

2020-2021 Course Catalogue



ARE YOU FUTURE READY?



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Disclaimer

The American Nicaraguan School reserves the right to update course information, as needed, throughout the school year. The School reserves the right to cancel any elective course, particularly those for which enrollment decreases to fewer than ten students.

Most recent update: February, 2020.

Introduction

Coursework at ANS values the transfer of learning to meaningful contributions in society. Foundation to this is students' development of core values and essential skills. Across ANS courses, curriculum is written by teacher teams as inquiry-based units that foster the development of our six core values through student-centered learning experiences. To best take advantage of engaging and rigorous coursework, students must master essential skills as self-led learners. This section details both core values and essential skills at ANS.

Core Values

Social Responsibility

- How do we live in relation to others?
- How can I contribute to the community?
- How can I help others?
- Are my needs/wants impeding those of others?

Environmental Stewardship

- Where do we live?
- What resources do we have or need?
- How do I care for the natural resources?

Innovation and Creativity

- Why and how do we create?
- What are the consequences?
- How do space and materials drive the process?

Intellectual Curiosity

- What am I curious about?
- What do I want to learn?
- How am I changing?

Global Awareness

- How can I make a difference in the world?
- How does location impact universal problems?
- How can I make the world a more peaceful place?

Respect for Self and Others

- How can we be a more inclusive community?
- How can we teach our community about important topics in adolescent development?
- How can character play a greater role in our community?

Essential Skills

- How do I manage my learning?
- How do I know?
- How do I communicate my understanding?

Through essential skills, students are provided with the tools to enable them to take responsibility for their own learning. Central to this is "learning how to learn" and developing in individuals an awareness of how they learn best, of thought processes and of learning strategies. While all skills will be used throughout ANS courses, certain skills are highlighted in each particular unit of a course:

- Organizational skills and attitudes towards work
- Adaptability
- Entrepreneurialism
- Citizenship
- Collaborative skills
- Communication (Verbal, written and presentational)
- Information literacy/Research
- Time management
- Reflection
- Problem-solving and critical thinking skills

ANS Diploma

These are the requirements for an ANS High School Diploma

English 4 Credits	Spanish 4 Credits	Science 4 Credits	Social Studies 4 Credits	Senior Capstone 1 Credit
Mathematics 4 Credits	Physical Education 2 Credits	Fine Arts 0.5 Credits	Electives 8 Credits	

Electives are classes designed to enhance and enrich the educational experience at ANS. Students select from a diverse elective offering in fulfillment of this requirement for graduation. To some extent, this course offering varies from one year to the next. Electives may also serve to meet requirements for Global Studies recognition.

Awarding Credits:

- 1 credit will be issued for a yearlong course.
- 0.5 credits will be issued for a semester course.
- Students must receive a passing grade (D-, 60%) in order to receive credit.

If a student is to fail three or more full-year core courses during a given school year, she or he automatically fails the grade, and must repeat the school year if they choose to remain enrolled at ANS. They are not entitled to take remedial courses or for-credit exams.

If a student is to fail fewer than three courses during a given school year, they are required to remediate the course(s) and pass a for-credit exam(s) prior to the start of the following academic year. A student who passes the for-credit exam will receive a maximum grade of 60 for the course.

A student who does not take or does not pass the for-credit exam in two separate courses must repeat the year if he/she chooses to remain at ANS.

Diploma de Bachiller en Ciencias y Letras
 Granted by the Nicaraguan Ministry of Education

The American Nicaraguan School offers its students a complementary program of study, the Nicaraguan National Diploma (*Bachillerato*), which is accepted in Nicaragua, as well as other countries from Latin America, Europe and Asia. Please see below the requirements to earn the Nicaraguan National Diploma:

- Social Studies (including Geography and History of Nicaragua, Economics, Sociology, and Philosophy)
- Mathematics
- Foreign Language (English)
- Cultural and Artistic Expression
- Civics (known as Community Values in grade 7)
- Physical Education
- Technology
- Natural Sciences (including Chemistry, Physics, Biology)
- Spanish

Students opting to earn the Nicaraguan National Diploma must complete the required courses throughout their Secondary school years, starting in 7th grade. Classes such as Math, Science, English, Art, Music, and Physical Education meet the requirements for both programs: ANS High School Diploma and Nicaraguan National Diploma .

These courses are unique requirements for this program of study, and are not core requirements for the ANS Diploma.

Latin American Geography (.5)	Nicaraguan Geography (.5)	Sociology (.5*)	Cultural and Artistic Expression (2.5 additional credits*)
History of the Americas (.5)	Nicaraguan Civics (.5)	Philosophy (.5*)	

**Offered as summer options at ANS*

Global Studies Recognition

These are the requirements for completion of the Global Studies Recognition. **The following applies to the class of 2021 and beyond***.

- Students must meet all of the regular requirements for graduation from ANS.
- Students must have an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher in order to receive this recognition upon graduation from ANS.
- Students must participate in at least one academic international travel experience organized by ANS, and approved by Mrs. Lopez.
 - E.g. HACIA Democracy, Model United Nations, Global Issues Network (GIN) or Operation Smile LEA Conference.
- Students must take six classes from the approved classes below, including a minimum of 3 of the AP classes listed.
- Of the six classes taken from the approved AP and electives lists, at least four classes must be from the same field of study (STEAM or Humanities).
- Students must earn the service cord by completing a minimum of 100 hours of approved community service by the end of 12th grade.
- Students must earn a mastery level completion of the Senior Capstone Project, in alignment to the core value of Global Awareness, as co-evaluated by the Global Studies coordinator.

Approved AP List		Approved Electives List	
STEAM TRACK	HUMANITIES TRACK	STEAM TRACK	HUMANITIES TRACK
AP Biology	AP English Literature	Studio Art	Chinese III
AP Physics	AP Spanish Literature	Guitar II	Chinese IV
AP Calculus	AP US History	Concert Band	French III
AP Environmental Science	AP Economics	Architectural Design	French IV
AP Studio Art	AP Comparative Politics & Government	Forensic Biology	
AP CS50	AP Human Geography	Bioengineering	
AP Statistics	AP Chinese		
	AP French		
	AP World History		
	AP US Government & Politics		

** The Global Studies Coordinator reserves the right to update the course offering approved as upper-level electives on an annual basis.*

Visual & Performing Arts and Technology

ANS graduates must fulfill .5 credits of Visual & Performing Arts.

(Nicaraguan National Diploma candidates must complete 2.5 credits)

*Those Technology courses followed by an asterisk fulfill the V&P Arts requirement.

Art	Music	Technology*	Drama
Discover Art	Discover Music	Intro to Robotics	Drama One
Intro to Art	Instrumental Music I	Intro to Game Dev.	
Art I	Instrumental Music II	Photography & Film*	
Art II	Vocal Music I	Animation*	
Contemporary Art	Vocal Music II	AP CS50	
Digital Art	Guitar		
Architectural Design	Concert Band		
Drama			
Studio Art/AP Studio Art			

Art

Discover Art

6th Grade

This course is an introduction to the Elements of Art, which fosters student language to describe artwork using the language of art. Students develop and demonstrate the use of these Elements to create continually more complex pieces to express an intended idea. Students also explore color theory and how to send a message through the use of color.

Intro to Art

7th – 8th Grades

This course builds on students' development of design based on the elements of art in order to foster development of the Principles of Design. The goal of the course is to prepare students to interpret artwork and create compositions with a clear message. Students also learn to train their brains to create accurate drawings from observation.

Art I (0011) - 1 credit

9th-12th Grade Prerequisites: None

We begin Art I focusing on drawing skills. Because students enter the class with a broad range of abilities, each student is encouraged to build on what he or she already knows. We also explore color theory, composition, abstraction, collage and other contemporary art practices. Throughout the semester time is dedicated to making art intuitively and building creativity.

Art II (0010) - 1 credit

9th-12th Grade Prerequisite: Art I

Art II is a continuation of Art I with greater emphasis on fundamental skills while moving toward an exploration of developing an individual concept.

Contemporary Art (0034) - 0.5 credit

9th-12th Grade Prerequisites: None

In this practical art course, students will revisit known art mediums like illustration, collage and sculpture in exciting new ways inspired by today's art world. Students will not "learn how to draw realistically in this class," however; they'll become familiar with new ways of creating art useful for both new and experimented artists.

Digital Art (0446) – 0.5 credit

9th-12th Grade Prerequisites: None

This course explores basic design theory concepts and use of design computer programs: Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Google Sketchup and Cura. Students will develop criteria on good design examples, based not only in aesthetic appeal, but based in design concepts such as composition, color theory color psychology and functionality. Students will practice designing assigned projects and free-choice projects to encourage creativity.

The three dimensional part will be about 3D sculpting, the software and the concepts to represent objects or spaces and the process to print their projects with the 3D printer.

Architectural Design (0013) - 0.5 credit

9th-12th Grade Prerequisite: Some experience in drawing is recommended.

This course is an intensive introduction to the basic concepts of architectural design and theory. Students will receive hands/on training in the fundamentals of design, including architectural drawing, model making and conceptual development. In this course, students will start to develop their portfolios, as budding architects.

Studio Art / AP Studio Art (0005) - 1 credit

11th-12th Grade Prerequisites: Completion of Art II and See AP Criteria

Studio Art is for students with significant interest in art, particularly those who wish to pursue an art related career. Art I and Art II are prerequisites for taking Studio Art. In this class, we explore drawing, painting, sculpture, collage, printmaking, photography, and video as a vehicle of expression and communication. Although it is not an art history class, students do learn art history in order to

understand art in the broader historical context. Emphasis is placed on studying contemporary art and postmodern art making practices.

Music

Discover Music

Discover Music is a general music course where students experience learning to play an instrument both individually (the piano) and as part of an ensemble (drum line). The course also includes some singing of songs from different cultures and some analytical listening activities where students explore what music is and how it's organized. This knowledge is later applied in basic composition.

Vocal Music 1

7th-8th Grade Prerequisite: none

Vocal Music 1 is an introductory course focused on developing the skills necessary to sing clearly and accurately with confidence. Most class time is spent singing songs together as a group. Some of these songs are chosen by the students. Other activities include a variety of exercises to develop correct technique and an introduction to singing in parts.

Instrumental Music 1

7th-8th Grade Prerequisite: none

Instrumental Music 1 is an introductory course where students learn the basic skills necessary to play music on a woodwind or brass instrument. Students progress from basic technique to increasingly complex songs and arrangements and receive an introduction to improvisation. Instruments used in this course are supplied by the school.

Vocal Music 2

8th-12th Grade Prerequisite: Vocal Music 1

Vocal Music 2 is an intermediate level course where students further develop both individual and group singing skills. Students learn to stay on their part and blend in a group setting as well as exploring and improving their own voice through individual singing.

Instrumental Music 2

8th-12th Grade Prerequisite: Instrumental Music 1

In Instrumental Music 2 students further develop their individual and ensemble skills by playing music from a variety of genres. Some of this music is chosen by the students. The course also gives students the opportunity to explore and experience composition and improvisation.

Guitar (0465) - 1 credit

9th-12th Grade Prerequisites: None

Guitar is a multilevel course that covers the basic skills and knowledge needed to play different genres of music on the instrument. Students also develop the skills to be able to learn independently so they can pursue their own musical interests. Students need to bring their own guitars for this class.

Concert Band – 1 credit

9th-12th Grade Prerequisites: Completion of Instrumental Music 2 or special permission from the teacher

Concert band is a performing ensemble open to students who have already developed the skills necessary to play intermediate level music on a wind instrument. Most class time will be devoted to learning repertoire which we will perform on and off campus. This course will include an international trip to a music festival or exchange at another AASCA school.

Drama

Drama I – 1 credit

9th-12th Grade Prerequisites: None

Drama I is an arts based program that enhances students' ability to express themselves through performing and intensify their knowledge on modern and classical dramatic methods. The program is composed of several units including: Musical Theatre, Improvisation, Stage Movement and many others that will help the performer improve their theatric experience. All in all, the program's goal is to ensure student's growth in the performing arts, as well as to develop an appreciation and understanding of the dramatic arts.

Technology

Introduction to Animation (0436) - 0.5 credits

8th-12th Grade Prerequisites: None

This course is ideal for students who want to explore the world of Animation more in detail and challenge their creativity as we cover different kinds of animation such as Computer Animation, Traditional Animation and Stop Motion.

Photography & Film – 0.5 credits

8th-12th Grade Prerequisites: None

Students will learn the basics of photography and filmmaking, which include: scripting/storyboarding, using multiple angles and composition techniques, editing and getting a clear understanding of the pre-production, production and post-production process in both photography and movie making.

Introduction to Game Development – 1 credit

8th-12th Grade Prerequisites: None

This course is great for students who like coding and design and want to gain understanding of fundamental game design principles through the development of 2D and 3D game prototypes. It challenges your creativity, problem-solving and computational thinking skills while engages you in the development of a world-wide and current technology.

Introduction to Robotics (0442) - 1 Credit

8th-12th Grade Prerequisites: None

This course is ideal for students who enjoy problem-solving and want to develop interpersonal skills by working in a collaborative team setting while building and programming robots to overcome challenges. This course will help them develop critical thinking and do basic STEM applications while programming their robots.

AP CS50 – 1 credit

10th -12th Grade Prerequisite: See AP Criteria

This course designed by Harvard University is meant for students who want to take the AP Computer Science Principles test. It covers all the contents from CS50 in which a variety of programming languages are used (C, Python, SQL, Java, CSS, HTML), and where the main takeaway is using strategic thinking to create, within a symbolic language. Problem sets are inspired by real-world domains of biology, cryptography, finance, forensics, and gaming. Students will prepare a digital portfolio for submission to College Board to demonstrate their learning, in addition to the AP test.

Foreign Languages

Chinese and French are offered as elective courses.

Chinese	French
Intro to Chinese	Intro to French
Chinese I	French I
Chinese II	French II
Chinese III	French III
Chinese IV	French IV or AP

Chinese

Intro to Chinese (1174) – 0.5 credit

7th – 8th Grades Prerequisite: None

This semester-long course allows students to survey cultural learning and communication skills in Chinese. Students learn basic conversational skills and begin learning the pinyin writing system, as well as hallmarks of Chinese culture. This course is intended to offer students an opportunity to determine their interest in pursuing advanced studies of Chinese language.

Chinese I (0051) - 1 credit

7th-11th Grade Prerequisites: None

This class begins learning the pinyin writing system, as students master 350 words for listening and speaking and over 170 characters for reading and 100 characters for writing. Students will be able to use simple sentences and ask questions.

Chinese II (0052) - 1 credit

8th-12th Grade Prerequisite: Chinese I

This class learns more than 360 basic words for listening and speaking, and about two-thirds of the oral language vocabulary for reading and half of it for writing, adjustable depending upon the students' learning pace. They continue learning more basic sentences and questions.

Chinese III (0053) - 1 credit

9th-12th Grade Prerequisite: Chinese II

Students will continue expanding their Chinese by 600 words and 137 grammatical sentences. The course content focuses on campus activities and daily life and situational dialogue practice. Students will do essay writing practice.

Chinese IV (0054) - 1 credit

9th-12th Grade Prerequisite: Chinese III

Students will continue expanding their Chinese by 600 words for listening and speaking. They will also have a simple understanding of Chinese culture, including social, historical, and geographical. They will use situational dialogue practice and essay writing practice.

AP Chinese (0055) - 1 credit

9th-12th Grade Prerequisite: Chinese IV See AP Criteria

In AP Chinese, students will add 625 words and 119 grammatical sentences to their repertoire. They will also have a thorough understanding of Chinese culture, including social, historical, geographical, ways of the world. They will have practice in both situational dialogue and essay writing.

French

Intro to French (0065) – 0.5 credit

7th – 8th Grades Prerequisite: None

This semester-long course allows students to survey cultural learning and communication skills in French. Students learn basic conversational skills, hallmarks of French culture and those of the French-speaking world. This course is intended to offer students an opportunity to determine their interest in pursuing fluency in the French language.

French I (0060) - 1 credit

7th-12th Grade Prerequisite: None

In this introductory level, students learn basic conversational skills, including vocabulary on topics such as: likes and dislikes, family, friends and school. Students work on four competences: speaking, listening, reading and writing. A secondary emphasis is placed on cultural learning. Students learn about the French speaking world and participate in the *Francophonie* celebration held in March.

French II (0061) - 1 credit

8th-12th Grade Prerequisite: Completion of French I

In this level students are able to better apply and deepen what they have learned in level 1. They are encouraged to have conversations about what they do, what they have done and what they will do; employing different verb tenses. In level 2 we continue to work in the 4 competences, with a larger focus on verbal expression. Students participate in the *Francophonie* celebration held in March. Anchor course materials are the *Bien Dit!* Level 2 and authentic realia, such as poems, songs, video and short novels.

French III (0062) - 1 credit

9th-12th Grade Prerequisite: Completion of French II

Students learn to talk about abstract concepts like love and friendship and to tell anecdotes about everyday life. They read and write original short stories. They also have debates about

current events and the news. Students participate in the Francophonie celebration held in March.

French IV (0064) - 1 credit

9th-12th Grade Prerequisite: Completion of French III

In this level students polish their knowledge of French to engage in advanced language activities. They are able to argue and debate, write essays and interpret authentic realia such as radio shows and French movies, newspaper articles and novels. Students help lead and design the Francophonie celebration held in March.

AP French Language (0063) - 1 credit

9th-12th Grade Prerequisite: French IV See AP Criteria

This course prepares students to pursue a college-level of reading comprehension, writing, and listening and speaking skills in French. Upon the completion of this course, students are prepared for success on the corresponding AP examination that is administered in May.

Spanish

Graduates must fulfill 4 credits of Spanish at the High School level.

Spanish Language Arts (compatible with the Nicaraguan National Diploma)
Spanish Language Arts 6
Spanish Language Arts 7
Spanish Language Arts 8
Spanish Language Arts 9
Spanish Language Arts 10
Latin American Literature (11th)
AP Spanish Literature and Culture OR 20th Century Latin American Literature (12th)

6	SLL 1	SLL 2	SLL 3	SLL 4
7	SLL 2	SLL 3	SLL 4	SLL 5
8	SLL 3	SLL 4	SLL 5	Español 7
9	SLL 4	AP Spanish Language	Español 8	Español 8
10	AP Spanish Language	Español 9	Español 9	Español 9
11	Español 10	Español 10	Español 10	Español 10
12	Español 11	Español 11	Español 11	Español 11

A diagnostic language exam will determine a student’s placement in Spanish Language Arts or the Spanish Language Learners track. The AP Spanish Language & Culture Exam is open for registration to students who are *not* enrolled in the course, but *are* enrolled in Spanish Literature courses. ANS students are strongly recommended to register for the Spanish Language & Culture exam, which is announced in August by the Counseling Department.

Spanish Language Arts

Spanish Language Arts 6 - 1 credit

Prerequisites: None

This course will target students’ growth in the areas of reading, writing, listening and speaking through formal strategies of close reading and student-led discussion. Students will develop and demonstrate those grammar and usage conventions that are unique to the Spanish language, like accents and certain punctuation. Students will develop and demonstrate sophistication of writing in narrative, argumentative and informational genres .

Spanish Language Arts 7 - 1 credit

Prerequisites: None

This course will target students’ growth in the areas of reading, writing, listening and speaking through formal strategies of close reading and presentational skills. Students will develop and demonstrate reading comprehension and conventions of writing through individual conferences. Students will develop and demonstrate sophistication of writing in narrative, argumentative and informational genres.

Spanish Language Arts 8 - 1 credit

Prerequisites: None

This course will target students’ growth in the areas of reading, writing, listening and speaking through formal strategies of close reading and presentational skills. Students will develop and demonstrate

reading comprehension and conventions of writing through individual conferences. Students will develop and demonstrate sophistication of writing in narrative, argumentative and informational genres.

Spanish Language Arts 9 (0070) - 1 credit

Prerequisites: Spanish Language Arts 8

The 9th Grade Spanish course is designed in a way that students may develop and put into practice the four fundamental areas of the language: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. While readings will highlight the medieval Spanish period, other works of current interest and of student interest will be included.

Spanish Language Arts 10 (0071) - 1 credit

The 10th Grade Spanish course is designed in a way that students may develop and put into practice the four fundamental areas of the language: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. This course combines theory with application through exercises covering different aspects practiced in the classroom. While readings covering the different Spanish literary movements will be highlighted, other works of current interest and of student interest will be included.

Spanish 11: Latin American Literature (0072) Honors Spanish 11 (0077) - 1 credit

This course will foster a deep analysis of some of the most significant literary expressions of indigenous societies through 19th century Latin America. Students will identify the contributions and characteristics of these literary movements in relation to the cultural identity and role of America in them.

Spanish 12: Twentieth Century Latin American Literature (0073) - 1 credit

This course will foster a deep analysis of some of the most significant literature of the twentieth century across Latin America, with a particular emphasis on modern and contemporary Nicaraguan Literature.

AP Spanish Literature & Culture (0074) - 1 credit

12th Grade Prerequisite: See AP Criteria

This course offers students a broad survey of different literary movements, authors, and literary works written in Spanish from Spain, Latin America and the United States. Students develop and demonstrate literary analysis skills in reading and writing. Completion of this course fosters interest in interdisciplinary study of Latin American affairs.

Spanish Language Learners (SLL)

Spanish Language Learners I (0080) - 1 credit

6th - 12th Grade Prerequisite: No prior Spanish

This course will initiate students to the Spanish language by learning functional vocabulary and language. This gives the SLL beginners the tools they need in order to survive in a Spanish-speaking country.

Spanish Language Learners II (0081) - 1 credit

6th-12th Grade Prerequisite: SLL I or placement exam

The purpose of this course is to work in developing the four basic skills of the language as well as enhance the students' performance through a communicative approach and a solid foundation in grammar and vocabulary.

Spanish Language Learners III (0082) - 1 credit

6th-12th Grade Prerequisite: SLL II or placement exam

The purpose of this course is to continue to work in developing the four basic skills of the Spanish language as well as enhance the students' language performance in and outside the classroom. This level emphasizes the use of proper grammar structures and writing styles.

Spanish Language Learners IV (0083) - 1 credit

6th-12th Grade Prerequisite: SLL III or placement exam

This course aims to reinforce basic skills, continues to develop understanding and critical thinking through reading works from Latin American authors. It builds an interest in cultural and literary studies.

AP Spanish Language (0084) - 1 credit

9th-12th Grade Prerequisite: SLL III or IV or teacher recommendation

This course prepares students to pursue a college-level of reading comprehension, writing, listening and speaking skills in Spanish. Upon the completion of this course, students are prepared for success on the corresponding AP examination that is administered in May.

English Language Arts

Graduates must fulfill 4 credits of English Language Arts at the High School level.

6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade	9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
ELA 6	ELA 7	ELA 8	World Literature 9	World Literature 10	American Literature	British Literature
		Honors ELA 8	Honors World Literature 9	Honors World Literature 10	AP English Language & Composition	AP English Literature & Composition
					AP English Literature & Composition	AP English Literature & Composition

ELA 6 (1020) - 1 credit

Prerequisites: None

This course will target students' growth in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking through formal strategies of close reading and student-led discussion. Students will deepen their interest in reading as a habit, maintaining a two-hour *minimum* commitment to independent reading outside of class. Students will develop and demonstrate sophistication of writing in narrative, argumentative and informational genres .

ELA 7 (1021) - 1 credit

Prerequisites: None

This course will target students' growth in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking through formal strategies of close reading and student-led discussion. Students will develop and demonstrate reading comprehension through individual conferences; they are expected to maintain a two-hour *minimum* independent reading outside of class. Students will develop and demonstrate sophistication of writing in narrative, argumentative and informational genres.

ELA 8 (1022) - 1 credit

Prerequisites: None

This course will target students' growth in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking through formal strategies of close reading and student-led discussion. Students will explore independent reading choices based on peer and teacher recommendations, broadening their interests and understanding; they are expected to maintain a two-hour *minimum* commitment to independent reading outside of class. Students will develop and demonstrate sophistication of writing in narrative, argumentative and informational genres.

Honors ELA 8 (1023) - 1 credit

Prerequisite: None See Honors Criteria

This course is designed to engage students in active, high-level learning across a variety of literature and informational texts. Students will explore independent reading choices based on peer and teacher recommendations, broadening their interests and understanding; they are expected to enjoy and challenge themselves to a daily commitment to independent reading outside of class. Students

will consider literary works in relation to their own lives and experience. Students will develop and demonstrate sophistication of writing in narrative, argumentative and informational genres.

9th World Literature (0100) - 1 credit

9th Grade Prerequisites: None

Students will explore literature from different cultures and eras, identifying the many factors that affect the final product and reader. Students will consider literary works in relation to their own lives and experience. Students must demonstrate mastery of grammar and usage and will develop their written and spoken vocabularies.

9th Honors World Literature (0120) - 1 credit

9th Prerequisites: See Honors Criteria

This course is designed to engage students in active, high-level learning, thereby ensuring that every student develops the skills, habits of mind, and concepts they will need to succeed in AP courses. Students will explore literature from different cultures and eras, identifying the many factors that affect the final product and reader. Students will consider literary works in relation to their own lives and experience. Students must demonstrate mastery of grammar and usage and will develop their written and spoken vocabularies.

10th World Literature (0101) - 1 credit

10th Grade Prerequisite: 9th grade World Literature

Students are expected to interpret, analyze, evaluate and critique texts to show their understanding of the literature. The breadth of literature is subject to change, but has included: *The Alchemist*, *The Tempest*, *Night*, *Metamorphosis* and *Black Dog of Fate*. Students are expected to demonstrate these skills through the 4 modalities of language: speaking, listening, reading and writing. To do so, students must practice time management skills to keep up with independent reading and to prepare for Socratic Seminars, Literature Circles and other collaborative learning engagements.

10th Honors World Literature (0121) - 1 credit

10th Grade Prerequisites: See Honors Criteria

Students are expected to interpret, analyze, evaluate and critique these texts to demonstrate insightful, original analysis of literature. The breadth of literature is subject to change, but has included: *1984*, *The Tempest*, *Siddhartha*, *On The Beach*, as well as paired student selections. Students are expected to demonstrate these skills through the 4 modalities of language: speaking, listening, reading and writing. To do so, students must practice time management skills to keep up with independent reading and to prepare for Socratic Seminars, Literature Circles and other collaborative learning engagements.

American Literature (0102) - 1 credit

11th Grade Prerequisite: 10th grade English

In this course, students will develop writing skills that allow them to authentically present their critical analysis of texts, and their place in the world. Students will expand their literary diet through peer and teacher recommendations, reader's and writer's notebooks to deepen their reflection and comprehension and by maintaining a commitment to independent reading outside of class time. Throughout, students must demonstrate reading, writing, listening and speaking skills in original and authentic published pieces, of digital, print and spoken form.

British Literature (0103) - 1 credit

12th Grade Prerequisite: 11th grade English

This course will survey the profound influence that England and its former empire have had upon world literature, and in so doing, will explore themes of identity, oppression, and monstrosity through all units. Students will pair their independent reading choices alongside texts such as: *Beowulf*; *The Canterbury Tales*; *Othello*; *Frankenstein*; *Dracula*; *Cry*, *The Beloved Country* and *The Namesake*. Students will explore the dichotomy between self and other, the myriad ways we understand people and cultures in both independent and interrelated ways... In what ways does British literary history influence global citizenship and cultural awareness? Students will explore that essential question and the overarching themes through the 4 modalities of language.

AP English Language and Composition (0122) – 1 credit

11th and 12th Grades Prerequisite: See AP Criteria

AP English Language and Composition is an introductory college-level composition course. Students cultivate their understanding of writing and rhetorical arguments through reading, analyzing, and writing texts as they explore topics like rhetorical situation, claims and evidence, reasoning and organization, and style.

AP English Literature and Composition (0123) - 1 credit

12th Grade Prerequisite: See AP Criteria

AP English Literature and Composition is an introductory college-level literary analysis course. Students cultivate their understanding of literature through reading and analyzing texts as they explore concepts like character, setting, structure, perspective, figurative language, and literary analysis in the context of literary works.

Global Journalism (0428) - 1 credit

9th-12th Grade Prerequisite: None

This elective will focus on the skills and knowledge required to produce a newspaper and press releases, and how to communicate effectively. Students will devote much of their time to the publication of their school newspaper. They will decide on the name and will write, design and format a paper that is published every 3 weeks. Students will learn how to conduct interviews, write in a variety of journalistic forms, discuss editorial positions, and help produce and edit the newspaper. They will learn how to evaluate news, advertising, and propaganda effectively. Students will also have opportunities to understand how to gain exposure and attract the press by working with our Public Relations Director on promoting events, press releases and articles.

Mathematics

Graduates must fulfill 4 credits of mathematics at the HS level.

Students are encouraged to consider taking additional math courses, providing that they meet the necessary prerequisites.

6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade	9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
Math 6	Math 7	Math 8	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II Statistics	Pre-Calculus
		Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	Pre-Calculus	AP Calculus
					AP Statistics	AP Statistics

Math 6 (1000) - 1 credit

Prerequisite: None

This course explores foundational math concepts building increasing sophistication across the eight math practices. Math 6 emphasizes development of concepts such as unit rates and ratios, area and surface area, operations with rational numbers, algebraic expressions and data sets and distributions.

Math 7 (1009) - 1 credit

Prerequisite: None

This course continues to build student sophistication across the eight math practices. Math 7 emphasizes development of pre-algebra concepts such as expressions, equations, and inequalities using variables. Proportional relationships are covered in depth, as well as geometric work with scale factor and the measurement of circles.

Math 8 (1008) - 1 credit

Prerequisite: None

This course refines student abilities across the eight math practices. Math 8 introduces the basic algebraic concept of a linear equation with two variables, as well as finding solutions to systems of equations. Functions and graphing on the coordinate plane are covered, along with an introduction to slope. Students will work with positive and negative exponents, and cover the geometric topics of transformations on the coordinate plane and the Pythagorean Theorem.

Algebra 1 (0150) - 1 credit

Prerequisite: successful completion of middle school math

This course is designed to strengthen students' math skills learned in the middle grades. The units deepen and extend understanding of linear and exponential relationships by contrasting

them with each other and by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. Finally, students engage in methods for analyzing, solving, and using quadratic functions in pure and applied contexts.

Students are required to have a scientific calculator; a graphing calculator from the TI-84 Plus family is recommended.

Geometry (0151) - 1 credit

Prerequisite: Algebra I

This course formalizes and extends students' geometric experiences from the middle grades. Students explore more complex geometric situations and deepen their explanations of geometric relationships, moving towards formal mathematical arguments in pure and applied contexts.

Students are required to have a scientific calculator; a graphing calculator from the TI-84 Plus family is recommended.

Algebra 2 (0152) - 1 credit

Prerequisite: Algebra I must be completed; Geometry must be either completed or in-progress.

Algebra 2 is a year-long course designed to build on previously explored algebraic and geometric concepts. It develops advanced algebra skills as students learn to recognize, describe, and generalize patterns among different types of functions. Emphasis will be placed on a student's ability to transfer between different types of mathematical expression including written prose, mathematical symbols/equations, contextual situations, tables and graphs. Through such analysis, students will learn to interpret results, make conjectures, and apply mathematical reasoning to solve real-world problems. Students will use mathematical statements and representations to describe linear, exponential, logarithmic, polynomial, and trigonometric functions. Students will also be introduced to sequences and series and statistical topics of univariate and bivariate analysis, probability and normal distributions.

Students are required to have a graphing calculator from the TI-84 Plus family.

Precalculus (0153) - 1 credit

11th-12th Grade Prerequisite: Algebra 2

Precalculus lays the groundwork for advanced math courses students may take in their college studies such as Calculus and Linear Algebra. This course puts special emphasis on developing students' analytical and critical thinking skills through progressively challenging problem solving tasks, and aims to strengthen students' ability to make connections between geometric and algebraic representations of mathematical concepts. Students begin Precalculus by taking an in-depth look at functions by studying transformations, inverses and composition of functions with the functions they studied in Algebra 2 (polynomial, exponential, logarithmic and trigonometric functions), while adding on the study of rational and inverse trigonometric functions. Around a third of the course is devoted to trigonometry,

taking special interest in the proving of trigonometric identities and laws. Throughout the rest of the course, students are formally introduced to the complex number system, the conic sections, matrices and vectors.

Students are required to have a graphing calculator from the TI-84 Plus family.

Statistics (0155) - 1 credit

11th-12th Grade Prerequisite: Algebra 2 or Geometry

Statistics is an introductory course designed to give students the basic concepts of data analysis and statistical computing. The topics covered include simple descriptive measures, correlation tests, probability theory, confidence intervals and testing of hypotheses. Technological applications of the graphing calculator and online statistical applets are emphasized for analyzing data. The main aim is to provide practical methods for students to test statistical statements with application in the real world.

Students are required to have a graphing calculator from the TI-84 Plus family.

AP Statistics – 1 credit

11th-12th Grade Prerequisite: Algebra 2 or Statistics; See AP Criteria

AP Statistics is the high school equivalent of a one semester, introductory college statistics course. In this class, students develop strategies for collecting, organizing, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students design, administer, and interpret results from surveys and experiments. Probability and simulations aid students in constructing models for random behavior. Sampling distributions provide the underlying logic for confidence intervals and significance tests. Students use a graphing calculator and online applets to analyze data, investigate statistical concepts, and perform inference. Use of statistical software is demonstrated and examples of output from statistical software are provided for students to interpret throughout the course. Students are required to prepare frequent written and oral analyses of real data to develop effective statistical communication

Students are required to have a graphing calculator from the TI-84 Plus family.

Calculus (0154) - 1 credit

12th Grade Prerequisite: Precalculus

Calculus is a branch of mathematics that involves the study of rates of change. Before calculus was invented, all math was static: It could only help calculate objects that were perfectly still. But the universe is constantly moving and changing. Calculus helped to determine how particles, stars, and matter actually move and change in real time. This course is designed to give students an overview of Calculus topics including limits, derivatives and integrals of algebraic and trigonometric functions, and their applications. Emphasis is placed on being able to solve problems with and without a graphing calculator..

Students are required to have a graphing calculator from the TI-84 Plus family.

College Algebra (0151B) - 1 credit

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 (Must take Statistics or Geometry concurrently)

College Algebra provides a comprehensive exploration of algebraic principles and meets scope and sequence requirements for a typical Algebra 1 course and introduces concepts taught in Algebra 2. This course offers a wealth of examples with detailed, conceptual explanations, building a strong foundation in the material before asking students to apply what they've learned. The course covers algebra essentials including classification of numbers, algebraic properties, and simple equations; functions and their graphs including Linear, Quadratic, Polynomial, Rational, Exponential, and Logarithmic Functions, and Systems of Equations and Inequalities. It is designed to prepare the student for an Algebra 2 course. This course not only covers basic concepts but emphasizes practical uses of the topics covered through applied problems.

Students are required to have a graphing calculator from the TI-84 Plus family.

AP Calculus

Prerequisite: Precalculus See AP Criteria

This course stresses an intuitive approach as well as problem-solving techniques. Major topics include limits, derivatives and integrals of algebraic and trigonometric functions, and applications. Emphasis is placed on being able to solve problems with and without a graphing calculator.

Students are required to have a graphing calculator from the TI-84 Plus family.

Science

Graduates must fulfill 4 credits of science at the High School level.

6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade	9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
Earth & Space	Life	Physical	Environmental	Biology	Chemistry	Physics

Electives
AP Biology
Forensic Biology
Bioengineering

Note: The Science Department offers all 9-12th HS Science Core classes (Environmental Sciences, Biology, Chemistry and Physics) with the NGSS (Next Generation of Science Standards) 3D framework, which encompasses Science Practices/Skills, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Cross cutting concepts. The use of technology, math and data spreadsheets are also prevalent. All courses are delivered with inquiry and phenomena based learning which allow students to explore the natural world.

Earth & Space Science (1040) - 1 credit

Prerequisite: None

In this course we will study the dynamic processes that shape our planet Earth as well as investigate our place in our universe. Through the lens of inquiry, students will explore the scientific method, structure and models of the Earth, atmospheric forces affecting climate and weather, the geologic processes that have changed the Earth's surface, as well as the night sky as it relates to our solar system. This year will be filled with a variety of venues to challenge and support the student through a combination of lab investigations, modeling, reading and data interpretation. This is an exciting science with many interesting and practical applications designed to develop and solidify a passion for the scientific world.

Life Science (1041) – 1 credit

Prerequisite: None

This course invites students to investigate the world of living things—at levels both large and small—through reading, observing, and experimenting with all aspects of life on earth. Students will explore an amazing variety of organisms, the complex workings of the cell, the relationship between living things and their environments, and discoveries in the world of modern genetics. Through practical, hands-on lesson activities students will develop the skills necessary to make scientific observations, keep records of their observations, analyze the data they collect, and illustrate relationships in charts and graphs to explore more than one way to interpret their findings.

Physical Science (1042) - 1 credit

Prerequisites: None

Physical Science is the in-depth study of matter and energy. In this course, students will describe and model the atomic and molecular structure of substances, investigate how chemical reactions involve energy and lead to changes in properties of substances, model different kinds of forces and the effect they have on the motion of objects, apply concepts of electricity and magnetism to explain how motors, generators, and electromagnets work, and discuss energy transformations in objects and

systems, including how heat flows between objects that are at different temperatures. Students who are interested in problem solving, and critical thinking are engaged through real-world interactive labs and field work through the process of scientific inquiry.

Environmental Science (0249) - 1 credit

9th Grade Prerequisites: None

The aim of this course is to ensure that students develop a fundamental understanding of past and present relationships among air, water, rocks, minerals and biota. The emphasis is on the interactions between humans and the environment. Students are introduced to designing investigations, data collection, processing, and analyzing data using Statistical Analysis (correlation, histograms, box plots, and t-testing) on Google Sheets. Students are required to make deeper connections with the course content, applying and drawing connections with: patterns, cause/effect, scales/proportions, structures/functions, stability/change, energy/matter, and systems and system models. Students will communicate their results using evidence based arguments.

Biology (0250) - 1 credit

10th Grade Prerequisites: Environmental Science

Biology is the study of life. Students will develop an understanding of fundamental principles and mechanisms of all living organisms. Students will study the following topics: Structures and Functions, Interdependent Relationships with Organisms and Ecosystems, Genetics, Natural Selection and Evolution, Energy and Matter of organisms and ecosystems. Students will carry out investigations, data collection, processing, and analyzing data using Statistical Analysis (correlation, histograms, box plots, and t-testing) on Google Sheets. Students are required to make deeper connections with the course content, applying and drawing connections with: patterns, cause/effect, scales/proportions, structures/functions, stability/change, energy/matter, and systems and system models. Students will communicate their results using evidence based arguments.

Chemistry (0251) - 1 credit

11th Grade Prerequisites: Biology and Algebra I

Chemistry is the study of matter. Students will develop knowledge and understanding of: chemical compositions and concentrations, chemical reactions, chemical properties, stoichiometry, organic and inorganic substances, various forms of matter, applications and uses of chemistry in society, the environment, industry, and research. Students will carry out investigations, data collection, processing, and analyzing data using Statistical Analysis (correlation, histograms, box plots, and t-testing) on Google Sheets. Students are required to make deeper connections with the course content, applying and drawing connections with: patterns, cause/effect, scales/proportions, structures/functions, stability/change, energy/matter, and systems and system models. Students will communicate their results using evidence based arguments. Emphasize is given to algebraic thinking.

Physics (0252) - 1 Credit

12th Grade Prerequisite: Chemistry

Physics is the study of matter, its motion and behavior through space and time. Students will learn Newtonian Mechanics, Structure and Properties of Matter, Conservation of Energy and Energy transfer, Electromagnetic Radiation, Forces, and Waves. Students will carry out investigations, data collection, processing, and analyzing data using Statistical Analysis (correlation, histograms, box plots, and t-testing) on Google Sheets. Students are required to make deeper connections with the

course content, applying and drawing connections with: patterns, cause/effect, scales/proportions, structures/functions, stability/change, energy/matter, and systems and system models. Students will communicate their results using evidence based arguments. Emphasize is given to algebraic thinking.

Science Electives

AP Biology (0256)

11th-12th Grade Prerequisite: 10th Biology, 11th Chemistry (can be taken parallel)

The AP Biology course is designed to enable students to develop advanced inquiry and reasoning skills, such as designing a plan for collecting data, analyzing data, applying mathematical routines, and connecting concepts in and across domains. The result will be readiness for the study of advanced topics in subsequent college courses — a goal of every AP course. AP Biology course is equivalent to a two-semester college introductory biology course and has been endorsed enthusiastically by higher education officials.

Forensic Biology (0264) - .5 Credit

10th-12th Grade Prerequisite: None

Forensic Biology introduces the student to basic techniques used in a criminal investigation. This is a multidisciplinary course involving aspects Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Engineering to analyze crime scenes. Forensic biology examines body tissue, hair, bones, blood, insects and plants and animal remains to help identify victims and support criminal investigations. Using technology in the lab and in the field, students collect and analyze biological evidence to determine the time and cause of death of victims. Emphasis is given to crime scene data collection, and developing arguments with this data and the use of math.

Bioengineering (0265) - .5 Credit

10th-12th Grade Prerequisite: None

Bioengineering introduces the student to standard techniques and concepts used in DNA modification, artificial tissue and organs, prosthetics and biomedical equipment. The course revolves around the theme of Design Challenges. Students are exposed to important Biomimicry concepts used in industries. Students work in teams to solve current problems by inventing, designing, redesigning, optimizing, prototyping, and trial and error learning. This course also reviews engineering trade offs, social responsibility and applications in industries. Students put into practice several math skills (graphing, formulas and statistics) to make improvement in their designs.

Social Studies

Graduates must fulfill 4 credits of social studies at the High School level.

*Courses listed as requirements for Nicaraguan National Diploma.

6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade	9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
Ancient World History	Nicaraguan Geography*	U.S. History	World History	Modern World History	U.S. History	Economics
	Nicaraguan History*	Latin American Geography*	Nicaraguan Geography*	AP World History	AP U.S. History	AP Economics
		Latin American History*	Nicaraguan Civics**		AP U.S. Government & Politics	

Electives
AP Comparative Government
AP Human Geography
Philosophy*
Sociology*
Introduction to Psychology

Ancient World History - 1 credit

6th Grade

This course constructs the time period between the emergence of the first civilizations (10,000BC) through the Empires of the East during the Middle Ages (1300). Students will develop and demonstrate understanding of this era through evidence-based historical thinking, geographical reasoning skills, and an exploration of the economic foundations and civic participation worldwide across these time periods.

Nicaraguan Geography – 0.5 credit

7th Grade

This course explores Nicaragua’s land assets, population trends and economic activities related to natural resources. Students will develop and demonstrate geographical reasoning skills and the intersection of economic foundations with human geography.

Nicaraguan History – 0.5 credit

7th Grade

This course constructs a timeline of social, economic and political history, beginning with the indigenous fabric of Nicaraguan society through the modern day Nicaraguan state. Students will develop and demonstrate historical thinking skills and an understanding of civic participation within these contexts.

U.S History - 1 credit

8th Grade

This course constructs a timeline of social, economic and political history of the United States, beginning with the indigenous cultural fabric that preceded the colonization of North America and eventual establishment of the United States. The focus is on the turn of the 16th century through the Civil War. Students will develop, and be required to demonstrate evidence-based writing skills for historical analysis, geographic reasoning, understanding of economic factors and awareness of civic mindedness. Outside of class time, students are responsible for keeping up with independent reading and preparing to participate in and perform on: collaborative learning engagements, in-class document based essays and Socratic Seminars.

Geography of The Americas – 0.5 credit

8th Grade Prerequisite: None (Class instruction in Spanish)

This course explores the vast and varied land assets, population trends and economic activities related to natural resources across the Americas. Students will develop and demonstrate geographical reasoning skills and will deepen their exposure to human geography.

History of The Americas – 0.5 credit

8th Grade Prerequisite: None (Class instruction in Spanish)

This course constructs a timeline, highlighting those commonalities and differences across the Americas, beginning with the rich legacy of indigenous societies through the nationalist tendencies of the late 20th century. Students will develop and demonstrate historical thinking skills and an understanding of civic participation across these contexts.

World History (0300) - 1 credit

9th Grade Prerequisite: None

This course constructs the historical period from the 14th century (Renaissance, Ming Dynasty) through 1814 (Congress of Vienna). Students will develop and demonstrate understanding of this era through evidence-based historical thinking, geographical reasoning skills, and an exploration of the economic foundations and civic participation worldwide across these time periods. Outside of class time, students are responsible for keeping up with independent reading and preparing to participate in and perform on: collaborative learning engagements, in-class document based essays and Socratic Seminars.

Nicaraguan Geography (0311) - 0.5 credit

9th Grade Prerequisite: None (Class instruction in Spanish)

This is the third level of Geography in which students deepen their geographical reasoning with respect to Nicaragua's location and resources. Issues of resource conservation and consequences of economic activities offer students an introduction to human geography within this particular context.

Nicaraguan Civics - 0.5 credit

9th Grade Prerequisite: None (Class instruction in Spanish)

This semester-long Civics course focuses on the following national curriculum standards (as translated from Spanish): Our National Identity, Our Magna Carta, Road Safety, Responsible Consumption and Tax Payment, My Rights and Responsibilities and Constructing Our Democracy.

AP World History (0333) - 1 credit

10th Grade Core Course (11th – 12th Elective) Prerequisite: See AP Criteria

AP World History is a rigorous study taught in a year course to highly capable and motivated students. The course will cover the development of human societies over the centuries in Africa, Asia, the Americas, and Europe, focusing on the dynamics of continuity and change. Through extensive analysis of primary source documents, the textbook and study guides, students will acquire information, identify viewpoints, and examine central themes. The five overarching themes include humans and the environment, cultural developments and interactions, governance, economic systems, social interactions and organization, and technology and innovation. The course is divided into eight major units, starting from c. 1200 CE to the present. Students are expected to understand major developments both regionally and worldwide, as well as make comparisons between cultures and time periods.

Modern World History (0301) - 1 credit

10th Grade Prerequisite: World History

This class constructs the recent history of our contemporary world (from the Congress of Vienna through September 11, 2001). Students will develop and demonstrate understanding of this era through evidence-based historical thinking, geographical reasoning skills, and an exploration of the economic foundations and civic participation worldwide across these time periods. Outside of class time, students are responsible for keeping up with independent reading and preparing to participate in and perform on: collaborative learning engagements, in-class document based essays and Socratic Seminars.

U.S. History (0302) - 1 credit

11th Grade Prerequisite: Modern World History

This course constructs the recent history of the United States, from 1878 to today. Students will develop, and be required to demonstrate evidence-based writing skills for historical analysis, geographic reasoning, an understanding of economic factors and awareness of civic mindedness. Outside of class time, students are responsible for keeping up with

independent reading and preparing to participate in and perform on: collaborative learning engagements, in-class document based essays and Socratic Seminars.

AP U.S. Government & Politics– 1 credit

11th Grade (12th Grade Elective) Prerequisite: See AP Criteria

AP U.S. Government and Politics provides a college-level, nonpartisan introduction to key political concepts, ideas, institutions, policies, and interactions that characterize the constitutional system and political culture of the United States. Students study U.S. foundational documents, Supreme Court decisions, and other texts and visuals to gain an understanding of the relationships and interactions among political institutions. This course will provide students with the political knowledge and reasoning processes to participate in meaningful discussions and debates that shape American politics and society. The primary outcome is that students will be active political scientists who will be able to analyze current and historical political events and develop factually accurate, well-reasoned, thoughtful arguments. A secondary and immediate outcome is the students will pass the AP exam.

AP U.S. History (0305) - 1 credit

11th-12th Grade Prerequisite: 90 or higher in World History and English and teacher recommendation

This college-level course is offered to all high school juniors/ seniors who meet high levels of previous class achievement. AP U.S. History is a challenging review of American History in preparation for the AP Exam.

Economics (0303) - 1 credit

12th Grade Prerequisite: US History

Economics is the study of how people attempt to satisfy their unlimited wants and needs through the use of limited resources. Upon completion of the class, students will have an understanding of basic economic concepts, microeconomic concepts and theories, macroeconomic policies, and international trade. In addition, students will learn how to analyze economic data, and make economic projections. Students will also learn how to use economic reasoning when making non-economic choices. Most importantly, they will come to understand that their lives are affected by decisions made by others, and vice versa.

AP Economics (0306) - 1 credit

12th Grade Prerequisite: See AP Requirements

AP Economics provides students with an in-depth study of fundamental economic concepts that will enable them to understand how the economy as a whole functions. This course includes a study of economic performance and growth, fiscal policy, monetary policy, and international trade.

Social Studies Electives

AP Comparative Government (APCG) (0308) - 1 credit

11th-12th Grade Prerequisite: See AP Requirements

APCG is a course that covers with in-depth analysis the “AP 6” core countries UK, Russia, China, Iran, Mexico, and Nigeria. To this backdrop is added an emphasis on world societal issues, particularly the change-developments over time, as well as the “thematic focus” on Sovereignty, Authority, and Power; Political Institutions; Citizens, Society, and the State; Political and Economic Change; Public Policy. APCG is a challenging college-level introductory course in preparation for the AP exam.

AP Human Geography (0307) - 1 credit

10th-12th Grade Prerequisite: See AP Requirements

In this course we will study a systematic approach of human geography to understand the use of spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human organization of space and the spatial relationships at different scales ranging from the local to the global. We will develop the ability to interpret maps, data sets, and geographic models using atlases, graphs, and charts.

Philosophy (0314) - 0.5 credits

10th-12th Grade (preference given to seniors) Prerequisite: None

This class examines what has largely been considered the most fundamental questions of human existence. Relying on our rational and logical skills, we will study what many philosophers believe to be the answers to these deeply puzzling issues.

Sociology (0313) - 0.5 credits

10th-12th Grade (preference given to seniors) Prerequisite: None

Sociology is the scientific study of human interaction and human group behavior in modern societies. This course covers the following concepts which are basic to sociology: (1) culture and social structure (2) the individual in society, (3) social inequality, (4) social institutions, and (5) changing social world, as related to sociology.

Introduction to Psychology (0476) – 0.5 credit

10th-12th Grade Prerequisite: None

This course is an introduction to the fundamental principles of psychology and to the major subjects of psychological inquiry. It has been designed to not only provide the tools necessary for the study of psychology but to present a sampling of the major areas of psychology research. The course begins with a short overview of how psychology developed as an academic discipline and an introduction to a number of the principal methodologies most commonly used in its study. The subsequent units are arranged around broad areas of research, including emotion, development, memory, and personality traits. There is a focus on well-substantiated research and current trends within each of these categories.

Physical Education

Graduates must fulfill 2 credits of Physical Education (PE).

Physical Education (0205) - 1 credit

9th-10th Grade

In PE, students will be working on various units to promote gross and fine motor skills including; flag football, basketball, soccer, track and field, volleyball, ping pong and badminton. Students will be assessed in accordance with the SHAPE standards.

Athletic Period - 1 credit

Qualifying and Approved Athletes 8th – 12th Grades

Athletic period is a privilege designed to afford varsity athletes time to practice during school hours, thereby allowing them to maintain their status as committed, determined and collaborative ANS student athletes across their academic subjects. Continued enrollment in athletic period is contingent upon a student's good standing on the varsity team.

Career Orientation

Senior Capstone - 1 credit

12th Grade

The Senior Capstone provides seniors the unique opportunity to pursue an area of interest, learn more about that issue/ topic, and share that information with the ANS community. Capstone affords students the chance to demonstrate their abilities to, among others: plan strategically; problem solve; think critically and creatively; articulate ideas both verbally and in writing; communicate with and educate others; and manage their time effectively – all skills students have, theoretically, developed during their time at ANS. Capstone is, in short, the culmination of all of the skills that high school seniors have acquired during their academic careers thus far. Capstone, if done well, will provide students an illustration of both their academic abilities and their academic/ professional interests in support of their applications to colleges/ universities. Most importantly, these transferable skills are also the keys to success at the college/ university level and beyond, regardless of the field of study.

College Advisory (0451)

12th Grade

This is a semester course offered first semester to seniors. The focus is on college fit, college applications, essays and college admissions process. Students will also have the opportunity to meet with visiting college representatives. Those students planning to apply under the Early Decision or Early Application deadlines are strongly encouraged to enroll in this course. This course will be embedded in the Senior Capstone.

Internship – 0.5 - 1 credit

11th – 12th Graders Prerequisite: Approved Proposal

Students may submit a formal proposal for permission to complete an internship for credit. This proposal must include the mentorship of a professional in the field of study of the internship, clearly articulated role and responsibilities and the student's portfolio that demonstrates a level of mastery commensurate with preparation for field experience. Under these conditions, a proposal for internship may be considered for a for-credit experience.

Advanced Placement and Honors Criteria

Advanced Placement (AP) Enrollment

If students meet 2 of the first 3 criteria, then they may register for the AP class. If students do not meet 2 of the first 3 criteria, then the fourth criteria must be fulfilled.

1. Students must complete the Advanced Placement Application and Teacher Recommendation form with their course scheduling sheets. The teacher recommendation must be filled out by the student's current core teacher for the subject area which he/she would like to enroll for the next year.
2. Students must earn a grade of at least 90% in the current core class (non-AP) or at least 80% in the current core class (AP) for the subject area(s) in which they would like to enroll.
3. Students must meet AP Potential according to scores from the PSAT for the AP course(s) that they are selecting. Students wishing to enroll in an AP class in 10th grade must score "above grade level" on his/her MAP tests from 9th grade.
4. *Students must pass a diagnostic test for Math & Science AP courses and a writing assessment for Language and Social Studies courses. These are scheduled after school in a proctored environment.

Honors Enrollment

If a student meets both criteria, they may be registered for an Honors course. If a student only meets one of the two criteria, then the third must be met

1. Students must earn a grade of at least 85% in the current core content class or at least 80% in the current core content Honors class for the particular subject area.
2. Students must score in the top 40% on the corresponding MAP test.
3. Students must pass a diagnostic assessment; diagnostic assessments are scheduled after school in a proctored environment.