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**CHARLES E. JORDAN HIGH SCHOOL**ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSE GUIDE  
2023-2024

Charles E. Jordan High School  
6806 Garrett Road  
Durham, North Carolina, 27707  
(919) 560-3912

<http://www.jhsapprogram.weebly.com>

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**MESSAGE FROM THE AP PROGRAM CHAIR**

Welcome JHS Students & Families,

We would like to take this opportunity to explain the vision and framework for our Advanced Placement Program, introduce course options, and provide contact information should you have any questions. This specific course guide should provide the information necessary for you to make thoughtful decisions regarding course selection and provide access to resources for additional insight.

Jordan High School offers 24 different Advanced Placement courses; these classes are provided at every grade level an and available in almost every department. Additionally, our program is based on the policy of open enrollment. In other words, any student can take an AP class as long as they meet the district’s prerequisites to do so. Beginning in the 9th grade, students will have the opportunity to take AP Human Geography and/or AP Computer Science. With that said, students can take AP courses even if they do not take them during their first year at the school.

The faculty and staff in our department are committed to student success. To that end, we are focused on a FALCON framework: fidelity, achievement, learning through rigor, creating a culture of collaboration, taking advantage of opportunities, and learning through a nurturing environment. Our courses will not only provide assessments which reflect the expectations of College Board and help prepare you for the exam, but also create opportunities for deeper learning, build skills for success, and offer pacing guides for organization. Regardless of your purpose in taking the course, we want to ensure that you graduate with options.

Every student is capable of being successful in an AP course! You are encouraged to take advantage of the academic opportunities our school provides, investigate possibilities based on your interests, consult your school counselor or teacher for advice, and reach out with questions. As you consider your selections, consider the words of basketball coach Jerry Dunn: “don’t limit your challenges, challenge your limits.”

**Sincerely,**

Brian McDonald

Brian McDonald  
Chair, Advanced Placement Program  
AIG Specialist, Jordan High School  
Phone: (919) 560-3912 ext. 12721  
Email: brian\_mcdonald@dpsnc.net

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Department** | **Course** | **Teacher** |
|  | | |
| ARTS | AP Studio Art: 2-D Design | Kelly Learned |
| AP Studio Art: Drawing | Kelly Learned |
|  | | |
| CAPSTONE | AP Seminar | Brian McDonald  Alysha Finger |
| AP Research | Sam Bernhard  Madison Evans |
|  | | |
| ENGLISH | AP English Language | Laura Dzwonczyk  Alec Lowman |
| AP English Literature | Emmalea Eaves  Jessica Odom  Joe Stapleton |
|  | | |
| MATH | AP Calculus AB/BC | Jonathan Plesser |
| AP Calculus BC | Joshua Yen |
| AP Computer Science | Frank Kelly |
| AP Pre-Calculus | Michael Valder  Joshua Yen |
| AP Statistics | Thomas Lynn |
|  | | |
| SCIENCE | AP Biology | Madison Evans |
| AP Chemistry | Anne Sider |
| AP Environmental Science | Noell Egeland  Alysha Finger  Courtney Giesel |
| AP Physics 1: Algebra-Based | Justin Finger |
| AP Physics 2: Algebra-Based | Justin Finger |
|  | | |
| SOCIAL STUDIES | AP African American Studies Pilot\* | Dorcas Gyekye |
| AP Government & Politics | Brian McDonald  Brian O’Keefe |
| AP Human Geography | Brendan Murray Graham Brosnan |
| AP Psychology | Brian O’Keefe  Margie Wescott |
| AP US History | Dorcas Gyekye  Carlos Perez |
|  | | |
| WORLD LANGUAGES | AP French Language | Esther Oyediran |
| AP Spanish Language | Shannon Sudderth |
| AP Spanish Literature | Shannon Sudderth |

**INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF (2023-2024)**

*\*Students will not receive AP Credit for the African American Studies Pilot until 2024-2025.*

**JHS AP PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The AP Program at Jordan provides 24 on-site courses to challenge & enrich students while preparing them for advanced/academic pursuits after high school. AP Courses, at our school, are:

* Open Enrollment (open to any student, providing they meet the prerequisites)
* Weighted with additional 1.0 point for GPA
* Organized to support student success​
* Available in grades 9-12
* Taught by the best instructors in their field

**JHS AP PROGRAM VISION**

The AP Program at Jordan ​provides coursework which not only challenges and enriches a student's high school experience while preparing for the AP Exam, but also helps prepare students for advanced pursuits after high school. To achieve both goals, our faculty will work to advance the following "Falcon" values:

* **F**IDELITY - The common practices of our teachers are intentional to serve the best interests of our students.  Every faculty member in the program is committed to organizing their course through unit plans, offering support, and tutoring through office hours, and responding to assignments with specific feedback.
* **A**CHIEVEMENT - Our goal is not only to prepare you for the AP Exam in May, but also provide the academic preparation necessary for future success. To accomplish this, our coursework will not only mirror the AP exam, but also provide opportunities for the development of skills and opportunities for growth.
* **L**EARNING - Learning through rigor defines our program; our school defines rigor as "instructional pedagogy, learning experiences, and performance tasks which reflect depth, complexity, and autonomy." Students will benefit from assignments, activities, and assessments which require skills and exploration!
* **C**OLLABORATION - The program maintains a culture of collaboration for students and faculty. Each course includes authentic collaboration among students through assignments, discussion, and/or projects. Also, courses with multiple instructors maintain common pacing and/or assessments to maximize results.
* **O**PPORTUNITY - As a result of our open enrollment policy, every student has the chance to take an AP class. Each class then provides the opportunity for collaboration, research, skill-building, practice, enrichment, and/or intervention. Additionally, a passing score on the exam could provide college credit!
* **N**URTURING - The faculty will work to balance the academic expectations of a college-style course with the social and emotional needs of our students. Extra-curricular activities are encouraged! Students can and should benefit from office hours, review sessions, and tutoring from National Honor Society.
* **S**UCCESS - It is our intent to support each student's success through a growth mindset. Emphasis on goal setting, feedback, support, and improvements will become the focus of our program. We want students to overcome the obstacles, build upon successes and benefit from the experience

**GRADE LEVEL OPTIONS\*  
 9th Grade**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Computer Science Principles | Human Geography |

**10th Grade**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| African American Studies (PILOT) | Language & Composition |
| Computer Science Principles | Psychology |
| Physics 1 | Seminar |
| Pre-Calculus | United States History |

**11th and/or 12th Grade**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| African American Studies Pilot | Pre-Calculus |
| Biology | Psychology |
| Calculus AB | Research |
| Calculus AB/BC | Seminar |
| Computer Science Principles | Spanish Language |
| Environmental Science | Spanish Literature |
| French Language | Statistics |
| English Literature | Studio Art: 2D Design |
| Physics 1: Algebra-Based | Studio Art: Drawing |
| Physics 2: Algebra-Based | US Government and Politics |

*\*Students are only able to take AP Language in 10th grade if they took English 1 in 8th grade and English 2 in 9th grade. Additionally, some classes have prerequisites. For example, a student must complete AP Seminar before AP Research. Additionally, English III (Academic, Honors, or AP) is required before taking English IV (AP English Literature). Questions should be directed to your counselor or Mr. McDonald.*

**SUMMER or PRECOURSE ASSIGNMENTS**

Per school policy, there will be no pre-course or summer assignments for 9th or 10th grade AP offerings.

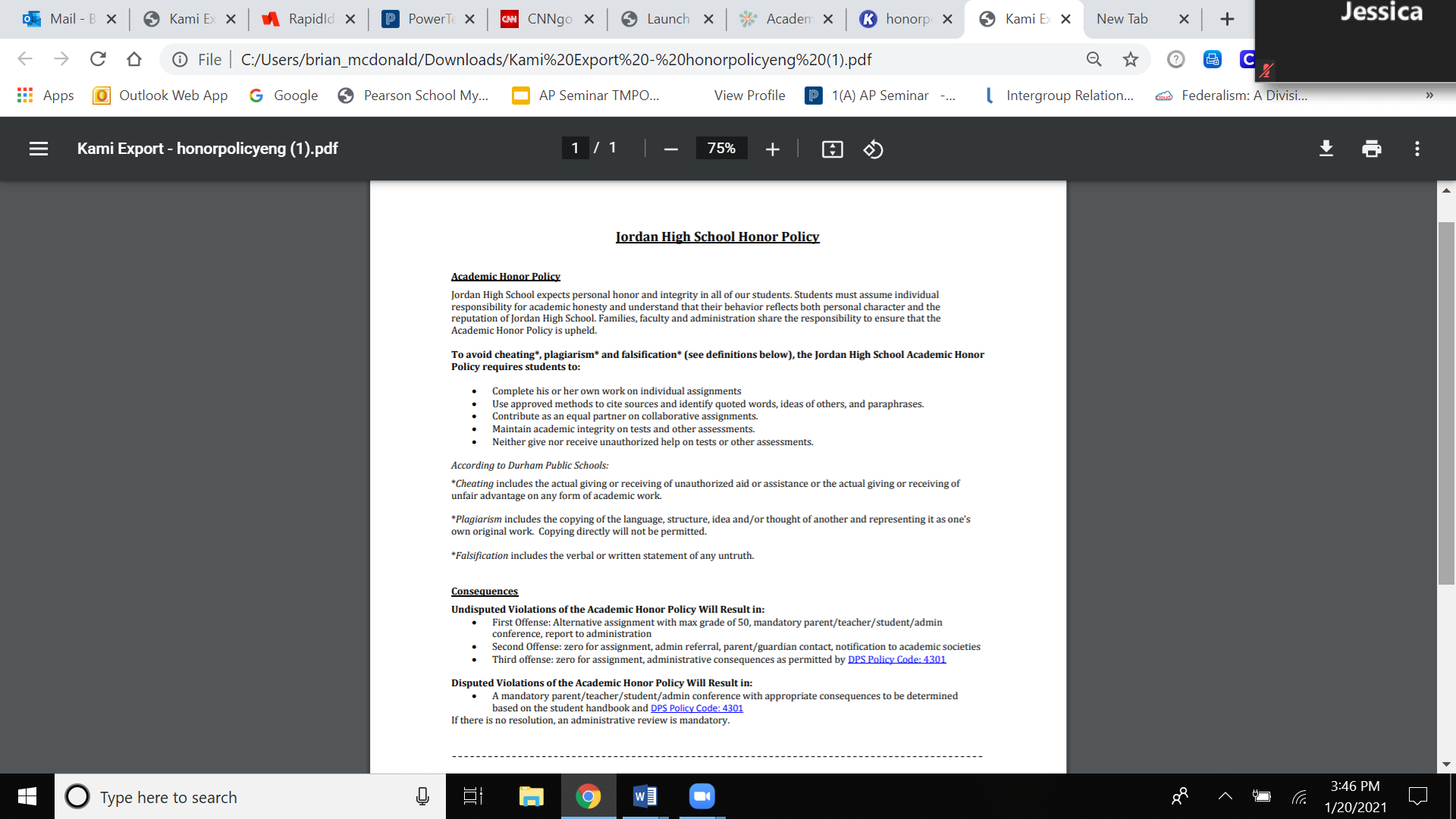
While there is no College Board requirement, some of our 11th and 12th grade courses may require assignments to be completed before the course begins. Instructors usually choose to give these assignments to (a) make up for lost instructional time, (b) ensure that the robust curriculum of their course will be completed before the AP Exam, and/or (c) introduce them to course content to ensure a successful transition from previous courses.

With that said, we can provide the following commitments:

* *Assignments will be posted to the Jordan website and AP Program website*
* *Faculty will be available throughout the summer to answer questions and respond to inquiries regarding the material*
* *Resources required for any summer assignment can be made available as needed and by request*
* *Rubrics will be provided with the summer assignment to ensure both accountability and understanding of scoring*
* *Assignments cannot weigh more than 15% of a student’s first quarter grade*
* *Assignments will be returned, with feedback, by the first progress report of first quarter*
* *Assignments have been reviewed and approved by the administration or designee*
* *No portions of assignments can be due BEFORE the first day of school*

**JHS HONOR POLICY**

A copy of the honor policy can be found on the Jordan High School website (and is available below). Additionally, each AP classroom has the “Honor Statement” posted in the classroom. Students are expected to sign this at the end of each assessment based on the instructor’s expectations.



**ARTS**

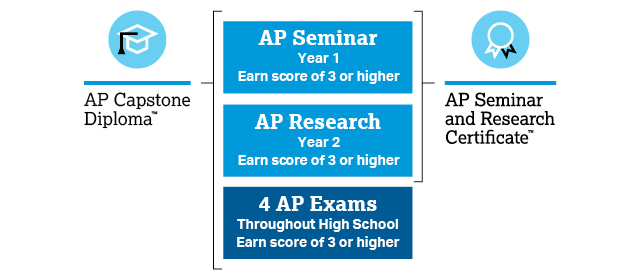
* **Advanced Placement 2D Art & Design***Prerequisite: Mastery of Intermediate Visual Arts*“This portfolio is designated for work that focuses on the use of two-dimensional (2-D) elements and principles of art and design, including point, line, shape, plane, layer, form, space, texture, color, value, opacity, transparency, time, unity, variety, rhythm, movement, proportion, scale, balance, emphasis, contrast, repetition, figure/ ground relationship, connection, juxtaposition, and hierarchy. Students should consider how materials, processes, and ideas can be used to make work that exists on a flat surface (College Board).”
* **Advanced Placement Drawing***Prerequisite: Mastery of Intermediate Visual Arts*“This portfolio is designated for work that focuses on the use of mark-making, line, surface, space, light and shade, and composition. Students should consider marks that can be used to make drawings, the arrangement of marks, the materials and processes used to make marks, and relationships of marks and ideas (College Board).”

**CAPSTONE**“AP Capstone™ is a diploma program based on two yearlong AP courses: AP Seminar and AP Research. These courses are designed to complement other AP courses that the AP Capstone student may take…Instead of teaching specific subject knowledge, AP Seminar and AP Research use an interdisciplinary approach to develop the critical thinking, research, collaboration, time management, and presentation skills students need for college-level work…   
  
“The College Board developed the AP Capstone Diploma program at the request of higher education professionals, who saw a need for a systematic way for high school students to begin mastering these skills before college.” *(Source: College Board)*

* **Advanced Placement Seminar***Prerequisite: None*  
  “Seminar is a foundational course that engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives. Using an inquiry framework, students practice reading and analyzing articles, research studies, and foundational, literary, and philosophical texts; listening to and viewing speeches, broadcasts, and personal accounts; and experiencing artistic works and performances. Students learn to synthesize information from multiple sources, develop their own perspectives in written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations, both individually and as part of a team.”
* **Advanced Placement Research**

*Prerequisite: AP Seminar*

“Research allows students to deeply explore an academic topic, problem, issue, or idea of individual interest. Students design, plan, and implement a yearlong investigation to address a research question. Through this inquiry, they further the skills they acquired in the AP Seminar course by learning research methodology, employing ethical research practices, and accessing, analyzing, and synthesizing information. Students reflect on their skill development, document their processes, and curate the artifacts of their scholarly work through a process and reflection portfolio. The course culminates in an academic paper of 4,000–5,000 words (accompanied by a performance, exhibit, or product where applicable) and a presentation with an oral defense.”



*(Source: College Board)*

**ENGLISH**

* **Advanced Placement Language & Composition (English III)***Prerequisite: English II*

The AP English Language and Composition course focuses on the development and revision of evidence-based analytic and argumentative writing, the rhetorical analysis of nonfiction texts, and the decisions writers make as they compose and revise. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Additionally, they read and analyze rhetorical elements and their effects in nonfiction texts —including images as forms of text — from a range of disciplines and historical periods.

* **Advanced Placement Literature & Composition (English IV)***Prerequisite: English III or AP Language*

The AP English Literature and Composition course focuses on reading, analyzing, and writing about imaginative literature (fiction, poetry, drama) from various periods. Students engage in close reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature to deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure. As they read, students consider a work’s structure, style, and themes, as well as its use of figurative language, imagery, and symbolism. Writing assignments include expository, analytical, and argumentative essays that require students to analyze and interpret literary works.

**MATH**

* **Advanced Placement Pre-Calculus**

*Prerequisite: Math 3; completion of the Honors section of Math 3 is recommended*

In this course, students study a broad spectrum of function types…develop and hone symbolic manipula-tion skills, including solving equations and manipulating expressions, for the many function types throughout the course. Students also learn that functions and their compositions, inverses, and trans-formations are understood through graphical, numerical, analytical, and verbal representations, which…are useful for solving problems in mathematical and applied contexts.

* **Advanced Placement Calculus AB***Prerequisite: Precalculus*

This course emphasizes introductory calculus with elementary functions. Topics include properties of functions, limits, derivatives and their applications, techniques of integration, the definite integral, and applications of the integral. (It is recommended that students who enroll in this course have completed or are enrolled in Physics and earned at least a C average in Pre-Calculus.)

* **Advanced Placement Calculus BC***Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus*

This course is intended for students who have a thorough knowledge of analytic geometry and elementary functions in addition to college preparatory algebra, geometry, and trigonometry. Calculus BC covers the topics of Calculus AB. In addition, sequences and series and elementary differential equations are covered in Calculus BC. (It is recommended that students who enroll have completed or are enrolled in Physics I and have earned a B average in Pre-Calculus.)

* **Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles***Prerequisite: Computer Science Principles; completion of high school Algebra is recommended*

In this course, students will learn to design and evaluate solutions and to apply computer science to solve problems through the development of algorithms and programs. They will incorporate abstraction into programs and use data to discover new knowledge. Students will also explain how computing innovations and computing systems, including the Internet, work, explore their potential impacts, and contribute to a computing culture that is collaborative and ethical. It is important to note that the AP Computer Science Principles course does not have a designated programming language. Teachers have the flexibility to choose a programming language(s) that is most appropriate for their students to use in the classroom.

* **Advanced Placement Statistics***Prerequisite: NC Math 3, NC Math 4, Discrete Mathematics for Computer Science, or Precalculus*

AP Statistics introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing and drawing conclusions from data. Students will observe patterns and departure from patterns, decide what and how to measure, produce models using probability and simulation, and confirm models. Appropriate technology, from manipulatives to calculators and applications software, will be used regularly for instruction and assessment.

**SCIENCE**

* **Advanced Placement Biology**   
  *Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry*

This course aims to provide students with the conceptual framework, factual knowledge, and analytical skills necessary to deal critically with the rapidly changing science of biology. Three general areas covered in depth in this course are molecules and cells, heredity and evolution, and organisms and populations. Textbooks, resources and labs performed by AP students will be the equivalent of those of college students.

* **Advanced Placement Chemistry***Prerequisite: Chemistry and NC Math 3*

This course will include an in-depth study of the structure of matter, kinetic theory of gases, chemical equilibria, chemical kinetics, and the basic concepts of thermodynamics. Textbooks, resources and labs performed by AP students will be the equivalent of those of college students.

* **Advanced Placement Environmental Science***Prerequisites: Biology, Chemistry, and NC Math 2*

Students learn how organisms and their environment interact through field, laboratory and classroom work. Through the scientific principles, concepts and methodologies, students will identify and analyze both natural and human-made environmental problems, evaluate the risks associated with those problems, and examine alternative solutions for resolving or preventing them. Textbooks, resources and labs performed by AP students will be the equivalent of those of college students.

* **Advanced Placement Physics 1: Algebra-Based***Prerequisite: NC Math 3*

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.

* **Advanced Placement Physics 2: Algebra-Based***Prerequisites: Physics 1*

AP Physics 2 is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course. Students cultivate their understanding of physics through inquiry-based investigations as they explore these topics: fluids; thermodynamics; electrical force, field, and potential; electric circuits; magnetism and electromagnetic induction; geometric and physical optics; and quantum, atomic, and nuclear physics… This course requires that twenty-five percent of instructional time will be spent in hands-on laboratory work, with an emphasis on inquiry-based investigations that provide students with opportunities to demonstrate foundational physics principles and apply the science practices.

**SOCIAL STUDIES**

* **Advanced Placement African American Studies (PILOT)**

*Note: Because this is a pilot program, students cannot earn AP Credit for the class until the 2024-2025 school year.*

AP African American Studies is an interdisciplinary course that examines the diversity of African American experiences through direct encounters with authentic and varied sources. Students explore key topics that extend from early African kingdoms to the ongoing challenges and achievements of the contemporary moment. Given the interdisciplinary character of African American studies, students in the course will develop skills across multiple fields, with an emphasis on developing historical, literary, visual, and data analysis skills. This course foregrounds a study of the diversity of Black communities in the United States within the broader context of Africa and the African diaspora.

* **Advanced Placement Human Geography***Prerequisite: None*

This course emphasizes the importance of geography as a field of inquiry. It shows how the discipline has evolved into the study of diverse peoples and areas organized around a set of concepts. Geographic concepts emphasized throughout the course are location, space, scale, pattern, regionalization, and place. Students learn how to use and make maps. They also learn to apply mathematical formulae, models, and qualitative data to geographical concepts. A significant outcome of the course is awareness of the relevance of academic geography to everyday life and decision making.

* **Advanced Placement Psychology***Prerequisite: Classification as a sophomore, junior or senior*

This course is a reading systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students explore the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena of the major sub fields, and the methods psychologists use in their science and practice.

* **Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics***Prerequisite: World History*

This course provides an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. It involves both general concepts used to interpret U.S. politics and the analysis of specific case studies. Familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute U.S. political reality is required. Topics include public policy, civil rights and civil liberties, as well as political beliefs and behaviors.

* **Advanced Placement United States History***Prerequisites: World History, Civil Literacy or AP Government and Politics*This course meets state standards for US History as well as the College Board’s standards for AP US History. It emphasizes using analytical skills and factual knowledge to think critically about the issues and events central to US history. Students will read a variety of historical documents and interpretations of U.S. history, write essay responses to document-based questions, and prepare to take the AP Exam.

**WORLD LANGUAGES**

* **AP French Language and Culture***Prerequisite: French 3 and 4*

The course emphasizes communication (understanding and being understood by others) by applying interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational skills in real-life situations. This includes vocabulary usage, language control, communication strategies, and cultural awareness. The AP French Language and Culture course strives not to overemphasize grammatical accuracy at the expense of communication…the course engages students in an exploration of culture in both contemporary and historical contexts. The course develops students’ awareness and appreciation of cultural products; practices and perspectives.

* **AP Spanish Language and Culture***Prerequisite: Spanish 3 and 4*

The course emphasizes communication (understanding and being understood by others) by applying interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational skills in real-life situations. This includes vocabulary usage, language control, communication strategies, and cultural awareness. The AP Spanish Language and Culture course strives not to overemphasize grammatical accuracy at the expense of communication…the course engages students in an exploration of culture in both contemporary and historical contexts. The course develops students’ awareness and appreciation of cultural products, practices, and perspectives (values, attitudes, and assumptions).

* **AP Spanish Literature and Culture***Prerequisite: Spanish 3 and 4*

The AP Spanish Literature and Culture course is designed to provide students with a learning experience equivalent to that of a college/university survey course in literature written in Spanish. This thematically based course introduces students to the formal study of a representative body of texts from Peninsular Spanish, Latin American, and U.S. Hispanic literature, including short stories, novels, poetry, drama, and essays, ranging from the Medieval period to the present.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

* Jordan High School
* Additional information is provided through the JHS AP Program website. The site includes information about our program, course offerings, faculty and staff, and the AP exams.
* Specific questions can and should be addressed to the student’s school counselor or Brian McDonald (Chair of the AP Program).
* Durham Public Schools  
  + According to the DPS Course Guide (2020-2021), “Advanced Placement (AP) courses are designed to meet the College Board’s rigorous standards for an Advanced Placement class and be the equivalent of a college level course for which students may, depending on the AP Exam score, receive college credit. Extensive course guidelines are provided by the College Board, and teachers are required to maintain current AP authorization…Students are expected to take the AP Exam as the culminating activity for AP courses per DPS Policy 3305.2.” (DPS Course Guide)
  + Due to the North Carolina General Assembly funding, students enrolled in an AP course do not have to pay to take the AP Exam. With that said, students who choose to take an AP Exam but are not enrolled in the course may have to pay the fee.
  + Additional district information regarding Advanced Placement courses may be found on the [Academic Support Services page of the DPS website.](https://www.dpsnc.net/Page/430) Inquiries may be directed to Laura Parrott, the Director of Advanced Academics.
* College Board  
  + College Board provides their own comprehensive website which provides information on all [Courses and Exams](https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/course-index-page). These resources include course descriptions, pacing, and information about their exams. Students in each course will also be linked to “AP Classroom” which offers daily video lectures, supplemental course information, and practice questions to help prepare for the exams.
  + Passing an AP exam may result in college credit or course placement at the college level. College Board provides [this tool](https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/getting-credit-placement/search-policies) to find colleges that offer credit or placement.