



# Graduation Requirements & Course Descriptions 2020-2021

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## Graduation Requirements for Class of 2020, 2021 and 2022

Listed below are the graduation requirements for Rio Americano High School, as adopted by the San Juan Unified School District Board of Education. Students in grades 9, 10, 11 must enroll in six periods a day every semester. Students in grade 12 may enroll in a minimum of five periods a day both semesters provided that they are on track for graduation. Grades of D- or higher earn credits for graduation. Grades of C- or higher are required for college admission.

English .....	40 credits
Mathematics .....	20 credits
Visual & Performing Arts .....	10 credits
Physical Education (PE 1 and PE 2) .....	20 credits
Science (Life Science, Physical Science) .....	20 credits
American Government .....	5 credits
United States History .....	10 credits
World History .....	10 credits
Social Studies Elective .....	5 credits
Economics .....	5 credits
Health .....	2.5 credits
Elective Credits (These credits may also be earned with additional academic coursework) .....	72.5 credits
Total .....	220 credits

## Graduation Requirements Beginning with Class of 2023

Listed below are the graduation requirements for Rio Americano High School beginning with the Class of 2023, as adopted by the San Juan Unified School District Board of Education. Students in grades 9, 10, 11 must enroll in six periods a day every semester. Students in grade 12 may enroll in a minimum of five periods a day both semesters provided that they are on track for graduation. Grades of D- or higher earn credits for graduation. Grades of C- or higher are required for college admission.

English .....	40 credits
Mathematics .....	30 credits
Visual & Performing Arts .....	10 credits
Physical Education (PE 1 and PE 2) .....	20 credits
Science (Life Science, Physical Science, and 1 year of an additional science).....	30 credits
American Government .....	5 credits
United States History .....	10 credits
World History .....	10 credits
Social Studies Elective .....	5 credits
Economics .....	5 credits
Health .....	5 credits
World Language .....	20 credits
Elective Credits (These credits may also be earned with additional academic coursework) .....	50 credits
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>220 credits</b>

## **University of California and California State University A-G Course Requirements for Admissions**

The intent of the “A-G” subject requirements is to ensure that students have attained a body of general knowledge that will provide breadth and perspective to new, more advanced study. These courses are academically challenging, involving substantial reading, writing, problems and laboratory work (as appropriate), and show serious attention to analytical thinking, factual content and developing students' oral and listening skills.

The requirements listed below are minimum requirements. Students interested in attending selective public or private universities should complete additional college preparatory coursework and enroll in honors and Advanced Placement courses.

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>A.</b> History/Social Science      | 20 credits   |
| <b>B.</b> English                     | 40 credits   |
| <b>C.</b> Mathematics                 | 30 credits (passing Integrated Math 3)                 |
| <b>D.</b> Laboratory Science          | 20 credits including Biology, and Chemistry or Physics |
| <b>E.</b> Language other than English | 20 credits (30 credits recommended)                    |
| <b>F.</b> Visual or Performing Art    | 10 credits   |
| <b>G.</b> Academic Elective           | 10 credits   |

All semesters of the courses listed above must be passed with a C- grade or higher to be considered for college admissions.

# Course Descriptions

## ENGLISH

### ENGLISH 1

Graduation Requirement  
Meets CSU/UC "B" Requirement  
Grade: 9 (1 year)  
Prerequisite: None  
10 Credits

**DESCRIPTION:** This course is intended to develop vocabulary, grammar, and writing skills enabling the student to write a thoughtful, well-constructed and grammatically acceptable composition. As freshman year is the initial stage of the high school experience, material covered encompasses a broad range of topics with focus on the fundamentals of style and form. The composition of the novel, short story, poem, and play are examined. Students are expected to master the fundamentals of research, culminating in a research paper.

### HONORS ENGLISH 1

Meets Graduation Requirement in English  
Meets CSU/UC "B" Requirement  
Grade: 9 (1 year)  
**Prerequisite: The school district determines initial eligibility for 9th grade Honors English.**  
10 Credits

**DESCRIPTION:** This course is a more intensive English 9 course with added emphasis on the study of literary topics. Geared toward the highly motivated student, the course includes a greater number of reading and writing projects highlighted by the necessity to construct more advanced essays. Added vocabulary and spelling assignments are required.

### ENGLISH 2

Graduation Requirement  
Meets CSU/UC "B" Requirement  
Grade: 10 (1 year) Prerequisite: None  
10 Credits

**DESCRIPTION:** The emphasis of English 10 is on literature, as well as written and oral communication. The course is designed to strengthen the student's background and foster creativity through the interpretation of British, American, and international literature. Students establish a standard of critical evaluation and are called upon to demonstrate writing ability, as well as the development and expression of thought within a structured speech unit. The composition emphasis will be on descriptive, narrative, and expository writing, especially the literary essay. A research paper, journal writing, and vocabulary and spelling are assigned.

## **HONORS ENGLISH 2**

Meets Graduation Requirement in English

Meets CSU/UC "B" Requirement

Grade: 10 (1 year)

Prerequisite: (1) A minimum of a C in both semesters of Honors English 1. Students who are not eligible, can challenge into the class with a timed essay on one of the following titles: The Merchant of Venice, Lord of the Flies, Great Expectations, David Copperfield, or The Odyssey.

10 credits

DESCRIPTION: This course is appropriate for the more advanced student with a serious interest in English. Particular emphasis is placed upon the investigation of symbolism, alternative writing styles, and the development of the modern novel. In addition to the fundamental examples, special types of speeches are included. Students in this course can expect a significantly greater number of reading and writing assignments

## **ENGLISH 3**

Graduation Requirement

Meets CSU/UC "B" Requirement

Grade: 11 (1 year)

Prerequisite: None

10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: The students study important literary works by American authors to understand the evolution of American thought and our own national character. The works of these authors are studied not only as reflections of American thought in all its variety, but also as examples of good literary craftsmanship. Composition, grammar, usage, vocabulary and spelling are areas of concentration.

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION**

Meets Graduation Requirement in English

Meets CSU/UC "B" Requirement

Grade: 11 (1 year)

Prerequisite: None; however, because of the rigor of this course, Rio Americano advises students to talk to their current English teacher for advisement.

10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: The AP course in English Language and Composition engages student in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of rhetorical contexts, and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Both their writing and their reading should make students aware of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, persuasive subjects, and the stylistic conventions, which contribute to effective and forceful writing. The course focuses on major American authors and themes of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and urges students to synthesize deftly and interpret critically the novels and plays and expository writing that constitute the United States literary cultural heritage.

## **CSU EXPOSITORY READING AND WRITING COURSE**

Meets Graduation Requirement in English

Meets CSU/UC "B" Requirement

Grade: 12 (1 year)

Prerequisite: None

10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: ERWC is a full-year college preparatory English course for high school seniors. The ERWC aligns with the English- Language Arts Standards, addresses critical reading and writing problems identified by the CSU English Placement Test Committee, and prepares students to meet the expectations of college and university faculty.

Students who score conditionally exempt on their EAP testing in junior year and complete this course are exempt from the CSU English Placement Test.

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION**

Meets Graduation Requirement in English

Meets CSU/UC "B" Requirement

Grade: 12 (1 year)

Prerequisite: None; however, because of the rigor of this course, Rio Americano advises students to talk to their current English teacher for advisement.

10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition is a yearlong college-level course in which we study great works of literature with attention to small details and big ideas. This is a writing-intensive course aimed at exploring literature through writing and at improving your written expression. Students are expected to actively participate in and lead class discussions. The course offers intellectual challenges and rigorous workload consistent with a typical undergraduate university English literature course.

## **SPEECH**

Elective Credit, Meets CSU/UC "F" Requirement

Grades 9-12 (1 semester)

Prerequisite: None

5 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Indispensable everyday presentation skills are learned in the Speech (workshop) class. Outline, researching, writing, reading, listening, and extemporaneous speaking are among some of the skills explored and learned in our speech class. In addition to these basic skills, students learn techniques in multimedia presentation skills, using Power Point as well as video and other presentation skills. Students will use what they learn in other venues in assignments given that will take the student away from the classroom and out into the business world. This is accomplished by outside speech assignment and the opportunity to compete at speech and debate tournaments. Overall, Rio's speech class encompasses a myriad of outcome-based projects to aid students in preparing for the "real world" and their future. Also, students will learn how to participate in competitive Speech & Debate. They will have the opportunity to compete in the following categories: impromptu, oral interpretation, debate, Congress and extemporaneous and more. Students may attend 5 tournaments throughout the year on Saturdays. In addition, parents/guardians may get to serve as tournament judges periodically throughout the year.

**JOURNALISM/Newspaper**

Elective Credit

Meets CSU/UC "F" Requirement

Grades 9-12

Prerequisite: Approval of the instructor

10 credits

DESCRIPTION: This course will provide an understanding of the roles, rights and responsibilities of journalists. Students in this course will participate in a series of multi-week writers' workshops involving the study of researching, writing and editing for journalistic publications. As students will produce printed and on-line versions of The Mirada, student newspaper, the quantity and quality of writing and peer editing in this course will be commensurate with that expected in upper-division English courses. Students will learn and practice newsgathering, writing, photography, page design, desktop publishing, editing, cartooning, and ad sales. The course fulfills a UC elective requirement.

**JOURNALISM/Yearbook**

Elective Credit

Meets CSU/UC "F" Requirement (when taken in grades 10-12).

Grades: 10-12 (1 year)

Prerequisite: Instructor and Counselor approval

10 credits

**DESCRIPTION:**

Students will work as writers, photographers, illustrators and ad salespersons. Students will learn to make layout and do copy and caption work to meet all deadlines. The staff will be responsible to put together the yearbook covering all activities and events from September through June.

**Film and Literature**

Elective Credit

Grades: 11-12 (1 year)

Prerequisite: None

10 credits

This course is designed so that a newcomer to the study of film and literature may come to appreciate both the similarities and dissimilarities of the two media and how filmmakers attempt to merge them into a separate and unique work of art. To that end, we will look at the artistic qualities of films, how literature is adapted into film and the literature of film.

## **AP Capstone**

### **AP Seminar**

Elective Credit

Meets CSU/UC "B" Requirement

Grades: 10-12 (1 year)

Prerequisite: Instructor and Counselor approval

10 Credits

#### **DESCRIPTION:**

AP Seminar is a year-long course that has students investigate real-world issues from multiple perspectives. Students learn to synthesize information from different sources, develop their own lines of reasoning in research-based written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations, both individually and as part of a team.

### **AP Research**

Elective Credit

Meets CSU/UC "G" Requirement

Grades: 11-12 (1 year)

Prerequisite: AP Seminar, Instructor and Counselor approval

10 Credits

#### **DESCRIPTION:**

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.

## **MATHEMATICS**

### **INTEGRATED MATH I:**

Graduation Requirement

Meets CSU/UC "C" Requirement

Grade: 9-11 (1 year)

Prerequisite: None

10 credits

**DESCRIPTION:** The fundamental purpose of Mathematics 1 is to formalize and extend students' understanding of linear functions and their applications. The critical topics of study deepen and extend understanding of linear relationships, in part by contrasting them with exponential phenomena, and in part by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. Students build on their prior experiences with data, developing more formal means of assessing how a model fits data. Students use regression techniques to describe approximately linear relationships between quantities. They use graphical representations and knowledge of the context to make judgments about the appropriateness of linear models. With linear models, they look at residuals to analyze the goodness of fit. Mathematics I uses properties and theorems involving congruent figures to deepen and extend understanding of geometric knowledge from prior grades.

### **INTEGRATED MATH I SUPPORT:**

Elective Credit

Grade 9-11 (1 year)

Prerequisite: This support course is designed for students who earned: 1) An overall grade of D or F in CCSS Math Grade 8 and/or 2) MAP RIT Score 230 or below. Co-requisite: Enrollment in Integrated Math 1.

5-10 Credits

**DESCRIPTION:** The purpose of Integrated Mathematics I Support is to strengthen and develop the understanding of the fundamental math concepts taught in CCSS Math 7 and CCSS Math 8. Instructional time should focus on four critical areas: (1) basic number sense; (2) linear equations, inequalities and functions; (3) radicals; and (4) exponents. Students also work toward fluently solving linear equations of any form. Integrated Math I Support, is a semester long course, and may be taken completed twice for elective credit.

### **MATHEMATICAL MODELING:**

Meets Graduation Requirement in Mathematics

Meets CSU/UC "G" Requirement

Grade: 9-11 (1 year)

Prerequisite: D or higher both semesters of IM1

10 credits

**DESCRIPTION:** The course provides an opportunity for students to enhance their development of standards for mathematical practice through a problem-based curriculum that includes a deeper understanding of some Integrated Mathematics 1 standards, an introduction to some Integrated Mathematics 2 standards, and applications of the National Standards in K-12 Personal Finance Education.

**INTEGRATED MATH 2:**

Graduation Requirement

Meets CSU/UC "C" Requirement

Grade: 9-12 (1 year)

Prerequisite: Completion of Integrated Math 1 with a passing grade of "D" or better, or teacher recommendation.

10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This course is the second course in a series of three that uses an integrated approach to cover the following domains: Number and Quantity, Algebra, Functions, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. This course focuses on functions, including their associated inequalities.

**INTEGRATED MATH 2+:**

Graduation Requirement

Meets CSU/UC "C" Requirement

Grade: 9-12 (1 year)

Prerequisite: Completion of Integrated Math 1 with a passing grade of "B" or better, or teacher recommendation.

10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This course expands upon Integrated Math 2 content. Integrated Math 2+ includes exploring complex polynomial solutions using the Fundamental Theorem of Algebra, extending constructions, and using theoretical and experimental probability to model compound events, permutations, combinations and fair decision making. This course includes additional (+) mathematics standards to prepare student for advanced courses.

**INTEGRATED MATH 3:**

Meets Graduation Requirement in Mathematics

Meets CSU/UC "C" Requirement

Grade: 9-12 (1 year)

Prerequisite: Grade D or better in Integrated Mathematics 2

10 credits

DESCRIPTION: It is in the Integrated Mathematics 3 course that students integrate and apply the mathematics they have learned from their earlier courses. This course includes standards from the conceptual categories of Number and Quantity, Algebra, Functions, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. Some standards are repeated in multiple higher mathematics courses; therefore instructional notes, which appear in brackets, indicate what is appropriate for study in this particular course. Standards that were limited in Integrated Mathematics 1 and Integrated Mathematics 2 no longer have those restrictions in Integrated Mathematics 3.

**INTEGRATED MATH 3+:**

Meets Graduation Requirement in Mathematics

Meets CSU/UC "C" Requirement

Grade: 9-12 (1 year)

Prerequisite: Grade C or better in Integrated Mathematics 2+  
10 credits

DESCRIPTION: It is in the Mathematics 3 course that students integrate and apply the mathematics they have learned from their earlier courses. This course includes standards from the conceptual categories of Number and Quantity, Algebra, Functions, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. Some standards are repeated in multiple higher mathematics courses; therefore instructional notes, which appear in brackets, indicate what is appropriate for study in this particular course. Standards that were limited in Mathematics 1 and Mathematics 2 no longer have those restrictions in Mathematics 3. This course includes additional (=) mathematics standards to prepare students for advance courses and select standards from California Higher Mathematics.

**PRE-CALCULUS:**

Meets Graduation Requirement in Mathematics

Meets CSU/UC "C" Requirement

Grade: 9-12 (1 year)

Prerequisite: Completion of Integrated Math 3/Algebra 2 with a passing grade of "D" or better, or teacher recommendation.  
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Pre-Calculus is a one-year (10 credits) course. This revised course is designed to extend the study of Integrated Math 3/Algebra 2. Students in Pre-Calculus extend their work with complex numbers, which started in Integrated Mathematics 3 or Algebra 2, to see that complex numbers can be represented in the Cartesian plane and that operations with complex numbers have a geometric interpretation. They connect their understanding of trigonometry and the geometry of the plane to express complex numbers in polar form. The Standards for Mathematical Practice complement the content standards to that students increasingly engage with the subject matter as they grow in mathematical maturity and expertise throughout the elementary, middle and high school years.

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT CALCULUS/AB**

Meets Graduation Requirement in Mathematics

Meets CSU/UC "C" Requirement

Grades: 10-12 (1 year)

Prerequisite: C or higher in Pre-Calculus is the minimum, a B- grade or higher in Pre-calculus is suggested.  
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Topics include limits, derivatives and integrals of algebraic, trigonometric and transcendental functions. Emphasis will be placed on preparation for the AP Calculus Test. These are considered honors courses for admission to most universities, and upon passage of the AP Calculus Test may receive college credit.

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT CALCULUS/BC**

Meets Graduation Requirement in Mathematics

Meets CSU/UC "C" Requirement

Grades: 11-12 (1 year)

Prerequisite: C grade in AP Calculus

10 credits

DESCRIPTION: This course includes all AB Calculus topics, some extensions of the AB topics, and a few new topics such as polar, parametric, and vector equations; sequences and series; and improper integrals. Emphasis will be placed on preparation for the AP Calculus Test. These are considered honors courses for admission to most universities and upon passage of the AP Calculus Test. These are considered honors courses for admission to most universities and upon passage of the AP Calculus Test may receive college credit.

**STATISTICS:**

Meets Graduation Requirement in Mathematics

Meets CSU/UC "C" Requirement

Grades: 11-12 (1 year)

Prerequisite: Grade of B in Algebra II / IM 3 or C in IM 3+

10 credits

DESCRIPTION: This one-year course is designed to teach the students the basics of Statistics. Proper methods of collecting, analyzing, displaying and drawing conclusions from real life data will be taught. In addition to normal tests, evaluation will be based on computer labs, individual and group projects. A motivated student should be able to take the AP Statistics exam upon completion of the course. The course will meet one of the UC mathematics requirements

**FINANCIAL LITERACY**

Meets Graduation Requirement in Mathematics

Meets CSU/UC "C" Requirement

Grades: 11-12 (1 year)

Prerequisite: Grade D or higher in both semesters or Integrated Math 1

10 credits

DESCRIPTION: The course provides an opportunity for students to enhance their development of standards for mathematical practice through a problem-based curriculum that includes a deeper understanding of the National Standards in K-12 Personal Finance Education, National Standards for Financial Literacy, and college preparatory mathematics topics from Algebra, Statistics and Probability.

**Quantitative Reasoning Advanced Math (QRAT):**

Meets Graduation Requirement in Mathematics

Meets CSU/UC "C" Requirement

Grades: 12 (1 year)

Prerequisite: Grade D or higher in both semesters of Integrated Math 3  
10 credits

DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to strengthen mathematical foundation and to prepare students to be successful in college level math. The goal of the course is to deepen conceptual understandings of mathematical theory, skills and strategies. The course is designed to incorporate National Common Core Standards for Mathematical Practice and is aligned with specific high school standards listed in the Common Core State Standards. Utilizing practical life applications this course serves both college and career bound High School Seniors.

## **VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS**

### ***Visual Arts***

#### **ART STUDIO-1 (Multi-media)**

Meets Graduation Requirement in Visual and Performing Arts

Meets CSU/UC "F" requirement

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 9-12 (1 year)

10 credits

DESCRIPTION: Art Studio-1 is a beginning class that focuses on student self-expression. The course may include drawing, small sculpture, collage, printmaking, metal embossing, painting, mask making and group projects. The students explore the art elements and principles of design throughout the course. Focus is on developing skills, craftsmanship, creativity, and a broader knowledge of art in various cultures in traditional & contemporary art.

#### **BEGINNING DRAWING & PAINTING**

Meets Graduation Requirement in Visual and Performing Arts

Meets CSU/UC "F" Requirement

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 9-12 (1 year)

10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This is a beginning course with concentration in drawing and painting techniques. The goal is to develop and sharpen the student's personal awareness involving all senses and to direct the student towards the creation of visual concepts while incorporating the Elements of art and Principles of design. The Student will have an opportunity to refine their skills and create projects with various media including pencil, color pencil, pastels, ink, graphite, tempera paint & water color. Drawing may include value studies, still life drawings, portrait & figure drawings, cartoons, as well as perspective & composition. Painting may include color studies, abstraction, landscapes, animal drawings and projects that include a variety of cultures and art movements. A Comprehensive portfolio and sketch book with drawings and personal analysis, reflections, and critiques will be assigned. The object of this course is a concentration in two-dimensional visual expression in drawing and painting.

### **ADVANCED DRAWING & PAINTING**

Meets Graduation Requirement in Visual and Performing Arts

Meets CSU/UC "F" Requirement

Prerequisite: Beginning Drawing & Painting with a "B" or better Grade or teacher recommendation.

Grades: 10-12 (1 year)

10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This course is basically a studio class designed to develop further skills in drawing and painting, composition and design. Intensive training in drawing with various materials leading to independent and individual work in painting (water color and acrylic) is stressed. Work outside class will be required, including sketchbooks, portfolio preparation, artist research, gallery reports and/or critical viewing.

### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT STUDIO ART 2D**

Meets Graduation Requirement in Visual and Performing Arts

Meets CSU/UC "F" Requirement

Prerequisite: One year of Art Studio-1 plus one year of Beginning Drawing & Painting and one year of Advanced Drawing & Painting. Due to the rigor of this course a consultation with the student's current Art teacher is advised.

Grades: 11-12 (1 year)

10 credits

DESCRIPTION: This course prepares students for college level art using a wide variety of media. Students will be expected to prepare a portfolio of at least 24 works of art showing consistently mature and well executed images in the 2D media of their choice. Students planning on attending this course need prior teacher approval in the spring and will need to submit a body of work created over the summer. Students qualified for this course must be able to work independently and have a clear idea of the concepts required for this level course.

### **BEGINNING CERAMICS**

Meets Graduation Requirement in Visual and Performing Arts

Meets CSU/UC "F" Requirement

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 9-12 (1 year)

10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: In this course, students explore methods of creating with clay, from hand-building to wheel throwing. Assignments include pinch pot, coil, slab, and sculpture. Both low and mid-fire projects. This course may be repeated.

### **ADVANCED CERAMICS I and II**

Meets Graduation Requirement in Visual and Performing Arts

Meets CSU/UC "F" Requirement

Prerequisite: Beginning Ceramics "B" or better Grade or teacher recommendation.

Grades: 10-12 (1 year)

10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This course is by approval of instructor. This higher-level course requires the ability to think conceptually and use more complex technical skills than beginning ceramics. Students will be expected to provide work that is gallery-ready and display independence and focused discipline. Projects may be both hand-building and wheel throwing and students will be required to research project ideas ready for the first week of class in August. This course may be repeated.

### **BEGINNING PHOTOGRAPHY**

Meets Graduation Requirement in Visual and Performing Arts

Meets CSU/UC "F" Requirement

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 9-12 (1 year)

10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: All levels are welcome to explore this digital photography course while learning the fundamentals of composition, lighting, formatting, and image manipulation through Photoshop programs. The principles and elements of art and design discussed in class will allow students to learn the background of a solid art program while creating exciting imagery through the lens and computer.

### **ADVANCED PHOTOGRAPHY**

Meets Graduation Requirement in Visual and Performing Arts

Meets CSU/UC "F" Requirement

Prerequisite: Digital Art "B" or better Grade or teacher recommendation.

Grades: 10-12 (1 year), 10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This is an advanced digital photography course for students who have completed Digital Photography 1. They will build upon their Adobe Photoshop, Light room and digital photography camera skills. The course focus will include both image capture techniques and post processing techniques in the digital lab. The projects will be both fine art and commercial art based. The students will explore studio and on location lighting techniques to enhance their photography in the fields of advertising and product photography, portraiture, fashion, nature and landscape, photojournalism, lifestyle, experimental techniques, as well as photography for fine art purposes. They will learn and research various artists in these fields, emulating their styles, yet creating their own vision and personal style with an increase in complexity, visual metaphors and emotions, demonstrated through technically demanding projects. They will critique their own work, as well as the work of their peers and create a website and portfolio of work will demonstrate their aesthetic. Their websites will be available on the class blog at all times so all students will be able to access their online portfolios. Each student will present their portfolios at the end of the year and discuss their future endeavors with the field of photography.

## **DIGITAL ART 1**

Meets Graduation Requirement in Visual and Performing Arts

Meets CSU/UC "F" Requirement

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 9-12 (1 year)

10 Credits

**DESCRIPTION:** Digital Media Arts is a yearlong introductory course offered to students interested in using digital media as a tool to create art. This course emphasizes process and problem solving, in conjunction with visual design issues. It is designed for both the artist and designer interested in acquiring skills using digital media to explore both print and motion graphics. All projects will be created using the Adobe creative suite and iMac creative software. Students will explore the role and function of imagery, language, and presentation formats as they develop their work. This course is a broad-based introduction to students interested in exploring graphic design, packaging, game design, marketing, advertising, photography and video production. Information covered will include art elements, principles of design, professional practices, vocabulary, design trends and emerging technologies. Students will be asked to consider every aspect of the design and presentation process as they develop and produce their projects. Throughout the course, students will explore ethics and copyright issues as they relate to the projects produced in class.

## **ADVANCED COMMERCIAL ART**

Meets Graduation Requirement in Visual and Performing Arts

Meets CSU/UC "F" Requirement

Prerequisite: Digital Art "B" or better Grade or teacher recommendation.

Grades: 10-12 (1 year)

10 Credits

**DESCRIPTION:** In the advanced commercial art class we will discover the process of using design and photography to establish a visual presence for a brand. We will take an in-depth look at how digital arts are used to convey a brands core values and message. We will study successful marketing campaigns and the practices used to create them. Course work will be focused on channeling students' artistic skills to produce professional creative studio campaigns and will conclude with a final design solution project.

## ***Performing Arts***

### **BEGINNING DRAMA**

Meets Graduation Requirement in Visual and Performing Arts

Meets CSU/UC "F" Requirement

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 9-12 (1 year)

10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Students will learn the basic stage terms and techniques and explore the development of character through a rehearsal process. Students will perform *SCENES FROM CLASSIC PLAYS, FILM, and TELEVISION*; peer critique and discussion will follow. Students will study the *FILMS of MUSICAL THEATRE*, well-known actors and the business of Acting in the real world. Students will learn to *WRITE SCRIPTS* and perform their original work. *IMPROV, SINGING, and DANCE* are included in various projects. *STAGE MANAGEMENT, LIGHTS, SOUND*, are also included with interest. This is a great class to build *SELF CONFIDENCE!* Daily attendance is imperative.

### **ADVANCED DRAMA**

Meets Graduation Requirement in Visual and Performing Arts

Meets CSU/UC "F" Requirement

Prerequisite: Beginning Drama

Grades: 10-12 (1 year)

10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Students will continue to study character development through exercises, *IMPROV and SCENE PRESENTATIONS*. Students will take an active part in scene/performance discussions and *DIRECTING* their peers. Advanced students will *MENTOR and MODEL* techniques from previous drama class experience. Daily attendance is imperative.

## **READERS THEATRE**

Meets Graduation Requirement in Visual and Performing Arts

Meets CSU/UC "F" Requirement

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 9-12 (1 year)

10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This is the ideal course for beginning, motivated acting students. *WANT TO LEARN HOW TO DO A CARTOON, RADIO, OR PLAY VOICE?* Readers Theatre is a course designed to teach students the skill of *ACTING SCRIPTS ALOUD WITH VERBAL AND FACIAL EXPRESSION*. Students will learn the essentials of Readers Theatre characterization, performance, and critique. The students will learn *DIRECTING and SCRIPTING* techniques. This class is excellent for gaining self-confidence and for preparing students for Drama, Speech, or Radio, Television, and Film. Students will be involved in THE READERS THEATRE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TOUR, which travels to schools and performs. Students will make their *VOICE DEMO*, and learn how to make a career out of voice-overs! Daily attendance is imperative.

## **ADVANCED READERS THEATRE**

Meets Graduation Requirement for Visual and Performing Arts

Meets CSU/UC "F" Requirement

Prerequisite: Readers Theatre and permission of the instructor.

Grades: 10-12 (1 year)

10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: The Advanced Readers Theatre class is designed for *ADVANCED PERFORMANCE, DIRECTING, AND SCRIPTWRITING*. These students will : *MODEL AND MENTOR* beginning students, demonstrating learned techniques of Readers Theatre, emphasizing peer critique. *DIRECT for our READERS THEATRE ELEMENTARY TOUR*. Students will also make a *VOICE DEMO* and learn how to make a career out of Voice Overs. Daily attendance is imperative.

## **TECHNICAL THEATRE**

Meets Graduation Requirement for Visual and Performing Arts

Meets CSU/UC "F" Requirement

Prerequisite: Readers Theatre and permission of the instructor.

Grades: 10-12 (1 year)

10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This course will explore the contemporary principles and practices in preparing the scenic environment for the school performances. It will emphasize the breadth of knowledge. Precision in craftsmanship, and the creative imagination needed to solve a variety of scenic presentational problems. It will offer the student experience in a desired craft: acting, directing, stage management, lighting, sound design, scenic design, and set building. It is a production/performance-oriented course, with students guided toward their creative choices in the dramatic arts. *Students will be participating in performances outside of class time--acting, stage managing, lighting, sound designing, costuming, prop building, and set designing. Enrollment is based on teacher approval.*

## **INTRODUCTION TO VIDEO PRODUCTION**

Meets Graduation Requirement for Visual and Performing Arts

Meets CSU/UC "F" Requirement Grades: 9-12 (1 year)

10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: In this course students will use, analyze and create video media to express themselves clearly and concisely in writing about film and television. This introductory course will provide an environment for creative expression through visual media utilizing the specialized vocabulary of the film and television industry. Students will develop ideas individually or within a group, compose an outline/proposal, and write a script from their outline. The completed project will be a video/DVD product based on their script. Students will study the impact of film and television on society from a social, economic, and political viewpoint. The curriculum is presented with direct teaching of the techniques of film planning, filming and editing. Students develop skills through guided and teacher-facilitated activities and demonstrate mastery through project-based learning.

## **BAND**

### **INTERMEDIATE CONCERT BAND**

Meets Graduation Requirement for Visual and Performing Arts

Meets CSU/UC "F" Requirement

Prerequisite: Interest in music and some instrumental training.

Grades: 9-12 (1 year)

10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Intermediate Concert Band is a performance-oriented class with a focus on the developing and understanding the SJUSD Standards for music. This course provides the opportunity for students to develop skills and knowledge in areas such as theory, rhythm, tone production, blend, scales, reading and writing music, and historical and cultural context. This course prepares students for Advanced Concert Band. The emphasis will be on group instrumentation.

### **ADVANCED CONCERT BAND**

Meets Graduation Requirement for Visual and Performing Arts

Meets CSU/UC "F" Requirement

Prerequisite: Director approval/audition

Grades: 9-12 (1 year)

10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Advanced Concert Band is primarily a performance-oriented class with emphasis on major and minor scales, music theory and advanced level literature. Music theory and history as they apply to individual playing techniques will also be emphasized. This band will study and perform music compositions from all periods of music. Concert band is a select group open to performers on band instruments.

### **HONORS CONCERT BAND**

Meets Graduation Requirement for Visual and Performing Arts

Meets CSU/UC "F" Requirement

Prerequisite: Audition and Director approval.

Grades: 9-12 (1 year)

10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This is an instrumental music performance class that incorporates in-depth musical analysis, theory, composition, ear training, historical and cultural background concurrently with rehearsal and performance of traditional concert band literature.

**AM/PM JAZZ ENSEMBLE**

Meets Graduation Requirement for Visual and Performing Arts

Meets CSU/UC "F" Requirement

Prerequisite: Audition and concurrent enrollment in Concert Band.

Grades: 10-12 (1 year)

10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: High School Jazz Ensemble is primarily a performance-oriented class; however, music theory, history, and improvisation as they apply to individual playing techniques, will also be emphasized. These bands will study and perform music compositions from all periods of jazz history. Jazz Ensembles are select groups from Concert Band which perform the best of music in pop, rock and jazz styles. Auditions are held after the first week of class and at the end of the school year.

**BEGINNING PIANO CLASS:**

Meets Graduation Requirement for Visual and Performing Arts

Meets CSU/UC "F" Requirement

Prerequisite: Interest in music and some instrumental training.

Grades: 9-12 (1 year)

10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Is a comprehensive piano course focused on individual and group performance. Students will learn to read musical notation, concepts in music theory, and practice specialized piano techniques. Periodic in-class and public performances will lead to a culminating solo/duet recital at the end of each semester. This course is open to all levels, but is geared toward motivated, beginning musicians and those interested in becoming part of RIO Band & Orchestra. Keyboards and method books are provided for student use in class each day. Up to 6 advanced players will be selected at TA's and models for musical performance. This course may be repeated for quickly advancing players interested in becoming a TA/mentor.

# **BAND**

## **PHILOSOPHY OF RIO BAND**

The Rio Americano Band Program has a long history of fantastic music, pride, and top-notch education. We fully intend on furthering that tradition this year. We are very excited about the challenges and adventures that await all of us.

The goals of Rio Band are to provide the finest possible musical education, and to create an atmosphere that promotes character and excellence from all of our students. This is done in a positive and creative atmosphere that focuses on independent thought, self esteem, maturity, creativity, respect, leadership, teamwork, work ethic and personal responsibility. Music is the means to the end of creating successful, creative and happy adults.

While we will participate in some competitions, winning will never be a goal for us. We strive to approach every rehearsal and performance with professionalism, and to play all styles of music with a deep respect for history and culture. As a result of these efforts, we tend to win awards. Either way, we are equally proud of our kids.

Virtually every instrumental music program begins with Concert Band -a large ensemble. From there, if the number of students supports it, the school administration can offer other smaller classes, other levels, or other kinds of bands. In our case, we've been fortunate to add 4 Jazz Bands, other levels of Concert Band, and Small Ensemble class.

It is important to remember that all the decisions we make regarding policies are done for the good of the students and the overall good of the program. Implementation is done only after careful scrutiny and virtual assurance that the change is for the better. Feel free to contact us with any questions at either [jomurray@sanjuan.edu](mailto:jomurray@sanjuan.edu) .

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

### **PE 1**

Graduation Requirement, Physical Education Credit

Grade: 9 (1 year)

Prerequisite: None

10 Credits

**DESCRIPTION:** This course focuses on core program for Freshman P.E students. The course will include fundamental skills and knowledge of fitness, water safety, and an introduction to individual sports. Freshmen will incorporate Fitness for Life concepts as part of her course.

### **PE 2**

Graduation Requirement, Physical Education Credit

Grade: 10 (1 year)

Prerequisite: Completion of PE 1

10 Credits

**DESCRIPTION:** This course is a continuation of fundamental skills and knowledge of team sports and the Fitness for Life program.

### **WEIGHT TRAINING**

Elective Credit Grades: 11-12 (1 year)

Prerequisite: Recommended completion of PE 1 and PE 2 or instructor approval.

10 credits

**DESCRIPTION:** This course will focus on development of muscular strength and endurance in combination with aerobic and anaerobic conditioning. The course will utilize weight training, running, plyometrics, and Olympic-style lifting to improve a student's overall physical fitness level.

## **SCIENCE**

### ***Life Science***

#### **BIOLOGY:**

Graduation Requirement  
Meets CSU/UC "D" Requirement  
Grades: 9-12 (1 year)  
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Biology is a laboratory science course that focuses on the study of life by examining the five fundamental concepts of cellular biology, genetics, ecology, evolution and physiology. The scientific process and laboratory skills are emphasized along with biology's connections to other scientific disciplines. Students learn scientific writing skills and also examine current biological issues.

#### **AP BIOLOGY:**

Meets Graduation Requirement in Life Science  
Meets CSU/UC "D" Requirement  
Prerequisite: IM 2 and a "C" or higher in high school level Biology and Chemistry. Due to the rigor of this course, Rio recommends that students consult with their current science teacher for advisement.  
Grades: 11-12 (1 year)  
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to be the equivalent of an introductory, survey biology class taken in college. This course involves an in depth study of the major areas of biology and advanced laboratory experiments complementing course content. Some areas of study include biochemistry, cell biology, bioenergetics, evolution, genetics, physiology and ecology. Students will be prepared to take the AP Biology exam which is optional but highly encouraged. This is considered an honors course (5 point grading scale) for admission to most universities. Upon passage of the AP Biology exam, students may receive college credit.

#### **PHYSIOLOGY**

Meets CSU/UC "D" Requirement  
This course is a college preparatory life science course  
Requirement Prerequisite: IM 2, completion of Biology with a "C" or higher and a physical science with a "C" or higher.  
Grade: 12  
10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Physiology is an advanced biological study of the anatomy (structure) and physiology (function) of the major systems of the human body and is of value to all students who want to understand the human and other mammal body structure and functioning. Includes a cat dissection. It is particularly beneficial to anyone who plans to take a similar course at the college level.

## **AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE**

Meets Graduation Requirement in Life Science

Meets CSU/UC "D" Requirement

Prerequisite: IM 2 and a "C" or higher in high school level Biology and Chemistry. Due to the rigor of this course, Rio recommends that students consult with their current science teacher for advisement.

Grades: 11-12 (1 year)

10 Credits

**DESCRIPTION:** The goal of the AP Environmental Science course is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them.

Environmental science is interdisciplinary; it embraces a wide variety of topics from different areas of study. There are several major unifying constructs, or themes, that cut across the many topics included in the study of environmental science that provide the underlying framework for the course including but not limited to topics in biology, geology, chemistry, energy use, land planning, and pollution of the environment.

### ***Physical Science***

## **HONORS CHEMISTRY**

Meets Graduation Requirements in Physical Science

Meets CSU/UC "D" Requirement

Prerequisite: Completion of Biology recommended and Concurrent enrollment in IM2+, IM3 or higher.

Grades: 10-12 (1 year)

10 Credits

**DESCRIPTION:** Honors Chemistry is a college prep chemistry course and pre-AP Chemistry course. Topics covered in depth are: atomic structure, states of matter, reaction types, stoichiometry, equilibrium and reaction rates, thermodynamics, and descriptive chemistry. Comprehensive laboratory experiments will be performed to emphasize the course content. Students will be prepared to take the College Board SAT subject test in chemistry at the completion of this course. This course is considered an honors course for admissions to most universities.

## **CHEMISTRY**

Meets Graduation Requirement in Physical Science

Meets CSU/UC "D" Requirement

Prerequisite: Completion of Biology, recommended successful completion of IM 2.

Grades: 10-12 (1 year)

10 credits

DESCRIPTION: General Chemistry is a course where the topics of the properties of matter, atomic theory and structure, chemical equations and calculations, acids, bases and salts, chemical equilibrium and oxidation-reduction will be studied. Hands-on laboratory assignments will emphasize the course content whereby student will gain experience in observing, collecting, and analyzing experimental data.

## **AP CHEMISTRY**

Meets Graduation Requirement in Physical Science

Meets CSU/UC "D" Requirement

Prerequisite: C or better in Chemistry (both semesters) and completion of IM 3 with a C or better. Due to the rigor of this course, Rio recommends that students consult with their current science teacher for advisement.

Grades: 11-12 (1 year)

10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: The AP Chemistry course is designed to be the equivalent of the general chemistry course taken in college. Some of the objectives covered will be an in depth understanding of thermochemistry, bonding, solids, liquids and gases, kinetics, chemical and aqueous equilibrium, acids and bases, thermodynamics, electrochemistry and organic chemistry. Comprehensive laboratory experiments will be performed to emphasize the course content. Students will be prepared to take the AP Chemistry exam, which is optional but encouraged. This is considered an honors course for admissions to most universities. Upon passage of the AP Chemistry exam, students may receive college credit.

## **PHYSICS**

Meets Graduation Requirement in Physical Science

Meets CSU/UC "D" Requirement

Prerequisite: Completion of IM 2 with a C or higher.

Grades: 10-12 (1 year)

10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This is a one-year high school physics course and a prerequisite for AP Physics. Topics include force and motion, gravity, momentum, energy, electricity, magnetism, waves, sound, light, and optics. Hands-on laboratory work, demonstrations, and classroom discussions are the core of the course. Some math is used, but the emphasis is placed on conceptual understanding and simple real work applications.

## **AP PHYSICS 1**

Meet Graduation Requirement in Physical Science

Meets CSU/UC "D" Requirement

Prerequisite: C or better in Geometry (both semesters) and completion or enrollment in IM 3.

Due to the rigor of this course, Rio recommends that students consult with their current science teacher for advisement.

Grades: 10-12 (1 year)

10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: AP Physics 1 is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course that explores topics such as Newtonian mechanics (including rotational motion); work, energy, and power; mechanical waves and sound; and introductory, simple circuits. Through inquiry based learning, students will develop scientific critical thinking and reasoning skills. AP Physics 1 is a first year course in physics for motivated students who meet the prerequisites.

## **AP PHYSICS 2**

Meets Graduation Requirement in Physical Science

Meets CSU/UC "D" Requirement

Prerequisite: C or better in Physics or AP Physics (both semesters) and completion of IM 3.

Due to the rigor of this course, Rio recommends that students consult with their current science teacher for advisement.

Grades: 11-12 (1 year)

10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: AP Physics 2 is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course that explores topics such as fluid statics and dynamics; thermodynamics with kinetic theory; PV diagrams and probability; electrostatics; electrical circuits with capacitors; magnetic fields; electromagnetism; physical and geometric optics; and quantum, atomic, and nuclear physics. Through inquiry-based learning, students will develop scientific critical thinking and reasoning skills. AP Physics 2 is a second course in physics for students who have successfully completed either Physics or AP Physics 1.

## **CONCEPTUAL PHYSICS**

Meets Graduation Requirement in Physical Science

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 11-12 (1year)

10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Topics include force and motion, gravity, energy, electricity, circuits, magnetism, waves, sound, light and wave optics. Curriculum and activities will give the average student a practical survey of everyday physics.

### **AP Computer Science**

Meets Graduation Requirement for additional year of science

Meets CSU/UC "D" Requirement

Prerequisite: None

Grades 10-12

10 credits

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.

AP Computer Science Principles is an introductory college-level computing course. Students cultivate their understanding of computer science through working with data, collaborating to solve problems, and developing computer programs as they explore concepts like creativity, abstraction, data and information, algorithms, programming, the internet, and the global impact of computing.

### **HEALTH**

Graduation Requirement

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 9-12 (1 semester)

5 credits

**DESCRIPTION:** Health is a one-semester course, which meets the State requirements in Health, Safety and First Aid. This involves an overview, as well as important details regarding all aspects of health; including physical, mental, emotional, social, environmental and spiritual components. Concepts focus on developing a healthy lifestyle, which includes managing stress, exercise, sleep, healthy eating habits, avoiding use of harmful substances, and protecting one's self from illness and disease.

## **HEALTH CARE PATHWAY**

### **INTRO TO MEDICAL CAREERS**

Elective Credit  
Prerequisite: None  
Grades: 9-12 (1year)  
10 credits

**DESCRIPTION:** This course is an introduction to Medical and Sports Medicine careers. It is designed for students who are interested in fields such as EMT, medical assistants, nursing, physician assistants, physicians, x-ray tech, athletic training, physical therapist assistant, physical therapy, kinesiology, nutrition, and other medical related fields. Throughout the course, students will explore these various fields of study, with a focus on the basic information and skills important in the health industry regarding health care, prevention, and rehabilitation. The course includes class work and hands-on application.

### **MEDICAL CAREERS**

Elective Credit  
Prerequisite: Intro to Medical Careers  
Grades: 10-12 (1 year)  
10 credits

**DESCRIPTION:** This course is designed to give students experience with a variety of healthcare professions. This course provides students with a hands-on approach to learning about careers, human development, diagnostic, therapeutic, and support services.

### **MEDICAL ASSISTING**

Elective Credits  
Prerequisite: Intro to Medical Careers, and Medical Careers  
Grades: 11-12 (1 year)  
10 credits

**DESCRIPTION:** This is a CTE course where students are placed on a job-site for training with hands-on experience in the selected medical fields. Students will work as externs for hands-on-training, such as taking blood pressure, rooming patients, assisting with minor surgery, and/or front office duties. Students will be trained and receive first-aid and Medical Profession CPR certification.

## **SOCIAL SCIENCE**

### **Ethnic Studies: Academic Language Development 2**

Meets Graduation Requirement in Social Science

Meets CSU/UC "G" Requirement

Grades: 10-12 (1 semester)

Prerequisite: None

The purpose of this course is for long term English learners to learn and apply interdisciplinary academic and literacy skills through a meaningful and relevant use of language applicable to general content courses career, and college readiness under the ELD and ELA Common Core Standards using an Ethnic Studies and project-based approach. In doing so the student will through structured instruction, employ the three communicative modes outlined in the California Common Core Standards: collaboration, interpretation and production or oral and written academic language. Ethnic Studies students will learn and apply grade-level academic language, knowledge, and skills in meaningful and relevant ways. By reading and analyzing comparative and expository literature students will examine the history, language, values and voice of diverse groups within the United States. Students will also identify common issues across groups, and critically analyze, reflect on, and participate (written and orally) in the study of those issues social and culturally relevant.

### **INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY**

Meets Graduation Requirement in Social Science

Meets CSU/UC "G" Requirement

Grades: 11-12 (1 semester)

Prerequisite: None

5 Credits

**DESCRIPTION:** Cultural Anthropology is a semester course of study in cultural anthropology. The purpose of the course is to appreciate the tremendously wide range of human behavior, which exists around the world. The course will provide a broad overview of the field of anthropology, both theories and principles.

### **WORLD HISTORY**

Graduation Requirement

Meets CSU/UC "A" Requirement

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 10 (1 year)

10 Credits

**DESCRIPTION:** This course features a chronological approach to world history. The first two weeks of the semester will be a review of the four strands of social science, and early development of western institutions. This course continues to survey World History from the Renaissance through the end of the Cold War with an emphasis on western European history and its influence on the world. This course will stress note taking skills and geography.

## **AP WORLD HISTORY**

Meets Graduation Requirement for World History

Meets CSU/UC "A" Requirement

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 10 (1 year)

10 Credits

**DESCRIPTION:** This course focuses on the economic, social, political and geographic forces that have shaped the contemporary world. In depth analysis of the progress of western institutions and ideas will be evaluate by written formal essays and assessments that reflect student comprehension of complex historical causation. The course covers the ancient world through the development of democratic principles, nation states, and globalism. Students will understand the complexity of our modern world and the development of a global conscience.

## **UNITED STATES HISTORY**

Graduation Requirement

Meets CSU/UC "A" Requirement

Prerequisite: None

Grade: 11 (1 year)

10 Credits

**DESCRIPTION:** U.S. History is a full year course that emphasizes the Twentieth Century. The course begins with an overview of early American History through the Reconstruction Era. Major areas of inquiry include industrialization, reform, World War I, Depression and New Deal, World War II, Cold War, Civil Rights, Watergate and contemporary issues. Students will be exposed to how each era in American History defines the Constitution as a living document.

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT U.S. HISTORY**

Meets Graduation Requirement for U.S. History

Meets CSU/UC "A" Requirement

Prerequisite: Recommended A's or B's in World History. Due to the rigor of AP History, Rio recommends that students consult with their current history teacher for advisement.

Grade: 11 (1 year)

10 Credits

Emphasis will be placed on preparation for the AP US History exam. This is considered an honors course for admission to most universities, and upon passage of the AP U.S. History exam may receive college credit.

**DESCRIPTION:** This course is designed to be congruent with the regular U.S. History course. Students will be given a solid foundation in the subject matter of U.S. History with an emphasis on analysis and interpretation of primary sources, documentary materials, maps, statistical tables and pictorial and graphic evidence of historical events. Students will learn to express themselves with clarity and precision in essay examinations and research papers. The course will prepare students for the Advanced Placement exam in American History.

## **AMERICAN GOVERNMENT**

Graduation Requirement

Meets CSU/UC "A" Requirement

Prerequisite: None

Grade: 12 (1 Semester)

5 Credits

DESCRIPTION: American Government, the culminating course in the Social Science Department, should prepare an intelligent and informed voter at age 18. The course is designed to build upon and perfect the analytical skills and social science concepts. Students will participate in a variety of experiences which will help identify and clarify values and conflicts regarding public policy. Topics of study include civil rights and responsibility; foundations of American government; decision making at the federal, state, and local governmental level; and analysis of voting behaviors.

## **AP U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

Meets Graduation Requirement for U.S. Government and Social Science

Meets CSU/UC "A" Requirement

Prerequisite: Due to the rigor of this course, Rio recommends that students consult with their current history teacher for advisement.

Grade: 12 (1 semester)

5 Credits

DESCRIPTION: AP U.S. Government and Politics serves as an introduction to the United States and California State governments. The purpose of the course is to prepare students for their role as citizens in a constitutional republic, as well as to prepare students for the Advanced Placement exam in May. The course examines the philosophic beginnings of democracy, the structure of the Constitution and government, civil rights and civil liberties, and creation of public policy. A strong emphasis will be placed on the rights and responsibilities of citizenship in the community and in the United States.

## **AP U.S. COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

Meets Graduation Requirement for Social Science Elective

Meets CSU/UC "A" Requirement

Prerequisite: Due to the rigor of this course, Rio recommends that students consult with their current history teacher for advisement.

Grade: 12 (1 semester)

5 Credits

DESCRIPTION: The AP course in Comparative Government and Politics 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.

## **AP PSYCHOLOGY**

Meets Graduation Requirement in Social Science

Meets CSU/UC "G" Requirement

Prerequisite: None

Grade: 11-12 (1 Semester)

5 Credits

**DESCRIPTION:** This course differs from the regular psychology course in that it has a strong emphasis in the biological sciences. AP Psychology offers an in-depth look at history & approaches, behavior, sensations & perception, learning & cognition, motivation & emotion, development, personality, testing & individual differences, abnormal treatment, therapy and social aspects of psychology.

Emphasis will be placed on preparation for the AP exam, which is optional. This is considered an honors course for admission to most universities, and upon passage of the exam may receive college credit. Completion of this course will satisfy Senior Social Science requirement for graduation.

## **PSYCHOLOGY**

Meets Graduation Requirement in Social Science

Meets CSU/UC "G" Requirement

Prerequisite: None

Grade: 11-12 (1 semester)

5 Credits

**DESCRIPTION:** This course will explore the definition of human behavior and will cover an introduction to the behaving organism; life span developments, learning and the cognitive process, personality theory, abnormal psychology, therapy and change.

## **GEOGRAPHY**

Meets Graduation Requirement for Social Science

Meets CSU/UC "A" Requirement

Grades: 9-10

Prerequisite: None

5 Credits

**DESCRIPTION:** Geography is intended to present the world's geographic regions and to relate that knowledge to events in today's rapidly changing world. Contemporary issues confronting the world today, such as trade, problems of developing nations, urbanization, environmental pollution and conservation of the world's resources are addressed. Students develop certain basic geography skills.

These include map reading and place name identification along with the interpretation of charts and diagrams. As students gain a global perspective of geography, they become increasingly aware of their role as a global citizen today.

## **ECONOMICS**

Graduation Requirement

Meets CSU/UC "G" Requirement

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 11-12 (1 Semester)

5 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This course covers basic economic concepts and includes a study of the tools of analysis such as charts, graphs, statistics, and marginal analysis; economic indicators, scarcity, opportunity costs; basic economic questions of what, how, and for whom; the market system, freedom of choice, private ownership, profit and loss, consumer skills; labor relations and government, monetary and fiscal policy; financial institutions, the business of cycle, inflation, deflation and unemployment; historical theory of economics and comparative systems, international trade, and U.S. economic history; opportunities for students to develop creative and thinking skills. The course meets the graduation requirement for Economics.

## **AP MACRO ECONOMICS**

Meets Graduation Requirement for Economics

Meets CSU/UC "G" Requirement

Prerequisite: None

Grade: 11-12 (1 Semester)

5 Credits

DESCRIPTION: The course is an in-depth treatment of macro economics. Emphasis will be placed on preparation for the AP Economics exam, which is optional. This is considered an honors course for admission to most universities and upon passage of the AP Economic (macro) exam may receive college credit. This course fulfills the graduation requirement for Economics.

## **WORLD LANGUAGE**

### **FRENCH 1**

World Language/Elective credit  
Meets CSU/UC "E" Requirement  
Grade: 9-12 (1 year)  
Prerequisite: None  
10 credits

DESCRIPTION: French I is an introduction to French language and culture. The fundamentals of French pronunciation, grammar, and culture are presented through a balanced development of four main skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Awareness and appreciation for cultural differences are introduced and integrated with language study through a wide variety of activities (group/pair work, video, audio recordings, computer assignments, etc.). Connections to and influences on our own language are explored.

### **FRENCH 2**

World Language/Elective credit  
Meets CSU/UC "E" Requirement  
Grades: 9-12 (1 year)  
Prerequisite: "C" grade of better in French 1  
10 credits

DESCRIPTION: Students continue their study of French by further expanding their knowledge of key vocabulary topics and grammatical concepts. Students begin to comprehend listening and reading passages more fully and start to express themselves more meaningfully in both speaking and writing. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, participate in conversations and analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various French-speaking countries.

### **FRENCH 3**

World Language/Elective credit  
Meets CSU/UC "E" Requirement  
Prerequisite: "C" grade of better in French 2  
10 credits

DESCRIPTION: In this course students enhance their reading, writing, listening and speaking skills as well as learn many of the finer points of French grammar. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, using correct vocabulary terms and phrases naturally. They will participate in conversations covering a wide range of topics, analyzing and comparing cultural practices and perspectives of various French-speaking countries. Students will also read and analyze important pieces of literature. Students who are successful in French 3 progress to French 4 and not AP French the following year.

### **HONORS FRENCH 3**

World Language/Elective credit  
Meets CSU/UC "E" Requirement  
Grades: 9-12 or with teacher approval (1 year)  
Prerequisite: "A" or "B" grade in French 2  
10 credits

DESCRIPTION: Honors French 3 is an accelerated, in-depth third year French language program intended for the motivated language student. It is the recommended class for the students who plan to enroll in AP French. The course aims to increase the student's ability to communicate in the target language through extensive vocabulary building and mastery of advanced grammatical structures. Grammatical concepts are presented in the context of contemporary and classic literature. Students learn more about authentic language throughout the French-speaking world through the critique of French films, contemporary publications and current events.

### **FRENCH 4**

World Language/Elective credit  
Meets CSU/UC "E" Requirement  
Grades: 9-12 (1 year)  
Prerequisite: "C" grade or better in French 3  
10 credits

DESCRIPTION: This course is designed for those students who would like to continue their study of French due to interest in conversation, current events, and history. While continuing to develop the four main language skills, emphasis is placed on proficiency of the spoken language, use of vocabulary and modern culture.

### **AP FRENCH LANGUAGE**

World Language/Elective credit  
Meets CSU/UC "E" Requirement  
Grades: 11-12 (1 year)  
Prerequisite: "A" or "B" grade with teacher recommendation in Honors French 3 or "C" grade or better in French 4.  
10 credits

DESCRIPTION: This comprehensive course integrates AP teaching methods into the four main areas of language learning: speaking, listening, reading and writing. An intensive "French only" environment prevails in this course. Emphasis is placed on advanced vocabulary and grammar, oral presentations, essays, newspaper articles, contemporary literary texts and film. The class is designed to prepare students for the AP exam. Students who are successful on the French AP exam may earn college credit.

## **SPANISH 1**

World Language/Elective credit  
Meets CSU/UC "E" Requirement  
Grade: 9 -12 (1 year)  
Prerequisite: none  
10 Credits

**DESCRIPTION:** This introductory course is designed for students with little or no previous study of Spanish. Some students in class might have studied Spanish in middle school, but have not grasped some of the important structures of the language. This course teaches basic language patterns and vocabulary. Repetition and comprehensible input are important components of this course. Focus is on all four-language skills listening, speaking, reading and writing. Culture is an integral part of the course and is introduced through the use of media, games, adapted readings and class discussions. In addition to written tests and quizzes, students may also be assessed by means of aural activities. Homework assignments are an integral part of this course; they reinforce concepts/skills introduced and explored in class, which enable students to participate in class in a meaningful way. Completion of homework assignments is a must. Active participation is required.

## **SPANISH 2**

World Language/Elective credit  
Meets CSU/UC "E" Requirement  
Grades: 9-12 (1 year)  
Prerequisite: "C" grade or better in Spanish 1.  
10 Credits

**DESCRIPTION:** Students continue to further develop and improve listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Emphasis is placed on comprehension of Spanish, as well as, reading and writing practice in the target language using a variety of activities incorporating familiar vocabulary and structures. Supplementary materials are introduced to enhance language use. Aspects of contemporary Spanish culture are introduced through the use of media, games, and adapted readings and in small or large group discussions. In addition to written/oral tests and quizzes, students are assessed using a variety of formats: oral dialogues, presentations, written compositions and other means. Homework assignments are an integral part of this course as they not only reinforce concepts and skills that are introduced in class, but also enable students to participate in class discussions. Completion of homework assignments is essential to success in this course. In an effort to better prepare students for further honor classes and the Advanced Placement Course, it is imperative that students in Level 1 exhibit diligence with regard to attitude and work ethic. Continuous effort to use the target language is essential. Active participation is a must!

### **SPANISH 3**

World Language/Elective credit

Meets CSU/UC "E" Requirement

Grades: 9-12 (1 year)

Prerequisite: "C" grade or better in Spanish 2.

10 Credits

**DESCRIPTION:** This class provides students the opportunity to further develop, improve and refine their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Emphasis continues to be placed on aural skills with additional emphasis on reading and writing in the target language.

Supplementary materials are implemented to enhance language use.

Students experience multiple opportunities to demonstrate their proficiency in Spanish in different contexts. Aspects of contemporary Hispanic culture are emphasized through cultural readings, media, games, and class discussions.

Assessment of student performance is identified through written tests and quizzes. In addition, students may also be assessed by means of oral tests, spoken dialogues, presentations, short compositions and other displays. Homework assignments are an integral part of this course.

They reinforce concepts/skills introduced and explored in class, which enable students to participate in class discussions and activities in a meaningful way. Completion of homework assignments is essential to being successful in this course. Pre-AP activities will be integrated into the curriculum.

### **SPANISH 4**

World Language/Elective credit

Meets CSU/UC "E" Requirement

Grades: 9-12 (1 year)

Prerequisite: "C" grade or better in Spanish 3.

10 Credits

**DESCRIPTION:** Students who have attained measurable proficiency in the use of the language may proceed to advanced levels in which all of the linguistic skills are reinforced through concentrated practice. Students are more thoroughly acquainted with different Hispanic cultures through internet communication and video, making use of authentic Spanish presented through these mediums. Classes are conducted exclusively in Spanish and students are required to speak it at all times.

### **AP SPANISH LANGUAGE**

World language/Elective credit

Meets CSU/UC "E" Requirement

Grades 9-12 (1 year)

Prerequisite: "A" grade in Spanish 3 or "B" grade or better in Spanish 4

10 credits

**DESCRIPTION:** After Spanish 3, or preferably Spanish 4, the exceptional student may elect to enroll in the most intensive Spanish course offered at Rio Americano. Emphasis will be placed on preparation for the AP Spanish exam, which is optional. This is considered an honors course for admission to most universities, and upon passage of the AP Spanish exam may receive college credit.

**Russian 1**

World Language/Elective credit

Grades 9-12 (1 year)

Prerequisite: None

10 credits

Russian 1 is an introductory course to the Russian Language and cultures of today. Emphasis is on development of the four major skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking. In addition to those skills, students will expand their knowledge of Russian cultures and heritage through the use of text, video, audio, and workbook program. The course will also provide comprehensive explanations of Russian grammar along with structural practice students need to build accuracy.

## **CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

All Courses are A-G approved, including Wood Technology 1 and 2, and Robotics

### **ROBOTICS**

Elective Credits

Meets CSU/UC "G" Requirement

Grades: 11-12 (1 year)

Prerequisite: Wood Tech II, Engineering and Technology II, or approval of the instructor.

10 credits

**DESCRIPTION:** This is a fast paced course that covers the basics of electricity and electronics. Students learn how to make circuits and diagnose problems in them. Students move on to electronics and learn how computers work and how to take apart and repair computers. The final section of the course goes into programming robots and takes students from guiding "dumb" robots all the way to "smart" robots, which can make decisions on their own to adapt to situations. This course competes in the NASA Robotics competition called FRC or First Robotics Competition. Our robot teams compete in this highly competitive and advanced robot challenge against other high schools from across the state and country.

### **WOOD TECHNOLOGY I**

Elective Credit

Meets CSU/UC "G" Requirement

Grades: 11-12 (1 year)

Prerequisite: Approval of the instructor

10 credits

**DESCRIPTION:** This class is designed to give students a strong experience in the design and fabrication of cabinets and furniture. An emphasis is placed on working safely with hand tools, light power tools, and heavy woodworking machinery. Students are expected to build each of the required projects (must complete all to pass) that are designed to take them from very basic concepts of woodworking to more advanced processes and techniques. Topics to be covered include the properties and selection of woods, design and construction techniques, cost estimation, finishing processes, fasteners and tool maintenance.

### **WOOD TECHNOLOGY II**

Elective Credit

Meets CSU/UC "G" Requirement

Prerequisite: Wood Technology I and approval of the instructor

Grades: 9-12 (1 year), 10 credits

**DESCRIPTION:** Wood II is designed to give students a strong experience in the design and fabrication of cabinets and furniture. An emphasis is placed on working safely with hand tools, light power tools, and heavy woodworking machinery. Students are expected to build the required projects; a shed and Bluetooth speaker, and mantel clock. Topics to be covered included the properties and selection of woods, design and construction techniques, cost estimation, finishing processes, joinery, fasteners, and tool maintenance. Upon successful completion of this course the student should have proficient skills that will assist in employment opportunities in the construction and cabinet industries. Additionally, the students' skill level in regards to problem solving should be enhanced.

## **INTRODUCTION TO ENGINEERING DESIGN AND MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGIES**

Elective Credit

Meets CSU/UC "G" Requirement

Grades: 9-12 (1 year)

Prerequisite: Approval of the instructor.

10 credits

**DESCRIPTION:** Learn to take an idea and create a product prototype. In this course, the student will learn to model in 3D, program parts and build a product. This introductory course provides our young engineers with the mechanical background necessary for successful engineering design. This course utilizes the most up-to-date industry leading software for engineering and manufacturing (AutoCAD and Fusion 360), as well as our machine shop. The program is designed with a pre-engineering emphasis. Throughout this program, students will explore design, drafting and machining through computer aided drafting and manufacturing tools. In addition to real world experiences, your student will obtain experience in problem solving and critical thinking. These are qualities needed to successfully enter college or career.

### **ARC - design 100**

## **ENGINEERING AND DESIGN TECHNOLOGY II – MANUFACTURING FOR ENGINEERS**

Elective Credit

Meets CSU/UC "G" Requirement

Grades: 9-12 (1 year)

Prerequisite: Approval of the instructor.

10 Credits

**DESCRIPTION:** Learn to design for manufacturability and advanced modeling techniques. In the shop, students will become more proficient with automated manufacturing and further refine/develop skills in milling, turning and welding. The focus of this class is on intermediate and advanced concepts in Robotics, parametric modeling and engineering design. This course provides students with the opportunity to focus on one or more area of industrial technology, creatively pursuing new knowledge or solving a technological problem, by designing and building prototypes and working models. They will form a partnership with a community industry member who will mentor them through all of the steps from design to final prototype. Students will employ application of multiple fabrication techniques including tools and materials required for the manufacture of a prototype. Students will use manufacturing processes in the areas of forming, joining, assembly, mechatronics, mechanics, pneumatics and prototyping which includes hands on use of manufacturing equipment. They will read, write and analyze engineering drawings, set up and operate common manufacturing machines (shaping using the mill, lathe, welder, etc.), and utilize best practices for operating hand tools found in a common machine shop or hacker lab. The students will then be matched with mentors from the local business, arts and financial communities. Students will learn and apply appropriate information in order to complete a project and test it.

### **ARC welding 300**

## **CIVITAS**

### **HONORS INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL STUDIES**

Meets Graduation Requirement for Social Science

Meets CSU/ UC "G" Requirement

Prerequisite: Enrollment in CIVITAS, or instructor permission.

Grade: 9 (1 Semester) \*

5 Credits

DESCRIPTION: A first semester course for CIVITAS that focuses on an introduction to political science and study of political theory. The curriculum requires students to identify, define and research politics on the national level. Service learning and a class project are required.

### **HONORS STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Meets Graduation Requirement for Social Science

Meets CSU/UC "G" Requirement

Grade: 9-12 (1 semester) \*

Prerequisite: Enrollment in CIVITAS, or instructor permission.

5 Credits

DESCRIPTION: This course, as part of the CIVITAS curriculum, introduces students to the national and California State political systems and constitutions. Students will examine course content through a discussion of American values, political parties and institutions both at the national and state level, through media and public opinion and its influence on policy making with a focus on state and local government.

### **HONORS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

Meets Graduation Requirement for Social Science

Meets CSU/ UC "G" Requirement

Grade: 10-12 (1 semester) \*, 5 Credits

Prerequisite: World History or enrollment in CIVITAS

DESCRIPTION: Basic introduction to global politics focusing on a broad range of issues and problems relating to conflict and cooperation among nations, and on similarities and differences among nation governmental institutions, structures and processes. Hot topics currently in the news are key discussion points for this class, which features a mock United Nations.

### **HONORS CIVITAS SPEECH & COMMUNICATIONS**

Elective Credit; Meets CSU/UC "G" Requirement

Grade: 10 (1 semester) \*, 5 Credits

Prerequisite: Enrollment in CIVITAS, or instructor permission.

DESCRIPTION: Theory and technique of public speaking. Emphasis on organizing, supporting, and clearly stating ideas. Practice in informative and persuasive speaking. Focus on current politics and public policy as topics.

## **HONORS PHILOSOPHY OF POLITICAL THOUGHT**

Meets Graduation Requirement for Social Science

Meets CSU/UC "G" Requirement

Grade: 11-12 (1 semester) \*, 5 Credits

Prerequisite: None

DESCRIPTION: Representative selection of philosophical problems will be explored in areas such as knowledge, reality, religion, science, politics, art and morality. This course focuses on problems of social justice, ethics, and epistemology, philosophy of religion, metaphysics, free will and determinism and political philosophy. The class requires participation in Socratic Circles; midterm presentation of a philosopher; paper on Orwell's political ideals and a final paper about student's personal philosophy based on acceptance or rejection of philosopher's ideas during the semester; final exam – debate on hot ethical topic.

## **DIRECTED PROJECT CIVITAS (Independent Study)**

(Elective Credit)

Prerequisites: Supervising teacher approval and completion of other CIVITAS requirements.

DESCRIPTION: Senior students enroll for an independent project with instructor permission. Students will complete the CIVITAS Senior Project in the course. Culminates CIVITAS activity and includes mandatory junior and senior lunch meetings, 75 hour internship experience, required meetings with advisor on senior project and presentation. Represents 300 hours of coursework. Maximum 5 units of credit at supervising teacher's discretion. Enrollment is limited.

\* All CIVITAS classes are open to seniors if space is available with except for Directed Project.

## **CIVITAS Program Description**

Rio Americano High School in Sacramento, California, offers Academia CIVITAS, a four-year program of political studies and public service. It provides students with advanced and specialized learning in the social sciences and an enriched sense of citizenship.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

To prepare students to be active, responsible, knowledgeable citizens who accept their role as civic-minded adults.

### **PROGRAM SPECIFICS CURRICULUM**

In addition to completing the SJUSD graduation requirements, CIVITAS students complete a minimum of 6 semesters of specialized courses. CIVITAS is a college preparatory program.

### **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

CIVITAS requires that an application be submitted prior to enrollment. Applicants must:

- Have a 3.0 or better grade in English and Social Science
- Submit 2 letters of reference from adults who know them well
- Complete a spontaneous essay
- Complete an interview

### **REQUIRED SEMESTER COURSES INCLUDE:**

- Honors Introduction to Political Studies
- Honors State & Local Government
- Honors International Relations
- Honors Speech and Communications
- Honors Philosophy of Political Thought
- CIVITAS Senior Independent Project

### **INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES**

Students participate in collaborative learning groups, analyze and develop public policy models, debate controversial topics, conduct research and examine domestic and global issues and work on advocacy projects.

### **COMMUNITY-BASED LEARNING**

This three-part component begins with service-learning in the freshman and sophomore years, a junior internship and culminates with a Senior Project. The common thread linking these experiences is: "A Commitment to Our Communities."

### **SERVICE LEARNING**

Each student is required to contribute 100 hours of volunteer service in the greater Sacramento community. These activities must relate to the academic program of CIVITAS.

**INTERNSHIPS**

The CIVITAS Internship program links the academic curriculum to “real life” experiences in the community. It is an extended learning opportunity requiring 75 hours of participation with a mentor, after school or during school breaks. Students are in the workplace for educational purposes only and are not considered employees.

**SENIOR PROJECT**

This culminating activity includes a research paper, a portfolio that houses all materials gathered during the internship/research and a senior project developed from the student’s internship. This is the student’s gift back to the community. A panel of teachers, parents, and community members review and evaluate the senior project.

## **STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

### **STUDENT GOVERNEMENT**

Elective Credits Grade: 9-12

Prerequisite: Election to a student government office 10 Credits

DESCRIPTION: Student Government is required for all student body and class officers. Concentration is on the organization, development and implementation of student activities.

## **AVID**

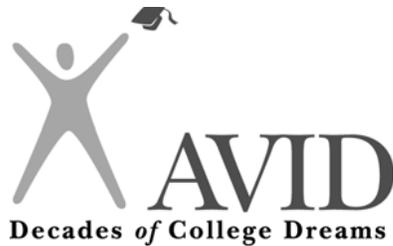
### **AVID 1, 2, 3, Senior Seminar – Advancement Via Individual Determination**

Elective Credit Grades 9-12

Meets CSU/UC “G” Requirement

Prerequisite: Selection based on AVID criteria

AVID is an international program for motivated students with college potential. The class teaches organization, study skills, college research, and the Socratic method to promote inquiry, analysis and critical thinking. The AVID elective gives students the extra push necessary to not only help them with acceptance to four-year colleges but to foster the skills necessary for them to be successful college students.



AVID, Advancement Via Individual Determination, is a college readiness system for elementary through higher education that is designed to increase school wide learning and performance.

**Mission Statement:**

AVID's mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society.

**Student Profile:**

AVID targets students in the academic middle - B, C, and even D students - who have the desire to go to college and the willingness to work hard. These are students who are capable of completing rigorous curriculum but are falling short of their potential. Typically, they will be the first in their families to attend college, and many are from low- income or minority families. AVID pulls these students out of their unchallenging courses and puts them on the college track: acceleration instead of remediation.

**AVID Curriculum:**

The AVID curriculum is based on rigorous standards and was developed by middle and senior high school teachers in collaboration with college professors. It is driven by the WICOR method, which stands for writing, inquiry, collaboration, and reading. AVID curriculum is used in AVID elective classes and in content-area classes in AVID schools.

**Applying to Program:**

Potential AVID students must go through an application and interview process and be approved by the AVID coordinators. Because AVID is a multi year program, applications are only available to incoming freshmen, current freshmen and first semester sophomores. Applications are available online or from the AVID coordinators or counselor.

## AP Capstone

The following information is taken from the College Board website. For more information about the AP Capstone program, please visit: <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-capstone>.

*“AP Capstone™ is a diploma program from the College Board. It’s based on two yearlong AP courses: AP Seminar and AP Research.*

*Rather than teaching subject-specific content, these courses develop students’ skills in research, analysis, evidence-based arguments, collaboration, writing, and presenting. Students who complete the two-year program can earn one of two different AP Capstone awards, which are valued by colleges across the United States and around the world.*

**Students can earn the AP Capstone Diploma™ or the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™.** Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP Exams of their choosing receive the AP Capstone Diploma™.

Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research but not on four additional AP Exams receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™.

### Participating in AP Capstone can help students:

- Stand out to colleges in the application process.
- Develop key academic skills they’ll use in college and beyond.
- Become self-confident, independent thinkers and problem solvers.
- Earn college credit: Many colleges offer credit for qualifying scores.

