

Miscellaneous/Interdisciplinary Courses

AP Research

Grades Course Open To: 11-12 **Credit:** 1.0 - weighted for AP

Prerequisite: Successful completion of AP Seminar

Fees: AP Research fee (paid at fall registration)

Description: This course is the second of two courses in the AP Capstone program. It allows students to deeply explore an academic topic, problem, issue or idea of individual interest. Students design, plan and implement a yearlong investigation to address a research question. Through this inquiry, they further the skills they acquired in the AP Seminar course by learning research methodology, employing ethical research practices, and accessing, analyzing and synthesizing information. Students reflect on their skill development, document their processes, and curate the artifacts of their scholarly work through a process and reflection portfolio. The course culminates in an academic paper of 4,000–5,000 words (accompanied by a performance, exhibit or product, where applicable) and a presentation with an oral defense. Students who complete both AP Research and AP Seminar are eligible for the AP Capstone Diploma. **Note:** All students enrolled in this course **must** complete the requirements for AP Research.

AP Seminar

Grades Course Open To: 10-11-12 **Credit:** 1.0 - weighted for AP

Prerequisite: None

Fees: AP Seminar exam (paid at fall registration)

Description: The first of two courses in the AP Capstone program, this foundational course engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives. Using an inquiry framework, students practice reading and analyzing articles, research studies, and foundational, literary and philosophical texts; listening to and viewing speeches, broadcasts, and personal accounts; and experiencing artistic works and performances. Students learn to synthesize information from multiple sources, develop their own perspectives in written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations, both individually and as part of a team. Ultimately, the course aims to equip students with the power to analyze and evaluate information with accuracy and precision in order to craft and communicate evidence-based arguments. **Note:** All students enrolled in this course **must** complete the AP Seminar requirements and take the AP Seminar exam in the spring.

Freshman Academy

Grades Course Open To: 9 **Credit:** 0.5 or 1.0

Prerequisite: Placement based on student's placement exam results, and/or teacher or Student Services staff recommendation

Description: Freshman Academy is an academic intervention that provides students additional support across multiple curricular areas. Academy students receive frequent feedback from Academy staff about grades and school performance. Students have access to the CITGO Innovation Academy, computer labs, and other resources during the school day. Students also develop the executive skills needed for school success, including time management, communication with teachers, and organization, among other skills.

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The Center

Grades Course Open To: 10-11-12 **Credit:** 0.5 or 1.0

Prerequisite: Placement based on student's placement exam results, and/or teacher or Student Services staff recommendation

Description: The Center is an academic intervention that provides students additional support across multiple curricular areas. Students in The Center receive frequent feedback from Center staff and interns about grades and school performance. Students have access to the CITGO Innovation Academy, computer labs, and other resources during the school day. Students also develop the executive skills needed for school success, including time management, communication with teachers, and organization, among other skills.

Student Intern (CAVE, Freshman Academy, ELL or Special Education)

Grades Course Open To: 12 **Credit:** 0.5 or 1.0 (Pass/Fail Only)

Prerequisite: Counselor recommendation and consent of Center staff

Description: This program affords students the opportunity to serve as tutors who assist other students and teachers in academic support programs, including The Center, Freshman Academy, English Language Learner courses, and Special Education courses. Interns are expected to work with other students in the classroom or other relevant locations within the building. Throughout the course, interns are given tasks such as working with individual students, leading class activities, and helping prepare class materials.

Service Project

Grades Course Open To: 12 **Credit:** 0.5 or 1.0

Prerequisite: Must have a teacher or staff member as a sponsor

Description: The description of duties for this position vary depending on who is serving as the sponsor. Students who participate in the service project program in the Main Office will deliver passes, create bulletin boards, organize files, and do light secretarial projects for either the deans or the counselors. Students who work with a specific teacher may do those same tasks, but also may be asked to help with class projects or peer tutor student(s) who need assistance.