



2022-23 Cal Prep Electives Course Descriptions

Anatomy & Physiology (P) (year-long course) - In this course students explore the organization of the human body and how it works. They will acquire knowledge necessary to understand what the body is doing and how they can help the body cope with many different situations. Body systems will be studied in order to understand how their structure, location, and function allow for interaction with other parts of the body.

AP Macro Economics (P) (Seniors only, spring semester - requires live 1x/week class) - AP Macroeconomics is a challenging course that is meant to be the equivalent of a freshman college course and prepares students for the AP exam. It is a semester survey course of macroeconomics designed to give students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. This course places particular emphasis on the study of national income and price-level determination, and also familiarizes students with economic performance measures, the financial sector, stabilization policies, economic growth and international economics. Solid math and writing skills, along with a willingness to devote considerable time to homework and study, are necessary to succeed. Emphasis is placed on critical and evaluative thinking skills.

AP Psychology (P) (year-long course, requires live 1x/week class) - This is a college-level course providing students with an overview of the development of human behaviors and thoughts. Along with preparation for the AP Psychology exam, the goals of this course are to immerse students in modern psychological investigation techniques, to accentuate the ethics and morality of human and animal research, and to emphasize scientific critical thinking skills in application to the social sciences. Psychology is a diverse social and biological science with multiple perspectives and interpretations. The primary emphasis of this course is to help students develop an understanding of concepts rather than memorize terms and technical details; the ultimate goal is to prepare students to successfully take the AP Psychology examination offered in May.

Astronomy 1A (P) Fall semester - Ever wondered how the Earth developed and exists in the vastness of space? How do the scientific laws of motion and gravity play a role in its existence? Discover answers to these questions and explore the origin of the universe, the Milky Way, and other galaxies and stars, including the concepts of modern astronomy and the methods used by astronomers to learn more about the universe.

Astronomy 1B (P) Spring semester - to be determined if this will be offered. Ready to explore our amazing and dynamic universe even further? You'll be taken on an exciting journey through the solar system to explore the sun, comets, asteroids, meteors, life cycles of stars, and

planets' properties. Become familiar with the concepts of space travel and settlements, and what it could be like to live and work in space. How exciting!

Criminology (P) Spring semester - Why do certain people commit horrible acts? Can we ever begin to understand their reasoning and motivation? Perhaps. The mental state of a criminal can be affected by many different aspects of life: psychological, biological, sociological, all of which have different perspectives and influences. Investigate not only how these variables affect the criminal mind but also how crimes are investigated and handled in the criminal justice system.

Drawing and Painting 1A/1B (P) year-long course - Semester 1 is a prerequisite for semester 2. Students will explore the elements and principles of design through basic techniques. Students explore the elements and basic techniques through the use of a variety of materials. Drawing and painting fundamentals are stressed.

Earth Science (P) year-long course - Be captivated by the wonders and beauty of the third planet from our Sun, Earth. Be amazed by what awaits your discovery within our solar system and beyond. Explore the universe. Earth/Space Science is a course focusing on the study of space, geologic structures and forces, the waters on our planet, and atmospheric conditions. Through experimentation and investigation, students explore the earth cycles including the geosphere, hydrosphere, cryosphere, atmosphere, and the carbon cycle. This course offers interactive experiences, higher-order thinking, collaborative projects, and real-world application along with a variety of assessments. Upon completion of the course, students have a clear understanding of the dynamic forces at work in the world around them, becoming better caretakers of our planet, Earth.

Fashion Design (P) Spring semester - *to be determined if this will be offered.* Are you a fashion trend follower? Are you drawn to how designers have pulled together fabrics and colors to create memorable pieces? Do you dream of designing your own line of clothing or accessories? Learn what it takes to get started in the fashion industry, from the careers available to new technology and trends reshaping the industry every day. Start creating!

Interior Design (P) Fall Semester - Do you have a flair for designing and decorating? If so, then let's learn how to turn your interests and skills into a career. Explore color, texture, trends, and styles over time, how homes are built, and "green" options for homes and businesses. Interior designers do it all—from planning the color scheme to choosing furniture and light fixtures—with the end goal of creating a space where people can live or work comfortably, safely, and happily.

Forensic Science I (P) Fall semester - Fingerprints. Blood spatter. DNA analysis. Discover how clues and data are recorded and preserved, and examine some of the basic scientific principles that guide forensic laboratory processes like DNA testing, toxicology, and material analysis. This course focuses on techniques and practices used by forensic scientists during a crime scene investigation (CSI). This course provides elective credit only and cannot be used to fulfill a science requirement for high school graduation.

Forensic Science II (P) Spring semester - Can be taken without having had semester 1. The world of law enforcement is increasingly making use of the techniques and knowledge from the sciences to better understand the crimes that are committed and to catch those individuals responsible for the crimes. Forensic science applies scientific knowledge to the criminal justice system. Starting with how clues and data are recorded and preserved, students examine some of the basic scientific principles and knowledge that guides forensic laboratory processes, such as those testing DNA, toxicology, and material analysis. Techniques such as microscopy, chromatography, odontology, entomology, mineralogy, and spectroscopy are examined. This course satisfies an elective credit and cannot be used to fulfill a science requirement for high school graduation.

Life Skills - Fall semester, non-college prep elective - What do you want out of life? How do you achieve your dreams for the future? These can be difficult questions to answer, but they don't have to be with the right tools. Learn more about yourself and prepare for the future through goal setting, decision making, surviving college and career, and how to become a valuable contributing member of society. It's your life; make it count!

Marine Ecology (P) – (year-long course) - Since the beginning of time, humans have relied on the ocean. But as our planet continues to change over time and human activity has impacted the environment. In this marine science course, students explore the watery depths of our own planet in order to understand just how vital the ocean is to our existence. Throughout the course, students meet marine animals and learn about their interactions with each other and their environment. Students tour the evolving seafloor, where they encounter trenches, volcanoes, and ridges. Along the way, students hang ten as they discover waves, currents, tides, and other physical interactions between the ocean and the land. Finally, students study the impacts of chemical processes on our blue planet and how they affect the water, the atmosphere, and our climate. With a focus on conservation, this course shows students that the ocean connects us all, across distance and even time. Hang on—it's going to be an amazing journey.

Personal Finance 1A/1B (fall/spring semesters) – non college prep, gives graduation math or elective credits. 1B can be taken without having taken 1A. How do our personal financial habits affect our financial future? How can we make smart decisions with our money in the areas of saving, spending, and investing? This course introduces students to basic financial habits such as setting financial goals, budgeting, and creating financial plans. Students will learn more about topics such as taxation, financial institutions, credit, and money management. The course also addresses how occupations and educational choices can influence personal financial planning, and how individuals can protect themselves from identity theft.

Psychology (Fall Semester) (P) Understanding the thoughts, emotions and behaviors of self and others is critical to developing and maintaining interpersonal relationships. In Psychology, students learn theories of historically significant psychologists who laid the foundation for scientific research and a clearer understanding of the human mind. This course explores how psychological perspectives influence personality and play a role in human development across

the lifespan. Students examine how behaviors are developed, memories are stored and language is acquired. Students also learn about the symptoms and classifications of psychological disorders, along with the various forms of treatments available. After completing this course, students will be equipped with problem solving strategies and even learn methods to cope with stress. Practical, everyday application of the content is a focus of this course.

Social Media (Spring semester), non-college prep elective - This course will teach students that the world of Social Media revolves around them – their actions, decisions, and interests. They will examine how Social Media has evolved. They will understand how to find authenticity and truth within an online world where people can “be” anyone. They will also learn how their digital footprint makes a bigger impression than their physical one. Students will also discover that their voice is important. They are not only a reader – they are a writer. They don’t just follow the news – they report it as a citizen journalist. And they don’t just gather information – they crowdsource it.

Video Production (P) - (year-long course) - Students will study film, the history of film, genres, filming techniques, photography, scene and movement. Students will study the ideology of film and society while using an alternate form of communication. Students will learn the basic skills of the video camera and video editing software while applying the fundamentals of design, composition and thematic organization. Students will learn the specialized vocabulary of the film and television industry and use it to express themselves clearly and concisely in their critiques of each other’s work, television and film. Students will develop ideas individually and within a group, compose an outline/proposal, write a script or an outline, and create a storyboard and shot list. The completed project will be a video production based on their script. Most important is the student’s study in the art of filming video and the creative process that precedes any video or television project.