



# **The American School Foundation®**

## **Upper School Course Book 2021-2022**

**Marzo/March 2021 Edition**

***The American School Foundation Upper Course Book*** has been created as a guide for ASF students and parents in the selection of a course of study in the Upper School. Course offerings in a given year often depend upon sufficient enrollments to meet minimum requirements. In matters of established policy, the American School Foundation, A.C. (hereafter also “the School” or “ASF”) reserves the absolute right to alter its practices based on its professional and business concerns, but the School will make every effort to inform the entire school community if, and when, it is appropriate to do so.

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# ASF REOPENING: TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>MISSION, CORE VALUES, AND VISION</b> . . . . .	5	AP Science . . . . .	20
<b>FOUNDATIONAL STATEMENTS.</b> . . . . .	5	IB Science . . . . .	20
ASF Mission Statement . . . . .	5	IB Science Alternatives (these courses fulfill the IB requirements in Group 4 but are not counted as science classes by ASF) . . . . .	21
ASF Vision Statement. . . . .	5	<b>COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSE LIST</b> . . . . .	21
ASF Core Values . . . . .	5	General Coding Electives. . . . .	21
<b>JUSTICE</b> . . . . .	5	AP Computer Science . . . . .	21
<b>UNDERSTANDING</b> . . . . .	5	<b>MATHEMATICS COURSE LIST</b> . . . . .	22
<b>TRUTH.</b> . . . . .	5	Mathematics Required Courses. . . . .	22
<b>UPPER SCHOOL COURSE GUIDE.</b> . . . . .	7	Mathematics Terminal Courses . . . . .	22
<b>INTRODUCTION.</b> . . . . .	7	Pathways in Math . . . . .	22
<b>GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS.</b> . . . . .	7	Standard Pathway. . . . .	22
<b>GRADUATION CHECKLISTS</b> . . . . .	8	Advanced Pathway . . . . .	22
<b>UPPER SCHOOL COURSES BY DEPARTMENT</b> . . . . .	10	AP Mathematics . . . . .	23
<b>ENGLISH COURSE LIST</b> . . . . .	11	IB Mathematics . . . . .	23
English Required Courses . . . . .	11	<b>ARTS &amp; DESIGN (VISUAL, MUSICAL, THEATRE AND DESIGN ARTS)</b> . . . . .	24
English Electives (may be taken by seniors as one of their two English elective courses). . . . .	11	<b>DRAMATIC ARTS COURSE LIST.</b> . . . . .	24
English Senior-year Courses (required if student is not enrolled in an AP or IB course senior year) . . . . .	11	Drama Electives. . . . .	24
AP English Courses . . . . .	12	IB Drama. . . . .	24
IB English Courses . . . . .	12	<b>PERFORMING ARTS COURSE LIST</b> . . . . .	24
<b>WORLD LANGUAGES</b> . . . . .	13	Music Electives . . . . .	24
<b>WORLD LANGUAGES COURSE LIST: SPANISH</b> . . . . .	13	IB Music . . . . .	25
Spanish Courses . . . . .	13	<b>VISUAL ARTS COURSE LIST.</b> . . . . .	25
AP Spanish Courses. . . . .	13	Visual Art Electives . . . . .	25
IB Spanish Courses . . . . .	13	AP Art . . . . .	25
<b>WORLD LANGUAGES COURSE LIST: CHINESE</b> . . . . .	15	IB Visual Arts. . . . .	25
Mandarin Courses . . . . .	15	<b>DESIGN ARTS AND DESIGN &amp; TECHNOLOGY COURSE LIST.</b> . . . . .	26
AP Mandarin Courses . . . . .	15	Design & Technology Electives . . . . .	26
IB Mandarin Courses. . . . .	15	IB Design and Technology . . . . .	26
<b>WORLD LANGUAGES COURSE LIST: FRENCH.</b> . . . . .	16	<b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION COURSE LIST</b> . . . . .	27
French Courses . . . . .	16	PE Required and Elective Course. . . . .	27
AP French Courses . . . . .	16	<b>ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION COURSE LIST</b> . . . . .	27
IB French Courses . . . . .	16	Courses . . . . .	27
<b>HUMANITIES IN ENGLISH COURSE LIST.</b> . . . . .	17	<b>ENGLISH COURSE DESCRIPTIONS.</b> . . . . .	28
U.S. Program Humanities in English Requirements . . . . .	17	Semester Electives in English. . . . .	28
Mexican Program Humanities in English Requirements. . . . .	17	AP English Courses . . . . .	30
Humanities in English Electives. . . . .	17	IB English Courses. . . . .	30
AP Humanities in English (fulfill department requirements) . . . . .	17	<b>WORLD LANGUAGES</b> . . . . .	32
AP Humanities in English Electives (do not fulfill department requirements). . . . .	18	<b>WORLD LANGUAGES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS: SPANISH.</b> . . . . .	32
IB Humanities in English . . . . .	18	AP Spanish Courses. . . . .	33
<b>HUMANITIES IN SPANISH COURSE LIST</b> . . . . .	19	IB Spanish Courses . . . . .	34
Mexican University Program Humanities in Spanish Requirements. . . . .	19	<b>WORLD LANGUAGES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS: CHINESE.</b> . . . . .	36
Humanities in Spanish Electives . . . . .	19	AP Chinese Courses. . . . .	36
IB Humanities in Spanish . . . . .	19	IB Chinese Courses . . . . .	37
<b>SCIENCE COURSE LIST</b> . . . . .	20	<b>WORLD LANGUAGES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS: FRENCH.</b> . . . . .	38
Science Required Courses (Four years of lab science, including biology, chemistry and physics, are required for all students.) . . . . .	20	AP French Courses . . . . .	38
		IB French Courses . . . . .	38
		<b>HUMANITIES IN ENGLISH COURSE DESCRIPTIONS.</b>	40

Humanities in English Required Courses . . . . .	40
Mexican Program Humanities in English Requirements. . . . .	40
Humanities in English Electives . . . . .	40
AP Humanities in English Classes . . . . .	41
IB Humanities in English Classes . . . . .	44
HUMANITIES IN SPANISH COURSE DESCRIPTIONS .	
47	
Mexican Program Humanities in Spanish Requirements. . . . .	47
SCIENCE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS . . . . .	50
AP Science Classes . . . . .	50
IB Science Classes . . . . .	51
COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS . . .	54
AP Computer Science Classes . . . . .	54
MATHEMATICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS . . . . .	56
AP Mathematics Classes . . . . .	57
IB Mathematics Classes . . . . .	57
VISUAL ARTS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS . . . . .	59
Visual Art Electives . . . . .	59
AP Visual Arts Classes . . . . .	60
IB Arts Classes . . . . .	61
DESIGN ARTS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS . . . . .	62
Design Art Electives. . . . .	62
IB Design and Technology Courses . . . . .	63
MUSICAL ARTS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS . . . . .	65
Music Electives . . . . .	65
THEATRE ARTS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS . . . . .	67
Drama Electives. . . . .	67
IB Theatre Arts Classes . . . . .	67
PHYSICAL EDUCATION COURSE DESCRIPTIONS .	68
ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION COURSE DESCRIPTIONS	
69	

# THE AMERICAN SCHOOL FOUNDATION, A.C.

## MISSION, CORE VALUES, AND VISION

Last Revision: July 2020

### FOUNDATIONAL STATEMENTS

#### ASF Mission Statement

The American School Foundation, A.C. is an inclusive and diverse community, offering an international, academically rigorous, university-preparatory curriculum based upon the best of American independent education. In all aspects of life, we strive to be at our best: we love learning, live purposefully, and are empathetic, responsible, contributing citizens in an increasingly interconnected world.

Adopted: January, 1986  
Revised: October 2015  
Revised: December 2019

#### ASF Core Values

##### JUSTICE

We do the right thing.  
We act with compassion, courage and integrity.  
We hold ourselves to a higher standard.

##### UNDERSTANDING

We foster excellence in ourselves.  
We empathize with others.  
We learn to adapt and thrive in an evolving world.

##### TRUTH

We are honest with ourselves and to others.  
We acknowledge that everyone has intrinsic value and is worthy of dignity, understanding, and respect.  
We search for knowledge and facts, clarity, and truth.

Values Adopted: 1930s  
Revised: December 2019

#### ASF Vision Statement

The American School Foundation, A.C. is the preeminent English-speaking college preparatory school that prepares its diverse student body by design to be the leaders of tomorrow.

Rooted in over 130 years of experience, ASF affirms that:

Teaching and learning at ASF will provide a coherent, agile, differentiated and assessed curriculum that guides students to construct, transfer and apply knowledge and skills with student opportunity to co-create their learning as an educated, articulate citizen in a changing world.

We will develop responsive structures, systems and incentives that mutually reinforces the capacity to ensure ASF attracts, retains, and continually develops and supports exceptional international school talent.

At ASF, our Core Values drive expectations and foster the development of character and the courage to act

in creating an inclusive, emotionally and socially safe community.

ASF students, through their own agency and with an engaged and supportive community, develop programs and opportunities to create a more just, peaceful, and ecologically sound world.

At all levels, and in all areas, ASF culture will be agile, adaptive, and transformative to respond effectively and efficiently to flourish in an interconnected world.

Because of its unity in vision, ASF achieves the ultimate goal of nurturing responsible young men and women who meet their highest potential and successfully face the considerable challenges of our global society.

Adopted: December 2019

# THE AMERICAN SCHOOL FOUNDATION, A.C.

## UPPER SCHOOL COURSE GUIDE

Last Revision: 01 March 2021

### INTRODUCTION

The American School Foundation, a college preparatory school, strives to help students achieve their potential within a multicultural and multilingual environment. Its diverse curriculum offers a wide variety of courses that range in all disciplines from foundational coursework to more comprehensive and challenging specialized offerings. In addition to the program that meets the requirements of U.S. universities, a complete program designed to prepare students for admission to Mexican universities is also offered.

The curriculum in grades 9 through 12 ensures that students receive an education focused on the ideals of international understanding and responsible world citizenship. For many years, The American School Foundation has offered the College Board Advanced Placement (A.P.) program, offering college-level courses in a wide variety of subjects. Students can choose to pursue a range of these courses to obtain the AP International Diploma or the AP Capstone Diploma. In 2001, The International Baccalaureate Organization authorized the American School Foundation to offer the college-preparatory International Baccalaureate Programme (IBDP), which, in addition to demanding course work across six subject areas, requires students to engage in Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS) and complete a complete and Extended Essay (EE).

The purpose of this catalog is to make the selection of the most appropriate courses easier by explaining the requirements for Upper School graduation and the additional requirements for students enrolled in the Mexican university program. In addition, this booklet briefly describes the course offerings and their prerequisites.

It should be read thoroughly.

The class counselors urge active participation by parents and students in the process of course selection. To ensure the development of the student's potential and progress toward attainment of the Upper School diploma, all students receive individual guidance. Class counselors must approve all course selections. Any questions about the available options should be directed to the Counseling Office.

### GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

ASF Students and families should familiarize themselves with the School's graduation requirements which are found in the Upper School Handbook. In addition to minimum requirements by department for graduation, ASF requires four years (eight semesters) of Upper School coursework for graduation from ASF. Students must take a minimum of seven classes per semester in Grades 9-11 and a minimum of six classes per semester in Grade 12.

# GRADUATION CHECKLISTS

## Quick Checklist for U.S. Program Graduation Requirements

English	4 units
Additional World Language	4 units
Humanities in English	3.5 units (must include World History and U.S. History)
Survey of Mexican History	.5 units
Lab Sciences	4 units (must include Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
Mathematics	3 units (must include Algebra II or higher)
Arts and Design	1.5 units
Coding	.5 units
Physical Education	1 unit
Health	.5 units
Electives	4.5 units
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27 units</b>

## Quick Checklist for Mexican Program Graduation Requirements

English	4 units
Spanish Language	4 units
Humanities in Spanish	4.0 units (check with counselor for required courses)
Psychology (in English)	.5 units
Lab Sciences	4 units (must include Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
Mathematics	3 units (must include Algebra II or higher)
Arts and Design	1.5 units
Coding	.5 units
Physical Education	1 unit
Health	.5 units
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27 units</b>

### Quick Checklist for AP International Diploma

AP coursework	minimum 5 credits (minimum exam grade of 3 or higher)  in addition to language exams, student must take at least <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 AP course with a global perspective</li> <li>• 1 AP course from science, mathematics, or computer science</li> <li>• 1 AP additional AP course which is not English or another world language</li> </ul>
World Language Exams	minimum of 2 eligible world language or English exams (must include two different languages) or one English or other world language exam AND a letter of proficiency in a language not offered as an AP exam and one additional AP exam
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Minimum five AP courses</b>

### Quick Checklist for AP Capstone Diploma

AP Seminar	1 credit (minimum exam grade of 3 or higher)
AP Research	1 credit (minimum exam grade of 3 or higher)
Additional AP coursework	4 additional AP courses (minimum exam grade of 3 or higher)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Minimum six AP courses</b>

### Quick Checklist for IB Diploma Program Requirements (Junior and Senior Years)

Theory of Knowledge (TOK)	3 semesters
Group 1 - Language and Literature	1 IB course
Group 2 - Language Acquisition	1 IB course
Group 3 - Individuals and Societies	1 IB course
Group 4 - Sciences	1 IB course (including a Group 4 Project)
Group 5 - Mathematics	1 IB course
Group 6 - IB Elective	1 IB course (from the arts or an additional course from Groups 1-5)
Successful completion of Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS) requirement	
Successful completion of Extended Essay (EE) requirement	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Six IB courses, TOK, CAS, EE</b>

#### Special Notes:

- IB courses must include at least three courses at the Higher Level (more are not recommended).
- Full IB students prior to the Class of 2024 are required to take IB History of the Americas or IB 20th Century History.
- IB History of the Americas fulfills the U.S. History graduation requirement.
- IB History of the Americas fulfills the Survey of Mexican History requirement for the U.S. Program.
- Semesters 1 and 2 of ToK fulfill the philosophy requirement for the Mexican Program.
- Semester 3 of ToK fulfills the psychology requirement for the Mexican Program.

## UPPER SCHOOL COURSES BY DEPARTMENT

Course descriptions are divided into subject areas: English, Language and Literature, Humanities in English, Humanities in Spanish, Science, Mathematics, Arts and Design, Physical Education and Alternative Education. Each entry gives the course number (first semester and second semester of each year), title, length (semester, one year or two years), prerequisites and a brief outline of content.

As you read the course descriptions, you will see two important designations under “prerequisites.”

**DR** = “department recommendation” Unless you meet the another prerequisite listed for the course, you should speak to the respective department chair if you are interested in registering for the course.

**PT** = “placement test” Unless you meet the another prerequisite listed for the course, you will be required to sit for a placement test.

## ENGLISH COURSE LIST

The goal of the curriculum is to provide students with a literature-based language arts education that emphasizes humanism, cultural literacy and competency in both written and spoken English. To achieve these ends, the curriculum in required and elective courses includes critical thinking, reading, writing, speaking and listening components. The sequence, common to many international Schools, enables students to transfer credits most easily.

The School requires four years of English for graduation. AP English or IB English may substitute the required grade 10, 11 or 12 English courses. Other electives do not replace the core requirements.

### English Required Courses

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">English I</a>	US100-US101	Gr 9	None
<a href="#">English II</a> or <a href="#">AP English Language and Composition</a>	US102-US103	Gr 10	English I
<a href="#">English III</a> (or IB or AP English)	US104-US105	Gr 11	English II or <a href="#">AP English Language and Composition</a>
If not enrolled in an AP or IB course in Grade 12, two semester-long electives (one each semester)	Various (see below)	Gr 11-12	English III or AP/IB English

### English Electives (may be taken by seniors as one of their two English elective courses)

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">English: Creative Writing</a>	US110	Gr 10-12	English I

### English Senior-year Courses (required if student is not enrolled in an AP or IB course senior year)

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">English IV: Monsters in our Midst</a>	US106	Gr 12	English III or AP English Language and Composition
<a href="#">English IV: British Humor and Satire</a>	US109	Gr 12	English III or AP English Language and Composition
<a href="#">English IV: German Studies</a>	US114	Gr 12	English III or AP English Language and Composition
<a href="#">English IV: Graphic Novels</a>	US115	Gr 12	English III or AP English Language and Composition
<a href="#">English IV: Comparative Film and Novel Study</a>	US116	Gr 12	English III or AP English Language and Composition

## AP English Courses

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">AP English Language and Composition</a>	AP100-AP101	Gr 10-12	English I
<a href="#">AP English Literature and Composition</a>	AP102-AP103	Gr 11-12	English III, AP English Language and Composition

## IB English Courses

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">IB English A: Language and Literature SL</a>	IB100-IB101 IB102-IB103	Gr 11-12	80% in previous English course/DR
<a href="#">IB English A: Language and Literature HL</a>	IB104-IB105 IB106-IB107	Gr 11-12	80% in previous English course/DR
<a href="#">IB English A: Literature SL</a>	IB108-IB109 IB110-IB111	Gr 11-12	80% in previous English course/DR
<a href="#">IB English A: Literature HL</a>	IB112-IB113 IB114-IB115	Gr 11-12	80% in previous English course/DR

## WORLD LANGUAGES

Students must enroll in a second language course throughout their matriculation in the Upper School. Spanish Level III proficiency is required of all students except those who enter after grade 10 with no previous knowledge of the Spanish language. At least two years of study in the same language are recommended. Students in the Mexican University Program must take Spanish courses each year. These courses in Spanish count for the second-language requirement.

### WORLD LANGUAGES COURSE LIST: SPANISH

#### Spanish Courses

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">Spanish I</a>	US208-US209	Gr 9-12	none
<a href="#">Spanish II</a>	US210-US211	Gr 9-12	Spanish I or equivalent/PT
<a href="#">Spanish III</a>	US212-US213	Gr 9-12	Spanish II or equivalent/PT
<a href="#">Spanish IV</a>	US214-US215	Gr 9-12	Spanish III or equivalent/PT
<a href="#">Spanish Language Workshop I</a>	MX200-MX201	Gr 9	none
<a href="#">Spanish Language Workshop II</a>	MX208-MX209	Gr 10	Spanish Language Workshop
<a href="#">World Literature in Spanish</a>	MX204-MX205	Gr 11	Spanish Language Workshop II
<a href="#">Latin American Literature in Spanish</a>	MX206-MX207	Gr 12	World Literature in Spanish

#### AP Spanish Courses

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">AP Spanish Language and Culture</a>	AP200-AP201	Gr 9-12	85% in Spanish III/DR
<a href="#">AP Spanish Literature and Culture</a>	AP202-AP203	Gr 11-12	85% in Spanish Language Workshop II/DR

#### IB Spanish Courses

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">IB Spanish Ab Initio SL</a>	IB212-IB213 IB214-IB215	Gr 11-12	DR/PT
<a href="#">IB Spanish B SL</a>	IB216-IB217 IB218-IB219	Gr 11-12	80% in previous Spanish course/DR/PT/minimum three years of Spanish
<a href="#">IB Spanish B HL</a>	IB220-IB221 IB222-IB223	Gr 11-12	80% in previous Spanish course/DR/PT/minimum three years of Spanish
<a href="#">IB Spanish A: Language and Literature SL</a>	IB224-IB225 IB226-IB227	Gr 11-12	80% in Spanish Language Workshop II/DR/PT
<a href="#">IB Spanish A: Language and Literature HL</a>	IB228-IB229 IB230-IB231	Gr 11-12	80% in Spanish Language Workshop II/DR/PT

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">IB Spanish A: Literature SL</a>	IB232-IB233 IB234-IB235	Gr 11-12	80% in Spanish Language Workshop II/DR/PT
<a href="#">IB Spanish A: Literature HL</a>	IB236-IB237 IB238-IB239	Gr 11-12	80% in Spanish Language Workshop II/DR/PT

## WORLD LANGUAGES COURSE LIST: CHINESE

Students who enter the Upper School in Grade 9 are expected to complete coursework in Spanish to at least Level III. Students who have fulfilled this requirement, or who entered the Upper School in Grade 10 or higher, are permitted to enroll in a world language other than Spanish. Any student may enroll in an additional world languages as part of their elective course of studies.

### Mandarin Courses

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">Mandarin I</a>	US200-US201	Gr 9-12	none
<a href="#">Mandarin II</a>	US202-US203	Gr 9-12	Mandarin I or equivalent/PT
<a href="#">Mandarin III</a>	US204-US205	Gr 9-12	Mandarin II or equivalent/PT
<a href="#">Mandarin IV</a>	US206-US207	Gr 9-12	Mandarin III or equivalent/PT

### AP Mandarin Courses

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">AP Chinese Language and Culture</a>	AP000-AP000	Gr 10-12	85% in Mandarin III or equivalent/DR

### IB Mandarin Courses

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">IB Mandarin Ab Initio SL</a>	IB264-IB265	Gr 11-12	DR/PT
<a href="#">IB Mandarin B SL</a>	IB260-IB261	Gr 11-12	80% in Mandarin III or equivalent/ DR/PT
<a href="#">IB Mandarin B HL</a>	IB262-IB2639	Gr 11-12	80% in Mandarin III or equivalent/ DR/PT

## WORLD LANGUAGES COURSE LIST: FRENCH

Students who enter the Upper School in Grade 9 are expected to complete coursework in Spanish to at least Level III. Students who have fulfilled this requirement, or who entered the Upper School in Grade 10 or higher, are permitted to enroll in a world language other than Spanish. Any student may enroll in an additional world languages as part of their elective course of studies.

### French Courses

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">French I</a>	US200-US201	Gr 9-12	none
<a href="#">French II</a>	US202-US203	Gr 9-12	French I or equivalent/PT
<a href="#">French III</a>	US204-US205	Gr 9-12	French II or equivalent/PT
<a href="#">French IV</a>	US206-US207	Gr 9-12	French III or equivalent/PT

### AP French Courses

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">AP French Language and Culture</a>	AP204-AP205	Gr 10-12	85% in French III or equivalent/DR

### IB French Courses

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">IB French Ab Initio SL</a>	IB200-IB201 IB202-IB203	Gr 11-12	DR/PT
<a href="#">IB French B SL</a>	IB204-IB205 IB206-IB207	Gr 11-12	80% in French III or equivalent/DR/PT
<a href="#">IB French B HL</a>	IB208-IB209 IB210-IB211	Gr 11-12	80% in French III or equivalent/DR/PT

## HUMANITIES IN ENGLISH COURSE LIST

Students who transfer to ASF must show proof from their former institution that they have satisfied the ASF requirements for graduation from each grade level in the social studies program, or take any courses they may have missed in previous years. Students who have been at ASF for grades 9 and 10 and are fulfilling only the United States University Program must complete "Survey of Mexican History," a semester course, in grade 12.

Enrollment in AP United States History fulfills the United States History requirement. Students enrolled in IB History HL fulfill the Survey of Mexican History requirement and the U.S. History graduation requirement. Enrollment in Theory of Knowledge (ToK) or IB Philosophy SL fulfills the Philosophy requirements for the Mexican Program. Enrollment in the third semester of Theory of Knowledge (ToK) or IB Psychology fulfills the Psychology requirements for the Mexican Program.

Students not enrolled in the full IB Diploma Programme can apply to take individual IB courses, (with the exception of Theory of Knowledge and Extended Essay) or AP courses, but must have a minimum GPA of 85% for AP and 80% for IB in Humanities in English courses and be recommended by the department.

### U.S. Program Humanities in English Requirements

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">World History</a>	US322- US323	Gr 9	none
<a href="#">United States History</a>	US304- US305	Gr 10-12	World History
<a href="#">Survey of Mexican History</a>	US307	Gr 11-12	none

### Mexican Program Humanities in English Requirements

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">Psychology</a>	US313	Gr 11-12	none

### Humanities in English Electives

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">U.S. Government</a>	US306	Gr 11-12	U.S. History
<a href="#">Behavioral Economics</a>	US119	Gr 11-12	U.S. History
<a href="#">Crime and Punishment</a>	US118	Gr 11-12	U.S. History
<a href="#">New York City through Music, 1920-1995</a>	US117	Gr 11-12	U.S. History

### AP Humanities in English (fulfill department requirements)

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">AP Human Geography</a>	AP507-AP508	Gr 10-12	World History/85% in previous humanities courses/DR

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">AP Government and Politics: Comparative</a>	AP300-AP301	Gr 11-12	World History/85% in previous humanities courses/DR
<a href="#">AP United States History</a>	AP302-AP303	Gr 10-12	World History/85% in previous humanities courses/DR
<a href="#">AP European History</a>	AP310-AP311	Gr 10-12	U.S. History/85% in previous humanities courses/DR
<a href="#">AP Microeconomics</a>	AP106	Gr 11-12	U.S. History
<a href="#">AP Macroeconomics</a>	AP107	Gr 11-12	U.S. History
<a href="#">AP World History: Modern</a>	AP304-AP305	Gr 10-12	World History /85% in previous humanities courses/DR

### AP Humanities in English Electives (do not fulfill department requirements)

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">AP Art History</a>	AP700-AP701	Gr 10-12	World History/85% in previous humanities courses/DR
<a href="#">AP Seminar</a>	AP306-AP307	Gr 10-11	World History/85% in previous humanities courses/DR
<a href="#">AP Research</a>	AP308-AP309	Gr 11-12	AP Seminar

### IB Humanities in English

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">IB Economics SL</a>	IB300-IB301 IB302-IB303	Gr 11-12	U.S. History/80% in previous humanities courses/DR
<a href="#">IB Economics HL</a>	IB300-IB301 IB302-IB303	Gr 11-12	U.S. History/80% in previous humanities courses/DR
<a href="#">IB History SL</a>	IB306-IB307	Gr 11	U.S. History/80% in previous humanities courses/DR
<a href="#">IB History HL</a>	IB304-IB305 IB308-IB309	Gr 11-12	U.S. History/80% in previous humanities courses/DR
<a href="#">IB Psychology SL</a>	IB310-IB311	Gr 11-12	U.S. History/80% in previous humanities courses/DR
<a href="#">IB Psychology HL</a>	IB310-IB311	Gr 11-12	U.S. History/80% in previous humanities courses/DR
<a href="#">IB Theory of Knowledge (ToK)</a>	IB312-IB313 IB314	Gr 11-12	Admission to IB Full Diploma Program
<a href="#">IB Business &amp; Management SL</a>	IB316-IB317	Gr 11-12	U.S. History/80% in previous humanities courses/DR
<a href="#">IB Business &amp; Management HL</a>	IB316-IB317	Gr 11-12	U.S. History/80% in previous humanities courses/DR

## HUMANITIES IN SPANISH COURSE LIST

To fulfill the requirements of the Mexican University Program, students must complete all the following courses. Those not in the Mexican University Program may take these courses and receive elective credit in either Foreign Language or Social Studies. All these courses are taught in Spanish.

### Mexican University Program Humanities in Spanish Requirements

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#"><i>Historia de México I</i></a>	MX400-MX401	Gr 9	none
<a href="#"><i>Geografía</i></a>	MX402-MX403	Gr 10	none
<a href="#"><i>Historia de México II</i></a>	MX404-MX405	Gr 11	<i>Historia de México I</i>
<a href="#"><i>Derecho</i></a>	MX406	Gr 12	none
<a href="#"><i>Filosofía</i></a>	MX408-MX409	Gr 12	none
<a href="#"><i>Antropología</i></a>	MX412	Gr 12	none
<a href="#"><i>Pensamiento Crítico</i></a>	MX413	Gr 12	none

### Humanities in Spanish Electives

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#"><i>Problemas Políticos y Sociales en México</i></a>	MX410	Gr 12	<i>Historia de México I y II</i>
<a href="#"><i>Problemas Políticos y Económicos en México</i></a>	MX411	Gr 12	<i>Historia de México I y II</i>

### IB Humanities in Spanish

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#"><i>IB Philosophy SL</i></a> (in Spanish)	IB400-IB401	Gr 12	80% in previous Humanities in Spanish class/DR

## SCIENCE COURSE LIST

**Science Required Courses (Four years of lab science, including biology, chemistry and physics, are required for all students.)**

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">Biology</a>	US510/US511	Gr 9	none
<a href="#">Chemistry</a>	US512/US513	Gr 10	none
<a href="#">Physics</a>	US507/ US508	Gr 10-11	none
<a href="#">Anatomy and Physiology</a>	US504-US505	Gr 12	Biology, Chemistry, and Physics

### AP Science

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">AP Biology</a>	AP500-AP501	Gr 10-12	Biology/85% in previous science and math courses/DR
<a href="#">AP Chemistry</a>	AP502-AP503	Gr 11-12	Chemistry/85% in previous science and math courses/DR
<a href="#">AP Physics C: Mechanics</a>	AP504-AP505	Gr 11-12	Physics /85% in previous science and math courses/DR Co-requisite: Algebra II

### IB Science

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">IB Biology SL</a>	IB500-IB501 IB502-IB503	Gr 11-12	Biology/80% in previous science and math courses/DR
IB Biology HL	IB504-IB505 IB506-IB507	Gr 11-12	Biology/80% in previous science and math courses/DR
<a href="#">IB Chemistry SL</a>	IB508-IB509 IB510-IB511	Gr 11-12	Chemistry/80% in previous science and math courses/DR
<a href="#">IB Chemistry HL</a>	IB512-IB513 IB514-IB515	Gr 11-12	Chemistry/80% in previous science and math courses/DR
<a href="#">IB Physics SL</a>	IB518-IB519 IB520-IB521	Gr 11-12	Physic/80% in previous science and math courses/DR
<a href="#">IB Physics HL</a>	IB522-IB523 IB524-IB525	Gr 11-12	Physics/80% in previous science and math courses/DR Co-Requisite: Pre-Calculus, IB Math SL or IB Math HL
<a href="#">IB Environmental Systems and Societies SL</a>	IB516-IB517	Gr 11-12	Chemistry/80% in previous science and humanities courses/DR

**IB Science Alternatives (these courses fulfill the IB requirements in Group 4 but are not counted as science classes by ASF)**

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">IB Design Technology SL</a>	IB130-IB131	11-12	Two semesters of design courses with 80% or higher or AP Computer Science Principles with score of 80% or higher/DR
<a href="#">IB Design Technology HL</a>	IB132-IB133	11-12	Creative Tech: Transmedia II or Industrial Design II/80%/DR

## COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSE LIST

Students are required to take a minimum of .5 credits (one semester) of coding for graduation. Computer Science Principles I is the gateway course that fulfills this requirement. It is the prerequisite to other more advanced coding classes.

### General Coding Electives

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">Computer Science Principles I</a>	US817	9-12	Algebra I
<a href="#">Creative Coding</a>	US808	9-12	Computer Science Principles I
<a href="#">Web Design</a>	US806	9-12	Computer Science Principles I

### AP Computer Science

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">AP Computer Science Principles</a>	AP808-AP809	9-12	Algebra I
<a href="#">AP Computer Science A</a>	AP800-AP801	10-12	Computer Science Principles II or Creative Coding I/DR

# MATHEMATICS COURSE LIST

Three credits of mathematics in grades 9-11 and a minimum of Algebra II are required for graduation. Students are recommended to take a math course every year. Students are required to have a graphing calculator to use in their math class. The recommended graphing calculator is the TI-Nspire CX (TI CAS calculators are not permitted).

## Pathways in Math

### Standard Pathway

Grade	Regular	Alternative
Gr 6	Math 6	Math 6
Gr 7	Math 7	Math 7
Gr 8	Math 8	Math 8
Gr 9	Algebra I	Algebra I
Gr 10	Geometry	Geometry & Algebra II
Gr 11	Algebra II	Pre-Calculus, Prob & Stat, AP Stats
Gr 12	Pre-Calculus, Prob & Stats, AP Stats	Calculus, AP Calculus, Prob & Stat, AP Stats

### Advanced Pathway

Grade	Advanced I	Advanced II
Gr 6	Math 6	Math 6
Gr 7	Math 7	Math 7
Gr 8	Algebra I	Algebra I
Gr 9	Geometry	Algebra II and Geometry
Gr 10	Algebra II	Precalculus
Gr 11	Precal/AP/IB	Calculus/APs/IB
Gr 12	Calculus/AP/IB	APs/IB

Students who want to take IB Math: Applications and Interpretations SL, or IB Math Analysis and Approaches SL or HL or Calculus (standard or A.P.) as a terminal course are encouraged to take both Geometry and Algebra II in grade 10.

## Mathematics Required Courses

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">Algebra I</a>	US510/US511	Gr 9	Math 8
<a href="#">Geometry</a>	US512/US513	Gr 9-10	Algebra I
<a href="#">Algebra II</a>	US507/ US508	Gr 9-12	Geometry

## Mathematics Terminal Courses

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">Pre-Calculus</a>	US610-US611	Gr 10-12	Math 8
<a href="#">Calculus</a>	US612-US613	Gr 11-12	Algebra I
<a href="#">Probability and Statistics</a>	US608-US609	Gr 11-12	Geometry

## AP Mathematics

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">AP Statistics</a>	AP608-AP609	Gr 11-12	Algebra II/85% in previous math course/DR
<a href="#">AP Calculus AB</a>	AP600-AP601	Gr 10-12	Pre-Calculus/85% in previous math course/DR

## IB Mathematics

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">IB Math: Applications and Interpretations SL</a>	IB613-IB614 IB621-IB622	Gr 11-12	Geometry/80% in previous math course/DR
<a href="#">IB Math: Analysis and Approaches SL</a>	IB615-IB616 IB623-IB624	Gr 11-12	Algebra II/80% in previous math course/DR
<a href="#">IB Math: Analysis and Approaches HL</a>	IB617-IB618 IB625-IB626	Gr 11-12	Algebra II/80% in previous math course/DR

## ARTS & DESIGN (VISUAL, MUSICAL, THEATRE AND DESIGN ARTS)

Students are required to take 1.5 units of Arts and Design courses to graduate. One of these units should be taken in grades 9 and 10, and it is suggested that students take .5 unit of visual art, .5 unit of performing art, and .5 unit of design.

### DRAMATIC ARTS COURSE LIST

#### Drama Electives

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">Drama I</a>	US712	Gr 9-12	none
<a href="#">Drama II</a>	US729	Gr 9-12	Drama I/DR
<a href="#">Drama Production</a>	US713	Gr 10-12	Drama I/Audition/DR

#### IB Drama

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">IB Theater SL</a> (11-12)	IB700-IB701	Gr 12	80% in previous performing arts courses/Drama/DR
<a href="#">IB Theater HL</a> (11-12)	IB702-IB703	Gr 12	80% in previous performing arts courses/Drama/DR

### PERFORMING ARTS COURSE LIST

#### Music Electives

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">Concert Band I</a>	US710	Gr 9-12	Minimum of 1 year band experience and/or DR
<a href="#">Concert Band II</a>	US711	Gr 9-12	Minimum of 1 year band experience and/or DR
<a href="#">Jazz Ensemble</a>	US719-US720	Gr 9-12	
<a href="#">Guitar I</a>	US706	Gr 9-12	none
<a href="#">Guitar II</a>	US707	Gr 9-12	Guitar I/DR
<a href="#">Choir I</a>	US708	Gr 9-12	none
<a href="#">Strings</a>	US738-US739	Gr 9-12	none
<a href="#">Foundations of Musical Theatre</a>	US733	9-12	Choir I or Drama I/DR

## IB Music

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">IB Music SL</a> (11-12)	IB732-IB733	Gr 11	
<a href="#">IB Music HL</a> (11-12)	IB732-IB733	Gr 11	

## VISUAL ARTS COURSE LIST

### Visual Art Electives

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">Art I</a>	US700	Gr 9-12	none
<a href="#">Art II</a>	US701	Gr 9-12	Art I
<a href="#">Ceramics I</a>	US703	Gr 9-12	none
<a href="#">Ceramics II</a>	US704	Gr 9-12	Ceramics I
<a href="#">Ceramics III</a>	US705	Gr 10-12	Ceramics II
<a href="#">Fashion Design I</a>	US715	Gr 9-12	none
<a href="#">Fashion Design II</a>	US	9-12	Fashion Design
<a href="#">Photography I</a>	US723	Gr 9-12	none
<a href="#">Photography II</a>	US724	Gr 9-12	Photography I
<a href="#">Photography III</a>	US725	Gr 10-12	Photography II

### AP Art

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">AP Art History</a>	AP700-AP701	Gr 10-12	World History and/85% in previous art and humanities courses/DR
<a href="#">AP Studio Art: 2-Dimensional Design</a>	AP702-AP703	Gr 11-12	Successful Completion of two of the following: Art I/II, Multimedia Design I/II, Photo I/II or Graphic Design/85% in previous art course/DR

### IB Visual Arts

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">IB Visual Arts SL</a> (11-12)	IB704-IB705 IB712-IB713	Gr 11-12	80% in previous visual arts courses (including Art I and at least one of the following: Photo II, Art II, Ceramics II or AP Art History)/application/DR
<a href="#">IB Visual Arts HL</a> (11-12)	IB706-IB707 IB709-IB709	Gr 11-12	80% in previous visual arts courses (including Art I and at least one of the following: Photo II, Art II, Ceramics II or AP Art History)/application/DR

# DESIGN ARTS AND DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY COURSE LIST

## Design & Technology Electives

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">Graphic Design I</a>	US718	Gr 9-12	none
<a href="#">Graphic Design II</a>	US719	Gr 10-12	Graphic Design I
<a href="#">Creative Technologies: Transmedia I</a>	US813	Gr 9-12	none
<a href="#">Creative Technologies: Transmedia II</a>	US814	Gr 9-12	Creative Technologies: Transmedia I
<a href="#">Industrial Design I</a>	US815	Gr 9-12	none
<a href="#">Industrial Design II</a>	US816	Gr 9-12	Industrial Design I/DR
<a href="#">Video Production I</a>	US807	Gr 9-12	none
<a href="#">Video Production II</a>	US808	Gr 9-12	Video Production I
<a href="#">Yearbook Publication</a>	US727-US728	Gr 9-12	DR/Application required for editor, photo editor, graphic/art editor and copy editor positions

## IB Design and Technology

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">IB Design Technology SL</a>	IB130-IB131	11-12	Two semesters of design courses with 80% or higher or AP Computer Science Principles with score of 80% or higher/DR
<a href="#">IB Design Technology HL</a>	IB132-1B133	11-12	Creative Tech: Transmedia II or Industrial Design II/80%/DR

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION COURSE LIST

One full unit (two semesters) of PE is required for graduation. In grade 9, students will take .5 unit of PE and .5 unit of Health. Students who participate on a JV or Varsity team can earn their PE credit through Athletics. Attendance, sportsmanship, and responsibility criteria must be met to receive credit. Students who do not receive credit through Athletics will be scheduled into a PE class in grade 10 or 11.

### PE Required and Elective Course

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">Health</a>	US900	Gr 9-12	none
<a href="#">Physical Education 1</a> (Girls)	US902	Gr 9-12	none
<a href="#">Physical Education 1</a> (Boys)	US903	Gr 9-12	none
<a href="#">Physical Education 2</a> (Girls)	US904	Gr 10-12	none
<a href="#">Physical Education 2</a> (Boys)	US905	Gr 10-12	none
<a href="#">Strength and Conditioning</a> (Co-ed)	US907	Gr 10-12	none
<a href="#">Lifeguarding</a>	US901	Gr 9-12	none

## ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION COURSE LIST

### Courses

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
<a href="#">Office Cadet</a> (One Semester)	US1006	Gr 12	none
<a href="#">Teaching Cadet</a> (One Semester)	US1007	Gr 12	none
<a href="#">Study Hall</a> (One Semester)	US1009	Gr 9-12	none
<a href="#">Academic Coaching</a>	US1010	Gr 9-11	none
<a href="#">Seminar in College Prep</a>	US1008	Gr 11	none

## ENGLISH COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **US100/US101 - English I (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Open to: Grade 10**

Grade 9 English explores storytelling and examines how stories from a variety of genres and a variety of cultures tell truths, even as they lie about the facts. This course develops English language arts skills – reading, writing, listening, speaking and viewing. The course is largely based on the development of expository writing skills as applied to paragraph and essay composition, including a review of grammar, usage, syntax and conventional organization, as well as the writing process. Of equal importance is the development of critical thinking skills, with particular emphasis on the tools of literary analysis as applied to narratives. This course begins to form the foundation required for students to achieve success in upper level classes. Works studied may include but are not limited to the following: *The Catcher in the Rye*, *Speak*, *Persepolis*, a William Shakespeare play, and *Lord of the Flies*, complemented by contemporary non-fiction works selected by the teacher.

### **US102/US103 - English II (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: English I**

**Open to: Grade 10**

English II is primarily devoted to the study of U.S. literature and is organized into thematic units covering writers from a variety of periods and genres. This course offers students the opportunity to draw connections among U.S. literature, history and culture through a survey of both contemporary works and established classics. While students continue to review, refine and practice reading, grammatical and writing skills learned in previous courses, they are also required to develop vocabulary and gain a historical understanding of works and movements and to write critically and creatively about them. Texts may include *Doubt*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Of Mice and Men* and *Song of Solomon*.

### **US104/US105 - English III (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: English II**

**Open to: Grade 11**

This course challenges students to explore World Literature with the aim of understanding different cultural perspectives, examine voices previously unheard and learn more about the similarities and difference in style and content. While students continue to review, refine and practice reading, analytical writing skills and grammar skills learned in previous courses, they are also required to develop vocabulary and gain a historical and cultural understanding of works and movements. Furthermore, students will be expected to write reflectively, analytically and creatively about them. Students focus on developing their literary analysis, making links between texts and close reading skills, as well as developing their formal use of language in both written and spoken form.

## Semester Electives in English

### **US110 - English: Creative Writing (Semester Course)**

**Prerequisite: English I**

**Open to: Grade 10-12**

The creative writing course allows students to engage in the study of authors' craft to develop their own creative pieces through patient drafting and student centered workshops. The semester is organized around three main units: poetry, fiction and screenwriting. Students study several poetic forms, the elements of short fiction, and screenwriting through a detailed and diverse reading list of authors. Among the specific elements of writing that will be highlighted through the readings are: extended metaphor, imagery, sensory details, description, mood, characterization, and dialogue. Students use their learning and understanding to develop their own creative work through a process of generating ideas, drafting, receiving feedback, and revising. The course requires careful analytical reading, the courage to write and revise with creativity, active collaboration, and the willingness to both give and receive honest, constructive feedback.

**US106 - English IV: Monsters in our Midst (Semester Course)**

**Prerequisite: English III or AP/IB English**

**Open to: Grade 10-12**

“The sleep of reason produces monsters.” (Goya)

This course traces the creation of monsters throughout time, moving from very simple but highly symbolic monsters in myths and fairy tales to the very modern, complex and eerily appealing monster of Shelley’s *Frankenstein* and finally to modern re-tellings where the monsters become philosophical ideas or social outcasts. Texts studied include fairy tales and myths, psychological and anthropological theories, the gloomy Anglo-Saxon *Beowulf*, *Grendel* (a modern *Beowulf* told from the point of view of the original monster, where the real monster is 20th century nihilism), *Eaters of the Dead* by Michael Crichton, *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde, and finally, either a movie or a contemporary novel.

**US109 - English IV: British Humor and Satire (Semester Course)**

**Prerequisite: English III or AP/IB English**

**Open to: Grade 10-12**

This course in British literature teaches students to look at satire as a means of social criticism. While its focus is on literary works such as Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales*, Wilde’s *The Importance of Being Ernest* or Orwell’s *1984*, it also examines humor in classic and contemporary contexts. As such, Dionysian festivals and a bit of Monty Python will be included as well. Students will be able to situate the works in historical contexts that include the Middle Ages, the Enlightenment, Victorian and modern periods. The final project will involve an analysis of a piece of satire in contemporary culture.

**US114 - English IV: German Studies (Semester Course)**

**Prerequisite: English II or AP/IB English and World History II/DR**

**Open to: Grade 10-12**

German Studies is a one-semester elective course for juniors and seniors. This course will explore the origins and impact of Romanticism not only as an artistic current, but also as a way of life. For this purpose, the philosophical and

aesthetic foundations of romantic thought will be explored through the study of some exemplary philosophical and literary texts, music pieces, paintings and films. This exploration will allow the students to link Romanticism with important ideologies, historical events and artistic currents of the 19th century and in this way, discover roots that might have been hidden thus far.

**US115 - English IV: Graphic Novels (Semester Course)**

**Prerequisite: English I**

**Open to: Grade 10-12**

Students will be introduced to the genre of the graphic novel and learn strategies on visual and textual analysis. The course focuses on content, context, language, structure, technique and style in works such as Art Spiegelman’s *Maus* and Gene Luen Yang’s *American Born Chinese*. Much of the time will be spent on developing visual literacy skills through the study of the base texts. Students will analyze and create various forms of textual and visual texts. No previous experience with graphic novels is required. Supplemental texts will be studied to enrich the discussions and course assessments.

**US116 - English IV: Comparative Film and Novel Study (Semester Course)**

**Prerequisite: English I**

**Open to: Grade 10-12**

This course will look at movies as they move from the novel to the screen. It will go into the decision-making process directors and writers make when adapting the novel to the screenplay, and ultimately to the movie-making process. We will read the novels and then view the movies they were adapted from and make critical analyses of how the movie was created from the novel. What was left out? Why? What was added? Who was adapted for the respective roles? What technical elements were employed in making the movie? How is meaning created from the novel to the big screen? This course, one semester, will cover three novels and the corresponding movies that followed the novel, and their impact on the viewer, on society.

## AP English Courses

### AP100/AP101 - AP English Language and Composition (One-year Course)

**Prerequisite:** 85% in previous English course/  
NWEA scores in the 80th percentile/DR

**Open to:** Grade 10-12

This demanding course is designed as a first-year university composition course in terms of both material and rigor. Students learn about language as rhetoric and are taught the skills necessary to perform rhetorical analysis through analytical reading and study of language. Students write extensively, and most writing assignments are designed to simulate the three types of essays they encounter on the AP exam. Works studied are from a variety of genres and rhetorical modes and may include *Lolita*, *The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, *The New York Trilogy*, *In Cold Blood*, and *Zeitoun*. It is recommended that students take AP Language before AP Literature. A summer project is required. Students are required to sit for the AP exam at the end of the course. See the AP Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

### AP102/AP103 - AP English Literature and Composition (One-year Course)

**Prerequisite:** 85% in previous English course/  
NWEA scores in the 80th percentile/DR

**Open to:** Grade 11-12

This demanding course engages students in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative, college-level literature. Through close readings of all three genres (novels, plays and poetry) students deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and creative pleasure for their readers. As they read, students consider a work's larger structure, style and themes and also engage with more specific elements of composition and style such as figurative language, imagery and tone. Students explore the culture and context in which the work was written, as well as their own culture and context in perceiving it. Class time is devoted to a seminar-style discussion of the works as well as developing student writing to fit occasion and purpose. Students are required to sit for the AP exam at the end of the course. See the AP Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

## IB English Courses

### IB116/IB117/IB102/IB103 - IB English A: Language and Literature SL (Two-year Course)

**Prerequisite:** 80% in previous English course/DR

**Open to:** Grade 11-12

### IB116/IB117/IB106/IB107 - IB English A: Language and Literature HL (Two-year Course)

**Prerequisite:** 80% in previous English course/DR

**Open to:** Grade 11-12

The IB English Language A: Language and Literature SL/HL course is designed for students who have experience using the language in an academic context. The course is a study of both the English language and literature. Students explore and make connections with English-speaking cultures and other cultures with which they are familiar. In this course, students study a wide range of literary and non-literary texts in a variety of media. By examining communicative acts across literary forms and textual types alongside appropriate secondary readings, students will investigate the nature of language itself and the ways in which it shapes and is influenced by identity and culture. Approaches to studying in the course are meant to be wide-ranging and can include literary theory, media studies and critical discourse analysis among others. All works may be understood according to their form, content, purpose, and audience, and through the social, historical, cultural and workplace contexts that produce and value them. For both the standard and the higher levels, the IB Diploma exam is required in May of the second year. See the IB Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

### IB118/IB119/IB110/IB111 - IB English A: Literature SL (Two-year Course)

**Prerequisite:** 80% in previous English course/DR

**Open to:** Grade 11-12

### IB118/IB119/IB114/IB115 - IB English A: Literature HL (Two-year Course)

**Prerequisite:** 80% in previous English course/DR

**Open to:** Grade 11-12

The IB Literature course focuses exclusively on literary texts, adopting a variety of approaches to textual criticism. Students explore the nature

of literature, the aesthetic function of literary language and textuality, and the relationship between literature and the world. Over the course of two years, students electing to take Language A: Literature at the standard level will study a minimum of nine (9) full-length works, while students at the higher level will study a minimum of thirteen (13). Works will represent four genres and a broad spectrum of times and regions of origin. Genres studied include narrative, poetry, nonfiction and drama. Higher level students will also be required to complete an additional written coursework task for the IB that explores a line of inquiry in relation to a studied literary text or work. The outcome is an essay of 1,200-1,500 words in which HL students are expected to demonstrate a deeper understanding of the nature of literary study. For both standard and higher levels, an internal assessment (Interactive Oral) as well the IB Diploma exams (Papers I & II) are a requirement. The IB Diploma exams take place in May of the second year in the program. See the IB Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees. (IB Diploma Program. Language A: literature guide. First Assessment, 2021).

## WORLD LANGUAGES

Students must enroll in a second language course throughout their matriculation in the Upper School. Spanish Level III proficiency is required of all students except those who enter after grade 10 with no previous knowledge of the Spanish language. At least two years of study in the same language are recommended. Students in the Mexican University Program must take Spanish courses each year. These courses in Spanish count for the second-language requirement.

### WORLD LANGUAGES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS: SPANISH

Because many students have already taken Spanish, placement in the following courses will be determined through a test. They must achieve level three of proficiency before terminating their study of the Spanish language.

#### **US208/US209 - Spanish I (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: PT**

**Open to: Grade 9-12**

A beginning course for students new to Mexico, this course stresses the four basic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing with standard pronunciation. Students will master the ability to communicate in the basic present, past and future in practical situations stressing important cultural values and traditions.

#### **US210/US211 - Spanish II (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Spanish I or equivalent/PT**

**Open to: Grade 9-12**

This course continues to teach simple communication in daily situations with mastery of irregular verbs, more idiomatic expressions and the use of commands. The second semester begins the study of more complex grammatical forms with continuous evaluation of the student's listening, speaking, reading and writing skills and more exposure to the Hispanic culture.

#### **US212/US213 - Spanish III (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Spanish II or equivalent/PT**

**Open to: Grade 9-12**

All verb tenses and major points of grammar are mastered. Students write essays and read short works of literature. Oral and listening skills are at a more sophisticated level. Experience of the Hispanic culture is deepened through lengthier readings, discussions and presentations.

#### **US214/US215 - Spanish IV (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Spanish III or equivalent/PT**

**Open to: Grade 9-12**

For the advanced student, this course is designed to achieve fluency in reading, writing and oral skills. Obligatory readings include those in the textbook that consist of short stories by Spanish and Latin American authors, newspapers and magazine articles. The historical context is explained, as well as the history of some Spanish-speaking countries. Other activities include songs and movies in Spanish. All verb tenses and basic grammar will be reviewed.

The following courses are taught solely in Spanish and are designed to give a more comprehensive view of Latin American and Spanish literature. Students enrolled in the Mexican University Program must take Spanish Language Workshop, Etymology, World Literature in Spanish and Latin American Literature in Spanish. Students enrolled in the IB Diploma Program may take IB Spanish Language A in place of World Literature in Spanish and Latin American Literature in Spanish

#### **MX200/MX201 - Spanish Language Workshop I (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Open to: Grade 9**

Designed to improve writing skills, this course entails the study of Latin and Greek Etymology in Spanish vocabulary with reference to their modern usage and relevance. The course covers the cultural and historical backgrounds of words: their derivations, definitions, changes and phonetics across time. Additionally, Spanish composition skills will be reviewed throughout the year. Students will learn correct spelling

and usage of modern Spanish in order to be well prepared for Spanish Language Workshop II, where they will go in depth into analyzing literature and writing essays.

**MX208/MX209 - Spanish Language Workshop II (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Spanish Language Workshop**  
**Open to: Grade 10**

This course is designed as a continuation of the Spanish Language Workshop I and its main goal is to introduce grade 10 students to a higher level of literary analysis through the reading of basic selected works in Spanish from a variety of genres. The evaluation of the analysis and comprehension of these works will be based on the production of an academic essay. Therefore, among the goals of this course is to help students develop the necessary skills to produce academic papers. This will prepare students to transition to Universal Literature and to the advanced courses offered in IB and AP programs. This course will also determine students' eligibility for advanced Spanish courses.

**MX204/MX205 - World Literature in Spanish (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Spanish Language Workshop II**  
**Open to: Grade 11**

This course offers the student a historical and critical understanding of universal literary movements and specific works. The aim is to develop in the student the understanding of thought, culture and universal human values. In addition, students will be exposed to complex forms of writing ranging from journalism to scientific articles. Class discussions and formal speeches and presentations will develop listening and speaking skills. In second semester, the course includes books of increasing difficulty. Students will explore the universal literary production in depth. The emphasis is on literary analysis and the reinforcement of language skills through composition and essay writing. In addition, students will develop critical thinking and analysis skills through the reading and understanding of literary texts, research and critical writing.

**MX206/MX207 - Latin American Literature in Spanish (One-year Course)**  
**Prerequisite: World Literature in Spanish or AP Spanish Language and Culture**  
**Open to: Grade 12**

In this survey of Spanish and Latin American literature, the selected works as well as the level of critical analysis are of increasing difficulty. Students read and thoroughly analyze major works by contemporary Spanish and Latin American writers in different genres. Students refine and polish their language arts skills and write a variety of expository and personal essays. In second semester, students read and analyze full-length 20th century Latin American narrative works representing a variety of genres. In addition, the course reviews and reinforces the language skills necessary to write coherent, analytical, formal essays.

**AP Spanish Courses**

**AP200/AP201 - AP Spanish Language and Culture (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: 85% in Spanish III or equivalent/DR**  
**Open to: Grades 9-12**

This course is geared to students for whom Spanish is not their native language and who want to prepare for the AP Spanish Language examination. The class will concentrate on mastering the skills of speaking, listening, reading, writing, grammar and vocabulary. In addition to preparing for the AP exam, students will read works of literature, write compositions, deliver oral presentations and view films. Students are required to sit the AP exam at the end of the course. See the AP Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

**AP202/AP203 - AP Spanish Literature and Culture (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: 85% in Spanish language Workshop II/DR**  
**Open to: Grades 9-12**

This course is open to juniors and seniors who have demonstrated outstanding ability in literary analysis and mastery of Spanish composition. It focuses on a detailed understanding of Spanish and Latin American authors, and stresses critical

and literary interpretation through lecture, discussion and essay writing. It fulfills the requirements of Latin American Literature in Spanish. The AP exam is required for all students. See the AP Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

## **IB Spanish Courses**

### **IB212/IB213/IB214/IB215 - IB Spanish Ab Initio SL (Two-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: DR/PT**

**Open to: Grades 11-12**

This course is designed for the beginner Spanish student. The main focus of the course is the acquisition of the language required for purposes and situations used in everyday social interaction. In addition, students are expected to develop a basic awareness of the multiple cultures that speak Spanish. The IB Diploma exam is required in May of the second year. See the IB Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

### **IB216/IB217/IB218/IB219 - IB Spanish B SL (Two-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: 80% in previous Spanish course/ DR/PT; a minimum of three years in Spanish courses**

**Open to: Grades 11-12**

This course will concentrate on mastering the skills for students to understand and use accurately oral and written forms of the language that are commonly encountered in a range of situations and to understand and use a range of vocabulary in common usage. Students will be able to understand and respond appropriately to written and spoken material of average difficulty and assess some subtleties of the language in a range of forms, styles and registers. Students are expected to show an awareness of, and sensitivity to, some elements of the culture(s) related to the Spanish language. The IB Diploma exam is required in May of the second year. See the IB Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

### **IB220/IB221/IB222/IB223 - IB Spanish B HL (Two-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: 80% in previous Spanish course/ DR/PT; a minimum of three years in Spanish courses**

**Open to: Grades 11-12**

This course is designed for students with some previous experience in the language. The main focus of the course is on language acquisition and development in the four primary language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students will master the skills to communicate clearly and effectively in a wide range of situations in oral and written forms of the language using a wide range of vocabulary. Students will be able to understand and analyze moderately complex written and spoken material and assess subtleties of the language. Students are expected to show an awareness of, and sensitivity to, the culture(s) related to the Spanish language. The IB Diploma exam is required in May of the second year. See the IB Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

### **IB224/IB225/IB226/IB227 - IB Spanish A: Language and Literature SL (Two-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: 80% in Spanish Language II/DR/PT**

**Open to: Grades 11-12**

### **IB228/IB229/IB230/IB231 - IB Spanish A: Language and Literature HL (Two-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: 80% in Spanish Language Workshop II/DR/TP**

**Open to: Grades 11-12**

The IB Spanish Language A: Language and Literature SL/HL course is designed for students who have experience using the language in an academic context. The course is a study of both the Spanish language and literature. Students explore and make connections with the cultures that speak Spanish and other cultures with which they are familiar. In this course, students study a wide range of literary and non-literary texts in a variety of media. By examining communicative acts across literary form and textual type alongside appropriate secondary readings, students will investigate the nature of language itself and the ways in which it shapes and is influenced by identity and culture. Approaches to study in the course are meant to be wide ranging and can include literary theory, sociolinguistics, media

studies and critical discourse analysis among others. All works may be understood according to their form, content, purpose and audience, and through the social, historical, cultural and workplace contexts that produce and value them. For both the standard and the higher levels, the IB Diploma exam is required in May of the second year.

See the IB Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

**IB232/IB233/IB234/IB235 - IB Spanish A: Literature  
SL (Two-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: 80% in Spanish Language Workshop  
II/DR**

**Open to: Grades 11-12**

**IB236/IB237/IB238/IB239 - IB Spanish A: Literature  
HL (Two-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: 80% in Spanish Language Workshop  
II/DR**

**Open to: Grades 11-12**

According to the IB Diploma requirements, the Spanish Language A: Literature course is designed to prepare students to critically analyze and evaluate language through the study of a varied range of literary texts from different genres, times and places. Students focus exclusively on literary texts and explore them through a variety of approaches to textual criticism, examining the nature of literature itself, the aesthetic function of literary language and the relationship between literary works and the real world. Standard level students read 9 works of literature and Higher level students read 13 works of literature over the two years. For both the standard and the higher levels, the IB Diploma External Evaluation exams are presented in May of the second year. See the IB Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

# WORLD LANGUAGES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS: CHINESE

## **US230/US231 - Mandarin I (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Open to: Grade 9-12**

This course aims to help students to develop the ability to participate in simple, practical conversations on everyday topics and able to communicate effectively with native Mandarin Chinese speakers in simple conversations. By the end of the level 1, students will be able to use their Chinese language skills to conduct conversations on the daily life, including greetings, dates, age, family, time, colors, transportations as well as personal life.

## **US232/US233 - Mandarin II (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Mandarin I or equivalent/PT**

**Open to: Grade 9-12**

Students in Mandarin 2 continue to build upon the skills developed in Chinese I, extending students' ability to understand and express themselves in Chinese with richer vocabulary and sentence structures. This second-year course continues to develop the overview of Chinese language and culture through listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Through the development of receptive, productive, and interactive skills, students acquire the ability to respond and interact appropriately in real life situations. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to communicate effectively in simple conversations on the following topics: shopping, dining, asking directions, appearance, occupation, daily routine, household and pets.

## **US234/US235 - Mandarin III (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Mandarin II or equivalent/PT**

**Open to: Grade 9-12**

Students in Mandarin 3 continue to build upon the skills developed in Chinese I and II, continuing to enrich students' learning of Chinese vocabulary and intermediate level of sentence structures. This course elevates students' understanding of more complex Chinese dialogue and grammar concepts and Chinese traditions, cultural values and history. Students' communicative competence

will be further advanced through performing longer dialogues in a variety of interactive activities in real life situations. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to communicate more in depth in those topics that they learned in Chinese 1 and 2 and will have the opportunity to apply the Chinese they have already learned to acquire more advanced phrases to express themselves in a series of sentences. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to communicate more in depth in the following topics: school life, food, festival, travel, habit, friendship and weather.

## **US234/US235 - Mandarin IV (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Mandarin III or equivalent/PT**

**Open to: Grade 9-12**

Students in Mandarin 4 will enhance their abilities to understand Chinese culture as reflected in various concepts of the language. These concepts enable them to think about some major differences between cultures, and to express their opinions by using colloquialisms and slang. Students will also be expected to complete a research essay and deliver a speech with a high level of fluency and accuracy. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to communicate more in depth in the following topics: School courses, Chinese traditional, Chinese festivals, technology, health and environment protection.

## **AP Chinese Courses**

### **AP000/AP000 - AP Chinese Language and Culture (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: 85% in Mandarin III/DR**

**Open to: Grade 9-12**

AP Chinese Language & Culture course is designed to provide students with various opportunities to further improve their proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills to be ready for the AP Chinese exam. Students enrolled in this course will also have the maximum exposure to Chinese cultural elements that are integrated in the process of learning the language. An appreciation of the Chinese culture will also be an integral part of the course as students are given opportunities to explore and engage in the dynamic cultural evolutions that

took place. Throughout the course, assessments are frequent, varied, and explicitly linked to the content and skills that make up the learning goals of each unit of study. The course provides students with maximum exposure to authentic culture and language. Students apply their growing cultural knowledge to communicative tasks in real-life contexts and develop the ability to write and speak in a variety of discourse styles. Students also gain necessary knowledge of the Chinese language, including vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, and grammatical structures. Students are required to sit the AP exam at the end of the course. See the AP Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

## **IB Chinese Courses**

### **IB264/IB265 - IB Mandarin Ab Initio SL (Two-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: DR//PT**

**Open to: Grade 11-12**

This course is a language acquisition course for students with little or no experience in the language. Students develop the ability to communicate about themselves and their immediate environment using basic vocabulary and sentence structures. The IB Mandarin ab initio program focuses on a dynamic combination of knowledge, skills, independent critical and creative thought and international mindedness. Students express themselves about a variety of familiar topics and deepen their understanding of Chinese-speaking communities by exploring stories, articles, poems, films, and other texts. All students who complete this course will be expected to sit the IB Mandarin ab initio examination at the end of the two-year course. See the IB Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

### **IB260/IB261 - IB Mandarin B SL (Two-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: 80% in Mandarin III or equivalent/  
DR/PT**

**Open to: Grade 11-12**

This course is a language acquisition course for students with some background in Mandarin. Students in this class will be able to use Mandarin spontaneously and appropriately in unfamiliar as well as familiar circumstances. This course gives students the opportunity to reach a high degree

of competence in the language and explore the culture using the language. The range of purposes and situations for which and in which the language is used extends to the domains of work, social relationships, and the discussion of abstract ideas. The course concentrates on students' language receptive skills and written productive skills and prepares students to take the IB Mandarin SL Exam later in the school year. For both the standard and the higher levels, the IB Diploma exam is required in May of the second year. See the IB Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

### **IB262/IB263 - IB Mandarin B HL (Two-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: 80% in Mandarin III or equivalent/  
DR/PT**

**Open to: Grade 11-12**

This course is a language acquisition course for students with advanced background in Mandarin. Mandarin HL offers students opportunities to develop their language receptive skills, written productive skills as well as cultural connections. SL and HL are differentiated by teaching hours, the depth of syllabus coverage, the study of literature, the level of difficulty and the demands of the assessment criteria. Mandarin. For both the standard and the higher levels, the IB Diploma exam is required in May of the second year. See the IB Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

# WORLD LANGUAGES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS: FRENCH

## **US200/US201 - French I (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Open to: Grade 9-12**

This course develops oral language via dialogues and practice drills in the classroom. In addition, it presents insights into the everyday culture of the French people, their songs and poetry. Listening, reading, speaking and writing skills are developed. Verb tenses taught are: present, passé composé, futur proche, recent past, imperative and reflexive verbs. A dictionary is required.

## **US202/US203 - French II (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: French I or equivalent/PT**

**Open to: Grade 9-12**

For students who have already mastered the basics of the French language, this course deepens their knowledge of the civilization, culture and customs of the French people. At the same time, it enables students to improve their linguistic skills via comprehension of texts and gain further oral practice through conversation. They are introduced to various verb tenses, plus grammatical structures. Students will write short essays. A dictionary is required.

## **US204/US205 - French III (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: French II or equivalent/PT**

**Open to: Grade 9-12**

This course further develops French oral language skills and grammatical structures, while reinforcing reading and writing. The culture of France is emphasized. Verb tenses and modes taught include review of preterit, imperfect, future, conditional, present and subjunctive. A dictionary is required.

## **US206/US207 - French IV (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: French III or equivalent/PT**

**Open to: Grade 9-12**

This course is geared to students who would like to keep studying French without having to prepare for the AP exam. The class will concentrate on mastering the skills of speaking, listening, reading

and writing with an emphasis on conversation, literature and culture. Students are expected to master everyday vocabulary and everyday situations by the end of the course.

## **AP French Courses**

### **AP204/AP205 - AP French Language and Culture (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: 85% in French III or equivalent/DR**

**Open to: Grade 9-12**

This course is geared to students for whom French is not their native language and who want to prepare for the AP French examination. The class will concentrate on mastering the skills of speaking, listening, reading, writing, grammar and vocabulary. In addition to preparing for the AP exam, students will read works of literature, write compositions, deliver oral presentations and view films. Students are required to sit for the AP exam at the end of the course. See the AP Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

## **IB French Courses**

### **IB200/IB201/IB202/IB203 - IB French Ab Initio SL (Two-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: DR/PT**

**Open to: Grade 11-12**

IB Language Ab Initio is a language acquisition course designed to provide students with the necessary skills and intercultural understanding to enable them to communicate successfully in an environment where the language studied is spoken. The language Ab Initio course is organized into three themes: individual and society, leisure and work and urban and rural environment. Each theme has a list of topics that provide the students with opportunities to practice and explore the language as well as to develop intercultural understanding. Through the development of receptive, productive and interactive skills, students should be able to respond and interact appropriately in a defined range of everyday situations. Language Ab Initio is available at SL only and is appropriate for students with little to no prior study of French. The IB Diploma exam is required in May of the second year. See the IB Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

**IB208/IB205/IB206/IB207 - IB French B SL (Two-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: 80% in French III or equivalent/DR/PT**  
**Open to: Grade 11-12**

This course is designed for students with some previous experience of the language. The main focus of the course is on language acquisition and development in the four primary language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students will master the skills to understand and use accurately oral and written forms of the language commonly encountered in a range of situations. Students will also be able to understand and respond appropriately to written and spoken material of average difficulty and assess some subtleties of the language. Students are expected to show an awareness of, and sensitivity to, some elements of the culture(s) related to the French language. The IB Diploma exam is required in May of the second year. See the IB Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

**IB208/IB209/IB210/IB211 - IB French B HL (Two-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: 80% in French III or equivalent/DR/PT**  
**Open to: Grade 11-12**

This course is designed for students with some previous experience of the language. The main focus of the course is on language acquisition and development in the four primary language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students will master the skills to communicate clearly and effectively in a wide range of situations and to understand and use accurately oral and written forms using a wide range of vocabulary. Students will be able to understand and analyze moderately complex written and spoken material and assess subtleties of the language. Students are expected to show an awareness of, and sensitivity to, the culture(s) related to the French language. The IB Diploma exam is required in May of the second year. See the IB Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

# HUMANITIES IN ENGLISH COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## Humanities in English Required Courses

### US322/US323 - World History (One-year Course)

**Prerequisite:** None

**Open to:** Grade 9

The World History Course is designed to examine and compare the multiple perspectives of history and evaluate its biases. The course provides an overview that ranges from pre-History through the 20th century. You will be expected to internalize how history affects the present, how and why historical events are relevant, and the general chronology of such events. You will examine the social, economical, political and scientific spheres that have shaped human decisions, while analyzing the consequences/impacts of those decisions. The course will emphasize techniques for document analysis, writing argumentative essays, and conducting research.

### US306 - United States History (One-year Course)

**Prerequisite:** World History

**Open to:** Grades 10-12

United States History is an ASF graduation requirement. The course examines the cultural, economic, political and social development of the United States from the Industrial Revolution of the 1800s, up through today. Key themes include the continual struggle to create a democratic society, the challenge of balancing unity and diversity, the pursuit of the "American Dream" and United States foreign policy. Students sharpen critical thinking and inquiry skills as they look in U.S. history for multiple causations of events, continuity and change, cause and effect relationships and nationalism/internationalism in the nation's past and present. The course includes historical research and an exploration of important modern-day issues affecting the United States.

### US312 - Survey of Mexican History (Semester Course)

**Prerequisite:** none

**Open to:** Grades 9-12

Required of all students not enrolled in the

Mexican Program or new students with only a basic knowledge of Spanish, this course is a general overview of Mexico's history including pre-Spanish, colonial, independence, revolutionary and modern eras. The many aspects of Mexican geography, culture and politics will be explored. Students will leave this course with a better understanding of Mexico's rich past and complex present.

## Mexican Program Humanities in English Requirements

### US312 - Psychology (Semester Course)

**Prerequisite:** none

**Open to:** Grades 11-12

This course is designed as an introductory survey for students to understand the historical background of psychology as a science. Students will be able to describe and compare the major Schools of thought in addition to studying the following topics: the biological basis of behavior, states of consciousness, learning and memory, cognition and language, intelligence and mental abilities, psychological disorders and social behavior.

## Humanities in English Electives

### US306 - United States Government (Semester Course)

**Prerequisite:** U.S. History

**Open to:** Grade 11-12

United States Government course is a semester elective course open to ASF students after successful completion of U.S. History. It provides an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. This course involves both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. politics and the analysis of specific case studies. It also requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs and ideas that constitute U.S. political reality. General topics of exploration include: constitutional foundations and the workings of national government.

### US119 - Behavioral Economics (Semester Course)

**Prerequisite:** U.S. History

**Open to:** Grade 11-12

This Behavioral Economics class will seek to

bring together the fields of economics and psychology to better explain human behavior. Traditionally, economics focuses on rational beings acting in their own best self-interest in a system that benefits society as a whole. However, studies have shown that this is frequently not the case. By viewing human behavior through both the lens of economics and psychology, the student will develop a more complete model for understanding and predicting human actions. There will be an emphasis on how behavioral economics can have practical applications in developing effective government policies and profitable business strategies.

### **US119 - Crime and Punishment (Semester Course)**

**Prerequisite: U.S. History**

**Open to: Grade 11-12**

An overview of the transformation of 19th century social control institutions of Western industrial societies. The purpose of this course is to examine the changing nature of social control and criminal justice in Britain from approximately 1700 to the early twentieth century.

### **US117 - New York City through Music, 1920-1995 (Semester Course)**

**Prerequisite: U.S. History**

**Open to: Grade 11-12**

This course will explore the history and simultaneous flourishing of four distinct music communities that inhabited and shaped downtown New York during four particularly rich decades in American culture: 1920-1995. Much of the course will be devoted to understanding their points of convergence and divergence, especially in conversation with broader currents of the time, such as the civil rights movement and related notions of freedom, shifting youth subcultures, and avant garde aesthetics.

## **AP Humanities in English Classes**

### **AP300/AP301 - AP Government and Politics: Comparative (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: World History /85% in previous humanities courses/DR**

**Open to: Grade 11-12**

AP Comparative Government and Politics is a college-level course that introduces students to

fundamental concepts used by political scientists to study the processes and outcomes of politics in a variety of country settings. The course aims to illustrate the rich diversity of political life, to show available institutional alternatives, to explain differences in processes and policy outcomes and to communicate to students the importance of global political and economic changes. Comparison assists both in identifying problems and in analyzing policymaking. By comparing the political institutions and practices of wealthy and poor countries, we can begin to understand the political consequences of economic wellbeing. Finally, comparison assists explanation. Why are some countries stable democracies and not others? Why do many democracies have prime ministers instead of presidents? Six countries form the core of the AP Comparative Government and Politics course. China, Great Britain, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia and Iran are compared throughout the course. By using these six core countries, the course can move the discussion of concepts from abstract definition to concrete example, noting that not all concepts will be equally useful in all country settings. The program prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses, and students can earn advanced college credit with scores of 3 or higher on the AP exam. In addition to regular college-level course work, students are required to take the Advanced Placement test in May. See the AP Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

### **AP302/AP303 - AP United States History (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Individuals and Societies: Global Connections/85% in previous humanities courses/DR**

**Open to: Grade 10-12**

The Advanced Placement course in United States history is designed to provide honors-level students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to address critically the materials and issues found in United States history. Course content covers all major areas of U.S. development from colonization to the 21st century, with an emphasis on U.S. government. Students read and analyze a wide range of primary and secondary sources, and focus intensively on developing historical thinking, research and writing skills. Additionally, students complete a student-initiated, in-depth historical

investigation. The program prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses, and students can earn advanced college credit with scores of 3 or higher on the AP exam. This course satisfies the United States History graduation requirement. In addition to regular college-level course work, students are required to take the Advanced Placement test in May. See the AP Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

**AP507/AP508 - AP Human Geography (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Individuals and Societies: Global Connections/85% in previous humanities courses/DR**

**Open to: Grade 10-12**

The purpose of the AP course in Human Geography is to introduce 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 at its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their science and practice. APHuG consists of seven units to cover the realm of Human Geography: 1. Geography, its nature and perspectives; 2. Population; 3. Cultural patterns and processes; 4. Political organization of space; 5. Agricultural and rural land use; 6. Industrialization and economic development; 7. Cities and urban land use. In addition to these units of study, the course will consistently apply concepts learned through the curriculum to analyze and comprehend current events in the world today. In addition to regular college-level course work, students are required to take the Advanced Placement test in May. See the AP Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

**AP304/AP305 - AP World History: Modern (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Individuals and Societies: Global Connections/85% in previous humanities courses/DR**

**Open to: Grade 10-11**

This advanced level course is designed to provide motivated students who are keenly interested in world history with a sophisticated understanding of the human developments and interactions that

have taken place across the globe since 1450. The following four historical thinking skills will be facilitated throughout the course: crafting historical arguments from historical evidence, chronological reasoning, comparison and contextualization, and historical interpretation and synthesis. In addition, five recurring themes will be examined at length: interaction between humans and the environment; development and interaction of cultures; statebuilding, expansion and conflict; creation, expansion and interaction of economic systems; and the development and transformation of social structures. The primary goal of this course is to prepare students for the AP World History Exam offered in May. A high score on this exam entitles the successful student to valuable college credit honored by universities in the United States as well as in many other countries. In addition to regular college-level course work, students are required to take the Advanced Placement test in May. See the AP Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

**AP310/AP311 - AP European History (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: U.S. History /85% in previous humanities courses/DR**

**Open to: Grade 10-12**

Semester I: Few observers in 1000 AD would have predicted that European civilization and culture, and not that of some other area of the world, would rise to dominate the globe a millennium hence. I will argue this term that the origins of this domination are to be found in the early modern period. We will begin with an overview of the origins of Western Civilization in the worlds of Greece and Rome and the Judeo-Christian tradition and then look at the creative ways in which the late Middle Ages, the Renaissance and the Reformation sought to recapture, and reinterpret, earlier understandings. We will also analyze the changes brought about by the Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment that turned the West in an entirely different direction from other areas of the world. These set the stage for more revolutions to come in the areas of production, trade, politics, and the social order. More than anything else, an argument will be presented that "the West" is formed in the movements studied this term. This is prologue to the content in the Spring, when the implications of these changes will become manifest.

Semester II: "What's past is prologue," proclaims Antonio in Act 2, Scene 1 of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. The implication is that all that has happened in the past has brought us to today and provided the range of choices which may be made for the future. The last one hundred and seventy odd years (1850-2020) of European history have witnessed a series of remarkable upheavals and transitions. Most notable among these are the attempts of the European economy to move from a cacophony of competing interests to a concerted player in the global marketplace and the rise and fall of modern authoritarianism (at least for now). These transformations were in some ways helped, and in other ways hindered, by the two most traumatic episodes of the century, World War I and World War II. In both of these wars Germany played a central role. In a sense, one might say that the modern history of Europe has centered on the question of what part Germany would play on the European stage. This question, first given shape by Otto von Bismarck, has seen various permutations, but still has yet to yield a satisfactory answer. Our task will be to trace these transformations and questions, and attempt to draw some conclusions about the future of the European continent.

AP European History presents in-depth coverage of major developments in modern European history. The course follows the Advanced Placement guidelines established by the College Board and it is therefore taught at the university level. Through successful participation in the course, a student will develop (a) an understanding of the principal themes in modern European history, (b) an ability to analyze historical evidence, and (c) an ability to analyze and communicate historical understanding in writing. This course prepares all students to take the AP European History examination.

**AP306/AP307 - AP Seminar (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Individuals and Societies: Global Connections /85% in previous humanities courses/DR**

**Open to: Grade 10-11**

AP Seminar is an introduction to higher level coursework at ASF - open to sophomores and juniors. AP Seminar is a rigorous, cross-curricular exploration of academic and real-world topics analyzed from a variety of perspectives. Students

will read and experience multiple sources, learning to synthesize information to produce essays and presentations individually and as part of a team. The focus of AP Seminar is on the skills of analysis and evaluation that help produce and communicate evidence-based arguments. AP Seminar is a pre-requisite for the AP Research course, which together comprise the core of the AP Capstone Program. In addition to regular college-level course work, students are required to take the Advanced Placement test in May. See the AP Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

**AP308/AP309 - AP Research (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: AP Seminar/85% in previous humanities courses/DR, open to grades 11 and 12 only**

**Open to: Grade 11-12**

AP Research allows students to deeply explore an academic topic, problem, or issue of individual interest. Through this exploration, students design, plan, and conduct a year-long research based investigation to address a research question. In the AP Research course, students further their skills acquired in the AP Seminar course by understanding research methodology; employing ethical research practices; and accessing, analyzing, and synthesizing information as they address a research question. Students explore their skill development, document their processes, and curate the artifacts of the development of their scholarly work in a portfolio. The course culminates in an academic paper of 4000–5000 words (accompanied by a performance or exhibition of product where applicable) and a presentation with an oral defense. In addition to regular college-level course work, students are required to take the Advanced Placement test in May. See the AP Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

**AP106 - AP Microeconomics (One-semester Course)**

**Prerequisite: Economics /85% in previous humanities courses/DR**

**Open to: Grade 10-12**

AP Microeconomics is an introductory college-level microeconomics course. Students cultivate their understanding of the principles that apply to the functions of individual economic decision-makers by using principles and models to

describe economic situations and predict and explain outcomes with graphs, charts, and data as they explore concepts like scarcity and markets; costs, benefits, and marginal analysis; production choices and behavior; and market inefficiency and public policy.

In addition to regular college-level course work, students are required to take the Advanced Placement test in May. See the AP Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

**AP107 - AP Macroeconomics (One-semester Course)**

**Prerequisite: Economics /85% in previous humanities courses/DR**

**Open to: Grade 10-12**

AP Macroeconomics is an introductory college-level macroeconomics course. Students cultivate their understanding of the principles that apply to an economic system as a whole by using principles and models to describe economic situations and predict and explain outcomes with graphs, charts, and data as they explore concepts like economic measurements, markets, macroeconomic models, and macroeconomic policies.

In addition to regular college-level course work, students are required to take the Advanced Placement test in May. See the AP Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

**IB Humanities in English Classes**

**IB300/IB301 - IB Economics SL (Two-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: 80% in previous humanities courses/DR**

**Open to: Grade 11-12**

**IB306/IB307 - IB Economics HL (Two-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: 80% in previous humanities courses/DR**

**Open to: Grade 11-12**

This advanced course seeks to encourage an appreciation of the economic interdependence of countries. It includes the basis of modern microeconomic theory, such as resources and market structures, price determination and

consumer behavior and the basics of modern macroeconomics, focusing on the economy as a whole, including national income accounting, unemployment, inflation and fiscal and monetary policies. Special attention is paid to the problems of international economics, such as trade and the balance of payments, and the problems and strategies of economic development. The course includes the topics of the theory of the firm, the relative advantages and disadvantages of fixed and floating rates, absolute and comparative advantages in trade, trade creation and trade diversion, methods of measuring inflation and different theories of taxation. In addition to regular college-level course work, students in the IB program are required to take the external assessment exam in May and must produce a portfolio consisting of commentaries on economic articles of current importance. See the IB Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

**IB306/IBX307 - IB History SL (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: 80% in previous humanities courses/DR**

**Open to: Grade 11 or Grade 12**

Year one of IB History of the Americas HL and IB 20th Century History SL are co-seated courses that cover the same material. This course studies 20th century history from a multi-regional perspective. It approaches history through a comparative methodology in which the same themes are studied in all four IB regions of the world. Due to this comparative approach to studying history, the course is not a comprehensive survey of the 20th century. Instead, two topics are studied, but are studied in depth in each of the four IB world regions. Furthermore, one prescribed subject is studied throughout the year. Students read and analyze a wide range of primary and secondary sources, and focus intensively on developing historical thinking, research and writing skills. Additionally, students complete a student-initiated, in-depth historical investigation. This course prepares students for the required standard level IB examination in History. In addition to regular college-level course work, students in the IB program are required to take the external assessment exam in May of year two. See the IB Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

**IB304/IB305/IB308/IB309 - IB History HL (Two-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: IB History HL 1st year, open only to Seniors**

**Open to: Grade 12**

This advanced course examines the history of the Western Hemisphere. It approaches history through a comparative methodology in which the same themes are studied in Canada, the United States and Latin America. Due to this comparative approach to studying history, the course is not a comprehensive survey of the history of the Western Hemisphere. Instead, only three themes are studied, but are studied in depth in each of the three above-mentioned regions. The second year of this course is IB 20th Century History (see below). Students read and analyze a wide range of primary and secondary sources, and focus intensively on developing historical thinking, research and writing skills. This course prepares students for the required higher level IB examination in History. This course satisfies the United States History and Survey of Mexican History graduation requirements for the U.S. Program. In addition to regular college-level course work, students in the IB program are required to take the external assessment exam in May. See the IB Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

**IB330/IB331 - IB Psychology SL (Two-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: 80% in previous humanities courses/DR**

**Open to: Grades 11-12**

**IB332/MX333 - IB Psychology HL (Two-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: 80% in previous humanities courses/DR**

**Open to: Grades 11-12**

IB Psychology is a two-year course of study. Students describe, compare, contrast and evaluate the key ideas of four major perspectives of psychology: cognitive, biological, socio-cultural and abnormal psychology. Students study the historical context, major theorists, key concepts and practical applications of each perspective. The behavior of both humans and animals is examined by the formulation of precise hypotheses, the use of careful observation and measurement and the application of statistical methods for the interpretation of data. Students

replicate one experimental study in cognitive psychology in an analytical paper of 1000-1500 words (the internal assessment) in the first semester. This course prepares students for the required standard level IB examination in Psychology. This course satisfies the Psychology requirement for the Mexican University Program. In addition to regular college-level course work, students in the IB program are required to take the external assessment exam in May. See the IB Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

**IB312/IB313/IBX314 - IB Theory of Knowledge (Three-semester Course)**

**Prerequisite: Admission to IB Full Diploma Program**

**Open to: Grades 11-12**

Theory of Knowledge (ToK) examines how we know what we know. It does so through an investigation of the various “ways of knowing” and their interaction in “areas of knowledge.” The course requires both an externally assessed essay as well as an internally assessed presentation. Part of the ToK grade is also the successful completion of the Extended Essay. Semesters one and two of this course satisfy the Philosophy requirement for the Mexican University Program. Semester three of this course satisfies the Psychology requirement for the Mexican University Program. Successful completion of Theory of Knowledge is a requirement to earn the IB Diploma.

**IB326/IB327 - IB Business and Management SL (Two-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: 80% in previous humanities courses/DR**

**Open to: Grades 11-12**

**IB328/IB329 - IB Business and Management HL (Two-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: 80% in previous humanities courses/DR**

**Open to: Grades 11-12**

This two-year course seeks to provide students with a strong college preparatory introduction to Business and Management. There is a focus on business functions, management processes and decision-making in contemporary contexts of strategic uncertainty. A specific emphasis is placed on strategic decision-making and the operational business functions of human resource management, finance and accounts, marketing

and operations management. Six key concepts underpin the entire course, and are integrated into each of the units; these concepts are change, culture, ethics, globalization, innovation and strategy. The business management course allows students to develop their understanding of interdisciplinary concepts from a business management perspective. Upon completion students are in a unique situation with a strong grasp of business and management understanding that will greatly aid them in their post-secondary aspirations. In addition to regular college-level course work, students in the IB program are required to take the external assessment exam in May. See the IB Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

## HUMANITIES IN SPANISH COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Students who transfer to ASF from abroad may have courses revalidated to count towards fulfillment of the Mexican Program requirements but they must coordinate with the Student Records Office and provide all required documentation in order to do so. Students who do not attend ASF for grade 9 must take *Historia de México I* before being able to enroll in *Historia de México II*.

Students enrolled in Theory of Knowledge (ToK) or IB Philosophy SL fulfill the Philosophy I and II requirements for the Mexican Program.

### Mexican Program Humanities in Spanish Requirements

To fulfill the requirements of the Mexican University Program, students must complete all the following courses. Those not in the Mexican University Program may take these courses and receive elective credit in either Foreign Language or Social Studies. All these courses are taught in Spanish.

#### **MX400/MX401 - *Historia de México I* (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: none**  
**Open to: Grade 9**

*Historia de México I* examines Mexican history from the post-classic Mesoamerican period to the 20th century. Among other themes, students explore the importance of the meeting of two worlds, the contributions of each of these worlds to the other, the military and spiritual conquest of Mexico and racial mixing. Thus, students seek to understand better the linguistic, religious and racial composition of the Mexican identity. In the same way students will review the proposals for the conformation of the nation and the international conflicts that they gave rise to. Students view Mexican history in the context of world history, comparing events in Mexican history with similar and simultaneous trends occurring on the world stage. This course exposes students to a variety of perspectives with the aim

of developing the ability to analyze historical sources objectively and to arrive at their own well-supported conclusions. With the idea that at the end of the course the student develops a social commitment to citizenship by knowing the past to understand this. This course satisfies the Survey of Mexican History requirement for the U.S. Program.

#### **MX402/MX403 - *Geografía* (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: none**  
**Open to: Grade 10**

Throughout the course, students will learn that planet Earth is a large, complex system with continuous interaction between the lithosphere, hydrosphere and atmosphere. They will also make connections between themselves and the biosphere and will learn to identify human beings as the force responsible for moderating his environment and determining his own development. One fundamental purpose is for the student to understand relevant problems in the world today, such as the population's behavior, current trends in the global economy and the ever-changing political map. All of this is designed to help students determine the importance of international socioeconomic and political changes and Mexico's role in the international arena. This should help students value the importance of geographical studies in planning for the development of an integral country, like Mexico, while paying attention to the adequate exploitation of natural resources and preservation of the natural environment, i.e. "sustainable development.

#### **MX404/MX405 - *Historia de México II* (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: *Historia de México I* or Survey of Mexican History**  
**Open to: Grade 11**

*Historia de México II* begins with a broad review of Mexican history from the period of "*República Restaurada*" to the 21st century, paying particular attention to the latter half of the 19th century and the beginning of the Mexican Revolution. The majority of the course is then devoted to a detailed examination of Mexican history in the 20th and 21st centuries, from the 1917 Constitution to the government of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador. Students will explore a variety of themes including the consolidation of democracy, the

formation of civil society, the recognition of minorities, the influences of the United States and the global economy and Mexico's participation in the international community. By working with a variety of perspectives, students continue to develop their ability to analyze historical sources and formulate sound arguments based on historical fact.

**MX406 - *Derecho* (Semester Course)**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Open to: Grade 12**

This course examines the Mexican Constitution, form of government and operation of the branches of government. It also includes an analysis of the most representative laws, additional legal theories and legal concepts as applied to contemporary Mexico. The emphasis on historical developments promotes a better understanding of current governmental operations and societal trends. Students will increase their capacity for criticism and analysis in order to get involved and make proposals for our social environment. This one-semester course meets the required Mexican Program hours for a full credit and counts as a full credit on ASF transcripts.

**MX408/MX409 - *Filosofía* (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Open to: Grade 12**

Students examine the cultural, political and religious structure of the major Schools of thought, from the ancient Greeks to contemporary times, with a philosophical and historical approach to the constant search for possible explanations of human nature, its essence, government organizations, encounters and disagreements between faith and reason, as well as scientific knowledge versus ethics and the existential quest of humanity, constantly comparing the contrast and similarities between the philosophical ideas of the past and present. Being exposed to a variety of philosophical thoughts, students develop skills and techniques through research, analysis, questioning, doubt and ethical awareness which will increase the ability to think critically and to distinguish between valid arguments and fallacies.

**MX412 - *Antropología* (Semester Course)**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Open to: Grade 12**

This course is focused on the study of human beings and their cultural manifestations: art, myths, language, religion and science, among others. The course of study will foster understanding of different cultures and societies with the objective of promoting respect and tolerance through analysis and reflection. During the semester students will learn and apply different anthropological tools such as participant observation, surveys and interviews focused on the study of the interaction of human groups with their natural and social environment, as well as their symbolic production. To take this course it is required that students have previously taken Geography and History classes.

**MX413 - *Pensamiento Crítico* (Semester Course)**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Open to: Grade 12**

Critical Thinking (CT) focuses on an introduction to philosophy and epistemology. It does so through a critical analysis of the concept and definition of "knowledge", "truth", "belief (ways of knowing)", and "justification (areas of knowing)". This one semester course, in addition to one semester of "Antropología" satisfies the Philosophy requirement for the Mexican University Program.

**MX410 - *Problemas Políticos y Sociales en México* (Semester Course)**

**Prerequisite: *Individuos y Sociedades: Historia de México I y II***

**Open to: Grade 12**

This course provides students with a political and social understanding of Mexico and aims to develop critical thinking skills that allow students to understand problems facing Mexico today. The objective is for students to investigate and criticize social events that have occurred in the country, and their impact on the present and the future of Mexico. Students analyze articles from books, newspapers and professional journals as part of course activities.

**MX411 - Problemas Políticos y Económicos en México  
(Semester Course)**

**Prerequisite: Individuos y Sociedades: Historia de México I y II**

**Open to: Grade 12**

This course is an extension or complement of the Political and Social Problems in Mexico course, but students are not required to take Political and Social Problems in Mexico to be eligible for this course. It is designed for the student who is interested in delving deeper into political and economic issues faced by Mexico. The course aspires to generate in students critical and proactive thinking about the political and economic development of Mexico based on themes of student interest, and involves having students branch into an analysis of electronic media.

**IB400/IB401 - IB Philosophy SL (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: 80% in previous Humanities in Spanish class /DR**

**Open to: Grades 12**

In IB Philosophy SL, students develop the creative thinking skills that will allow them to become intellectually independent and to think philosophically. They do so by learning to express ideas in Spanish with logic and coherence. Additionally, they learn to read and analyze closely classic philosophical texts translated into Spanish. Finally, students become familiar with the language, structure and arguments of a number of philosophical texts. They learn to recognize arguments within the texts and evaluate ideas. The end result of this course is for students to develop a systematic form of critical thought. This course prepares students for the required standard level examination in IB Philosophy. This course satisfies the Philosophy requirement for the Mexican University Program. In addition to regular college-level course work, students in the IB program are required to take the external assessment exam in May. See the IB Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

## SCIENCE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **US500/US501 - Biology (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Open to: Grades 9-11**

This course is designed to teach the core concepts and laboratory skills of Biology, its foundations, history, development and characteristics of living things and their relationships with the environment. The content of the Biology curriculum is taught through a hands-on, inquiry-based program emphasizing the scientific method and experimental design. Course topics include the scientific method, laboratory skills, characteristics of life, fundamentals of biochemistry, cell structure, function and transport, cellular respiration and photosynthesis, mitosis and meiosis, genetics, evolution, and ecology.

### **US502/US503 - Chemistry (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Open to: Grades 9-11**

This course is designed to enhance laboratory and problem solving skills while studying the general fundamental principles of chemistry. Course topics include; matter, atomic theory, periodicity, chemical nomenclature, bonding, chemical reactions, moles, stoichiometry, and gas laws. The class is an exciting combination of theory and practical work designed to prepare students for studying IB or AP chemistry.

### **US505/US507 - Physics (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Open to: Grades 9-11**

Physics is the most fundamental of the experimental sciences, seeking to explain the universe itself, from the very smallest particles to the vast distances between galaxies. This course is dedicated to the study of laws as concise statements about how nature behaves. The scientific processes carried out by the most eminent scientists in the past are the same ones followed by students. The course covers both theory and experimental investigation. Course topics include measurement and error, kinematics, dynamics, conservation laws, energy,

oscillations and waves, electricity and magnetism and modern physics.

### **US504/US505 - Anatomy and Physiology (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Biology/Chemistry/Physics**

**Open to: Grade 12**

This course is a one-year, one-credit Science course. It is intended as a survey course, focusing on building a basic understanding of the human body, and is a required course for the Mexican Program (except for the case of students who opt for an AP or IB science in grade 11). Essential principles of Human Anatomy and Physiology are presented, including basic chemistry, cell and tissue studies, an overview of all the body systems and discussions of current research and trends in health. Course topics include an overview of anatomy and physiology, cells and tissues, skeletal system, muscular system, integumentary system, nervous system, cardiovascular system, immune system, respiratory system, digestive system, urinary system and reproductive system.

### **AP900 - Health (Semester Course)**

See description under Physical Education.

## **AP Science Classes**

### **AP500/AP501 - AP Biology (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Biology/85% in previous science and math courses/DR**

**Open to: Grades 10-12**

### **AP502/AP503 - AP Chemistry (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Chemistry/85% in previous science and math courses/DR**

**Open to: Grades 10-12**

AP Chemistry is intended to prepare the student for the Advanced Placement exam in chemistry, to teach chemistry content and skills equivalent to the typical first-year chemistry course in U.S. colleges and universities and to prepare students for college careers in science, engineering or medicine. Goals are to reinforce lab, critical thinking and independent learning skills; to develop data-gathering, -organizing and -presenting skills as well as basic statistical analysis tools; to become more competent in the application of prior knowledge to new situations;

to foster a love of and curiosity about chemistry in the world around us and to be a laboratory of learning methodology and technology integration. Students are responsible for topics previously covered in general chemistry as well as their previous algebra class. Students are required to sit the AP Chemistry exam at the end of the course. See the AP Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees. Course topics include: Atomic structure, intermolecular attractions, thermodynamics, kinetics, electrochemistry, equilibrium and acid/base chemistry. It is strongly recommended that juniors who take AP Chemistry have completed Algebra II during their sophomore year. It is also recommended that juniors who take AP Chemistry consider taking Physics at the same time.

**AP504/AP505 - AP Physics C: Mechanics (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Physics/85% in previous science and math courses/DR**

**Coregistration: Calculus, IB Math Analysis SL or IB Math Analysis HL**

**Open to: Grades 11-12**

This course is intended to be equivalent to the beginning part of a college sequence that serves as the foundation in physics for students majoring in the physical sciences or engineering. Methods of calculus are used in formulating physical principles and in applying them to physical problems. Strong emphasis is placed on solving a variety of challenging problems, some requiring calculus, as well as continuing to develop a deep understanding of physics concepts. A laboratory component is also included. Since a previous or concurrent course in calculus is required of students taking Physics C: Mechanics, students who expect advanced placement or credit for the AP Physics C exam should attempt an AP course in calculus as well; otherwise, placement in the next-in-sequence physics course (in college) may be delayed or even denied. Either of the AP Calculus courses, Calculus AB or Calculus BC, should provide an acceptable basis for students preparing to major in the physical sciences or engineering, but Calculus BC is recommended. Therefore, if such students must choose between AP Physics and AP Calculus, they should probably choose AP Calculus. Students may be required to pass an exam to guarantee placement in this course. Students are required to sit for the AP Physics C: Mechanics exam at the end

of the course. See the AP Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees. Course topics include: kinematics; Newton's laws of motion; work, energy and power; systems of particles and linear momentum and circular motion, rotation and oscillations and gravitation.

## **IB Science Classes**

All students must complete a 10-hour Group 4 Project, a collaborative experience in which concepts and perceptions from all the science disciplines offered by the School are shared. The interdisciplinary project takes place on a weekend and is a requirement for all IB lab sciences. All students must also complete an experimental portfolio, which is internally and externally assessed, and take the IB exam at the end of their two-year course of study.

**IB500/IB501/IB502/IB503 - IB Biology SL (Two-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Biology/80% in previous science and math courses/DR**

**Open to: Grades 11-12**

**IB504/IB505/IB506/IB507 - IB Biology HL (Two-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Biology/80% in previous science and math courses/DR**

**Open to: Grades 11-12**

IB Biology SL is recommended for students who enjoy biology and exploring the living world. A student taking this course may or may not be interested in studying biology at the university level. The six core topics build on topics taught in general biology and two option topics are studied in more depth in the second year. There is a strong emphasis on the laboratory experience and hands on learning. Independent design of experiments is a unique requirement for the IB sciences and all students complete an Internal Assessment portfolio as well as the Group 4 Project. Moral, ethical and social issues are also addressed throughout the course. Students take the IB external examination at the end of their two-year course of study. See the IB Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees. Course topics include: Statistical analysis, chemistry of life, cell structure and function, genetics, ecology, evolution, human

health, physiology and two chosen option topics.

IB Biology HL is recommended for students who enjoy biology and are interested in careers such as medicine, biochemistry, genetic engineering, ecology, animal behavior and many other fields. The six core topics build on topics taught in general biology and are studied by both standard and higher level students. Five additional topics are studied at the higher level only and many of these are a more in-depth study of standard level topics. Two option topics are chosen and studied in the second year. There is a strong emphasis on the laboratory experience and hands-on learning. Independent design of experiments is a unique requirement for the IB sciences and all students complete an Internal Assessment portfolio as well as the Group 4 Project. Moral, ethical and social issues are also addressed throughout the course. Students take the IB external examination at the end of their two-year course of study. See IB Diploma section for information on fees. Core course topics include: statistical analysis, chemistry of life, cell structure and function, genetics, ecology, evolution, human health and physiology. Additional topics include: nucleic acids and proteins, cell respiration and photosynthesis, plant science, advanced genetics, advanced human health and physiology and one chosen option topics.

**IB508/IB509/IB510/IB511 - IB Chemistry SL (Two-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Chemistry/80% in previous science and math courses/DR**

**Open to: Grades 11-12**

**IB512/IB513/IB514/IB515 - IB Chemistry HL (Two-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Chemistry/80% in previous science and humanities courses/DR**

**Open to: Grades 11-12**

The IB Diploma Programme Chemistry course combines academic study with the acquisition of practical and investigational skills through the experimental approach. Students learn the chemical principles that underpin both the physical environment and biological systems through the study of quantitative chemistry, periodicity, kinetics and other subjects. The chemistry course covers the essential principles of the subject and, through selection of options, allows teachers some flexibility to tailor the

course to meet the needs of their students. Throughout this challenging course, students become aware of how scientists work and communicate with each other. Further, students enjoy multiple opportunities for scientific study and creative inquiry within a global context. In addition, the course is designed to:

- Provide opportunities for scientific study and creativity within a global context that will stimulate and challenge students.
- Provide a body of knowledge, methods and techniques that characterize science and technology.
- Enable students to apply and use a body of knowledge, methods and techniques that characterize science and technology.
- Develop an ability to analyze, evaluate and synthesize scientific information.
- Develop experimental and investigative scientific skills.
- Engender an awareness of the need for, and the value of, effective collaboration and communication during scientific activities.
- Develop and apply the students' information and communication technology skills in the study of science.
- Raise awareness of the moral, ethical, social, economic and environmental implications of using science and technology.
- Develop an appreciation of the possibilities and limitations associated with science and scientists.
- Encourage an understanding of the relationships between scientific disciplines and the overarching nature of the scientific method.

Study at a higher level requires a strong grasp of mathematical reasoning. Students are required to sit for the IB external examination at the end of their two-year course of study. See the IB Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

**IB518/IB519/IB520/IB521 - IB Physics SL (Two-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Physics/80% in previous science and math courses/DR**

**Open to: Grades 11-12**

**IB522/IB523/IB524/IB525 - IB Physics HL (Two-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Chemistry/80% in previous science and humanities courses/DR**

**Coregistration: Pre-Calculus or IB Math Analysis SL or HL**

**Open to: Grades 11-12**

Physics is the most fundamental of the experimental sciences, as it seeks to explain the universe itself, from the very smallest

particles to the vast distances between galaxies. This course is dedicated to studying laws and concise statements about how nature behaves. The scientific processes carried out by the most eminent scientists in the past are the same ones followed by students. At the School level, all students undertake both theory and experiments. This strong and rigorous course is recommended for students who enjoy physics and are interested in architecture, engineering, mathematics or any other related science careers.

Students are required to complete an Internal Assessment portfolio, the Group 4 Project and the three parts of the IB external examination at the end of their two-year course of study. See the IB Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees. Course topics include: Physics and physical measurement, mechanics, thermodynamics, oscillations and waves, electromagnetism, field and forces, atomic and nuclear physics, energy and power generation, climate change and two advanced option topics.

**IB516/IB517 - IB Environmental Systems and Societies SL (Two-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Chemistry/80% in previous science and humanities courses/DR**

**Open to: Grades 11-12**

This is a rigorous course recommended for students who are interested in understanding environmental issues and who are comfortable thinking in an interdisciplinary manner. The prime intent of the course is to provide students with a coherent perspective on the environment, one that is essentially scientific and enables them to adopt an informed and responsible stance on the wide range of pressing environmental issues that they will inevitably come to face. Course topics include: Systems and models, the ecosystem, human population, carrying capacity and resource use, conservation and biodiversity, pollution management and the use of global warming and environmental value systems. Students are required to complete an Internal Assessment portfolio and sit for the IB external examination at the end of their two-year course of study. See the IB Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

# COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Students are required to take a minimum of .5 credits (one semester) of coding for graduation. Computer Science Principles I is the gateway course that fulfills this requirement. It is the prerequisite to other more advanced coding classes.

## **US817 - Computer Science Principles (Semester Course)**

**Prerequisite: Algebra I**  
**Open to: Grades 9-12**

CS Principles I is a one-semester class that is the entry point for all computer science pathways and it meets the new coding graduation requirement. CS Principles I covers the nature of digital information, the design and operation of The Internet, an intro to coding and collaborative application design and development, and the social implications of digital technology. This course is co-seated with the first semester of AP Computer Science: Principles. Students who wish to continue in the course and take the AP exam must switch their course registration.

## **US808 - Creative Coding (Semester Course)**

**Prerequisite: Computer Science Principles I**  
**Open to: Grades 9-12**

This course is intended for students interested in the intersection of technology and art. We will develop coding skills through the use of the Javascript library p5.js as our primary means of digital production. The class projects will be based on inquiries into the digital world and its topics, such as machine learning and augmented reality. Our projects during this course will not intend to solve an issue, but rather provoke questions in the users of our creative interfaces.

## **US806 - Web Design (Semester Course)**

**Prerequisite: Computer Science Principles I**  
**Open to: Grades 9-12**

This course is intended for students wishing to further their knowledge of web design and web development using the markup languages HTML and CSS and the scripting language Javascript. Throughout the course we will learn principles

of user interface and user experience design (UI/UX), how to develop a dynamic and responsive website from scratch, how to implement libraries for interactive functionality, and how the web is evolving and our part in that evolution.

## **AP Computer Science Classes**

### **AP808/AP809 - AP Computer Science: Principles (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Algebra I/DR**  
**Open to: Grades 9-12**

The AP Computer Science Principles course is designed to be equivalent to a first-semester introductory college computing course. In this course, students will develop computational thinking skills vital for success across all disciplines, such as using computational tools to analyze and study data and working with large data sets to analyze, visualize, and draw conclusions from trends. The course engages students in the creative aspects of the field by allowing them to develop computational artifacts based on their interests. Students will also develop effective communication and collaboration skills by working individually and collaboratively to solve problems, and will discuss and write about the impacts these solutions could have on their community, society, and the world. First semester of this course is co-seated with Computer Science Principles I. Students enrolled in the AP section are required to sit for the AP Computer Science: Principles exam at the end of the course. See the AP Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

### **AP800/AP801 - AP Computer Science: A (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Computer Science Principles or Creative Coding/DR**  
**Open to: Grades 9-12**

AP Computer Science A is equivalent to a first-semester, college-level course in computer science. The 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 using Java

language. These techniques represent proven approaches for developing solutions that can scale up from small, simple problems to large, complex problems. The AP Computer Science A course curriculum is compatible with many CS1 courses in colleges and universities (From <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-computer-science-a/course>).

Students are required to sit for the AP Computer Science exam at the end of the course. See the AP Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

## MATHEMATICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Three credits of mathematics in grades 9-11 and a minimum of Algebra II are required for graduation. Students are recommended to take a math course every year. Students are required to have a graphing calculator to use in their math class. The recommended graphing calculator is the TI-Nspire cx (TI CAS calculators are not permitted).

### **US620/US621 - Algebra I (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Math 8**

**Open to: Grades 9-12**

The Algebra I course is written to align with the first of three courses in the traditional pathway of the Common Core State Standards. The two Algebra courses contain the bulk of the work in number and quantity, algebra, and functions and contain statistics and probability. The major purpose of Algebra I is to formalize and extend the mathematics that students learned in the middle grades, working with linear and exponential functions, solving systems of equations and inequalities, and analyzing data. The Mathematical Practice Standards apply throughout each course and, together with the content standards, create mathematical learning experiences based upon reasoning and sensemaking, building perseverance and problem-solving skills, and rich in mathematical discourse. The scope follows that of the Mathematics Vision Project and its modules: (1) Sequences, (2) Linear & Exponential Functions, (3) Features of Functions, (4) Equations & Inequalities, (5) Systems of Equations & Inequalities, (6) Quadratic Functions, (7) Structure of Expressions, (8) More Functions, More Features, and (9) Modeling Data.

### **US618/US619 - Geometry (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Algebra I**

**Open to: Grades 9-12**

The Geometry course is written to align with the second of three courses in the traditional pathway of the Common Core State Standards. The Geometry course covers geometry standards from a transformational perspective and includes right triangle trigonometry, and conics,

and contains statistics and probability. The fundamental purpose of the course in Geometry is to formalize and extend students' geometric experiences from the middle grades, exploring more complex geometric situations, deepening their explanations of geometric relationships, moving towards formal mathematical arguments. The Mathematical Practice Standards apply throughout each course and, together with the content standards, create mathematical learning experiences based upon reasoning and sensemaking, building perseverance and problem solving skills, and are rich in mathematical discourse. The scope follows that of the Mathematics Vision Project and its modules: (1) Transformations & Symmetry, (2) Congruence, Construction & Proof, (3) Geometric Figures, (4) Similarity & Right Triangle Trigonometry, (5) Circles a Geometric Perspective, (6) Connecting Algebra and Geometry, (7) Modeling with Geometry, and (8) Probability.

### **US622/US623 - Algebra II (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Geometry**

**Open to: Grades 9-12**

The Algebra II course is written to align with the last of three courses in the traditional pathway of the Common Core State Standards. The two Algebra courses contain the bulk of the work in number and quantity, algebra, and functions and contain statistics and probability. The major purpose of Algebra II is for students to pull together and apply the accumulation of learning that they have from their previous courses. Students add to their catalog of functions types to include polynomial, rational, logarithmic, and trigonometric. They bring together all of their experience with functions and geometry to create models and solve contextual problems. The Mathematical Practice Standards apply throughout each course and, together with the content standards, create mathematical learning experiences based upon reasoning and sensemaking, building perseverance and problem-solving skills, and rich in mathematical discourse. The scope follows that of the Mathematics Vision Project and its modules: (1) Functions and Their Inverses, (2) Logarithmic Functions, (3) Numbers and Operations, (4) Polynomial Functions, (5) Rational Functions & Expressions, (6) Modeling Periodic Behavior, (7) Trigonometric Functions, Equations & Identities, (8) Modeling with

Functions, and (9) Statistics.

**US1040 - Academic Coaching: Math Support  
(Semester Course)**

**Prerequisite: DR**

**Open to: Grades 9-12**

Academic Coaching: Math Support is a pass/fail semester course which will count as a .5 credit elective toward graduation for students who pass. The purpose of this course is to provide time for students to improve foundational math skills and number literacy through collaborative explorations, open ended problem-solving tasks, and presentations. This class is intended to be taken parallel to a grade-level math course, and will reinforce the learning of prerequisite skills that will support the learning taking place in the current year math course. This class may be repeated for credit.

**US610/US611 - Pre-Calculus (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Algebra II**

**Open to: Grades 9-12**

This course is designed for students who will most likely continue their math studies in calculus and beyond. Topics covered include, but are not limited to: triangle trigonometry, trigonometric graphs and identities, equations and applications, sequences, series and the binomial theorem, polynomial and rational functions, exponential and logarithmic functions and analytic geometry.

**US612/US613 - Calculus (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus**

**Open to: Grades 9-12**

This is an introductory course to calculus, which includes differential and integral calculus. Topics include: limits, continuity, differentiation, application (maxima and minima) and definite and indefinite integration. Other applications include area and volume. Students enrolled in this course may take the AP Calculus AB exam by individual choice.

**US608/US609 - Probability and Statistics (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Algebra II/DR**

**Open to: Grades 9-12**

This introductory course is intended for students who plan careers in such diverse fields as

business, psychology, economics, etc. The course covers topics in elementary probability theory and statistics including data organization, averages and variations, probability distributions, hypothesis testing, statistical estimations, regression and correlation and non-parametric statistics.

**AP Mathematics Classes**

**AP600/AP611 - AP Calculus AB (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus/85% in previous math course/DR**

**Open to: Grades 9-12**

This course covers topics of two semesters of college-level courses in single-variable calculus. It covers topics such as limits and continuity, the derivative and its applications, integrals and applications and differential equations. Students are required to sit the AP Calculus AB exam at the end of the course. See the AP Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

**AP608/AP609 - AP Statistics (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Algebra II/85% in previous math course/DR**

**Open to: Grades 9-12**

This course covers topics of two semesters of college-level courses in probability and statistics. The course covers four major topics: 1) Exploring Data: Describing patterns and departures from patterns, 2) Sampling and Experimentation: Planning and conducting a study, 3) Anticipating Patterns: Exploring random phenomena using probability and simulation, and 4) Statistical Inference: Estimating population parameters and testing hypotheses. Students are required to sit for the AP Statistics exam at the end of the course. See the AP Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

**IB Mathematics Classes**

**IB613/IB614 - IB Math: Applications and Interpretations SL (Two-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Geometry/80% in previous math course/DR/PT**

**Open to: Grades 11-12**

This course is for students who are interested

in developing their mathematics for describing our world and solving practical problems. They will also be interested in harnessing the power of technology alongside exploring mathematical models. Students who take Mathematics: applications and interpretation will be those who enjoy mathematics best when seen in a practical context. This course includes topics that are traditionally part of a pre-university mathematics course such as calculus and statistics. The course makes extensive use of technology to allow students to explore and construct mathematical models. Mathematics: applications and interpretation will develop mathematical thinking, often in the context of a practical problem and using technology to justify conjectures. Students are required to develop an internal assessment and present two paper examinations in May of the second year. See the IB section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

**IB615/IB616 - IB Math: Analysis and Approaches SL  
(Two-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Algebra II/80% in previous math course/DR/PT**

**Open to: Grades 11-12**

This course is for students who enjoy the thrill of mathematical problem solving and generalization. This course includes topics that are both traditionally part of a pre-university mathematics course (for example, functions, trigonometry, calculus) as well as topics that are amenable to investigation, conjecture and proof, for instance the study of sequences and series. The course allows the use of technology, as fluency in relevant mathematical software and hand-held technology is important regardless of choice of course. However, Mathematics: analysis and approaches has a strong emphasis on the ability to construct, communicate and justify correct mathematical arguments (IB Analysis and Approaches subject guide). Students are required to develop an internal assessment and present two paper examinations in May of the second year. See the IB section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

**IB617/IB618 - IB Math: Analysis and Approaches  
HL (Two-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Algebra II/80% in previous math course/DR/PT**

**Open to: Grades 11-12**

This course is for students who enjoy the thrill of mathematical problem solving and generalization. This course includes topics that are both traditionally part of a pre-university mathematics course (for example, functions, trigonometry, calculus) as well as topics that are amenable to investigation, conjecture and proof, for instance the study of sequences and series. The course allows the use of technology, as fluency in relevant mathematical software and hand-held technology is important regardless of choice of course. However, Mathematics: analysis and approaches has a strong emphasis on the ability to construct, communicate and justify correct mathematical arguments. Students who wish to take Mathematics: analysis and approaches at higher level will have strong algebraic skills and the ability to understand simple proof. They will be students who enjoy spending time with problems and get pleasure and satisfaction from solving challenging problems. (IB Analysis and Approaches subject guide). Students are required to develop an internal assessment and present three paper examinations in May of the second year. See the IB section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

# VISUAL ARTS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## Visual Art Electives

### US700 - Art I (Semester Course)

**Prerequisite:** none

**Open to:** Grades 9-12

A prerequisite for Art II, AP Studio Art, and Fashion Design, this course provides opportunities for creative expression in a variety of techniques and materials. Students explore the elements and principles of art through drawing, painting and design. In this course, students apply basic skills to acquire a deeper appreciation of art and their visual surroundings. Students are required to have the following supplies: a spiral bound 9" x 12" sketchbook with at least 100 pages, a pair of scissors, two HB pencils, two 6H pencils, two 6B pencils, two erasers, two glue sticks and a small set of natural hair paint brushes (three different sizes).

### US701 - Art II (Semester Course)

**Prerequisite:** Art I

**Open to:** Grades 9-12

Students explore a variety of media and techniques such as painting, printmaking, drawing, sculpture and alternative media. This course is recommended for students interested in studying studio art or design in the future. The course is an excellent preparation for the IB Visual Arts Certificate or Diploma. Students will conduct responsible research and learn about various artistic movements from the history of art. Basic supplies include a 9" x 12" spiral bound sketchbook of 100 pages, drawing pencils, paint brushes, two canvases and other supplies as needed.

### US703 - Ceramics I (Semester Course)

**Prerequisite:** none

**Open to:** Grades 9-12

This course is an introduction to the art of sculpture done in clay. It emphasizes hand building techniques while studying the art of various ancient cultures as the foundation of one of the most important traditions in ceramics. Students will be exposed to spatial composition

through the creation and study of sculptures based on simple geometrical shapes. Specific ceramics vocabulary is learned and applied.

### US704 - Ceramics II (Semester Course)

**Prerequisite:** Ceramics I

**Open to:** Grades 9-12

This course will give students the opportunity to rediscover the beauty found in the art of vessel making and sculpture produced in clay, while exploring the elements and principles of design. The student will have the possibility to expand essential skills and understand clay's behavior. Students will create a series of pieces using the potter's wheel and will gain experience and skills in this technique. An additional focus includes examining artwork produced in the past and in present times.

### US705 - Ceramics III (Semester Course)

**Prerequisite:** Ceramics II

**Open to:** Grades 9-12

This course offers the advanced ceramics student the opportunity to develop a distinctive style through the understanding of the concepts of traditional ceramics techniques and the new trends found within contemporary artwork. Students will model the human figure through the construction of a collective head planter in large scale, while they explore the various possibilities offered in this format. High temperature clay and firings to be explored as well.

### US723 - Photography I (Semester Course)

**Prerequisite:** none

**Open to:** Grades 9-12

The Photography I course is designed to teach students the fundamentals of photography. Starting with the basics, students will learn through their own creative experimentation, to manipulate a camera and editing software, in order to best communicate personal meaning through prints and digital images. We will investigate the history, technology, and techniques of the photography medium to prepare each student-artist for production of successful works. Most importantly, students will learn to view photographic images with a critical eye, and to communicate aesthetic appreciations in an articulate manner.

**US724 - Photography II (Semester Course)****Prerequisite: Photography I/DR****Open to: Grades 9-12**

The Photography II course is designed to expand upon the knowledge of acquired in Photography I. In this class, students will continue to develop the art of digital editing, as well as learn to manipulate environmental lighting for photo shoots. By focusing on understanding photography as a form of fine art, students will work to develop a personal aesthetic in the production of their creative images. Most importantly, students will continue to develop their critical eye, and to communicate aesthetic appreciations in an articulate manner.

**US725 - Photography III (Semester Course)****Prerequisite: Photography II/DR****Open to: Grades 9-12**

The Photography III course is designed to expand upon the knowledge acquired in Photography I and II. In this class, students will begin to build a portfolio of photographic work that is of high technical quality and of a distinct personal style. Students will work to master techniques that they have previously attempted, and will likely experiment with new concepts, regardless; they will be striving to find define their own creative voice as a collective body of artwork. Most importantly, students will continue to develop their critical eye, and to communicate aesthetic appreciations in an articulate manner. In order to enroll, students are required to provide their own manual 35mm SLR camera and will also need to supply their own film and photo paper. (Due to the high cost of materials, students should be prepared to spend between \$100 and \$200 USD for paper and film to be used over the semester.)

**US715- Fashion Design I (Semester Course)****Prerequisite: Art I or Graphic Design****Open to: Grades 9-12**

This course will provide a basic introduction to fashion design, including garment design and construction. Students will be encouraged to search for original sources of inspiration in the creation of a line of clothing. Students will conduct research on the work of a famous designer and make frequent presentations in class. Illustration techniques will be presented and a visiting designer will give students a real-life example of

what it means to work in the field. Basic sewing will be taught and students are required to buy a modest list of supplies including a spiral-bound 9" x 12" sketchbook.

**US715- Fashion Design II (Semester Course)****Prerequisite: Fashion Design I****Open to: Grades 9-12**

This course is a continuation of Fashion Design. Sewing machines are not required. Students will be encouraged to search for original sources of inspiration in the creation of a line of clothing. Students will conduct research on fashion history and make frequent presentations in class. Illustration techniques will be presented and a visiting designer will give students a real-life example of what it means to work in the field. Students will repurpose an existing garment and learn how to take measurements properly.

**AP Visual Arts Classes****AP700/AP701 - AP Art History (One-year Course)****Prerequisite: World History I/85% in previous art and humanities courses/DR****Open to: Grades 10-12**

AP Art History is an introductory college-level course open to students in grades 10 through 12. Students examine major forms of artistic expression from the ancient world to the present in a variety of cultures. Students will be able to conduct both a formal and a contextual analysis, learning to write about art and architecture with respect to history, religion, patronage, gender and culture. Overall, students will discover how exciting and enriching it is to experience the arts. This course is highly recommended for students planning on taking IB Visual Arts. It can be counted as a Humanities in English elective or as a Fine Arts and Technology elective. All students must take the AP exam in May. See the AP Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

### **AP702/AP703 - AP Studio Art: 2D Design (One-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Successful completion of two Level I arts courses or a Level I and a Level II; grade of 85 or better in last visual arts course/DR**

**Open to: Grades 9-12**

AP Studio Art is an intense college-like art class. Students will have one year to create a 24-piece design portfolio. This class is a great outlet for students who are serious about graphic design or multimedia design, or who want to study communications design. Students will create a 24-piece portfolio focused in two directions: breadth and concentration. In the breadth section, students will create 12 art pieces that demonstrate a variety of artistic skills as related to design. Areas of exploration include (but not limited to): graphic & multimedia design, photography, 3D modeling, animation and printing, video. In the concentration section, students will create 12 pieces focused solely on a single idea like fashion portraiture or urban illustration. The portfolio will be externally judged by the College Board at the end of the course for possible college credit. All students must take the AP exam. See the AP Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

be documented at all times in a sketchbook and/or digitally. The Process Portfolio and the Comparative Study will be graded by an IB examiner and uploaded digitally to the IB. At the end of the course there will be an examination exhibition, evaluated by your teacher and uploaded to the IB. See the IB Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

### **IB Arts Classes**

#### **IB704/IB705/IB706/IB707 - IB Visual Arts SL or IB Visual Arts HL (Two-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Grade 80 or above in previous visual arts courses (including Art I and at least one of the following: Photo II, Art II, Ceramics II or AP Art History), application or DR**

**Open to: Only offered as a two-year course for Grades 11-12**

This course offers amazing opportunities for growth in the field of visual arts through a rigorous practice of studio work and research. There are two different levels of participation:

- HL: Process Portfolio, Comparative Study, Curatorial Practice
- SL: Process Portfolio, Comparative Study, Curatorial Practice
- Both HL and SL are in the same classroom. The differences between higher level and standard level are the number of artworks produced over two years and the number of screens submitted as research. In this course, the creation of artwork is integrated with the research, a process that has to

## DESIGN ARTS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### Design Art Electives

#### **US718- Graphic Design I (Semester Course)**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Open to: Grades 9-12**

As a prerequisite for Graphic Design II and Fashion Design, this course will provide students with a basic understanding of design elements and principles as well as technical skills in the production of two-dimensional design with Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign. The creative cycle will be used to produce exercises in creativity as well as client-based projects. By the end, students will produce an online design portfolio website.

#### **US719 - Graphic Design II (Semester Course)**

**Prerequisite: Graphic Design I or Multimedia Design I**

**Open to: Grades 9-12**

This course is intended for students who have mastered the basics of the design software used in Graphic Design I. During the course, students will be observing methods of influencing visual culture through design for a variety of means such as commercial or political using the process of the design cycle.

#### **US813 - Creative Technologies: Transmedia I (Semester Course)**

**Prerequisite: none/DR**

**Open to: Grades 9-12**

Transmedia and Creative Technologies is an interdisciplinary course that focuses on experimental and innovative technical approaches to time-based art and design implementing practices such as video, sound, performance, digital, and interactive media. Transmedia means changing or moving media so naturally, it resists a conventional approach to art and design so it challenges students to apply hybrid strategies and a critical approach to problem resolution. The course fosters research around the history of media in art and design as well as contemporary practices that implement emerging technologies.

#### **US814 - Creative Technologies: Transmedia II (Semester Course)**

**Prerequisite: Transmedia I/DR**

**Open to: Grades 9-12**

Transmedia and Creative Technologies II is a continuation of section I of the course but with a more student-led, independent approach. Students will propose their area of exploration within the context of Transmedia Studies. They will conduct independent research to develop and realize their projects. Collaborative opportunities amongst students are strongly encouraged so that large scale projects are realized.

#### **US816 - Industrial Design I: Prototyping and Fabrication (Semester Course)**

**Prerequisite: none/DR**

**Open to: Grades 9-12**

Industrial Design, Prototyping and Fabrication offers students the ability to conceptualize, build and test the viability of products they design. The course is an interdisciplinary space for Making! Students will learn digital modeling and fabrication tools, experience working with wood, plastics, textiles, and hybrid materials. The course also allows an exploration of issues related to the study of resource conservation, environmental activism, and ecological principles. The course challenges students to push material boundaries and identify opportunities to produce meaningful, and sustainable product design solutions.

#### **US816 - Industrial Design II: Prototyping and Fabrication (Semester Course)**

**Prerequisite: Industrial Design II/DR**

**Open to: Grades 9-12**

Industrial Design, Prototyping and Fabrication II is a continuation of section I of the course but with a more student-led, independent approach. Students will propose their area of exploration within the context of Industrial Design. They will conduct independent research to develop and realize advanced design projects that have a strong consideration for sustainable and responsible manufacturing practices and solutions. Collaborative opportunities amongst students are strongly encouraged so that large scale projects are realized.

**US807 - Video Production I (Semester Course)****Prerequisite: none****Open to: Grades 9-12**

This course uses the basic principles of design and production to create short video productions. It will teach students how to plan, produce, edit and release professional videos. Learned skills include camera, lighting & audio techniques via the use of Adobe Premiere and Adobe Audition. Basic digital photography is also included for producing videos.

**US807 - Video Production II (Semester Course)****Prerequisite: Video Production I****Open to: Grades 9-12**

This course teaches advanced design and production principles learned in Video Production I to create short video productions employing more advanced techniques. It teaches students how to plan, produce, edit professional grade videos. Learned skills include advanced camera handling, lighting, green screen, compositing, and audio techniques and special visual effects via the use of Adobe Premiere, Adobe After Effects, Cinema 4D and Adobe Audition. The course explores the applications of video production as it relates to the industry as a profession (commercial, documentary, drama, VFX, etc).

**US715 - Web Design (Semester Course)****Prerequisite: none****Open to: Grades 9-12**

This course covers the development and publishing of a website from scratch using Photoshop, Illustrator, HTML, CSS and JavaScript. Students will learn how to design them in Photoshop and Illustrator and make them come alive using Dreamweaver and how to publish them on the web. The course also covers usability, flexibility and responsive design. The use of frameworks such as Bootstrap and the use of libraries such as jQuery for creating advanced website design.

**US727/US7280 - Yearbook Publication (One-year Course)****Prerequisite: DR/Application required for editor, photo editor, graphic/art editor and copy editor positions****Open to: Grades 9-12**

The annual production of the Upper School yearbook requires a staff with strong photographic, writing and graphic design skills. Students should also have an interest in multimedia, professional project management and computers. The class is responsible for planning, constructing, editing and distributing the color annual for the Upper School. Staff members are expected to work independently outside of class (sometimes even on weekends) to cover School activities and meet deadlines for sending work to the printing house. After the final delivery of the yearbook, students will use basic multimedia principles learned to create a media supplement for the yearbook covering events and aspects of student life that occur in the spring. Applications and interviews for all staff positions are required. Departmental recommendations are required for editor, photo editor, graphic/art editor and copy editor positions.

This course may be repeated for credit.

**IB Design and Technology Courses****IB130/IB131 - IB Design Technology SL (Two-year Course)****Prerequisite: 1.0 credit in design/80% in previous design course/DR****Open to: Grades 11-12****IB132/IB133 - IB Design Technology HL (Two-year Course)****Prerequisite: Industrial Design II or Creative Tech: Transmedia II/80% in previous design course/DR****Open to: Grades 11-12**

IB Design Technology aims to develop internationally-minded people whose enhanced understanding of design and the technological world can facilitate our shared guardianship of the planet and create a better world. It focuses on analysis, design development, synthesis and evaluation. The creative tension between theory and practice is what characterizes design technology within the DP sciences subject group. IB Design Technology achieves a high level of design literacy by enabling students to develop critical-thinking and design skills, which they can apply in a practical context. While designing may take various forms, it will involve

the selective application of knowledge within an ethical framework. The course has a strong focus on technology so students can speculate, develop and prototype their designs and also the ability to not only imagine a better future but to experience it. Students are required to complete an Internal Assessment portfolio and sit for the IB external examination at the end of their two-year course of study. See the IB Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

# MUSICAL ARTS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## Music Electives

### US710 - Concert Band I (Semester Course)

**Prerequisite:** Minimum of one year band experience and/or DR

**Open to:** Grades 9-12

### US711 - Concert Band II (Semester Course)

**Prerequisite:** Minimum of one year band experience and/or DR

**Open to:** Grades 9-12

Open to qualified students in grades 9-12 with prior training. Accepted students will learn more advanced music and rhythmic reading skills through the study of graduated technical exercises. Individual and ensemble performance techniques will also be enhanced through the preparation of increasingly challenging music literature in a wide variety of styles. Mandatory concerts are scheduled throughout the School year.

These courses can be repeated for credit.

### US706 - Guitar I (Semester Course)

**Prerequisite:** none

**Open to:** Grades 9-12

This is a **performance-based** course for beginner guitar students. Students will become musically literate while learning to play guitar. The repertoire includes beginning music of all styles and periods. Basics include tablature, musical notation, chord charts, melody and bass lines, plucking and strumming.

### US707 - Guitar II (Semester Course)

**Prerequisite:** Guitar I/DR

**Open to:** Grades 9-12

This **performance-based** course is a continuation of Guitar I in all aspects: honing musical literacy skills and fine-tuning techniques is the goal. The repertoire will include selected music of all styles and periods for the growing novice. This course represents movement into minor scales, pentatonic scales, blues and very simple improvisation.

The course can be repeated for credit.

### US708 - Choir I (Semester Course)

**Prerequisite:** None

**Open to:** Grades 9-12

This is a beginner level choir course. Through the medium of singing, students will learn to read music and the basics of vocal production: stage presence, diction, intonation, breathing, rhythm, volume, timbre and musicianship. The repertoire consists of music from all historical periods as well as varied styles.

This course can be repeated for credit.

### US738/US739 - Strings (One-year Course)

**Prerequisite:** Previous Strings Course/DR

**Open to:** Grades 9-12

The Upper School Strings class is designed not only as a continuation in technique from Strings 8, but also a movement into public performance and independent development. While working towards class performances and group technique, students will explore collaborative projects in different ensembles and events. Our repertoire will cover a variety of genres and styles, and students will continue their work on advanced skills and practice technique.

This course can be repeated for credit.

### US719/US720 - Jazz Ensemble (One-year Course)

**Prerequisite:** Previous band experience and/or audition/DR; Students with skills on piano, guitar, bass or drums but who have not previously been enrolled in band courses are eligible to audition but must demonstrate the ability to read, understand and interpret written music notation

**Open to:** Grades 9-12

This course is for advanced instrumentalists who wish to develop their skills in the jazz idiom. Students will learn a variety of jazz, rock, Latin and other popular musical styles, as well as the fundamentals of improvisation. Concerts are scheduled throughout the School year.

This course may be repeated for credit.

**US721 - Foundations of Musical Theatre (Semester Course)**

**Prerequisite: Choir I or Drama I/DR**

**Open to: Grades 10-12**

This intermediate level course is open to students in Grades 9-12. Musical Theatre is a wildly popular pursuit of students at ASF and this class is designed to tap into and develop the skill sets necessary to succeed with musical theatre. Students will explore and experiment with foundational dramatic theory from Linklater to Meyerhold and beyond. They will apply these techniques to their singing to improve proper support, technique, stage presence and true acting of a song.

**IB700/IB701/IB702/IB703 - IB Music SL or IB Music HL (Two-year Course)**

**Prerequisite: Grade 80 or above in previous performing arts, drama or DR courses**

**Open to: Only offered as a two-year course for Grades 11-12**

This two-year course offers amazing opportunities for growth in the field of music through the rigorous practice of performance and research. Like all IB classes, both internal and external assessments are used to evaluate students.

- The course aims to develop student proficiencies in musicianship, perception and analysis in preparation for submission of a portfolio of recordings and the IB Diploma Music exam in their second year.
- SL and HL levels are available. (SL students practice individually or as ensembles to prepare 20 minutes of recordings for their portfolios.)
- All students study perception and analysis of music throughout history and geography to prepare their Musical Links Investigation (essay) and exam Section A (prescribed works) and Section B (analyzing music from different times and places).
- HL study represents 90 additional coursework hours suggested by the IB and requires students to submit solo performing and creating (improvisation or composition) portfolios. HL students are also expected to demonstrate greater breadth and depth in their music perception and analysis.

# THEATRE ARTS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## Drama Electives

### US712 - Drama I (Semester Course)

**Prerequisite:** none

**Open to:** Grades 9-12

This course is an introduction to acting. It encourages the development of self-confidence and ease in self-expression through monologues, scene work, and play production. Students will read multiple published play and perform monologues, scenes, and short plays in front of an audience.

### US729 - Drama II (Semester Course)

**Prerequisite:** Drama I/DR

**Open to:** Grades 9-12

Drama II builds on the skills acquired in Drama I. This course is designed to help students develop their acting and directing skills. Drama II utilizes more advanced, more complex plays, resulting in advanced scene study, and exercises to improve students stage movement skills and vocal technique. Drama II can also be shaped around the needs of the students in the class. Students have the ability to suggest units of interest for class study. This class is highly recommended as preparation for IB Theatre.

### US713 - Drama Production (Semester Course)

**Prerequisite:** Drama I/Audition/DR

**Open to:** Grades 9-12

A “learn-by-doing” course, Drama Production has two aims. First, it introduces the technical aspects of drama production, including stage design, costume, sound, lighting, property and set execution. Secondly, it develops the capacity to plan and produce a play using the knowledge of stagecraft acquired in the class. It is recommended for students with serious interest in “behind the scenes” work.

This course may be taken two times for credit.

## IB Theatre Arts Classes

### IB700/IB701/IB702/IB703 - IB Theater SL or IB Theater HL (Two-year Course)

**Prerequisite:** Grade 80 or above in previous performing arts, drama or DR courses

**Open to:** Only offered as a two-year course for Grades 11-12

IB Theatre is an IB Diploma arts class (Group 6) composed of four interdependent parts: Theatre in the Making, Theatre in Performance, Theatre in the World and the Independent Project & Journal. Like all IB classes, both internal and external assessments are used to evaluate students. Theatre in the Making is the process-oriented component. There is some theory, but the primary emphasis is on voice, movement, acting, directing and improvisation techniques – the practical process of making theater and not the final product. Theatre in Performance is about the final product. Students will participate (as actors, directors, designers, etc.) in a minimum of three performances that will be evaluated. Theatre in the World is the most theoretical component. Students will read, watch and explore theater and plays from different genres and styles in different cultures and in different eras. The Independent Project & Journal component has two parts. One part is based on the student’s self-evaluation and documentation of his or her own growth and progress over the entire two years (documented in the student’s ongoing journal). The second part is the student’s independent project. The Independent Project is part of the second year. Students will create and present an original work of theater. See the IB Section of this catalog for information about additional course fees.

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## **US900 - Health (Semester Course)**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Open to: Required for all Grade 9 students**

This is a comprehensive course addressing the students' physical, mental, emotional and social wellbeing. Teachers stress the process of making choices for a healthy lifestyle. The following areas of content are covered: CPR, first aid injury prevention, nutrition, lifetime fitness, stress management, sexual education, diseases and disorders, substance use and abuse and environmental health.

## **US902/US903 - Physical Education 1 (Semester Course)**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Open to: Required for all Grade 9 students**

Physical Education is an essential element of all Upper School students' education. The purpose of the course is to teach students that maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle is key to mental and physical well-being. Students are expected to participate in all class activities. A daily emphasis is placed on participation with full effort, while maintaining sensitivity and respect for individual talents. Students rotate activities throughout the semester. Compulsory units in this course are soccer, basketball, dance and fitness. Non-compulsory units may include other activities available based on equipment and space. This course is divided into single gender classes and is Pass/Fail

## **US904/US905 - Physical Education 2 (Semester Course)**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Open to: Required for all Grade 9 students**

This course is a continuation of Physical Education I. Coaches will continue teaching students how to lead a balanced and healthy lifestyle through fitness education, with the hope that each student will leave with the knowledge to continue leading that lifestyle. Students will learn and implement strategic movements, both individual and team oriented, to ensure an increased understanding of game play. A daily emphasis is placed on

participation with full effort, while maintaining sensitivity and respect for individual talents. There is a continued expectation for students to reflect critically on all aspects of physical education. Compulsory units in this course are soccer, basketball, dance and fitness. Non-compulsory units may include other activities available based on equipment and space. This course is divided into single gender classes and is Pass/Fail.

## **US907 - Strength and Conditioning (Semester Course)**

**Prerequisite: PE 1 or participation on JV or Varsity Sport**

**Open to: Grades 10-12**

Students in this course will receive instruction on proper form and technique as well as strategies to employ when pursuing a higher level of fitness. This course is driven by individual goal setting, designing a path to that goal, and then working to achieve that goal throughout the semester. Students will have full access to the fitness center, and all equipment, during their scheduled period. The use of a fitness card/diary, provides students with an opportunity to track progress, make adjustments, and be able to make fitness decisions based on personalized data that they have collected. A strong interest in personal fitness is important, this course is open to beginners and advanced gym goers alike.

This course can be repeated for credit.

## **US901 - Lifeguarding (Semester Course)**

**Prerequisite: moderate swimming ability**

**Open to: Grades 9-12**

The purpose of this course is to prepare and certify students to become lifeguards. This program builds a foundation in knowledge, attitudes and skills needed to become responsible lifeguards. Students will develop a level of fitness, endurance and technique in swimming, lifeguarding and rescue skills. Upon successful completion of this course, students will obtain an American Red Cross certification in Professional Lifeguarding, as well as First Aid and CPR certification for a Professional Rescuer.

## ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **US1006 - Office Cadet (Semester)**

**Prerequisite: Upper School Admin Approval**

**Open to: Grades 12**

Working in counseling or administrative offices, students have general office responsibilities. They will learn organizational skills, responsibility and the ability to deal with others in a positive and polite manner. This course counts as an elective credit but is for a pass/fail grade and does not count toward GPA. Students may only be a cadet for one semester during their time in Upper School.

### **US1007 - Teaching Cadet (Semester)**

**Prerequisite: Upper School Admin Approval**

**Open to: Grades 12**

Teaching cadets may be scheduled for classes in the Early Childhood Center, Lower School, Middle School or Upper School. Students interested in child psychology, education and child growth and development will apply theoretical knowledge to everyday classroom activities. Students assist the teacher in the preparation, delivery and evaluation of curriculum. This course counts as an elective credit but is for a pass/fail grade and does not count toward GPA. Students may only be a cadet for one semester during their time in Upper School.

### **US1009 - Study Hall (Semester)**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Open to: Grades 9-12**

Students in grades 9-11 can choose to enroll in a study hall. Students must report to the designated room at the assigned period. Attendance will be taken. Students are expected to work silently for the duration of the period. Study hall is not for credit and does not impact GPA but will receive a P/F grade.

### **US1010 - Academic Coaching (Semester)**

**Prerequisite: Counselor Recommendation**

**Open to: Grades 9-12**

Academic coaching is a Pass/Fail class lead by grade level counselors to support students with

examining their learning processes, working habits and current difficulties or barriers to success. This threefold focus has been shown to improve student academic success rates. Students in grades 9-11 who are placed on academic probation will be required to take this course to improve current academic status. Some grade 9 students identified as at-risk may be invited to take this course at the end of their grade 8 year. This course may be repeated, but it will only count once as a .5 credit for graduation.

### **US1008 - Seminar in College Prep (Semester)**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Open to: Grade 11**

This course is designed to help juniors through the college application process for colleges outside of Mexico. Students will examine career aspirations and long-term goals. They will carry out extensive research on colleges that interest them. They will learn test-taking strategies for tests such as the SAT Reasoning Test, the SAT Subject Tests, the ACT and the TOEFL. The course provides a holistic approach to the process that includes interviewing, writing application essays and asking for letters of recommendation. This course counts as an elective credit but is for a pass or fail grade and does not count toward GPA.