable to fifth and sixth semester college and university courses that focus on speaking and writing in the target language at an advanced level. The course encompasses listening and speaking skills, reading comprehension, and composition.

Specific Skills for Success:

Students who enroll should already have a strong command of the language and cultures of Spanish speaking peoples. The emphasis of the course is to strengthen communicative abilities in Spanish. It will help students develop accuracy and fluency when they produce the language, and will allow them to comprehend Spanish intended for native speakers in a variety of settings, types of discourse, topics, styles, and broad regional variations.

Expectations Outside of Class OR Out of Class Commitments:

The students must read and or listen to authentic resources for at least 20 minutes daily. There will be occasional projects that will require the students to complete as homework.

Summer assignment? No

Textbooks and Resources:

Temas. AP Spanish Language and Culture (Vista Higher Learning); Abriendo Paso, Temas y Lecturas (Pearson); Authentic audio and text resources from the Internet, newspapers and magazines.

Supplemental Textbooks, Study Guides, and/or Resources: AP Spanish. Preparing for the language and Culture Examination by José M. Díaz; 5 steps to a 5 AP Spanish; BBC Mundo

Contact Person: Ebone Lirette

Contact Email: ebone.lirette@gcpsk12.org



AP Course Offerings
Fine Arts

AP Art History

Course Description:

Students will develop the essential skills of visual and contextual analysis. By examining works of art from diverse cultures and the relationships among these works, students develop an understanding of global artistic traditions. Students analyze works of art in their contexts, considering issues of patronage, gender, politics, religion, and ethnicity. The interpretation of the work of art is based upon its intended use, audience, and the role of the artist and the work of art in its particular society. Students will expand their knowledge of history, geography, politics, religion, languages, and literature, as they explore the story of people as told through the art they created.

Specific Skills for Success:

- An appreciation for art and history formed with both personal interpretations and diverse perspectives.
- The ability to communicate through writing, analysis, and presentation skills.
- The ability to think critically.

Expectations Outside of Class OR Out of Class Commitments:

- Students are expected to actively participate in class.
- Students are expected to read/study nightly.

Summer assignment?

Assignment posted in our Google Classroom

1. Review the Essential Vocabulary PowerPoint
2. Read at least three articles of your choosing from Prehistoric Art. (There are 11 to pick from, feel free to read all 11 if you wish)

Textbooks and Resources:

Fred S. Kleiner, *Gardner's Art through the Ages* (2009, revised 13th edition)

Nici, John B. Barron's AP Art History with Online Tests, Fourth Edition, 2018, Barron's Educational Series.

Khan Academy® website.

[khanacademy.org/humanities/ap-art-history/introduction-arthistory/a/required-works-of-art-for-ap-art-history](https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ap-art-history/introduction-arthistory/a/required-works-of-art-for-ap-art-history)

Contact Person: Megan Fowler

Contact Email: Megan.Fowler@gcpsk12.org

AP Studio Art

Course Description:

Before applying, a student must have taken one year of an advanced Art course (like Drawing and Painting or Digital Design). AP Studio Art is actually two separate courses - AP Drawing and AP 2D Art & Design. Students may take a traditional (by hand) or digital pathway. Students will consult the instructor to choose which is best for him/her. The course is not based on a written exam; instead, students digitally submit portfolios for evaluation to

the College Board at the end of the school year (April). The class is designed for students who are seriously interested in the practical experience of art.

Specific Skills for Success

- Students must be willing to work outside of class to complete the number of works required for the portfolio (15 Sustained Investigation and 5 Selected Works). Written evidence, an artist statement and process documentation will also be required.
- Students must also be able to develop ideas quickly and show expert use of media and materials.
- AP students must have strong basic drawing and composition skills.

Out of Class Commitments

- Once students have been identified and enrolled in the course, a meeting will be held to introduce students to the AP studio art course.
- Examples of student work will be shown and an outline of the portfolio will be discussed.
- Working on artwork outside of class is expected.

Summer assignment? A summer assignment packet will be given as soon as students have been chosen for the course. Students will be encouraged to begin their summer work as soon as possible and work will be critiqued at the start of the school year.

Supplemental Textbooks, Study Guides, and/or Resources: Students may be required to purchase their own materials if they extend outside of what can be provided through the art department. Textbooks are not used due to the nature of the course as being product based, however, articles and reading assignments may be given to enhance exposure to art styles, media, techniques, and current events in the art world. Online videos and artist reviews will be shown/shared in order to expose students to historical and contemporary art movements and styles.

Contact Person: Mike Lasseter or Megan Fowler

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Contact Seckinger High School AP Coordinator

Chris Bess

Assistant Principal

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