

AP COURSE INFORMATION

ORDER OF COURSES:

SOCIAL STUDIES

SCIENCE

ENGLISH

MATH

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

OTHER

2020-2021

AP COURSE OFFERINGS

SOCIAL STUDIES	SCIENCE	ENGLISH	MATH	FOREIGN LANGUAGE	OTHER
HUMAN GEOGRAPHY	BIOLOGY	ENGLISH LITERATURE	COMPUTER SCIENCE	SPANISH LANGUAGE	MUSIC THEORY
EUROPEAN HISTORY	CHEMISTRY		COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES	FRENCH LANGUAGE	STUDIO ART
US HISTORY	PHYSICS		CALCULUS AB		SEMINAR
GOVERNMENT	ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE		CALCULUS BC		RESEARCH
ECONOMICS			STATISTICS		
PSYCHOLOGY					

AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY (GRADES 9-10)

Homework per night	Expect to spend approximately 30 minutes per day outside of class either reading and taking notes over a textbook assignment, completing an activity, or studying for an upcoming exam
Required skills	Reading, writing (short free response, not long essay), spatial analysis (analyzing and interpreting maps and geographic data), ability to work collaboratively <i>All of these skills will be taught and practiced in class</i>
Type of instruction	Lecture, discussion, and independent learning; occasional projects and/or structured debates
Grading	Daily work/Projects (15%) MC exams (40%) Writing and FRQ exams (35%) Final exam (10%)
Teacher Comments	Fulfills world history graduation requirement A great course to try as a first AP class (9th and 10th grade) Slower pace than most AP courses Focus on skills development early in the year Varied material; a topic of interest for everyone AP exam in May

AP EUROPEAN HISTORY (GRADES 10-12)

Homework per night	1 hour; 5-8 pages reading
Required skills	Reading, Writing, Ability to work in groups
Type of instruction	Lecture, Project Based Learning, Papers/Essays, Small Group Work, Independent Learning
Grading	Homework, Quizzes, Tests, and Essays/Projects are all equally weighted categories; trimester project is 15% of the grade
Teacher Comments	AP Euro requires a willingness to read frequently, but students who are committed can be successful regardless of previous experience.

AP US HISTORY (GRADES 10-12)

Homework per night	1 hour most nights; 10-15 pages reading
Required skills	Reading, writing, historical thinking ability, and working in groups
Type of instruction	Lecture, class discussion, activities, and writing practice
Grading	MC exams, essays, short answer questions, writing homework , final exam in May

AP GOVERNMENT (GRADES 11-12)

Homework per night	1 hour; 4-6 pages reading
Required skills	Reading, Writing, Ability to work in groups
Type of instruction	Discussion, Lecture, Papers/Essays, Small Group Work, Independent Learning, occasional projects/presentations
Grading	Assessments (selected response and essays) are at least 80% of the grade
Teacher Comments	Requires independent learning/inquiry along with a fair amount of writing. Readings are assigned from the textbook and external sources. Students must be ready to read, write, and think critically.

AP ECONOMICS (GRADES 11-12)

Homework per night	Approximately 30 minutes per night with reading or video lecture combined with short practice problem sets or google forms
Required skills	Algebra; Reading and Ability to Work in groups (sometimes)
Type of instruction	Lecture, Small Group Work, Independent Learning; occasional Project Based Learning; rarely Papers/Essays
Grading	Homework and discussion (approx 15%); Unit tests (60%, can be retaken); Final Exam (approx 25%)
Teacher Comments	Students who succeed routinely tell me they end up spending 30 minutes per night Fun combo of math and social studies We share laughs and we draw graphs This course includes both Macroeconomics and Microeconomics

AP PSYCHOLOGY (GRADES 11-12)

Homework per night	No textbook; expect approximately 30 minutes a night (rarely more, almost never less) either watching a recorded lecture, reading a short document from the hypertextbook (a Google doc of collected recordings and readings), or preparing for exams.
Required skills	Reading; Watching videos and determining what is important; writing (all of these skills, though, will be taught and practiced in class)
Type of instruction	Guided in-class practice, debate and discussion, demonstrations and labs, independent practice, class Q&A (varies from day to day)
Grading	Multiple Choice Exams and Summative Projects (57%), Writing (28%), Homework and Projects (15%)
Teacher Comments	Excellent course for juniors or seniors looking for elective social studies credit. A great course to try as a first AP class (11th and 12th grade). Content is very accessible and skills within reach for most students. Varied material; a topic of interest for everyone. Flexible course calendar. Predictable course format - no surprises, straight-forward exams, no “busy work”



AP BIOLOGY (GRADES 10-12)

Homework per night	1 hour; 5-8 pages reading/lab reports/mastering biology
Required skills	Reading, Writing, Algebra, Ability to work in groups
Type of instruction	Papers/Essays, Small Group Work, Independent learning, occasional lecture, Project Based Learning
Grading	Tests/Quizzes (50%), Labs (40%), Homework(10%)
Teacher Comments	Requires both textbook reading and Mastering Biology (online textbook companion). Critical thinking is a key component of this course. Biology is the prerequisite, and you are strongly encouraged to have taken chemistry or chemistry honors prior to taking this course.

AP CHEMISTRY (GRADES 11-12)

Homework per night	1 hour of reading, problems, or lab notebook (readings of 1-5 pages not required, but it's a good idea)
Required skills	Writing, Algebra, Problem solving, Ability to work in groups
Type of instruction	Lecture; Small Group Work, Independent Learning, Project Based Learning (labs with written reports in a lab notebook)
Grading	Not weighted
Teacher Comments	Self-discipline is very important or the amount of material can easily become insurmountable. Chemistry Honors is the Pre-Requisite

AP PHYSICS (GRADES 11-12)

Homework per night	Less than 1 hour; no reading
Required skills	Algebra; Ability to work in groups
Type of instruction	Project Based Learning, Small Group Work; occasional lecture
Grading	Tests (60%), Labs (30%), Homework (10%)
Teacher Comments	<p>Ask a lot of questions and be ready to think on your own Must be an active learner and engaged in the course Assignments are infrequent but can be time consuming Must know basic math concepts</p> <p><i>Seniors in pre-calc, or juniors in pre-calc honors have traditionally been ready for the math level in AP Physics, but if you are a junior in pre-calc, perhaps wait to take AP Physics during your senior year.</i></p>

AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (GRADES 11-12)

Homework per night	1 hour per night
Required skills	Students should have completed two years of high school laboratory science—one year of life science and one year of physical science (e.g., a year of biology and a year of chemistry). Due to the quantitative analysis required in the course, students should also have taken at least one year of algebra. Also desirable (but not necessary) is a course in earth science.
Type of instruction	Although there are no specific AP Environmental Science labs or field investigations required for the course, it is required that students have the opportunity to spend a minimum of 25% of instructional time engaged in hands-on, inquiry-based laboratory and/or fieldwork investigations.
Grading	TBD
Teacher Comments	The AP Environmental Science course is designed to engage students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships within the natural world. The course requires that students identify and analyze natural and human-made environmental problems, evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and examine alternative solutions for resolving or preventing them. Environmental science is interdisciplinary, embracing topics from geology, biology, environmental studies, environmental science, chemistry, and geography.

AP ENGLISH LITERATURE (GRADE 12)

Homework per night	1 hour; 3-5 pages reading
Required skills	Reading; Writing and Ability to work in groups (some)
Type of instruction	Lecture; Papers/Essays; Small Group Work; Independent Learning
Grading	45% for tests/quizzes; 40% for essays; 15% for class participation Grade of 90% is the lowest A.
Teacher Comments	The goal of the course is not to get a high score on a national exam; the goal is to explore methods of critical thinking (in this context, about fiction) so that students become learners rather than merely learned. The student should be prepared to face college and the world beyond with the skill of critical thinking and articulating those thoughts.

PLTW COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES (GRADES 9-12)

Homework per night	30-45 min per night (Class time devoted to assignments)
Required skills	No programming experience required
Type of instruction	Students will learn how to program using various languages - Python, JavaScript, Block programming, and SQL (Databases). Students will learn to build apps and games during projects.
Grading	65% exams and 35% labs
Teacher Comments	This is a Project Lead the Way course that is Dual Credit with Kirkwood Community College. Students have the option to take the AP Computer Science Principles Exam in May if they choose to, but it is not a requirement. Students will get Kirkwood credit if they pass the class. The class is equivalent to CIS 450 at Kirkwood Community College. This is a good starting point prior to taking AP Computer Science A.

AP COMPUTER SCIENCE A (GRADES 9-12)

Homework per night	Less than 1 hour; 1-2 pages reading java code
Required skills	Algebra and Geometry Understandings; Reading
Type of instruction	Project Based Learning; occasional Lecture
Grading	Exams (65%) and Projects (35%)
Teacher Comments	<p>Students must be excellent problem solvers, have a pretty good willingness to tackle problems , and they should plan on studying a lot at home for exams. Exams are cumulative in nature and require an understanding of concepts that were previously taught in the course. The only language taught in this class is Java.</p> <p>The course is graded in such a way that your grade in this course has a high correlation with the grade you earn on the AP Exam</p> <p>Students without any programming experience are recommended to take PLTW Computer Science Principles prior to taking this class.</p>

AP STATISTICS (GRADE 12)

Homework per night	Less than 1 hour; 1-3 pages reading
Required skills	Reading, Writing, Ability to work in groups
Type of instruction	Lecture; occasional Project Based Learning, Small Group Work, and/or Independent Learning
Grading	Exams (70%), Quizzes (15%), Homework (5%), Other (10%)
Teacher Comments	The mathematics needed is only up to Algebra II. Writing skills are needed much more than one would think for a "math" class There's not really that much math, it's more making conjectures and reasoning

AP CALCULUS AB

Homework per night	Less than 1 hour; no reading
Required skills	Reading, Math; some writing and group work
Type of instruction	Lecture; occasional Small Group Work and/or Independent Learning
Grading	Exam performance comprises approximately $\frac{2}{3}$ of a student's grade

AP CALCULUS BC

Homework per night	1 hour; little or occasional reading
Required skills	Math!
Type of instruction	Lecture, Independent Learning; occasional Small Group Work
Grading	Students may rework problems missed on exams for half credit.
Teacher Comments	This course is intense, fast-paced, rigorous, and fun for students who are mathematically motivated I present material rather than lecture, and students have guided practice in class

AP SPANISH LANGUAGE (IV)

Homework per night	Less than 1 hour; 1-3 pages
Required skills	Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening in Spanish. Ability to work in groups
Type of instruction	Project Based Learning, Papers/Essays, Small Group Work, Independent Learning
Grading	Personalized feedback on homework and assessments is provided 10 percent grading scale-total points
Teacher Comments	<p>Use Spanish to discuss and learn about the culture of Spanish-speaking countries.</p> <p>This course is similar to a college level conversation and composition class and is conducted almost exclusively in Spanish. This class takes what you are able to do in Spanish and work towards making it academic and college level.</p> <p>Students must be willing to NOT use Google translate or any other translator as this will impede their learning.</p> <p>Explicit, group instruction in grammar and vocabulary is infrequent.</p> <p>The amount of time that students will need to spend on homework each week is in the range of 3 hours</p>

AP FRENCH LANGUAGE

Homework per night	1 hour; varies (2+ pages)
Required skills	Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening in French. Ability to work in groups
Type of instruction	Project Based Learning, Papers/Essays, Small Group Work, Independent Learning
Grading	Personalized feedback on homework and assessments is provided 10 percent grading scale-total points. Redos are possible
Teacher Comments	<p>Use French in class to discuss and learn about the culture of French-speaking countries.</p> <p>This course is similar to a college level conversation and composition class and is conducted almost exclusively in French. This class takes what you are able to do in French and work towards making it academic and college level.</p> <p>Students must be willing to NOT use Google translate or any other translator as this will impede their learning. Explicit, group instruction in grammar and vocabulary is infrequent.</p> <p>The amount of time that students will need to spend on homework each week is in the range of 3 hours</p>

AP MUSIC THEORY (GRADES 11-12)

Homework per night	1 hour; 3-5 pages reading
Required skills	Reading, Ability to work in groups
Type of instruction	Lecture, Small Group Work, Independent Learning
Grading	
Teacher Comments	<p>Students should have a solid background in reading music and understanding/performing scales.</p> <p>We move very quickly through music fundamentals and then concentrate on music theory, sight singing, and melodic/harmonic dictation.</p> <p>Students should speak with their performance ensemble director before taking this class.</p>

AP STUDIO ART (GRADES 11-12)

Homework per night	1 hour
Required skills	Occasional Writing, Ability to work in groups
Type of instruction	Project Based Learning, Independent Learning
Grading	
Teacher Comments	Students work on creating a portfolio that consists of 12 breadth works and 12 concentration works.

AP SEMINAR (GRADES 10-12)

Homework per night	Varies considerably (ranges from no homework to 20 minute reading/writing to significant amounts); deadlines and due dates are not flexible
Required skills	Reading, critical thinking, group collaboration, research-based writing, and formal presentations. These skills are not required from the start, but students need to have an open mind and willingness to participate in class with a variety of different people
Type of instruction	Very little direction instruction/lectures. Units are organized around topics and projects, and the teacher operates as a facilitator for discussion and skill building.
Grading	A mix of reading assignments, group work, essays, and presentations. The biggest portion of points comes from writing assignments.
Teacher Comments	AP Seminar is based around interesting topics including personal identity and the ethics of warfare. Learning about these topics is not the purpose of the class, however. Seminar is designed to teach you how to think, read, research, and write the ways you will be expected to in college. It also serves as the first half of the "AP Capstone" program. Taking this class and AP Research the following year gives students the chance to qualify for either an AP Capstone Certificate or an AP Capstone Diploma.

AP RESEARCH (GRADES 11-12)

Homework per night	Varies. The purpose of AP Research is to produce a 4,000-5,000 word piece of original scholarship that is up to college standards. Students will work on completing a portfolio over the course of the year that documents their progress on this project.
Required skills	AP Research is designed to build on the skills of AP Seminar and continue their development. Students taking this class should come in with experience conducting research and writing academic papers. AP Seminar is a prerequisite for this reason.
Type of instruction	This class will include very little direct instruction or traditional lecture. Each student will be working on their own unique project for the entirety of the school year, and the teacher's role will be to provide guidance and structure.
Grading	Grades in this class will largely be based on frequent "check-in" assignments designed to make sure each student is on track to complete their research paper by the deadline established by college board.
Teacher Comments	AP Seminar is a prerequisite for AP Research. Taken together, these courses give students the chance to earn the AP Capstone Certificate. When combined with a passing score on at least four additional AP tests, students earn the AP Capstone Diploma. More information about the AP Capstone Diploma can be found here .