

Pacifica High School
Elective Course List Description
10-12 Grade

ART

Art Crafts 1 (P)

Students develop skills in a variety of media which may include clay, plastics, wood, fiber, fabric or metal. Students gain an understanding of the creative abilities of other cultures while developing objective criteria for analysis, interpretation, and evaluation of artwork through written and oral critique.

Exploratory Art A/B (P)

Students are introduced to the fundamentals of drawing and design through an exploration of a variety of media. In the first half of this course, emphasis is on two-dimensional subjects and preparation for advanced work. Foundation skills needed to develop aesthetic judgment and gain an understanding of historical and cultural values of art are also introduced.

Ceramics 1 (P)

Students are introduced to cultural, historical and contemporary techniques fundamental to the use of clay, glaze, and the kiln. Students plan, design, and create ceramic projects using these techniques. Emphasis is on hand-building. Students are given appropriate vocabulary and design fundamentals to help develop aesthetic perception and analytical abilities.

Ceramics 2(P)

Students receive continuing and enhanced experiences in ceramics including, advanced design, broader technical skill, a wider use of tools, materials and subject matter. This advanced course provides more emphasis on wheel throwing. As students are exposed to a wider range of artwork, evaluation techniques and aesthetic responses involving their own work are enriched. Exposure to ceramic works of other cultures continues.

Jewelry/Metals 1 (P)

Students, in an art workshop atmosphere, learn the fundamental techniques used in the design and creation of jewelry. Students are introduced to the historical and cultural aspects of jewelry. Evaluation techniques specific to the construction of jewelry are provided.

Painting and Drawing 1(P)

Students receive concentrated training in the fundamentals of drawing and painting to enhance observation and perception. Emphasis is on developing creative and expressive skills using different mediums. The historical and cultural aspects of the subjects are reviewed and tested. Skills needed to develop aesthetic judgment and evaluation are also introduced including critique and written assessment. Opportunities are available for students to enter off-campus exhibits/competitions.

Painting and Drawing 2(P)

Students receive continuing and advanced experiences in drawing and painting to enhance observation and perception using various painting and drawing mediums. Imaginative or alternative methods of creative thinking are encouraged. Historical and cultural aspects of the subject continue to be discussed and tested. Skills necessary to develop a refined aesthetic judgment are provided through critique both oral and written. Focus on Portfolio Development. Opportunities are available for students to enter off-campus exhibits/competitions.

Painting and Drawing 3(P)

Students receive continuing advanced experiences in drawing and painting providing for sophisticated design, broader technical skills, and a wider use of tools, materials, and subject matter. Students refine aesthetic perception while increasing their efforts to think imaginatively. Focus on Portfolio Development. Opportunities are available for students to enter off-campus exhibits/competitions. Effective analysis includes both oral and written critique.

Studio Art Drawing (Art Portfolio) AP (P)

The AP Studio Art course is designed for the practical experience of art. AP studio art is not based on a written exam; instead, students submit portfolios for evaluation at the end of the school year. The portfolio choices are design and drawing. Assignments are designed with the following goals for the student: participate in a creative and systematic investigation of formal and conceptual issues, understand art as an ongoing process that involves the student in informed and critical decision making, develop technical skills, familiarize student with the functions of the visual elements, and become independent thinkers

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who will contribute inventively and critically to their culture through the making of art. Students must submit a portfolio to the College Board for evaluation and college credit.

BUSINESS

Entrepreneurship

In Entrepreneurship I, students will study the strategies and techniques of successful business ownership. They will learn how to identify and evaluate a prospective business opportunity, understand various business legal structures, small business budgeting, record keeping methods, staffing, marketing and promotion. Instruction will include an introduction to the elements of a business plan including marketing and technology

Marketing and Society (P)

This course will give students a fundamental understanding of the relationship between marketing and popular culture. Marketing techniques, the elements of persuasion, and the effect on societal behavior will be studied. Particular focus will be given to the marketing strategies employed and the positive/negative effects of those strategies. Topics will include marketing to children, minorities, tobacco/alcohol, political, and charitable marketing. Complex ethical issues in marketing and their contribution to stereotypes, representation of gender, materialism, and over-consumption will be studied. Students will also reflect on the creation and expansion of markets via global marketing techniques, their positive and negative impacts on society, and corporate social responsibility.

Career Focus: Business

This course is an exploration of the various careers in the fields of business and service, including business administration, sales, marketing and hospitality. Students will learn the requirements and opportunities for post-secondary education and develop a personal career/life plan.

Personal Finance/ (semester class)

Credits: 5 Maximum credits: 5

This course covers various aspects of personal financial planning. The following topics will be covered: personal budgets, checking and savings accounts, consumer loans and credit, housing, insurance, taxation, installment buying, investments, and career planning.

Introduction to Business (semester class)

Credits: 5 Maximum credits: 5

This course is an introduction to the essentials of business. Students will explore the career options, marketing, production, and management concepts of small, medium, and large business structures.

ENGLISH

Drama (P)

Drama is designed as an introduction to the world of theater. Through participation in acting exercises, theater games, monologues, and scenes from plays, students learn acting techniques and stage terminology as well as gain confidence and stage presence. In the advanced drama classes, students produce full-length dramatic productions for public presentation. Stage Production focuses on stage design, lighting, set construction, and makeup. Drama courses are also listed in the Career Pathway Electives section of this Course Catalog.

Stage Production (P)

Year course open to grades 10, 11, and 12

PUBLICATIONS (Yearbook):

The school's yearbook is designed, published, and sold in this course. Students must be able to assume responsibility, meet deadlines, develop consistent work habits, and work effectively with others. Theme, layout, picture schedules, advertising promotions, financial accounting, copy writing, art design, photography, and record maintenance are key components.

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MUSIC

String Orchestra (P)

This college preparatory course is for advanced string students. Emphasis is placed on music reading, music theory, ensemble skills, and the study of various styles and periods of music. Concepts of shifting and vibrato are utilized. This ensemble performs at district music festivals, school and community concerts, and other approved performances. Performance participation is required.

Piano (P)

This introductory course is designed for students who have had little or no formal training playing the piano. Emphasis is placed on correct piano playing technique, basic music theory and various performances and playing styles. The students will study piano literature that represents several musical periods, composers, and countries. There will be opportunities throughout the year for the students to perform for the public. Performance participation is required.

Intermediate Piano (P) (HU2411/2) UC/CSU: f*, g

This course is intended for students wishing to pursue a more intense interest in piano performance. Sight reading, playing technique, music theory and technical skills are improved through performance and the use of technology. Students are responsible for practice of more advanced literature beyond the school day. Critical thinking, listening, playing and writing skills are enhanced by attendance and adjudication of piano concerts or recitals. In-depth research of composers, within the historical and cultural context of their styles of music and performance of the music are important aspects of this course. Students choose and prepare four (4) piano pieces representing four major musical time periods. One of the four will be performed at a recital each quarter. In addition, students will prepare oral presentations utilizing technology. Written and oral critiques of individual performance and that of fellow students is emphasized. Concepts of music and piano as they relate to other curricular areas are taught. Careers in piano performance and its related fields are discussed.

Jazz Ensemble/Commercial Music (P)

This college preparatory course is for experienced instrumental students. Emphasis is placed on music reading, music theory, ensemble skills, jazz styles, improvisational techniques, literature, and the contemporary commercial music idiom. Students perform at district music festivals, school and community concerts, and other approved performances. Performance participation is required.

Concert Choir (P)

This college preparatory course is for experienced choral students in a mixed group. Emphasis is placed on correct vocal production, advanced part-singing, music theory, sight-singing, and the study of various styles and period of music. The group performs at district music festivals, school and community concerts, and other approved performances. Performance participation is required.

Concert Band (P)

This college prep course is designed for the less experienced band student who wishes to continue musical growth with a focus on ensemble performance. The student continues to build principles of musicianship through appropriate literature, harmonic and rhythmic fundamentals, and ensemble skills. This ensemble performs at district music festivals, school and community concerts, and other approved performances. Performance participation is required.

Symphonic/Marching Band (P)

This college preparatory course is for experienced instrumental students. Emphasis is placed on music reading, music theory, ensemble skills, marching band fundamentals, and appropriate literature. Various styles and periods of music are presented. The historical significance of the American band movement is addressed. Students perform at district music festivals, school and community concerts, and other approved performances. Performance participation is required. In the first semester of grades 9-10 students can earn 5 credits towards the P.E. requirement. Second semester of grades 9-10 students must be enrolled in a P.E. course.

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Music Theory AP (P)

This course is designed for the student who wishes to gain an in-depth understanding of the way music is composed. Specific areas addressed are: composition, harmonization, counterpoint, and development of aural and notation skills, including sight-singing, melodic and rhythmic dictation. The student is given opportunities to compose and perform original music in class. Attention is given to pertinent historical information. Prominent composers are discussed.

Varsity Choir (P)

Students study and sing beginning and intermediate choral music. Emphasis is placed on listening, independent singing, proper vocal production, and fundamentals of music. Students perform at district music festivals, school and community concerts, and other approved performances. Performance participation is required.

A Cappella Choir (P)

This mixed choir studies and sings beginning and intermediate choral literature. Students learn vocal production, basic musicianship, and sight-singing. The group performs at district music festivals, school and community concerts, and other approved performances. Performance participation is required.

Vocal Ensemble (P)

Usually a small select group, this college preparatory course is for experienced choral students. Emphasis is placed on correct vocal production, advanced part-singing, music theory, sight-singing, and the study of various styles and periods of music. The group performs at district music festivals, school and community concerts, and other approved performances. Performance participation is required.

OTHER

AVID

AVID's mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. The basis for instruction is a strong, relevant writing and reading curriculum with an additional focus on inquiry and collaboration. A sufficient number of college tutors will be available in the AVID class to facilitate access to rigorous curriculum. AVID program implementation and student progress are monitored through AVID Data System and Illuminate, and results are analyzed to ensure success. Students who complete AVID 12/Senior Seminar can count the A-G course toward one year of the "G" subject requirement.

Peer Tutor

Students will assist teachers with academic instruction in a classroom environment when appropriate. Responsibilities include providing academic assistance to students who are struggling with the course material and working with small groups of students during guided practice or independent practice sessions.

Campus Service - Teacher Assistant

Students assist teachers as lab assistants and in preparation of classroom materials. Duties vary according to the specific needs of the department to which the student is assigned.

Campus Service - Office

Students receive training in such basic office skills as filing, typing, answering the telephone, office procedures, and attendance accounting. Specific duties vary according to the office to which the student is assigned, such as principal's office, health office, attendance office, guidance office, or bookstore.

Resource Center

This elective course is designed for students who enter 7-12th grade and are in RSP or M/M programs. This class is built around three areas of focus: knowledge (academic and self-regulatory skills), motivation, and organization (school culture and personal connectedness). The goal of the Resource Center curriculum is to increase participation and completion of rigorous A-G classes in order to enhance opportunities in selecting post-secondary educational options.

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Leadership

The leadership class develops the qualities and skills needed for effective student government. Emphasis is placed on learning through study, discussion, and direct experience in such areas as parliamentary procedure, group leadership, planning student activities, and the associated student body budget.

Library Science

This course is designed to give the student a practical understanding of library resources and procedures.

SOCIAL SCIENCE

Psychology

This course studies the patterns of human behavior, the individual and society, mental health, the psychology of learning, human development, personality, social influences, and practical applications of psychology.

Psychology AP

This course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. They also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice. The course is designed to prepare students to take the Advanced Placement Examination.

Human Geography AP (P)

AP Human Geography is a yearlong course that focuses on the distribution, processes, and effects of human populations on the planet. Units of study include population, migration, culture, language, religion, ethnicity, political geography, economic development, industry, agriculture, and urban geography. Emphasis is placed on geographic models and their applications. Case studies from around the globe are compared to the situation in both the United States and locally.

(Weighted Class)

WORLD LANGUAGES

The primary purpose of World Language study is to acquire oral fluency, listening, reading, and writing skills in the target language. Our State Universities, California State Universities and Universities of California, require a certain number and sequence of courses called the A-G requirements. To meet the University of California (UC) entrance requirements and the California State University (CSU) entrance requirements, students must earn a minimum of 20 credits in the same world language. In addition, the University of California and California State University recommend three years of World Language study (30 credits). Students must pass these courses with a C or better, see page 18 for specific details on A-G requirements, in order for a student to be eligible to apply. The Advanced Placement (AP) Program is a cooperative educational endeavor which allows students to participate in college-level studies while they are still in secondary school. Courses without a "P" or "AP" do not meet California A-G requirements. Enrollment in World Language is not dependent upon a student's English/Language Arts grade or teacher recommendation. In many instances the World Language is a student's primary language. Research shows that increasing the fluency in a student's primary language increases their fluency in their second language (ex. English/Language Arts). The first level of these modern world languages develops basic skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in the target language. A study of the culture is incorporated into each course. The second level is designed to extend communication skills and develop the control of vocabulary, grammar, and usage. Emphasis is placed on general conversation, extended narratives, and cultural concepts. The third and fourth levels continue to develop and expand the student's communication skills

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in the target language. Emphasis is placed on conversation, written expression, culture, and reading. Students who demonstrate proficiency in English and a language other than English may be eligible for the Seal of Biliteracy, a statewide recognition program awarded by the school district. Students are able to demonstrate proficiency in a language other than English is through completion of four years (40 credits) in the same World Language with an overall grade point average of 3.0 or higher in that course of study, passing the AP exam with a score of 3 or higher, or passing the SAT II foreign language exam with a score of 600 or higher. Seniors will be required to submit an application for the seal. For more information, please speak to a school counselor or World Language teacher.

Languages Available: Spanish; German; Vietnamese; Heritage Spanish

Spanish Language AP

The course is designed to prepare students to take the Advanced Placement Examination.

Spanish Literature AP

The course is designed to prepare students to take the Advanced Placement Examination.

German Language AP

The course is designed to prepare students to take the Advanced Placement Examination.

Heritage Spanish

The Heritage Spanish program is designed to meet the language needs of heritage Spanish speakers. Students who have oral Spanish skills will continue oral language development and will develop reading and writing skills. Appropriate usage in practical situations, literature, cultural information, and grammatical issues are presented. The program consists of two instructional levels. Students will be placed in Heritage Spanish 1 and 2 based on an assessment of Spanish skills and the needs of the student.

TECHNOLOGY PATHWAYS: Please see technology course description on Technology Pathways page.