



High School Elective Offerings for the 2022-23 School Year

“If we make money the object of human-training, we shall develop money-makers but not necessarily humans; if we make technical skill the object of education, we may possess artisans but not, in nature, humans. Humans we shall have only as we make people the object of the work of the schools—intelligence, broad sympathy, knowledge of the world that was and is, and of the relation of humans to it—this is the curriculum of that Higher Education which must underlie true life.”

- W.E.B. Du Bois

Below you will find a summary of the elective offerings for next school year along with notes about prerequisites. If you have any questions about the course selection process, please direct them to Ms. Holley dholley@atlantaclassical.org. We’ve also provided a description of the standard course progression for students grades 9-12 at the bottom of this document. This will be especially helpful to rising 9th graders as they work to visualize their next four years. We have not accounted for every possible iteration of the schedule, but the table should be instructive nonetheless. In addition, we’ve provided a copy of the course map detailing exact graduation requirements.

Again, we’re pleased to expand the choices available to our students in the 7th hour window as this represents the next stage in the development of our academic program. When the faculty proposed these electives, they began with a list of questions that emerged naturally from classes they taught within our rich core curriculum but which they didn’t always have time to address. As we look forward to the fall, we’re excited to broaden our range of inquiry as we continue our pursuit of truth together in the upper school.

Notes for Freshmen:

- All freshmen must take Personal Fitness during the 7th hour (elective hour) in either fall or spring semester, depending upon when their chosen elective is offered.
- All freshmen must take Health and Personal Fitness. If students wish to open up a study hall or possibly space for another elective for themselves during the school day, they may elect to complete either or both of these classes during the summer. If interested, students should notify Ms. Figura ofigura@atlantaclassical.org by Friday, May 27. These classes cost \$100 each.
- Freshmen must select a foreign language to take (continue with Latin or begin Spanish I).

Notes for Sophomores:

- Students aspiring to take AP Chemistry in their junior year must take the semester-long Chemistry Intensive pre-requisite in the second semester of their sophomore year.
- Students will take a semester of Art Appreciation opposite a semester of Moral Philosophy.

Notes for Juniors:

- Juniors will take a semester of Political Philosophy opposite a semester of American Government.

Notes for Seniors:

- All seniors will take a semester of Economics opposite a semester of Lessons in Wonder.
- Seniors who have completed Biology, Chemistry, and Physics may take an AP Computer Science course as their 4th science.

Index

Page 3: Yearlong Elective Offerings

Page 4: Semester-long Electives offered in either Fall or Spring

Page 6: Fall-only Semester-long Electives

Page 8: Spring-only Semester-long Electives

Page 10: Additional AP Offerings (Yearlong)

Page 13: Standard High School Course Progression

Page 15: ACA HS Course Map

Yearlong Elective Offerings

**** NEW ** Introduction to Linguistics - Full-Year**

Faculty: Dr. Roth

Grade: 10-12, Pre-Req: None

This course is intended to familiarize the student with the academic study of human language and involves investigation of such topics as phonology (the classification of speech sounds), writing systems, and historical linguistics (the evolution of languages over time). Using a comparative approach, we will analyze how languages differ and what they have in common. The second half of the class consists of short units on the grammar and vocabulary of various languages, including French, German, Arabic, and Chinese.

Major Movements and Ideologies - Full-Year

Faculty: Mr. Rosenzweig

Grade: 12, Pre-Req: None

This course will educate the students in many major trends of the modern world starting in the early 1700's. We start with Liberalism and will expand from that topic as it affected Europe and the rest of the world. Classes will include group analysis of primary documents, debates, simulations, Socratic instruction, and round table discussions. Primary documents are provided by the teacher and no textbook is required. The course will be divided into eight units all working off the previous unit. The units are as follows:

- I. Liberalism
- II. Industrial Revolution and Capitalism
- III. Nationalism (Part I)
- IV. Global Imperialism
- V. Nationalism (Part II)
- VI. Totalitarianism
- VII. Marxism/Socialism and Communism
- VIII. Globalization

Study Hall

Semester (Fall or Spring)

Faculty: Various US Faculty

Grade: 9-12, Pre-Req: None

Offered in FALL and SPRING

Examining the Teaching Profession - Semester (Fall and Spring) (APPROVAL REQUIRED)

Faculty: Various LS Faculty

Grade: 12, Pre-Req: None

This course provides students with a fundamental look into the teaching profession. Through observation and engagement students are exposed to the everyday work life of an elementary teacher, their teaching and learning strategies, their formation of an effective learning environment, their class management style to deliver an optimal instructional opportunity for diverse learners, and their creation of curriculum plans based upon subject matter, community, and curriculum standards. Students are to act in a professional manner through appearance, behavior, and language and to model the ACA virtues of courage, courtesy, honesty, perseverance, self-government, and service. Students will use workplace manners inclusive of integrity, honesty, accountability, punctuality, and respect for all. Students will show creativity by asking challenging questions and supplying innovative solutions to problems. They will communicate in a businesslike manner through effective writing, speaking, listening, reading, and body language. A 1000 word essay on their experience of examining the teaching profession is due the week prior to semester finals.

Piano Performance - Semester (Fall and Spring) (APPROVAL REQUIRED)

Faculty: Mr. Henriques

Grades: 9-12, Pre-Req: Intermediate Piano Skills and Audition

We will explore improvisation, composition at the keyboard, efficient practice techniques, and repertoire building. We will develop technical and musical skills necessary for clean, expressive playing. Opportunities for public performance will be provided.

Studio Art - Semester (Fall and Spring) (APPROVAL REQUIRED)

Faculty: TBD

Grades: 9-12, Pre-Req: None

In this elective we will explore the different types of mediums and techniques that are used in art. We will offer courses in Intermediate Drawing, Intermediate Painting, Mixed Media, Advanced Drawing, Advanced Painting, Portfolio Building, and Open Studio. Through these courses we will have the opportunity to not only learn about art, but to create and display our own works.

Choir - Semester (Fall and Spring) (APPROVAL REQUIRED)

Faculty: Mr. Franklin

Grades: 9-12, Pre-Req: None

The chamber choir provides high school students an opportunity to sing in a larger ensemble focusing on a wide spectrum of repertoire. The choir will sing in at least two concerts as well as take part in choir festivals and sing for community events.

String Ensemble - Semester (Fall and Spring) (APPROVAL REQUIRED)

Faculty: Ms. Wiggin (Mr. Franklin)

Grades: 9-12, Pre-Req: Audition

The string ensemble will have the opportunity to share the beautiful through the performing of a wide range of music genres. These groups serve as an ambassador for our school as we perform at special events, in our community and around the region.

Fall Semester-long Elective Offerings

Problems in Engineering - Semester (Fall) (APPROVAL REQUIRED)

Faculty: Mr. Han

Grades: 12, Pre-Req: B in Mathematics and Physics

This upper-level course provides students an opportunity to employ engineering and scientific concepts in the solution of engineering design problems. Students will develop problem-solving skills and apply their knowledge of research and design to create solutions to various challenges. Students will also learn how to document their work and communicate their solutions to their peers and members of the professional community.

**** NEW ** Personal Finance - Semester (Fall) (APPROVAL REQUIRED)**

Faculty: Ms. Hobby

Grade: 9-12, Pre-Req: None

Personal Finance will teach students how to win with money. Students will leave high school with a fresh slate, and this class will teach them how money really works. Students will learn that personal finance is common sense, but requires self-control and self-discipline. Personal finance puts each student in charge of their own decisions, and this class will empower students to make the right decisions when it comes to money.

**** NEW ** Art of Public Speaking - Semester (Fall)**

Faculty: Mr. Vaupel

Grade: 9-12, Pre-Req: None

Are you afraid of public speaking? Studies suggest that many fear public speaking more than death, and yet we all know the power of the spoken word to move hearts and minds to action. History tells us of its ability to inspire entire nations to victory or drive them towards disaster. In this class we will explore different forms of public speaking--persuasive, political, informative, and extemporaneous--and learn from some of the greatest orators in the history of Western civilization. Students will learn and practice the tools of effective communication in content and delivery. We will examine how to organize ideas into coherent substance and flow and how to deliver with style and impact. In the end, students will become better communicators with a deeper appreciation for the art of public speaking.

**** NEW ** Pre-Columbian History of Georgia - Semester (Fall) (APPROVAL REQUIRED)**

Faculty: Mr. McClatchey

Grades: 10-12, Pre-Req: None

This class will examine the history of Georgia, exposing students to the oft-forgotten wonders therein. We will begin with the distant past. Students will learn which dinosaurs roamed Georgia, which ice age mammals, and finally, discover how and when human beings arrived in our state. In the next unit, we will encounter the advanced civilization that flourished in Georgia c.1000 A.D. (the Mississippians), diving into their cities, monumental architecture, art, religion, warfare, and sports. We will investigate their mysterious collapse, and visit two major cities: Etowah (an hour north of Atlanta) and Ocmulgee (a few hours south). We will end the class by discussing first contact between the Indigenous people of Georgia and the first European explorers.

Ethics - Semester (Fall) (APPROVAL REQUIRED)

Faculty: Dr. K-T

Grade: 11-12, Pre-Req: Moral Philosophy

Ethics is the philosophical study of how we ought to live. This introductory course will cover the three distinct branches of Ethics: Meta-ethics, which considers the nature of moral theories and language; Normative Ethics, which examines various theories of moral action such as Natural Law, Utilitarianism, Virtue Ethics, and Kantian Ethics; and Applied Ethics, which deals with specific contemporary moral issues within bioethics, environmental ethics, social ethics, and business ethics. We will explore questions like ‘Can moral statements be true or false?’, ‘What should be done with people who commit horrific crimes?’, ‘How should we treat animals?’, and ‘Is being good dependent on duty, virtue, consequence, or intention?’. We will tackle the major moral questions surrounding birth, death, happiness, desire and freedom, the meaning of life, and the proper way to approach ethical debates. Students will engage with the primary texts of influential ethicists and participate in lively and fruitful discussions about fascinating ethical matters.

Spring Semester-long Elective Offerings

Creative Writing - Semester (Spring) (APPROVAL REQUIRED)

Faculty: Mr. McClatchey

Grades: 9-12, Pre-Req: Composition

This class, the first creative writing course to be offered at ACA, will teach students the basics of fiction and poetry. Students will learn the fundamentals of narrative, the fundamentals of versification, and how to behave in a creative writing workshop. Students will write their own stories and poems, bringing them in for the class to read and appraise. Course readings will be eclectic, ranging from contemporary short stories to medieval Chinese poems to Ezra Pound's grumpy advice for young writers.

The usefulness of this course will be universal. Even if a student decides not to continue writing, she will have learned how to stop and listen for the distinctions between synonyms, the minor facets in a verb, and the slackening effect of too many adjectives. The ear of an educated person can never be sensitive enough.

SAT Prep - Semester (Spring)

Faculty: Ms. Wilson

Grades: 11 Priority and then 10 if openings available, Pre-Req: None

The focus of this prep class is to improve critical math skills while preparing students for the SAT exam. This course provides thorough preparation for the math portion of the SAT. It covers critical content areas from Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II, and teaches students the most dynamic and updated strategies and methods available. Strategies covered in this course are designed to deconstruct the SAT and help students learn to think like the test makers. While subject content will be covered thoroughly, the course will also provide practical tools that will help students score higher. Students will build their skills each week and increase their confidence level over the span of the course. In order to get everything out of this class, students must work hard and exhibit effort and dedication to their studies.

Other Voices - Semester (Spring) (APPROVAL REQUIRED)

Faculty: Mr. Hawkins

Grades: 11-12, Pre-Req: None

At ACA we justifiably pride ourselves on our study of the Great Books. From The Iliad to All the King's Men, we read some of the best books ever written. However, since most of these books come from the Western and European tradition, our students may have gaps in their broader understanding of the world and of world literature. This class is intended to begin to fill in some of those gaps.

**** NEW ** Existentialist Philosophy - Semester (Spring) (APPROVAL REQUIRED)**

Faculty: Mr. Bettencourt

Grade: 11-12, Pre-Req: Moral Philosophy

This course serves as an introduction to existentialist philosophy. As such, it looks to explore the central questions that existentialists ask. These questions include: what is the meaning of life? How are we to live purposeful lives? Do I have a responsibility to live such a purposeful life? Great minds have wrestled with these questions, and the goal of this course is to introduce students to the wider conversation through reading existentialist philosophy.

Applied Philosophy - Semester (Spring) (APPROVAL REQUIRED)

Faculty: Dr. K-T

Grade: 11-12, Pre-Req: Moral Philosophy

How can philosophy help us with our day-to-day struggles in education, relationships, work, and leisure? Applied philosophy is the application of philosophy to everyday living, and it aims to provide us with the knowledge and tools to grapple with ordinary problems using careful reflection and critical thinking. We will read and discuss several key texts and consider how the insights of great minds such as Aristotle and Marcus Aurelius can guide our decisions and change our lives. We will also discuss real-life quandaries, learn about logical fallacies that occur in everyday language, and consider how the philosophies of art and science impact us on a daily basis.

Principles of Engineering - Semester (Spring)

Faculty: Mr. Han

Grades: 9-12, Pre-Req: B in Mathematics

This introductory course provides students an opportunity to investigate basic engineering principles while developing skills and understanding of concepts through activity, project, and problem-based learning. Students learn how engineers use math, science, and technology in an engineering problem-solving process. This course challenges students to continually hone their communication skills, creative abilities, and problem-solving skills based on engineering concepts learned throughout the course.

Additional AP Offerings (All classes offered during hours 1-6 for FULL-YEAR)

Class Title: AP Biology

Teacher: Dr. Elrod

Class Description: The primary goal of this course is the development of an understanding and application of the concepts of biology. Essential to this conceptual understanding is the grasping of science as a process rather than an accumulation of facts, participating in scientific inquiry, and recognizing unifying themes that integrate the major topics of biology, including, evolution, energetics, information storage and transmission, and systems interactions. An emphasis will be on describing, explaining, and interpreting scientific data. Analysis of experimental results and designing experiments is a core component of the course. Students should have a genuine interest in biology.

Prerequisites: A in Biology, completion of Algebra I, and teacher approval.

Class Title: AP Chemistry

Teacher: Mrs. Huff

Class Description: AP Chemistry is designed to be comparable to a year-long, college-level general chemistry course. We will explore in much greater depth the concepts learned in general chemistry, as well as new material that will build upon your previous knowledge. This class gives students a chance to experience what a college class may be like, challenges them with new information, and it prepares them to take the AP exam. Students will use their knowledge in performing labs, thus “seeing and doing” those concepts they learn in class, and will develop a greater understanding of how chemistry affects the environment in which we live. Major topics covered will include the structure of matter, intermolecular forces, chemical reactions, kinetics, thermochemistry, equilibrium, acid-base chemistry, and electrochemistry. Students will learn numerous chemical calculation skills in the study of the content, and in the analysis of lab data.

Prerequisites: A-average in Chemistry or Chemistry Intensive, completion of Algebra II, and teacher approval.

Class Title: AP Physics

Teacher: Mr. Vaupel

Class Description:

Physics is the study of matter, energy and the interactions between them. In this course, students will be challenged to understand a wide range of concepts in the mechanics, electricity and magnetism fields of Physics. The subgroups of these categories that will be covered in this course include Motion, Newton's Laws of Motion, Energy, Rotational Motion, Vibrations and Waves, Electricity and Circuits.

This is an Algebra-based course and will consist of a combination of lecture notes, homework assignments, lab reports, as well as tests and quizzes. Completion of this course will ultimately prepare students to take part in the AP Physics 1 Exam at the conclusion of the school year.

Prerequisites:

Students enrolled in AP Physics 1 must have already taken and passed Algebra II with an A, and must be currently enrolled, or have previously taken Pre-Calculus. In addition, students enrolled in this course must have already taken and passed Geometry, or an equivalent course. Fundamentals of Algebra, Geometry and Trigonometry will be used throughout the course, so it is imperative for students to have a strong foundation in these fundamentals.

Class Title: AP Calculus BC

Teacher: Mr. Clausen

Class Description: Students will be introduced to the fundamental principles of differential and integral calculus. Topics covered include detailed study of limits, continuity, derivatives and integrals of algebraic and transcendental functions of one variable with applications to curve- tracing, maxima-minima related rate, and infinite series problems. Upon completion, students should be able to select and use appropriate models and techniques for finding solutions to derivative and antiderivative related problems with and without technology. Students will have the opportunity to take the AP exam at the end of the course,

Prerequisites: A in Precalculus and Teacher Approval

Class Title: AP Computer Science Principles (Independent Study)

Teacher: Ms. Holley

Class Description: AP CS Principles is an independent study college-level course. While learning Python, students will learn to communicate and make connections between a concept and computing, communicate their ideas on computing and technology, analyze a problem, design a solution, and code the solution. Concepts taught include: Python Language & Syntax, Turtle Graphics, Use of Variables & Operators, Functions, Booleans & Conditionals, Branching & Looping, Top-Down Design, Lists, and Basic Console Interaction for Input & Output.

Prerequisites: B or better in Geometry and Teacher Approval

Class Title: AP Computer Science A (Independent Study)

Teacher: Ms. Holley

Class Description: AP CSA is an independent study college-level course. While learning a subset of Java students will learn to analyze a problem, design a solution, code the solution, and test that all possible input options to their solution work. Students will independently learn to think analytically and critically so as to present all possible scenarios and to trace their coded solution for correctness and accuracy. Concepts taught include: Java Language & Syntax, Use of Variables, Creation of Classes & Objects, Control Structures, Arrays & Array Lists, Inheritance & Polymorphism, Recursion, and Sorting & Searching Algorithms.

Prerequisites: A in AP CS Principles and Teacher Approval

Standard High School Course Progression

Freshmen Year:

Fall	Spring
Classical Literature	Classical Literature
Western Civilization I	Western Civilization I
Latin III or Spanish I	Latin III or Spanish I
Algebra I or Geometry	Algebra I or Geometry
Biology	Biology
Composition	Health*
Personal Fitness*	ELECTIVE BLOCK

**Students who elect to take health or personal fitness over the summer can open up a study hall during the school day. This could be helpful to students as they adjust to the high school workload.*

N.B. Some students may be more or less advanced in their language or math classes.

Sophomore Year:

Fall	Spring
British Literature	British Literature
Western Civilization II	Western Civilization II
Latin IV or Spanish II	Latin IV or Spanish II
Geometry or Algebra II	Geometry or Algebra II
Chemistry or AP Biology*	Chemistry or AP Biology*
Moral Philosophy	Art Appreciation
ELECTIVE BLOCK	ELECTIVE BLOCK

**If a student elects to take AP Biology as a sophomore, they are allowed to request AP Chemistry for their junior year but only if they take the chemistry intensive during the second semester of sophomore year.*

N.B. Some students may be more or less advanced in their language or math classes.

Junior year:

Fall	Spring
American Literature	American Literature
American History	American History
Latin V or AP Latin	Latin V or AP Latin
Algebra II or Precalculus	Algebra II or Precalculus
AP Chemistry* or Physics	AP Chemistry* or Physics
American Government	Political Philosophy
ELECTIVE BLOCK	ELECTIVE BLOCK

**Students who elect to take AP Chemistry must take either physics or AP Physics their senior year.*

N.B. Some students may be more or less advanced in their language or math classes.

Senior year:

Fall	Spring
Modern European Literature	Modern European Literature
Modern European History	Modern European History
Latin VI or Spanish IV	Latin VI or Spanish IV
Precalculus, Calculus, or AP Calculus BC	Precalculus, Calculus, or AP Calculus BC
AP Physics, Anatomy & Physiology, AP CS Principles, or AP CSA	AP Physics, Anatomy & Physiology, AP CS Principles, or AP CSA
Economics	Lessons in Wonder
ELECTIVE BLOCK	ELECTIVE BLOCK

N.B. Some students may be more or less advanced in their language or math classes.

ACA Course Map



High School Curriculum (Class of 2024 and Beyond)*											
Area of Study	Req. Credits	Duration	Ninth		Tenth		Eleventh		Twelfth		
Literature	4	Year	Classical Lit		British Lit		American Lit		Modern European Lit. (with senior thesis)		
History	4	Year	Western Civ I		Western Civ II		American History		Modern European History		
Math	4 (during 9-12)	Year	Algebra I		Geometry		Algebra II		Pre-Calculus or AMDM or Statistics		
		Year	Geometry		Algebra II		Pre-Calculus		Calculus I or AP Calculus BC		
		Year	Algebra II		Pre-Calculus		Calculus I		AP Calculus BC		
Science	4	Year	Biology		Chemistry		Physics		Physiology or AP Comp Sci A. or AP Comp Sci Prin.		
			Biology		AP Biology		Chemistry		Physics or AP Physics		
			Biology		Chemistry		AP Chemistry		Physics or AP Physics		
			Biology		AP Biology (Year) + Chem Intensive (S2)		AP Chemistry		AP Physics		
Foreign Language	3 (in 9-12) 2 Credits of Same Language	Year	Latin III		Latin IV		Latin V		Latin VI or AP Latin or Elective		
		Year	Spanish I		Spanish II		Spanish III		Spanish IV or Elective		
Fine Arts	0.5	Semester					Fine Arts Comprehensive				
Personal Fitness / Health	1	Semester	Personal Fitness	Health							
Additional ACA Requirements	3	Semester	Composition		Moral Philosophy		* American Government	Political Philosophy	* Economics	Lessons in Wonder	
Electives	0.5	Semester	Students take one semester-long elective course any time during 9-12 grade. An elective course is any credit-earning course that is not listed as a graduation requirement elsewhere.								
Credits Required for Graduation	24	* APS Requirement									

- Notes:**
- Students must take Biology, Chemistry, and Physics (or AP Physics) to graduate
 - Health and Personal fitness supersede students' elective preferences if not completed by the end of 9th grade
 - All AP Classes require teacher approval
 - No credit for Study Skills/Study Hall
- *If you have any questions about the Graduation Requirements for the Class of 2022 or 2023, please reach out to Mr. Flynn

As of January 19, 2022