



The American
School Foundation®



UPPER SCHOOL

Course Guide

2025-2026



The American School Foundation, A.C.

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The American School Foundation, A.C.

Upper School Course Guide

Adoptado: Agosto, 2021

1. 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 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.

2. 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.

3. 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
TOTAL	27 units

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
TOTAL	27 units

Extraordinary circumstances may make it necessary to alter these requirements for an individual student. Any such alternations to these requirements must be approved, in writing, by the Head of School.

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 1 AP course with a global perspective 1 AP course from science, mathematics, or computer science 1 AP additional AP course which is not English or another world language
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
TOTAL	Minimum five AP courses



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)
TOTAL	Minimum six AP courses

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	
TOTAL	Six IB courses, TOK, CAS, EE

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 Language and Literature 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
English I	US100-US101	Gr 9	None
English II	US102-US103	Gr 10	English I
English III (or IB or AP English)	US104-US105	Gr 11	English II or AP English Language and Composition
If not enrolled in an AP or IB course in Grade 12, two semester-long electives (one each semester)	Various (see below)	Gr 12	English III or AP/IB English

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
English: Creative Writing	US110	Gr 10-12	English I
English IV: Comparative Film and Novel Study	US150	Gr 12	English III or AP English Language and Composition
English IV: Monsters in our Midst	US106	Gr 12	English III or AP English Language and Composition
English IV: Mythology	US161	Gr 12	English III or AP English Language and Composition
English IV: Reading and Writing About Food	US162	Gr 12	English III or AP English Language and Composition
English IV: Women in Literature	US132	Gr 12	English III or AP English Language and Composition

AP English Courses

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
AP English Language and Composition	AP100-AP101	Gr 10-12	English II/85% in previous English class
AP English Literature and Composition	AP102-AP103	Gr 11-12	English III, AP English Language and Composition/85% in previous English class

IB English Courses

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
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IB English A: Language and Literature SL	IB100-IB101 IB102-IB103	Gr 11-12	80% in previous English course/DR
IB English A: Language and Literature HL	IB104-IB105 IB106-IB107	Gr 11-12	85% in previous English course/DR
IB English A: Literature SL	IB108-IB109 IB110-IB111	Gr 11-12	80% in previous English course/DR
IB English A: Literature HL	IB112-IB113 IB114-IB115	Gr 11-12	85% in previous English course/DR



English Language and Literature Course Descriptions

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

Prerequisite: none

Open to: Grade 9

This course develops fundamental English language arts skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking. Writing instruction is largely based on the development of expository writing skills as applied to paragraph and essay composition, including a review of grammar, usage, 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. Works studied may include but are not limited to the following: *The Hate U Give*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Persepolis*, and *The House on Mango Street*.

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, they are also required to develop grammatical skills and vocabulary to write critically and with purpose. Texts may include *Of Mice and Men*, *Song of Myself*, *The Great Gatsby*, *The Things They Carried*, and *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*.

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 differences in style and content. In this course, students continue to practice close reading skills and analytical writing 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.

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.

US150 - English IV: Comparative Film and Novel Study (Semester Course)

Prerequisite: English III or AP/IB English

Open to: Grade 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.

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

Prerequisite: English III or AP/IB English

Open to: Grade 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 retellings where the monsters become



philosophical ideas or social outcasts. Texts studied include fairy tales and myths, psychological and anthropological theories, a selection of short stories related to devil characters, *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde, as well as one or two contemporary films.

US161 - English IV: Mythology (Semester Course)

Prerequisite: English III or AP/IB English

Open to: Grade 12

This is a senior level English class designed to explore the world's most fascinating myths, expand students' understanding of the mythologies of the ancient world, and connect to contemporary mythology. The class starts by considering what a myth is (and isn't), then moves on to look at ways we can approach the reading and interpretation of myths. As we explore these stories we will discuss their themes, and seek to understand how these myths were important to their audiences, and how they may affect us as a society today. We will explore what works can be considered modern myths. As a class, we will learn how to better interpret, analyze, and critique the texts we read or watch, so as to fully appreciate their craft and meaning.

US162 - English IV: Reading and Writing About Food (Semester Course)

Prerequisite: English III or AP/IB English

Open to: Grade 12

This is a senior-level English class that explores how food shapes culture and identity. Through a variety of genres including memoir, journalism, critique, and narrative nonfiction, students will read, discuss, and write about the many meanings of food in our lives. We'll explore themes such as food and identity, food trends, critique and review, and food politics and history, considering both personal and societal perspectives. The ultimate goal of the course is for students to develop their own voices as writers and thinkers by experimenting with these genres throughout the semester. Our work will culminate in the publication of a class food magazine, showcasing their best original writing.

US132 - English IV: Women in Literature US-132 (Semester Course)

Prerequisite: English III or AP English Language

Open to: Grade 12

In this semester-long course students will consider how literature written by women has been shaped by personal, political, social, economic and cultural contexts. We will explore how women have historically used writing as a tool to both reinforce and challenge the status quo, both through the content of their work and the act of writing itself. The course will be conducted through university-style seminar discussion, and students will have the opportunity to work on personal writing inspired by the works we read as well. The readings will largely focus on contemporary authors including Toni Morrison, Roxane Gay, Gloria Anzaldúa, Ursula LeGuin, Kristin Valdez Quade and Nnedi Okorafor.

AP English Courses

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

Prerequisite: 85% in previous English course/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 *Educated*, *Into the Wild*, *The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*. 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: 75% in previous AP English Language and Composition course/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: 85% 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: 85% 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).



Spanish Language and Literature Course List

Students in the Mexican University Program must take Spanish courses each year. These courses in Spanish count for the second-language requirement.

Spanish Courses

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
Spanish Language Workshop I	MX200-MX201	Gr 9	none
Spanish Language Workshop II	MX208-MX209	Gr 10	Spanish Language Workshop
World Literature in Spanish	MX204-MX205	Gr 11	Spanish Language Workshop II
Latin American Literature in Spanish	MX206-MX207	Gr 12	World Literature in Spanish

AP Spanish Courses

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
AP Spanish Literature and Culture	AP202-AP203	Gr 11-12	85% in Spanish Language Workshop II/DR

IB Spanish Courses

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
IB Spanish A: Language and Literature SL	IB224-IB225 IB226-IB227	Gr 11-12	80% in Spanish Language Workshop II/DR/PT
IB Spanish A: Language and Literature HL	IB228-IB229 IB230-IB231	Gr 11-12	85% in Spanish Language Workshop II/DR/PT
IB Spanish A: Literature SL	IB232-IB233 IB234-IB235	Gr 11-12	80% in Spanish Language Workshop II/DR/PT
IB Spanish A: Literature HL	IB236-IB237 IB238-IB239	Gr 11-12	85% in Spanish Language Workshop II/DR/PT



Spanish Language and Literature Course Descriptions

Students must enroll in a second language course throughout their matriculation in the Upper School. Students in the Mexican University Program must take Spanish courses each year. These courses in Spanish count for the second-language requirement.

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

Prerequisite: none

Open to: Grade 9

This course is designed to develop critical thinking and communicative skills in order to understand and produce various types of texts, both formal and informal. In addition, linguistic skills are emphasized. This course also entails the study of Latin and Greek Etymology in Spanish vocabulary with reference to their modern usage and relevance. Students in this course prepare for Spanish Language Workshop II, where they will go in depth into analyzing literature and learn the rudiments of formal academic writing. Students in this course prepare for Spanish Language Workshop II, where they will go in depth into analyzing literature and learn the rudiments of formal academic writing.

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 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 selected works in Spanish from a variety of genres. Assessment is based on literary analysis and the production of academic writing. This will prepare students to transition to World 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 in translation. The aim is to develop in the student the understanding of different contexts, 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 the second semester, the course includes books of increasing difficulty. Students will explore the universal literary production in depth. The emphasis is placed 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 Literature and Culture

Open to: Grade 12

In this survey of 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 Latin American writers in different genres. Students refine and polish their language arts skills. In the second semester, students read and analyze 20th century Latin American narrative works written by female writers, 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

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

Prerequisite: 85% in Spanish language Workshop II/DR

Open to: Grades 11-12

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

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: 85% in Spanish Language Workshop II/DR/PT

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.



Language Acquisition

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. Should a student be in AP Spanish Language and Culture and want to continue their Spanish learning, they will then be placed in Spanish Language Workshop I.

Language Acquisition Spanish Course List:

Spanish Courses

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
Spanish I	US208-US209	Gr 9-12	none
Spanish II	US210-US211	Gr 9-12	Spanish I or equivalent/PT
Spanish III	US212-US213	Gr 9-12	Spanish II or equivalent/PT
Spanish IV	US214-US215	Gr 9-12	Spanish III or equivalent/PT

AP Spanish Courses

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
AP Spanish Language and Culture	AP200-AP201	Gr 9-12	85% in Spanish III/DR

IB Spanish Courses

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
IB Spanish Ab Initio SL	IB212-IB213 IB214-IB215	Gr 11-12	DR/PT
IB Spanish B SL	IB216-IB217 IB218-IB219	Gr 11-12	80% in previous Spanish course/DR/PT/minimum three years of Spanish
IB Spanish B HL	IB220-IB221 IB222-IB223	Gr 11-12	85% in previous Spanish course/DR/PT/minimum three years of Spanish



Language Acquisition French Course List:

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 language as part of their elective course of studies.

French Courses

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

AP French Courses

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
AP French Language and Culture	AP204-AP205	Gr 10-12	85% in French III or equivalent/DR

IB French Courses

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
IB French Ab Initio SL	IB200-IB201 IB202-IB203	Gr 11-12	DR/PT
IB French B SL	IB204-IB205 IB206-IB207	Gr 11-12	80% in French III or equivalent/DR/PT
IB French B HL	IB208-IB209 IB210-IB211	Gr 11-12	85% in French III or equivalent/DR/PT



Language Acquisition Course Descriptions

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.

Language Acquisition 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 basic verb tenses, uses of prepositions and some idiomatic expressions. 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 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

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.

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.

Language Acquisition 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 (Individuals and Societies) 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.

Humanities in English (Individuals and Societies) Requirements

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
World History	US322 - US323	Gr 9	none
United States History	US304 - US305	Gr 10-12	World History
Survey of Mexican History (American Program only)	US307	Gr 11-12	none

Humanities in English Electives

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
Art History	US146	Gr 10-12	World History
Behavioral Economics	US119	Gr 11-12	U.S. History
Contemporary Studies: Holocaust Studies	US324	Gr 10-12	World History
Contemporary Studies: Queer Studies	US145	Gr 10-12	World History
Psychology	US313	Gr 10-12	World History

AP Humanities in English (fulfill department requirements)

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
AP Human Geography	AP507-AP508	Gr 10-12	World History/85% in previous humanities courses/DR
AP Comparative Government and Politics	AP300-AP301	Gr 10-12	U.S. History or AP World History/85% in previous humanities courses/DR
AP European History	AP310-AP311	Gr 10-12	U.S. History/85% in previous humanities courses/DR
AP United States History	AP302-AP303	Gr 10-12	World History/85% in previous humanities courses/DR
AP Microeconomics	AP106	Gr 11-12	U.S. History
AP Macroeconomics	AP107	Gr 11-12	U.S. History
AP World History: Modern	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
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AP Seminar	AP306-AP307	Gr 10-11	World History/85% in previous humanities courses/DR
AP Research	AP308-AP309	Gr 11-12	AP Seminar

IB Humanities in English

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
IB Business & Management Higher Level (HL)	IB316-IB317	Gr 11-12	U.S. History/85% in previous humanities courses/DR
IB Business & Management Standard Level (SL)	IB316-IB317	Gr 11-12	U.S. History/80% in previous humanities courses/DR
IB Economics Higher Level (HL)	IB300-IB301 IB302-IB303	Gr 11-12	U.S. History/85% in previous humanities courses/DR
IB Economics Standard Level (SL)	IB318-IB319 IB320-IB321	Gr 11-12	U.S. History/80% in previous humanities courses/DR
IB Global Politics Higher Level (HL)	IB348-IB349 IB358-IB359	Gr 11-12	U.S. History/85% in previous humanities courses/DR
IB Global Politics Standard Level (SL)	IB322-IB323 IB356-IB357	Gr 11-12	U.S. History/80% in previous humanities courses/DR
IB History Higher Level (HL)	IB354-IB355 IB352-IB353	Gr 11-12	U.S. History/85% in previous humanities courses/DR
IB History Standard Level (SL)	IB350-IB351 IB364-IB365	Gr 11-12	U.S. History/80% in previous humanities courses/DR
IB Psychology Higher Level (HL)	IB334-IB335 IB336-IB337	Gr 11-12	U.S. History/85% in previous humanities courses/DR
IB Psychology Standard Level (SL)	IB330-IB331 IB332-IB333	Gr 11-12	U.S. History/80% in previous humanities courses/DR
IB Theory of Knowledge (Tok)	IB312-IB313 IB314	Gr 11-12	Admission to IB Full Diploma Program



Humanities In English (Individuals and Societies) Course Descriptions

Humanities in English (Individuals and Societies) 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. Students 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 Civil War 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. World History is a necessary prerequisite as it builds the global context and historical thinking skills that this U.S. History course continues to develop through deeper analysis and application.

US312 - Survey of Mexican History (Semester Course) - American Only Program Requirement

Prerequisite: none

Open to: Grades 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.

Humanities in English Electives

US147 - Art History (Semester Course)

Prerequisite: World History

Open to: Grade 10-12

In art history, 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.

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.

US324 - Contemporary Studies: Holocaust Studies (Semester Course)

Prerequisite: World History

Open to: Grade 10-12

Holocaust Studies is an interdisciplinary course that examines the historical context, causes, and consequences of the Holocaust, analyzing the rise of antisemitism, the mechanisms of persecution, and the ways this catastrophic event has been remembered and represented. Students explore diverse perspectives—historical, philosophical, political, and literary—to understand how individuals and societies have grappled with



questions of morality, justice, and memory. The course draws on a wide range of materials, including primary sources, survivor testimonies, fiction, memoirs, film, and scholarly research, to investigate both the historical realities and the cultural legacy of the Holocaust. Through critical reading and reflection, students develop an informed understanding of human rights, collective memory, and the enduring responsibility to confront hatred and intolerance in all forms.

US117 - Contemporary Studies: Queer Studies (Semester Course)

Prerequisite: World History

Open to: Grade 10-12

Queer Studies is an interdisciplinary course that examines how ideas about sexuality and gender have developed and changed throughout history, focusing on the experiences, challenges, and contributions of LGBTQ+ people from ancient civilizations to today. Students explore key historical events and social movements, such as the fight for LGBTQ+ rights, the impact of the AIDS crisis, and ongoing struggles for equality and representation. Through readings, discussions, and creative projects, the course encourages students to think critically about how culture, politics, and social norms shape identity and inclusion, helping them understand the importance of empathy, diversity, and social justice in both historical and contemporary contexts.

US312 - Psychology (Semester Course)

Prerequisite: World History

Open to: Grades 10-12

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.

AP Humanities in English Classes (fulfills department requirements)

AP300/AP301 - AP Comparative Government and Politics (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.

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

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

Open to: Grade 10-12

In AP European History, students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes from approximately 1450 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical connections; and utilizing reasoning about comparison, causation, and continuity and change over time. The course also provides seven themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: interaction of Europe and the world, economic and commercial development, cultural and intellectual development, states and other institutions of power, social organization and development, national and European identity, and technological and scientific innovations.

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

Prerequisite: World History/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. 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.



AP107 - AP Macroeconomics (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.

AP106 - AP Microeconomics (Semester Course)

Prerequisite: World History/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.

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

Prerequisite: World History/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 the 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.

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

Prerequisite: 85% in previous humanities courses/DR

Open to: Grade 9-12

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.

AP Humanities in English Classes (does not fulfill department requirements)

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

Prerequisite: World History/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.

IB Humanities in English Classes

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

Prerequisite: 85% in previous humanities courses/DR

Open to: Grades 11-12

IB326/IB327 - IB Business and Management SL (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.

IB300/IB301/IB302/IB303 - IB Economics Higher Level (HL) (Two-year Course)

Prerequisite: 85% in previous humanities courses/DR

Open to: Grade 11-12

IB318/IB319/IB320/IB321 - IB Economics Standard Level (SL) (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.

IB354/IB355/IB352/IB353 - IB History Higher Level (HL) (Two-year Course)

Prerequisite: 85% in previous humanities courses/DR

Open to: Grade 11-12

IB350/IB351/IB364/IB365 - IB History Standard Level (SL) (One-year Course)

Prerequisite: 80% in previous humanities courses/DR

Open to: Grade 11-12

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 at least two of the four IB world regions. Furthermore, one prescribed subject is studied throughout the course. 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.

This advanced course covers all the prescribed content for IB History SL, plus the study of the history of a world region (Americas, Europe, Africa and Middle East, Asia and Oceania). Only three themes are studied, but are studied in depth in one of the above-mentioned regions. 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. 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.

IB334/IB335/IB336/IB337 - IB Psychology Higher Level (HL) (Two-year Course)

Prerequisite: 85% in previous humanities courses/DR

Open to: Grades 11-12

IB330/IB331/IB332/IB333 - IB Psychology Standard Level (SL) (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 contexts of psychology: health and well-being, human development, human relationships and learning and cognition. They do this through four different approaches: biological, cognitive, sociocultural and research methodology. 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. They incorporate class practicals in which they can apply concepts like: bias, causality, change, measurement, perspective and responsibility. The internal assessment (IA) asks students to consider the power of psychology to lead to real improvement in people's quality of life. The task focuses on the design of a research proposal for a "population of interest" using one of the four research methods used in the class practicals. This course prepares students for the required standard level IB examination in Psychology. 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. Successful completion of Theory of Knowledge is a requirement to earn the IB Diploma.



Humanities in Spanish (Individuals and Societies) Course List

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

Dual Program Humanities in Spanish (Individual and Societies) Requirements

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

Humanities in Spanish Electives

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
El Papel de las Mujeres en Mexico y America Latina	MX420	Gr 11-12	<i>Historia de México SEP y Geografía</i>
Problemas Políticos, Economicos y Sociales en México	MX410	Gr 11-12	<i>Historia de México SEP y Geografía</i>
Trans-humanismo	MX418	Gr 11-12	<i>Historia de México SEP y Geografía</i>

IB Humanities in Spanish

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
IB Philosophy Higher Level (HL) (in Spanish)	IB402-IB403	Gr 11-12	85% in previous Humanities in Spanish class/DR
IB Philosophy Standard Level (SL) (in Spanish)	IB400-IB401	Gr 11-12	80% in previous Humanities in Spanish class/DR



Humanities in Spanish (Individuals and Societies) Course Descriptions

Students who transfer to ASF from abroad may have courses revalidated to count towards fulfillment of the Dual 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 Dual Program.

Dual Program Humanities in Spanish (Individuals and Societies) 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 SEP (One-year Course)

Prerequisite: none

Open to: Grade 9

Historia de México SEP 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 UNAM (One-year Course)

Prerequisite: *Historia de México SEP* or Survey of Mexican History

Open to: Grade 11

Historia de México UNAM 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: *Geografía*

Open to: Grade 11-12

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: *Geografía*

Open to: Grade 11-12

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: *Geografía*

Open to: Grade 11-12

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.

Dual Program Humanities in Spanish (Individuals and Societies) Electives

MX420 - El Papel de las Mujeres en México y en América Latina (Semester Course)

Prerequisite: *Historia de México SEP y Geografía*

Open to: Grade 11-12

In this elective students will understand the importance of the role women have played in Mexico and in Latin America, gaining insight into the historical, political, social and cultural impact they have had in transforming both regions. Throughout the semester-long course, the role of women in their regions will be studied. Various sources will be examined to provide an interdisciplinary approach. Students will be encouraged to develop critical thinking, source analysis, and an opening to gender studies to understand the importance of women today.

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

Prerequisite: *Historia de México SEP y Geografía*

Open to: Grade 11-12

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. It is designed for the student who is interested in delving deeper into political and economic issues faced by Mexico. Students analyze articles from books, newspapers and professional journals as part of course activities.

MX418 - Trans-humanismo (Semester Course)

Prerequisite: *Historia de México SEP y Geografía*

Open to: Grade 11-12

This semester-long course delves into the philosophical dimensions of transhumanism, focusing on classical philosophers of technology such as Aristotle, Marx, and Heidegger. Through an examination of their works and contemporary scholarship, students will critically explore how technology shapes the human condition, reaching beyond the superficial impacts to understand deeper implications. The course aims to equip students with a profound understanding of the ethical, social, and existential questions raised by transhumanism, fostering lifelong learning skills applicable to navigating a rapidly evolving technological landscape.

IB400/IB401 - IB Philosophy Higher Level (HL) (Two-year Course)

Prerequisite: 85% in previous Humanities in Spanish class /DR

Open to: Grades 11-12

IB400/IB401 - IB Philosophy Standard Level (SL) (Two-year Course)

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



Open to: Grades 11-12

In IB Philosophy, 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 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 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
Biology	US510/US511	Gr 9	none
Honors Biology / Chemistry	US528-US529	Gr 9	MS NWEA and Grades
Chemistry	US512/US513	Gr 10	none
Honors Chemistry / Physics	US528-US529	Gr 10	Biology/85% in previous science and math courses/DR
Physics	US507/ US508	Gr 10-11	none
Anatomy and Physiology	US504-US505	Gr 11-12	Biology, Chemistry, and Physics
Environmental Management and Sustainability	US530-US531	Gr 11-12	Biology, Chemistry and Physics

AP Science

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
AP Biology	AP500-AP501	Gr 10-12	Biology/85% in previous science and math courses/DR
AP Chemistry	AP502-AP503	Gr 11-12	Chemistry/85% in previous science and math courses/DR
AP Physics C: Mechanics	AP504-AP505	Gr 11-12	Physics /85% in previous science and math courses/DR Co-requisite: AP Calculus, IB Math AA SL, or IB Math HL

IB Science

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
IB Biology Higher Level (HL)	IB504-IB505 IB506-IB507	Gr 11-12	Biology/85% in previous science and math courses/DR
IB Biology Standard Level (SL)	IB500-IB501 IB502-IB503	Gr 11-12	Biology/80% in previous science and math courses/DR
IB Chemistry Higher Level (HL)	IB512-IB513 IB514-IB515	Gr 11-12	Chemistry/85% in previous science and math courses/DR
IB Chemistry Standard Level (SL)	IB508-IB509 IB510-IB511	Gr 11-12	Chemistry/80% in previous science and math courses/DR
IB Computer Science Higher Level (HL)		Gr 11-12	85% in previous computer science course
IB Computer Science Standard Level (SL)		Gr 11-12	80% in previous computer science course
IB Design Technology Higher Level (HL)	IB132-IB133	GR 11-12	Two semesters of design courses with 80% or higher or AP Computer Science Principles with score of 80% or higher/DR
IB Design Technology Standard Level (SL)	IB130-IB131	GR 11-12	Two semesters of design courses with 80% or higher or AP



			Computer Science Principles with score of 80% or higher/DR
IB Environmental Systems and Societies Higher Level (HL)	IB516-IB517	Gr 11-12	Biology/85% in previous science and humanities courses/DR
IB Environmental Systems and Societies Standard Level (SL)	IB516-IB517	Gr 11-12	Biology/80% in previous science and humanities courses/DR
IB Physics Higher Level (HL)	IB522-IB523 IB524-IB525	Gr 11-12	Physics/80% in previous science and math courses/DR Co-Requisite: Pre-Calculus, IB Math AA SL or IB Math HL
IB Physics Standard Level (SL)	IB518-IB519 IB520-IB521	Gr 11-12	Physics/80% in previous science and math courses/DR Co-Requisite: Pre-Calculus, IB Math AA SL or IB Math HL

Computer Science Course List

Students from the Class of 2028 and 2027 are required to take a minimum of .5 credits (one semester) of computer science for graduation. For the class of 2029, these courses will count towards the 2 units required for Arts and Design.

General Computer Science Electives

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
Coding Video Games Using Unity	US835	Gr 9-12	None
Creative Electronics Using Arduino	US837	Gr 9-12	None
Web Design	US806	Gr 9-12	None

AP Computer Science

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
AP Computer Science Principles	AP808-AP809	9-12	Algebra I
AP Computer Science A	AP800-AP801	10-12	AP Computer Science Principles/DR



Science Course Descriptions

US500/US501 - Biology (One-year Course)

Prerequisite: none

Open to: Grades 9

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.

US528/US529 - Honors Biology/Chemistry (One-year Course)

Prerequisite: MS NWEA and Grades

Open to: Grades 9

This course is designed to teach the core concepts and laboratory skills of Biology, Chemistry, their foundations, history, development and characteristics of living things and their relationships with the environment with higher level challenges. Approximately $\frac{2}{3}$ of the content will be biology where $\frac{1}{3}$ of the content will be chemistry.

US502/US503 - Chemistry (One-year Course)

Prerequisite: none

Open to: Grades 10

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.

US502/US503 - Honors Chemistry/Physics (One-year Course)

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

Open to: Grades 10

This course is designed to teach the core concepts and laboratory skills of Chemistry, Physics, their foundations, history, development and characteristics of living things and their relationships with the environment with higher level challenges. Approximately $\frac{2}{3}$ of the content will be physics where $\frac{1}{3}$ of the content will be 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 11-12

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. 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.

US530/US531 - Environmental Management and Sustainability

Prerequisite: Biology, Chemistry and Physics

Open to: Grade 11-12

Environmental Management and Sustainability is an interdisciplinary course that explores the relationship between human societies and the natural environment. Students will examine the scientific, social, and economic principles that shape environmental decision-making and sustainable development. Key topics include ecosystem dynamics, resource management, climate change, biodiversity conservation, and environmental policy. Through inquiry-based learning and case studies, students will analyze global and local environmental challenges and evaluate potential solutions that balance ecological integrity with human needs. Throughout the course, students will develop skills in research, critical thinking, and systems analysis while engaging in practical projects that promote environmental awareness and stewardship. They will learn to assess sustainability



initiatives, interpret data related to environmental impact, and propose strategies for more sustainable living. This course prepares students to become informed global citizens and equips them with the knowledge and problem-solving skills needed for future studies or careers in environmental science, sustainability, policy, or related fields.

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

AP Biology is an introductory college-level biology course. Students cultivate their understanding of biology through inquiry-based investigations as they explore the following topics: evolution, cellular processes, energy and communication, genetics, information transfer, ecology, and interactions.

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: AP Calculus, IB Math AA SL or IB Math 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 Collaborative Sciences 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 as a camp (additional fees to be paid), 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.

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

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

Open to: Grades 11-12

IB500/IB501/IB502/IB503 - IB Biology Standard Level (SL) (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 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.

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

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

Open to: Grades 11-12

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

Prerequisite: Chemistry/80% in previous science and math 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.

IB512/IB513/IB514/IB515 - IB Computer Science Higher Level (HL) (Two-year Course)

Prerequisite: 85% in previous computer science course/DR

Open to: Grades 11-12

IB508/IB509/IB510/IB511 - IB Computer Science Standard Level (SL) (Two-year Course)

Prerequisite: 80% in computer science course/DR

Open to: Grades 11-12

The content of the course has been revised to ensure that the focus is computer science and not information technology. This supports students in developing the skills to apply their knowledge of problem-solving in computer science to different contexts, being able to study computer science at the university level and developing their computing skills in future careers. DP computer science requires an understanding of the fundamental concepts of computing systems and the computational thinking process to solve problems in the real world. The course is organized into two key themes: A: Concepts of computer science B: Computational thinking and problem-solving Theme A focuses on how computing systems work, and Theme B focuses on how students can use computing systems to solve real-world problems. The course is future-facing and includes a topic on machine learning. There also is a case study so that emerging technologies can be considered during the lifetime of the course. Finally, the course has a practical programme that consists of the development of a computational solution and a collaborative science project.

IB516/IB517 - IB Environmental Systems and Societies Higher Level (HL) (Two-year Course)

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

Open to: Grades 11-12

IB516/IB517 - IB Environmental Systems and Societies Standard Level (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.

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

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

Coregistration: Pre-Calculus or IB Math AA SL or IB Math HL

Open to: Grades 11-12

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

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

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.

Computer Science Course Descriptions

Students from the Class of 2028 and 2027 are required to take a minimum of .5 credits (one semester) of computer science for graduation. For the class of 2029, these courses will count towards the 2 units required for Arts and Design.

US835 - Coding Video Games Using Unity (Semester Course)

Prerequisite: none

Open to: Grades 9-12

Students will explore the entire game development process, from conceptualization to publication using Unity engine. They will learn to design and code their own video games, with an emphasis on storytelling, interactive gameplay, and multi-platform development. By the end of the course, students will have created their own unique games and gained the skills to continue exploring the world of game design and development.

US837 - Creative Electronics Using Arduino (Semester Course)

Prerequisite: none

Open to: Grades 9-12

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of programming and electronics using Arduino microcontrollers through hands-on projects and experimentation. Students will learn to write and upload code using the Arduino IDE to control components such as sensors, displays, and motors while gaining practical experience in wiring and interfacing electronic systems. The course emphasizes understanding basic programming and electronic principles, exploring sensor and actuator applications, and developing problem-solving and critical-thinking skills through project-based learning. By the end of the semester, students will have the knowledge and confidence to design and create their own interactive electronic projects.

US715 - Web Design (Semester Course)

Prerequisite: none

Open to: Grades 9-12

This course investigates the fundamentals of web design components and conventions to develop an understanding of user interface and user experience design. Learn how to create visually appealing websites/prototypes for a range of purposes without diving deep into coding. From design principles to hands-on practice, discover the essentials of crafting attractive digital experiences. This course will sharpen your digital design skills and encourage collaboration, imagination.



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. 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: AP Computer Science Principles/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 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. The recommended graphing calculator is the TI-Nspire CX-II CAS.

Mathematics Required Courses

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
Algebra I	US510/US511	Gr 9	Math 8
Geometry	US512/US513	Gr 9-10	Algebra I
Algebra II	US507/US508	Gr 9-12	Geometry

Mathematics Electives

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
Academic Coaching: Math Support	US1040	Gr. 9-12	DR
Probability and Statistics	US608-US609	Gr 11-12	Algebra II

AP Mathematics

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
AP Precalculus	US642-643	Gr 10-12	Geometry/85% in previous math course/DR
AP Calculus AB	AP600-AP601	Gr 11-12	AP Precalculus/85% in previous math course/DR
AP Statistics	AP608-AP609	Gr 11-12	Algebra II/85% in previous math course/DR

IB Mathematics

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
IB Math: Analysis and Approaches Higher Level (HL)	IB617-IB618 IB625-IB626	Gr 11-12	Algebra II/85% in previous math course/DR
IB Math: Analysis and Approaches Standard Level (SL)	IB615-IB616 IB623-IB624	Gr 11-12	Geometry/80% in previous math course/DR
IB Math Applications and Interpretations Higher Level (HL)	IB619-IB620	Gr 11-12	Algebra II / 85% in previous math course / DR
IB Math: Applications and Interpretations Standard Level (SL)	IB613-IB614 IB621-IB622	Gr 11-12	Geometry/80% in previous math course/DR



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. The recommended graphing calculator is the TI-Nspire CX-II CAS.

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

Prerequisite: Math 8

Open to: Grade 9

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, quadratic, and exponential functions, solving systems of equations and inequalities, and analyzing data. The Mathematical Practice Standards apply throughout the course and, together with the content standards, create mathematical learning experiences based upon reasoning and sensemaking, building perseverance and problem-solving skills, and enriching ability student's ability to engage in mathematical discourse.

US618/US619 - Geometry (One-year Course)

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Open to: Grade 9-10

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, and 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 10-12

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. 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 function 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.

Mathematics Electives

US1040 - Academic Coaching: Math Support (Semester Course)

Prerequisite: DR

Open to: Grade 9 for Semester 1 Grades 9-12 for Semester 2

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.

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

US642/US643 - AP Precalculus (One-year Course)

Prerequisite: Geometry/85% in previous math course/DR

Open to: Grades 10-12

AP Precalculus is designed to prepare students for success in advanced mathematics, particularly calculus and other STEM-related courses. The course focuses on deepening understanding of functions and their real-world applications, including polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions. Students will explore modeling, graphing, transformations, and rates of change, using multiple representations to analyze relationships and solve problems. Emphasis is placed on reasoning, problem-solving, and making connections across mathematical concepts. Throughout the course, students will strengthen their analytical thinking and mathematical communication skills while applying technology such as graphing calculators or software tools to visualize and interpret data. By the end of AP Precalculus, students will be equipped with a strong conceptual framework and the confidence to tackle the rigor of AP Calculus and college-level mathematics, building a bridge between algebraic skills and higher-level mathematical reasoning.

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

Prerequisite: Precalculus/85% in previous math course/DR

Open to: Grades 11-12

AP Calculus AB is a college-level course that introduces students to the fundamental concepts of calculus, including limits, derivatives, integrals, and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. Emphasizing both conceptual understanding and practical application, the course challenges students to analyze change and motion through multiple representations—graphical, numerical, analytical, and verbal. Students learn to model real-world phenomena using calculus concepts and to justify their reasoning using precise mathematical language. Throughout the course, students will develop strong problem-solving and critical-thinking skills as they explore topics such as differentiation and integration techniques, applications of derivatives and integrals, and differential equations. Technology, such as graphing calculators, will be used to enhance exploration and visualization. By the end of AP Calculus AB, students will be well-prepared for the AP Exam and for further study in mathematics, science, engineering, economics, or any field that relies on quantitative analysis and mathematical modeling.

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

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

Open to: Grades 10-12

AP Statistics introduces students to the major concepts and tools used for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Equivalent to a one-semester college course, it emphasizes statistical reasoning and real-world applications—no calculus required. Students will explore data through descriptive statistics, identify patterns and trends, design and analyze statistical studies, and apply probability to anticipate patterns and model random phenomena. Core topics include data analysis, sampling and experimentation, probability, and statistical inference. Throughout the course, students will learn to estimate population parameters, construct confidence intervals, and conduct hypothesis tests to make data-driven decisions. Emphasis is placed on interpreting results and communicating findings clearly. By the end of the course, students will be well-prepared for the AP Statistics Exam, which evaluates their understanding and ability to apply statistical methods to real-world problems. Please refer to the AP section of the catalog for details about any additional exam fees.

IB Mathematics Classes

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

Prerequisite: Algebra II/85% 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.

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

Prerequisite: Geometry/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, analysis and generalization. This course includes topics that are both traditionally part of a pre-university mathematics course such as functions, trigonometry or calculus, as well as topics that are amenable to investigation, conjecture and proof, such as sequences and series or binomial theorem. The course allows the use of technology. 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: Applications and Interpretation Higher Level (HL) (Two-year Course)

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

Open to: Grades 11-12

IB Mathematics: Applications and Interpretation HL is designed for students who enjoy exploring mathematics through real-world contexts and technology. This course emphasizes modeling, data analysis, and the use of mathematics to solve authentic problems across various fields such as social sciences, natural sciences, and business. Students will study topics including algebra, functions, trigonometry, calculus, statistics, and probability, with an emphasis on interpretation and application rather than pure abstraction. The use of technology, such as graphing calculators and mathematical software, is integral to developing insight and supporting complex analysis. Throughout the course, students will cultivate strong analytical, problem-solving, and critical-thinking skills by engaging in independent investigations and mathematical modeling projects. They will learn to interpret data, communicate reasoning effectively, and apply mathematical concepts to both familiar and novel situations. IB Mathematics: Applications and Interpretation HL prepares students for higher-level study in subjects that require quantitative and analytical skills, including economics, psychology, environmental science, and data science, while fostering an appreciation for the role of mathematics in understanding the world..

IB613/IB614 - IB Math: Applications and Interpretations SL or HL (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.



Arts & Design Course List

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.

Fine Arts COURSE List

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
Art I	US700	Gr 9-12	none
Art II	US701	Gr 9-12	Art I
Ceramics I	US703	Gr 9-12	none
Ceramics II	US704	Gr 9-12	Ceramics I
Ceramics III	US705	Gr 10-12	Ceramics II
Choir	US708	Gr 9-12	none
Drama I	US712	Gr 9-12	none
Fashion Design	US715	Gr 9-12	none
Foundations of Musical Theatre	US733	Gr 9-12	Choir I or Drama I/Audition/DR
Guitar I	US706	Gr 9-12	none
Guitar II	US707	Gr 9-12	Guitar I/DR
Orchestra	US738-US739	Gr 9-12	Min 1 year band/strings experience/DR
Photography I	US723	Gr 9-12	none
Photography II	US724	Gr 9-12	Photography I

Design COURSE List

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
Architecture I	US832	Gr 9-12	none
Architecture II	US833	Gr 9-12	Architecture I
Coding Video Games Using Unity	US835	Gr 9-12	None
Creative Electronics Using Arduino	US837	Gr 9-12	None
Editorial Design	US727-728	Gr 9-12	DR/Application required for editor, photo editor, graphic/art editor, and copy editor positions
Graphic Design	US718	Gr 9-12	none
Industrial Design I	US815	Gr 9-12	none
Industrial Design II	US816	Gr 9-12	Industrial Design I
Video Production	US807	Gr 9-12	none
Web Design	US806	Gr 9-12	None

For the class of 2029, computer science courses will count towards the 2 units required for Arts and Design.

AP Fine Arts Course List

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
AP Studio Art: 2-Dimensional Design	AP702-AP703	Gr 10-12	Successful Completion of two of the following: Art I/II, Photo I/II or Graphic Design/85% in previous art course/DR



IB Fine Arts Course List

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
IB Film Higher Level (HL)	IB704-IB705 IB712-IB713	Gr 11-12	85% in previous arts and design courses/DR
IB Film Standard Level (SL)	IB706-IB707 IB709-IB709	Gr 11-12	80% in previous arts and design courses/DR
IB Music Higher Level (HL)	IB732-IB733	Gr 11	85% in previous performing arts courses
IB Music Standard Level (SL)	IB732-IB733	Gr 11	80% in previous performing arts courses
IB Visual Arts Higher Level (HL)	IB706-IB707 IB709-IB709	Gr 11-12	85% 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
IB Visual Arts Standard Level (SL)	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

IB Design Technology HL or SL can count towards an arts and design credit.



Arts and Design Course Descriptions

Fine Arts Course Descriptions

US700 - Art I (Semester Course)

Prerequisite: none

Open to: Grades 9-12

A prerequisite for Art II, 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.

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 10-12

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 on a large scale, while they explore the various possibilities offered in this format. High temperature clay and firings to be explored as well.

US708 - Choir (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.

US712 - Drama I (Semester Course)

Prerequisite: none

Open to: Grades 9-12

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

US715- Fashion Design (Semester Course)

Prerequisite: none

Open to: Grades 9-12



This course will provide a basic introduction to fashion design and construction. Students will be encouraged to search for original sources of inspiration in the creation of a line of clothing. Illustration techniques will be explored and basic sewing/construction will be taught.

US721 - Foundations of Musical Theatre (Semester Course)

Prerequisite: Choir I or Drama I/DR

Open to: Grades 9-12

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.

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.

US739/US739 - Orchestra (One-year 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.

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.

Design Course Descriptions

US832 - Architecture I (Semester Course)

Prerequisite: none

Open to: Grades 9-12

The Architecture Design Lab course is a theoretical and hands-on exploration of architectural design principles, creativity, and problem-solving. Through a combination of studio work, research, and practical exercises, students will develop a fundamental understanding of architecture and the



skills necessary to create innovative spatial design solutions beyond Architecture I. This course offers hands-on learning experiences, including model making, drawing, digital design, and site analysis

US833 - Architecture II (Semester Course)

Prerequisite: Architecture I

Open to: Grades 9-12

The Architecture Design Lab course is a theoretical and hands-on exploration of architectural design principles, creativity, and problem-solving. Through a combination of studio work, research, and practical exercises, students will develop a fundamental understanding of architecture and the skills necessary to create innovative spatial design solutions beyond Architecture I. This course offers hands-on learning experiences, including model making, drawing, digital design, and site analysis

US835 - Coding Video Games Using Unity (Semester Course)

Prerequisite: none

Open to: Grades 9-12

Students will explore the entire game development process, from conceptualization to publication using Unity engine. They will learn to design and code their own video games, with an emphasis on storytelling, interactive gameplay, and multi-platform development. By the end of the course, students will have created their own unique games and gained the skills to continue exploring the world of game design and development.

US837 - Creative Electronics Using Arduino (Semester Course)

Prerequisite: none

Open to: Grades 9-12

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of programming and electronics using Arduino microcontrollers through hands-on projects and experimentation. Students will learn to write and upload code using the Arduino IDE to control components such as sensors, displays, and motors while gaining practical experience in wiring and interfacing electronic systems. The course emphasizes understanding basic programming and electronic principles, exploring sensor and actuator applications, and developing problem-solving and critical-thinking skills through project-based learning. By the end of the semester, students will have the knowledge and confidence to design and create their own interactive electronic projects.

US727/US7280 - Editorial Design (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.

US718- Graphic Design (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.

US816 - Industrial Design I (Semester Course)

Prerequisite: none

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 (Semester Course)

Prerequisite: Industrial Design I/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 (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.

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.

AP Visual Arts Classes

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 10-12

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.

IB Fine Arts Classes

IB704/IB705/IB712/IB713 - IB Film Higher Level (HL) (Two-year Course)

Prerequisite: 85% in previous fine arts course/DR/PT

Open to: Grades 11-12

IB706/IB707/IB709/IB710 - IB Film Standard Level (SL) (Two-year Course)

Prerequisite: 80% in previous fine arts course/DR/PT

Open to: Grades 11-12

The DP film course aims to develop students as proficient interpreters and makers of film texts. Through the study and analysis of film texts, and through practical exercises in film production, the film course develops students' critical abilities and their appreciation of artistic, cultural, historical and global perspectives in film. Students examine film concepts, theories, practices and ideas from multiple perspectives, challenging their own viewpoints and biases in order to understand and value those of others. DP film students experiment with film and multimedia technology, acquiring the skills and creative competencies required to successfully communicate through the language of the medium. They develop an artistic voice and learn how to express personal perspectives through film.

IB732/IB733/IB734/IB735 - IB Music Higher Level (HL) (Two-year Course)

Prerequisite: 85% in previous performing arts course/DR/PT

Open to: Grades 11-12

IB700/IB701/IB702/IB703 - IB Music Standard Level (SL) (Two-year Course)

Prerequisite: 80% in previous performing arts course/DR/PT

Open to: 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.

IB704/IB705/IB706/IB707 - IB Visual Arts Higher Level (HL) (Two-year Course)

Prerequisite: 85% in previous visual arts course/DR/PT

Open to: Grades 11-12

IB704/IB705/IB706/IB707 - IB Visual Arts Standard Level (SL) (Two-year Course)

Prerequisite: 80% in previous visual arts course/DR/PT

Open to: 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: EA - Process Portfolio, EA - Comparative Study, IA - Exhibition

SL: EA - Process Portfolio, EA - Comparative Study, IA - Exhibition 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 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.



Physical and Health 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.

PHE Required and Elective Course

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
Health	US900	Gr 9-12	none
Physical Education Girls 9/10	US902	Gr 9-12	none
Physical Education Boys 9/10	US903	Gr 9-12	none
Strength and Conditioning (Co-ed)	US907	Gr 10-12	none
Lifeguarding	US901	Gr 9-12	none



Physical and Health Education Course Descriptions

US900 - Health (Semester Course)

Prerequisite: none

Open to: 9-12

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/US904/US905 - Physical Education 9/10 (Semester Course)

Prerequisite: none

Open to: 9-10

Physical Education is an essential element of all Upper School students' education. The purpose of this course is to teach students that maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle is key to mental and physical well-being. Daily emphasis is placed on full participation with sensitivity and respect for individual talents. The Physical Education department at ASF aims to cultivate lifelong health and wellness, fostering regular physical activity and comprehensive knowledge of the human body and longevity. Through enjoyable physical experiences, we strive to help students develop essential abilities such as resilience, self-awareness, self-discipline, and leadership, preparing them to lead healthy lives and contribute positively to society. This course is divided into single-gender groups. In Grade 9, students participate in various units designed to develop their physical skills, knowledge, and social/personal abilities. Compulsory units in this course include Invasion Games, Fitness, Composition, and Collaborative Games and Challenges. This course promotes critical thinking, teamwork, and foundational skills necessary for a healthy lifestyle.

US907 - Strength and Conditioning (Semester Course)

Prerequisite: PE 9/10 or participation on JV or Varsity Sport

Open to: Grades 10-12

This course is designed for students eager to advance their knowledge, skills, and overall fitness, regardless of experience level. Whether you're just starting out or you're a seasoned gym-goer, the class offers a personalized approach to fitness tailored to your goals. Students will receive expert guidance on proper form, technique, and strategies to safely and effectively reach their fitness objectives. The course emphasizes individual goal-setting, fitness planning, and progress tracking through both fitness journals and digital tools. Students will have full access to the fitness center and its extensive range of equipment, with personalized fitness programs to structure their workouts. In addition to physical training, the curriculum covers essential health topics such as exercise physiology, anatomy, nutrition, and injury prevention. Leadership development and the integration of technology in fitness and sport are also key components. This hands-on, data-driven approach empowers students to make informed decisions about their fitness, adjust their plans based on progress, and cultivate lifelong healthy habits. A strong sense of personal motivation and a commitment to self-improvement are vital for success in this course. 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 List

Course Title	Course Code	Open to	Prerequisites
Academic Coaching (One Semester)	US1010	Gr 9	none
Maker Space Intern (One Semester)	US1007	Grade 12	none
Office Cadet (One Semester)	US1006	Gr 12	none
Study Hall (One Semester)	US1009	Gr 11-12	none
Teaching Cadet (One Semester)	US1007	Gr 12	none

Alternative Education Course Descriptions



US1010 - Academic Coaching (Semester)

Prerequisite: Counselor Recommendation

Open to: Grades 9-12

Academic coaching is a Pass/Fail class 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. This course may be repeated, but it will only count once as a .5 credit for graduation.

US1007 Maker Space Intern (Semester Course)

Prerequisite: none

Open to: Grades 9-12

MakerSpace Interns may be scheduled for classes in the Early Childhood Center or Lower School makerspaces. Students interested in child psychology, education, child growth and development as well as those interested in STEAM related subject areas will apply theoretical knowledge to everyday classroom activities related to design and building. When not actively supporting a class, students will train in the use of makerspace equipment including: laser cutter, 3D printer, mechanical and power tools, sound equipment, and related software. Students will assist the teacher in preparation of materials and guide other students in the creation of products. 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.

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.

US1009 - Study Hall (Semester)

Prerequisite: None

Open to: Grades 11-12

Students in grades 11-12 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.

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.