

# Advanced Placement Courses

We are pleased to offer Advanced Placement courses through our partnership with Aventa Learning. The courses listed below provide the advanced student a dynamic online experience along with excellent teacher support through email, live online sessions, and phone conversations. These courses earn Oak Meadow credit and will prepare students for the College Board AP exams. Colleges will consider granting credit only if the College Board exam has been passed.

Please note that some courses may have prerequisites, and are typically suitable only for juniors and seniors.

For more information on high school enrollment, program options, or credit requirements, please see the High School Catalog, available for download on our website or by calling the Oak Meadow office.

## Course Descriptions

### AP Art History

This course is designed to foster in students an understanding and knowledge of architecture, sculpture, painting, and other art forms within diverse historical and cultural contexts. Students examine and critically analyze major forms of artistic expression from the past and the present from a variety of cultures. In addition to visual analysis, this course emphasizes understanding works in context, considering such issues as patronage, gender, and the functions and effects of works of art. Prior art training is not a prerequisite, nor does the course cater exclusively to future Art History majors. This course was designed to meet the requirements of the Advanced Placement Art History requirements precisely.

*COURSE LENGTH: Two semesters*  
*REQUIRED TEXT: Gardner's Art Through the Ages, 12th Edition (Fred S. Kleiner, Christin J. Mamiya)*

### AP Biology

AP Biology is a year-long course taught at the same level as a first-year college biology class. This course adheres closely to the College Board standards for AP Biology, and will prepare you to take the AP Biology Exam. The two main

goals of this course are to help you develop a framework for biology and to help you gain a deeper understanding of science as a process. In this course, we will be developing higher-level thinking in terms of biology rather than just memorizing terms and facts.

*COURSE LENGTH: Two semesters*  
*REQUIRED TEXT: Biology: Concepts and Connections, Fourth Edition; Authors: Campbell, Reece, Mitchell, and Taylor; ISBN 0-8053-0013-9*

### AP Calculus AB

This is a college-level course covering derivatives, integrals, limits, approximation, and applications and modeling.

*COURSE LENGTH: Two semesters*  
*REQUIRED TEXT: NONE*  
*OPTIONAL TEXT: Calculus with Infotrac ISBN: 0534437362*

### AP Calculus BC

This is a college-level course covering derivatives, integrals, limits, approximation, applications and modeling,

and sequences and series.

*COURSE LENGTH: Two semesters*  
*REQUIRED TEXT: NONE*  
*OPTIONAL TEXT: Calculus with*  
*Infotrac ISBN: 0534437362*

## AP Chemistry

Advanced Placement Chemistry is equivalent to a full-year introductory college course in general Chemistry. Students will learn fundamental analytical skills to logically assess chemical problems proficiently. Through fascinating and elaborative lessons, students will develop the skills necessary to arrive at conclusions based on informed judgment and present evidence in clear and persuasive essays.

*COURSE LENGTH: Two semesters*  
*REQUIRED TEXT: Chemistry: The Molecular*  
*Nature of Matter and Change by Silberberg*

## AP Computer Science A

Computer Science A emphasizes object-oriented programming methodology with a concentration on problem solving and algorithm development, and is the equivalent of a first-semester college-level course in Computer Science. It also includes the study of data structures, design, and abstraction, but these topics are not covered to the extent that they are in Computer Science AB.

*COURSE LENGTH: Two semesters*  
*REQUIRED TEXT: None*

## AP English Language

The academic objectives of this course adhere to those outlined by the College Board in preparation for the Advanced Placement Exam in Language and Composition. AP Language and Composition explores the relationship between what authors say and how they are trying to say it. The literary component of the course provides a range of genres, including nonfiction, fiction, drama, and poetry, and in the analysis of these works students are exposed to the analysis of both style — the more language-based approach to exploring meaning — and rhetoric — the analysis of author argument and structure. In terms of style, students will explore how elements of language — such as tone, diction, and syntax — influence the overall meaning. In terms of rhetoric, students will examine various appeals, aspects of writers' credibility, irony, and the overall use of logic to explore how effectively an author presents her/his position.

*COURSE LENGTH: Two semesters*  
*REQUIRED TEXT: Selected Readings,*  
*available online or at your local library.*

## AP English Literature

This is a college level class that ultimately prepares students for the Advanced Placement exam in May. In addition, it provides students with other skills associated with the most advanced classes in high school English, including research skills. When they have completed the class, students will have acquired the reading and critical thinking skills necessary for understanding challenging new material, analyzing that material to deduce meaning, and applying what they have learned to their world. They will have the composition skills needed to communicate their understanding effectively to a variety of audiences.

Students will read and analyze classic works of literature because these works contain literary qualities that merit study and provoke thinking, not because of a requirement to know a particular work or author. They will also look at modern and contemporary works as they examine all genres: plays, short stories, poetry, essays, and novels. Students will learn to apply critical literary terms as tools for learning, understanding, and communication. Learning activities include close reading, paraphrasing, discussions, essays, short answer exams, research papers, reflective journals, web quests, and others.

*COURSE LENGTH: Two semesters*  
*REQUIRED TEXT: Students select from*  
*several novel choices. They may also choose*  
*between the use of text or online versions of*  
*Oedipus Rex, Antigone, and Hamlet.*

## AP Environmental Science

This course is designed to acquaint you with the physical, ecological, social, and political principles of environmental science. The scientific method is used to analyze and understand the interrelationships between humans and the natural environment. The course shows how ecological realities and the material desires of humans often clash, leading to environmental degradation and pollution. The course consists of six chapters covering the following topics: Earth's Systems; Human Population Dynamics; Natural Resources; Environmental Quality; Global Changes; and Environment and Society. Chapters are divided into several subsections, each of which contains text, animations, laboratory simulations, and video presentations by experts. This is a **one-semester** course.

*COURSE LENGTH: One semester*  
*REQUIRED TEXT: Environmental Science, 10th Edition, by Miller. (2004), ISBN # 0534424082*

## AP European History

This course is a study of the social, economic, cultural, intellectual, political, and diplomatic history of Modern Europe, and its place in the history of the world from the fall of Constantinople to the fall of the Berlin wall and the Soviet Union. The course will be taught at a level and rigor equivalent to that required of students in a college freshman or sophomore Modern European History course. Students will develop an understanding of the major periods, ideas, movements, trends, and themes that characterize European history from approximately 1450 — the high Renaissance — to the present. Students develop the ability to analyze historical evidence and express understanding and analysis in writing. The course will prepare students for the College Board examination in European History.

*COURSE LENGTH: Two semesters*  
*REQUIRED TEXT: Kagan, Donald, Steven Ozment and Frank Turner. The Western Heritage: Since 1300. 8th ed. Prentice Hall. 2003. ISBN: 0131828835.*

## AP Macroeconomics

Macroeconomics is an emphasis on how the economic system works as a whole. Students study how the economy is measured using concepts such as gross domestic product (GDP) and other indicators. They examine concepts such as inflation, unemployment, world trade patterns, and the role of the Federal Reserve Bank. Students engage in decision-making processes to create an environment where high employment and a higher standard of living are achievable by using the economic tools of fiscal and monetary policy. This course prepares students for the AP Exam in Macroeconomics.

*COURSE LENGTH: One semester*  
*REQUIRED TEXT: Macroeconomics, ISBN 0073273082; and AP Macro Economics: Student Activity, ISBN 1561835676*

## AP Microeconomics

Microeconomics emphasizes how individuals make choices with limited resources. Students will examine concepts such as supply and demand, factors of production, roles of labor and management, the relationship between the envi-

ronment and the economy, and the impact of the government on individual decision-making processes. Students study the stock market as an investment option, and trace various stocks through the semester using the *Wall Street Journal* and the Internet as resources. This course prepares students for the AP Exam in Microeconomics.

*COURSE LENGTH: One semester*  
*REQUIRED TEXT: Microeconomics, ISBN 0073273090; and AP Micro Economics: Student Activity, ISBN 1561835684*

## AP Physics B

Physics is the science of matter and energy — how the universe is put together. This course is a non-calculus survey course covering five general areas: Newtonian mechanics; thermal physics; electricity and magnetism; waves and optics; and atomic and nuclear physics. Students will get an understanding of the core principles involved and learn to apply these principles in the solution of problems.

*COURSE LENGTH: Two semesters*  
*REQUIRED TEXT: PHYSICS 6TH Edition, by Giancoli (Prentice Hall, 2004) ISBN 013606200*

## AP Psychology

Psychology provides an overview of current psychological research methods and theories. Students will explore the therapies used by professional counselors and clinical psychologists, and examine the reasons for normal human reactions: how people learn and think, the process of human development and human aggression, altruism, intimacy, and self-reflection. They'll study core psychological concepts, such as the brain and sense functions, and learn to gauge human reactions, gather information, and form meaningful syntheses. Along the way, students will also investigate relevant concepts like study skills and information retention. The equivalent of a 100-level college survey course, AP Psychology prepares students for the AP Exam and for further studies in psychology and life sciences.

*COURSE LENGTH: One semester*  
*REQUIRED TEXT: Essentials Psychology: A Modular Approach to Mind and Body, 10th (2006) Edition. ISBN 0534605931*

**Note:** *The college-level textbook used for this course includes a chapter on human sexuality; however, only the introduction of that chapter is referenced in the course.*

## AP Spanish Language

Spanish language students practice perfecting their Spanish speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. They study vocabulary, grammar, and cultural aspects of the language, and then apply what they've learned in extensive written and spoken exercises. By the end of the course, students will have an expansive vocabulary and a solid, working knowledge of all verb forms and tenses. The equivalent of a college-level language course, AP Spanish Language prepares students for the AP Exam and for further study of Spanish language, culture, or literature.

*COURSE LENGTH: Two semesters*  
*REQUIRED TEXT: None*

## AP Statistics

AP Statistics data analysis is dependent on the use of technology. Students should have access to computers that include software capable of doing data analysis. Students will be required to interpret output generated by statistical software programs. Students are not expected to learn how to use various statistical programs. In addition, one of the following Texas Instruments calculators is required: TI-83, TI-83+, TI-84, TI-84+, or TI 89. The TI-83+ is the most popular calculator for AP Statistics. In most cases the calculator is sufficient, but the fundamental tool of data analysis is the computer.

*COURSE LENGTH: Two semesters*  
*REQUIRED TEXT: The Practice of Statistics, TI-83/89 Graphing Calculator Enhanced, Second Edition; Dan Yates, David S. Moore, Daren S. Starnes; ISBN 0-7167-4773-173*

## AP US Government

This course will survey the complex subjects of U.S. government and politics. We will analyze in some detail the processes and institutions (both formal and informal) through which the political system functions and policy decisions are made. This analysis will include the Constitutional structure of Government, participatory politics, the formal institutions of power, the extra constitutional influences on those institutions, and public polity and individual rights and liberties.

*COURSE LENGTH: One semester*  
*REQUIRED TEXTS:*  
*(1) Edwards, Wattenberg, Lineberry, Government in America, AP EDITION, Prentice Hall, ISBN 0321195051*  
*(2) American Government: Readings*

*and Cases, ISBN 0321329776*

## AP US History

This course covers all of the material outlined by the College Board as necessary to prepare you to pass the AP U.S. History Exam. Students will:

*Demonstrate comprehension of a broad body of historical knowledge.*  
*Express ideas clearly in writing.*  
*Work with classmates to research an historical issue.*  
*Interpret and apply data from original documents.*  
*Identify underrepresented historical viewpoints.*  
*Write to persuade with evidence.*  
*Compare and contrast alternate interpretations of an historical figure, event, or trend.*  
*Explain how an historical event connects to or causes a larger trend or theme.*  
*Develop essay responses that include a clear, defensible thesis statement and supporting evidence.*  
*Effectively argue a position on an historical issue.*  
*Critique and respond to arguments made by others.*  
*Raise and explore questions about policies, institutions, beliefs, and actions in an historical context.*  
*Evaluate primary materials, such as historical documents, political cartoons, and first-person narratives.*  
*Evaluate secondary materials, such as scholarly works or statistical analyses.*  
*Assess the historical significance and cultural impact of key literary works (e.g. Common Sense, Uncle Tom's Cabin).*

*COURSE LENGTH: Two semesters*  
*REQUIRED TEXT: The American Pageant ISBN: 061810349X*

## AP World History

AP World History covers the history of the world from 600 C.E. to the present, with an introductory unit on the period before (covering around 8,000 B.C.E to 600 C.E.). The course emphasizes "patterns of change" and the connections between the various world cultures throughout the time period being studied. Students will gain an understanding of the global experiences of humanity, and be able to apply that knowledge to their growth and development as "world citizens." The class has two major goals: 1) to prepare students to be successful on the AP World History Exam, and 2) to provide students with an understanding of why the world developed the way it did.

*COURSE LENGTH: Two semesters*

*REQUIRED TEXT: World Civilization: The Global  
Experience (AP Edition) — Stearns and others;  
Longman/Pearson, 3rd/2003 ISBN 0321099699*  
*RECOMMENDED TEXT: The Origins of the  
Modern World — Robert Marks Rowman &  
Littlefield, 1st/2003 ISBN 0742517543*

Oak Meadow High School is fully accredited by major regional and international associations, and the credit earned in our program can be applied toward an Oak Meadow High School diploma or transferred to other schools. All teacher evaluations and transcripts are maintained in cumulative files at the Oak Meadow School office. When you enroll your child in Oak Meadow, you have the confidence of knowing that your child is supported by a recognized leader in distance learning with over thirty years of educational integrity and expertise.

## How to Enroll

*If you are a new to Oak Meadow, please call our offices to begin the enrollment process.* Previous records may need to be assessed, which can include homeschooling portfolios, to determine the best course placement for your student. We offer rolling enrollment, so you may choose the start date that works best for your family. Above all, a conversation with an Enrollment Counselor will ensure that you and your child will be off to the best start to your new school year.

*If you are a returning family and wish to re-enroll, you may log into your account at [www.oakmeadow.com](http://www.oakmeadow.com) and complete the process online.* If we have any questions, an Enrollment Counselor will call you to clarify. Otherwise, you can expect the welcome packet and a communication from your teacher to arrive a few weeks before your start date.