



Atlanta Classical Academy – High School

2023-2024 Elective Offerings

“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

We are pleased to present the following courses to our students during 7th hour window throughout the school year. Below you will find a summary of the elective offerings for the 2023-2024 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).

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. 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 Personal Fitness of these classes during the summer. If interested, students should notify Mr. Flynn.
- 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.

Note for Juniors:

- Students 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.

2023-2024 ELECTIVE OFFERINGS

Study Hall Semester (Fall or Spring) **(NO CREDIT)** Grade: 9-12, Pre-Req: None

FULL-YEAR

Major Movements and Ideologies of the Modern World

Faculty: Mr. Rosenzweig

Grade: 12

Pre-Requisites: 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

FALL or SPRING

Examining the Teaching Profession Semester (APPROVAL REQUIRED)

Grade: 12

Pre-Requisites: 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 (APPROVAL REQUIRED)

(Counts toward APS CTAE 3 Credit Requirement)

Faculty: Mr. Henriques

Grade: 9-12,

Pre-Requisites: 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 or Spring) (APPROVAL REQUIRED)

(Counts toward APS CTAE 3 Credit Requirement)

Faculty: Mrs. Collier-Johnson

Grade: 9-12

Pre-Requisites: 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.

String Ensemble Semester (Fall or Spring) (APPROVAL REQUIRED)

(Counts toward APS CTAE 3 Credit Requirement)

Faculty: Ms. Wiggins (Mr. Franklin)

Grade: 9-12,

Pre-Requisites: Audition

The strings 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

Logic and Logical Reasoning Semester (Fall)

Faculty: Mr. Hawkins

Grade: 9-12 – Pre-Requisites: Geometry (may be taken concurrently)

Although the class will have no homework, it will cover the basics of formal logic and syllogisms, along with the various types of fallacies, or logical flaws. It will teach students how to make valid arguments and, equally importantly, how to spot bogus ones. This class is for anyone interested in enhancing their skills in argumentation and critical thinking.

Modernist Poetry Semester (Fall) (APPROVAL REQUIRED)

Faculty: Mr. McClatchey

Grade: 9-12 – Pre-Requisites: None

Timed to (nearly) align with the centennial of T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land*, this class will introduce high schoolers to the wonders of Modernist Poetry, beginning with *Les Fleurs du Mal* by Baudelaire, rising through early Modernists such as Stephen Crane and Wilfred Owen, and climaxing with the three great works of T.S. Eliot: *The Waste Land*, "Ash Wednesday," and *The Four Quartets*. Other readings will include Ezra Pound's translations, H.D.'s imagist poems, Rilke's sonnets, and Fernando Pessoa's persona poems. We will explore the sources of (and solutions to) the metaphysical dread at the heart of Modernist poetry. Junior and Senior Literature classes at ACA privilege fiction as the primary object of study; this course will focus only on poetry.

Problems in Engineering Semester (Fall) (APPROVAL REQUIRED)

(Counts toward APS CTAE 3 Credit Requirement)

Faculty: Mr. Han

Grade: 11-12 – Pre-Requisites: Principles of Engineering

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.

Ethics Semester (Fall) (APPROVAL REQUIRED) Faculty: Dr. K-T
Grade: 11-12 – Pre-Requisites: 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

Creative Writing Semester (Spring) (APPROVAL REQUIRED)

Faculty: Mr. McClatchey

Grade: 9-12 – Pre-Requisites: Composition

This class teaches students the basics of fiction and poetry. Students will learn the fundamentals of narrative, the fundamentals of verse, 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 adjectives. The ear of an educated person can never be sensitive enough.

Normandy Semester (Spring)

Faculty: Dr. Farmer

Grade: 10-12 – Pre-Requisites: None

In this course, we will study the history and especially the culture of Normandy, a region of northern France that has proved immensely influential on the imagination of Europe. While our historical analysis will go from the region's earliest days as a settlement for Vikings through its outsized role in World War II, our cultural analysis will largely focus on the 19th and early 20th century. We'll talk about and sample the music, art, and food of the region, and we'll read Gustave Flaubert's *Madame Bovary* and the short stories of Guy de Maupassant out loud in class. (There will be minimal reading homework.) We'll also have extended encounters with and discussions of Norman artists like Claude Monet, Eugène Chigot, and Erik Satie, and we'll eat some cheese and other Norman cuisine.

Other Voices Semester (Spring) (APPROVAL REQUIRED)

Faculty: Mr. Hawkins

Grade: 11-12 – Pre-Requisites: 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.

Theatre Semester (Spring) (APPROVAL REQUIRED)

Faculty: Dr. K-T

Grade: 11-12 – Pre-Requisites

The upper school theatre elective is designed to help students understand the fundamental elements of theatre. We will cover acting, directing, drama theory, and playwriting. You will also develop specific stage skills like vocal expression, character development, and movement. Drama theory involves exploring different periods and styles of theatre. Studying historical and cultural context will allow you to access the rich traditions found in the world of theatre. In general, lessons will include improvisational acting games and warmups, scene-devising activities, and rehearsals for an end of semester performance. This elective aims to provide a strong foundation for students to continue to pursue and appreciate the dramatic arts. Although officially a no homework elective, this course will require some line learning at home.

AP OFFERINGS

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

AP Biology

Faculty: Dr. Elrod

Grades 10-12

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

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.

AP Chemistry

Faculty: Dr. Elrod

Grade: 11-12

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

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.

AP Physics I

Faculty: Mr. Vaupel

Grades: 11-12

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 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.

AP Calculus BC

Faculty: Mr. Clausen

Grades 11-12

Prerequisites: A in Precalculus and Teacher Approval

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.

AP Computer Science Principles (Independent Study)

Faculty: Ms. Holley

Prerequisites: B or better in Geometry and Teacher Approval

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.

Class Title: AP Computer Science A (Independent Study)

Faculty: Ms. Holley

Prerequisites: A in AP CS Principles and Teacher Approval

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.