

HENRY W. GRADY HIGH SCHOOL

2014-15 ADVANCED PLACEMENT GUIDE

The College Board's Advanced Placement (AP) Program gives students the opportunity to take college level courses while in high school and to possibly earn college credit by taking an AP exam. At Grady, we seek to make AP courses available to all well-qualified students with the goal of all college-bound student taking at least one AP course before graduation.

A Well-qualified AP Student Must:

- Read, understand, and interpret college-level information;
- Use and apply critical thinking skills to solve problems;
- Apply good written and oral communication skills;
- Demonstrate success in meeting the demands of rigorous coursework;
- Demonstrate good attendance (maximum of 9 absences per semester); and
- Have an interest in attending a college or university.

Common Requirements for All AP Courses:

For each AP course in which a student is enrolled, he/she must

- Fulfill the requirements of the course as outlined in the syllabus,
- Diligently prepare for the AP exam throughout the year,
- Commit to taking the AP exam in May 2012, and
- Maintain an unweighted* grade of at least 71%.
- Maintain a high level of academic integrity.

Furthermore:

- 10% of the student's final unweighted* grade will be based upon the fulfillment of these requirements above.
- Any student who fails to fulfill the above requirements may be dropped from the course and the AP course will not appear on my transcript.
- Students cannot be enrolled in more than three AP classes per school year without a written contract on file with the signatures of the principal, parent, and student.

Class Size

Atlanta Public Schools and the State of Georgia have set a limit of 23 students per AP class in order to maximize student learning opportunities. Under no circumstances can this limit be increased.

Application Process

Interested students should submit the *Statement of Interest* form online at <http://tinyurl.com/GHS2014AP>. Students MUST also submit the paper *Statement of Interest* form to Mr. Vincent. We need the online form as well as the hardcopy in order to reduce the likelihood of errors in your application process.

To be approved for an AP course, a student must meet all grade level and prerequisite requirements and meet the minimum requirement in two of the following: (1) unweighted subject GPA, (2) teacher recommendation from most current subject-area instructor, and (3) PSAT scores. Due to space restrictions, all minimally qualified students may not be approved. Approval is tentative and does not guarantee placement in the course. ***Statement of Interest forms are due to Mr. Vincent (E207) Friday, December 20, 2013. You may slide the form under the door if he's not there.***

Policy for Appealing AP Placement Decisions

Students must write a formal one-page letter of appeal to the AP evaluation committee within one week of being informed of decisions in January 2014. All appeals will be finalized before pre-registration. If a student's

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appeal is successful, s/he will be added to the wait-list for the course, but this does not guarantee the student a position in the class due to the class size restriction discussed above.

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Fine Arts

AP Studio Art

Course Description: This course is designed for highly motivated students who are seriously interested in art. AP work involves significantly more commitment than any other art course. This course demands time, diligence, and focus. AP Studio Art is not based on a written exam; students must submit a portfolio for evaluation to the College Board at the end of the school year. Students must choose to submit one of three separate portfolios focusing on drawing, two-dimensional art in other media, or three-dimensional art. Students work in various modes with an emphasis on individual exploration. Students also study advanced art criticism, exhibition practices, and portfolio documentation.

Additional Requirements:

- 85 GPA in art
- Recommendation by the art teacher based on the student's motivation and ability to work diligently toward an artistic goal (evidenced by aptitude and self-discipline in previous art courses and a portfolio which exhibits varied approaches)
- Course contract signed by parent and student

AP Music Theory

Course Description: AP Music Theory conforms to College Board topics for the Advanced Placement Music Theory Examination. It covers terminology and notational skills, writing skills, visual analysis and aural skills, and advanced levels of understanding.

Additional Requirements:

- Currently enrolled in Orchestra, Advanced Band, or Advanced Chorus
- Recommendation of current music teacher
- Approval of the AP Music Theory teacher

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Language Arts

AP English Literature & Composition – British & World Literature

Grade: 12

Course Description: AP Literature & Composition is a preparatory class in World Literature and Composition leading to the administration of the national AP Examination in English, Literature, and Composition at the close of the second semester. Students will study four primary forms of literature – myth, tragedy, comedy, and satire. Students also will review the use of terms for analyzing narratives, poetry, and drama with numerous practice AP essays which emphasize precise use of the terms. Students will be able to analyze imagery, metaphor, and symbols in lyric poems and analyze point of view, characterization, irony, and symbolism in narratives.

Additional Requirements:

- 50 or above on the PSAT writing and reading subtests
- 85 or above unweighted average for both semesters in honors ninth, tenth, and eleventh grade English (90 if non-honors).
- Recommendation from a current Language Arts teacher

AP English Language & Composition – American Literature

Co-requisite: AP US History taken concurrently

Grade: 11

Course Description: AP English Language and Composition engages students 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 will make students aware of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, and subjects, as well as the way genre conventions and the resources of language contribute to effectiveness in writing. The primary source material for the course will be American Literature to fulfill the Georgia graduation requirement for 11th Grade Literature & Composition. AP US History must be taken concurrently.

Additional Requirements:

- 50 or above on PSAT writing & reading subtests
- 85 unweighted average or above in honors language arts and social students (90 if non-honors).
- Recommendation from a current Language Arts teacher

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Foreign Language

AP French Language

Prerequisites: Successful completion of French I – III*

Grade: 11 or 12

Term: Two Semesters

Course Description: In AP French Language, students hone their skills in listening, reading, storytelling and writing, using correct French grammar. Students should already have a basic knowledge of the language and culture of French speaking peoples and should have a reasonable proficiency in listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing.

Additional Requirements:

- 80 GPA in French I, II, and III*
- 50 or above on the PSAT writing and reading subtests
- Teacher recommendation from most current French instructor

* Students who have spent a semester abroad in a French speaking country will not be required to take French III before applying for AP French.

AP Spanish Language

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Spanish I – III*

Grade: 11 or 12

Term: Two Semesters

Course Description: In AP Spanish Language, students hone their skills in listening, reading, storytelling and writing, using correct Spanish grammar. Students should already have a basic knowledge of the language and culture of Spanish speaking peoples and should have a reasonable proficiency in listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing.

Additional Requirements:

- 80 GPA in Spanish I, II, and III*
- 50 or above on the PSAT writing and reading subtests
- Teacher recommendation from most current Spanish instructor

*Students who have spent a semester abroad in a Spanish speaking country will not be required to take Spanish III before applying for AP Spanish.

AP Latin – Vergil

Prerequisites: Successful Completion of Latin I, II, & III

Grade: 11 or 12

Term: Two Semesters

Course Description: AP Latin will consist of advanced readings of Latin poetry in accordance with the College Board recommended syllabi. Student will read and translate selections from Vergil's *Aeneid* and will read the entire poem in English. In addition to accurate and precise translation, the course will focus on critical analysis of the text through free-response essays, scansion and figures of speech, as well as background knowledge of the cultural, social and political history surrounding the *Aeneid*.

Additional Requirements:

- 80 GPA in Latin I, II, and III
- 50 or above on the PSAT writing and reading subtests
- Teacher recommendation from most current Latin instructor

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Mathematics

AP Calculus AB

Grade: 11 or 12

Course Description: The objectives for this course follow the AP syllabus developed by the College Board for the AP Calculus AB Examination. Topics include limits, continuity, derivatives and various applications, integrals and various applications, and algebraic, transcendental, and trigonometric functions. A Texas Instruments TI-84+ graphing calculator or equivalent is required for this course.

AP Calculus BC

Grade: 11 or 12

Course Description: A rigorous course which follows the standards set forth by the College Board for Advanced Placement Calculus BC. This course may be taken either concurrently with Calculus AB or in the following year. The course permits the students to further examine and explore properties of functions and graphs; limits and continuity; differential calculus; and integral calculus. Additional topics include parametric equations, polar curves, vectors, and infinite sequences and series. TI-84+ graphing calculators are required

AP Statistics

Grade: 10, 11, or 12

Course Description: The objectives for this course follow the AP syllabus developed by the College Board for the AP Statistics Examination. Topics include organizing data and looking for patterns, producing data, probability, and statistical inference. Students will be expected to write numerous papers using the tools of statistical inference. A Texas Instrument TI-83+ graphing calculator or equivalent is recommended for this course.

*AP Computer Science A – Online**

*This course will only be offered in the Georgia Virtual High School as an online course.

Grade: 10, 11, or 12

Course Description: The Computer Science A course provides a solid foundation for computer-related careers: computer programming, mathematics, engineering, business, and the natural sciences. This course was designed for students with little or no background in computer programming. The topics studied include sequence, repetition, conditions, functions, one- and two-dimensional arrays, recursion, and an object-based approach to classes. Currently, the programming language used on the exam is Java.

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Science

AP Physics 1

Prerequisites: Biology I, Chemistry
Coordinate Algebra, Analytic Geometry

Grade: 11 or 12

Term: Two Semesters

Course Description: AP Physics 1 is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course (equivalent to a first-semester college course in algebra-based physics) 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. Students explore principles of Newtonian mechanics (including rotational motion); work, energy, and power; mechanical waves and sound; and introductory, simple circuits. The course is based on six Big Ideas, which encompass core scientific principles, theories, and processes that cut across traditional boundaries and provide a broad way of thinking about the physical world.

The following are Big Ideas:

- Objects and systems have properties such as mass and charge. Systems may have internal structure.
- Fields existing in space can be used to explain interactions.
- The interactions of an object with other objects can be described by forces.
- Interactions between systems can result in changes in those systems.
- Changes that occur as a result of interactions are constrained by conservation laws.
- Waves can transfer energy and momentum from one location to another without the permanent transfer of mass and serve as a mathematical model for the description of other phenomena.

Additional Requirements:

- 85 in Honors Science/Accel. Math/Adv. Alg.
- 90 in non-Honors/Adv. Level Science and Math
- 50 or above on PSAT-reading score and 50 or above on PSAT-math score

AP Physics 2

Prerequisites: Biology, Chemistry, AP Physics 1 or Physics B
Coordinate Algebra, Analytic Geometry &
Pre-Calculus

Grade: 12

Term: Two Semesters

Course 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. Students explore principles of fluids, thermodynamics, electricity, magnetism, optics, and topics in modern physics. The course is based on seven Big Ideas, which encompass core scientific principles, theories, and processes that cut across traditional boundaries and provide a broad way of thinking about the physical world. The following are Big Ideas:

- Objects and systems have properties such as mass and charge. Systems may have internal structure.
- Fields existing in space can be used to explain interactions.
- The interactions of an object with other objects can be described by forces.
- Interactions between systems can result in changes in those systems.
- Changes that occur as a result of interactions are constrained by conservation laws.
- Waves can transfer energy and momentum from one location to another without the permanent transfer of mass and serve as a mathematical model for the description of other phenomena.
- The mathematics of probability can be used to describe the behavior of complex systems and to interpret the behavior of quantum mechanical systems.

Additional Requirements:

- 85 in Honors/AP Science/Accel. Math/Adv. Alg.
- 90 in non-H/Adv level science and math courses
- 50 or above on PSAT-reading score and 50 or above on PSAT-math score

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AP Biology

Grade: 11 or 12

Course Description: The objectives for this course follow the AP syllabus developed by the College Board for the AP Biology Examination. Topics covered are biological chemistry, cells, energy transformations, molecular genetics, heredity, evolution, taxonomy and systematics, monera, protista, fungi, plants, animals, and ecology.

Additional Requirements:

- 80 GPA in science
- 50 or above on PSAT-reading score and 50 or above on PSAT-math score
- Teacher recommendation from most current Science instructor

AP Environmental Science

Grade: 12

Course Description: AP Environmental Science is the equivalent of a one semester, introductory college course in environmental science. The goal of the 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 including biology, chemistry, earth science, social sciences, and politics. There is a strong laboratory and field study component to this course that requires students to participate in some activities outside of the normal classroom hours. Experiences both in the laboratory and in the field provide students with unique opportunities to explore how classroom learned concepts apply to the "real world".

Additional Requirements:

- 80 GPA in science
- 50 or above on PSAT-reading score and 50 or above on PSAT-math score
- Teacher recommendation from most current Science instructor

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Social Studies

AP U.S. History

Prerequisites: Civics, World Geography, World History

Co-requisite: AP English Language & Composition

Grade: 11 only

Term: Two Semesters

Course Description: AP U.S. History is designed to provide students with the factual knowledge and analytical skills necessary to deal critically with the problems and issues central to our American history and culture. Students will learn to interpret and evaluate the relative significance of primary and secondary source materials, and to present evidence and conclusions clearly and persuasively in essay format required for the AP U.S. History Examination. The course material covers a broad range of topics including Colonial America, Revolutionary America, Federalism, Nationalism and Jacksonian Democracy, Expansion and Sectionalism, the Civil War and Reconstruction, Industrial America, the Progressive Era, World War I, the Depression Era, World War II, the Cold War, and Modern American Society.

Additional Requirements:

- 50 or above on PSAT writing & reading subtests
- 85 or above in 9th & 10th grade in honors English (90 in non-honors)
- 85 or above in honors Civics, World Geography, and World History (90 in non-honors)
- Teacher recommendation from most current history instructor

AP World History

Prerequisites: Civics and World Geography

Grade: 10

Course Description: Although this course is for sophomores, it should be noted that it is a college-level course that requires a great deal of self-directed work. The course conforms to College Board guidelines for the AP World History Examination and covers the political, cultural, economic, and social development of civilizations. Students will study the development of ancient civilizations, the emergence of nations through trade/communication, intellectual development, scientific and technological development, emergence of nation states, nations in conflict, & the emerging interdependence of nations.

Additional Requirements:

- Rising tenth grader must have a 80 or above in honors Civics or World Geography (85 in non-honors)
- 90 or above in honors English (95 in non-honors)
- Teacher recommendation from most current history instructor

AP Gov. & Politics – Comparative

Grade: 11 or 12

Prerequisites: Civics, World Geography, World History

Term: Fall* and Spring** Semesters

Course Description: 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. The six nations that form the core of this course are China, Great Britain, Mexico, Nigeria, Iran and Russia. Each of these nations, for different reasons, has strategic importance to the United States.

* All AP Comparative Politics students will take the AP course in the fall (1/2 credit), and

**All AP Comparative Politics students will be required to take *U.S. and World Affairs* (1/2 credit) as a continuation in the spring of the same school year.

Additional Requirements:

- 50 or above on PSAT writing & reading subtests
- 85 or above in ninth and tenth grade English
- 85 or above in American Government, Geography, and World History (and U.S. History if applicable)
- Teacher recommendation from most current history instructor

AP Government and Politics – U.S.

Prerequisites: Civics, World Geography, World History

Grade: 11 or 12

Course Description: U.S. Government and Politics includes both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. politics and the analysis of specific examples. It also requires familiarity with various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute U.S. politics. Six broad topics form the structure of this course: Constitutional underpinnings of U.S. government; Political beliefs and behaviors; Political parties, interest groups, and mass media; Institutions of national government; Public policy; and Civil rights and civil liberties.

* All AP U.S. Government students will take the AP course in the fall (1/2 credit), and

**All AP U.S. Government students will be required to take *U.S. and the Law* (1/2 credit) as a continuation in the spring of the same school year.

Additional requirements: Same as Gov. & Pol. – Comp.

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Social Studies, continued

AP Economics

Grade: 11 or 12

Term: Micro – Fall; Macro – Spring

Course Description: The course is divided into two parts, each with its own AP examination. In the fall, students study microeconomics in order to gain a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to the function of individual decision makers, both consumers and producers, within the larger economic system. In the spring, students study macroeconomics. Macroeconomics covers measurement of economic performance and national income, and price determination and growth. Students will examine the effect of government budget deficits, consider the issues involved in determining the burden of the national debt, and explore the relationships between deficits, interest rates, and inflation.

AP European History

Prerequisites: AP World History, AP U.S. History,

Grade: 12 only

Term: Two Semesters

Course Description: The study of European history since 1450 introduces students to cultural, economic, political, and social developments that played a fundamental role in shaping the world in which they live. Without this knowledge, we would lack the context for understanding the development of contemporary institutions, the role of continuity and change in present-day society and politics, and the evolution of current forms of artistic expression and intellectual discourse. In addition to providing a basic narrative of events and movements, the goals of AP European History are to develop (a) an understanding of some of the principal themes in modern European history, (b) an ability to analyze historical evidence and historical interpretation, and (c) an ability to express historical understanding in writing.

Additional Requirements:

- 50 or above in PSAT reading and writing
- Complete Written Essay

AP Psychology

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation from most current history teacher

Grade: 12 only

Term: Two semesters

Course Description: This course introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major sub-fields with psychology. They also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice.

Additional Requirements:

- 50 or above on PSAT writing & reading subtests