

Millennium High School Course Catalog



2009-2011

HISTORY/SOCIAL SCIENCE (4 years required)

Geography/Anthropology: (5916)

This course familiarizes students with the regional geography of Africa, Australia, South and North America, Europe, and Asia. Students learn about the distribution and relationships among various physical and human phenomena throughout these regions, but this course's primary objective is to have students understand why these distributions occur by analyzing the various physical (climate and landforms etc.), cultural, historical, economic, political and demographic elements that produce them. **(MHS, UC, CSU)**

World History: (1503)

This course is designed to introduce students to the key events that had a lasting and persistent impact on modern human history from the late 18th century to the present. The course delves into the industrial revolution, the rise of capitalism and the communist rebuttal, imperialism, the causes and consequences of the World Wars, the impact of the cold war, and finally the rise of globalization. The purpose of this course is to give students a background and context for modern history and the present state of the world by tying it to the respective historic, geopolitical, cultural, and economic issues. This course will be presented in such a way that encourages personal reflection about the complexities and path of modern history, which will result from a variety of perspectives on world conflicts and issues being presented during the course. **(MHS, UC, CSU)**

U.S. History: (7203)

This course familiarizes the student with the events that shaped modern America. Special attention will be paid to the formation of the government, the key individuals involved in the formation and the progress of this system throughout time. Major events such as World War II and the Great Depression will be considered as they pertain to transformation of the country and an emphasis on relating the events of U.S. History to events of the current day will also be made. **(MHS, UC, CSU)**

American Government: (1551)

This course is an introduction to government and politics through the study of the government of The United States. All governments combine coercion and legitimacy. In a stable and legitimate system of government, coercion is hardly noticed. Government comes to be seen as a source of benefits. The purpose of the course is to look behind institutions, practices, and benefits to appreciate how we are governed. We shall examine some of the major institutions of American government, some of America's political processes, and some of the key forces competing for power in the U.S. to see how decisions in the areas of economic, social and foreign policy are reached. **(MHS, UC, CSU)**

Economics: (7381)

This course is an introduction to the methodology and analytical tools used by economists. Economic theory, policy and history are examined with major emphasis placed on macroeconomics and microeconomics. **(MHS, UC, CSU)**

English (4 years required)**English 1P: (1003)**

English 1P is designed to begin student's preparation for college. Students read novels, nonfiction works, plays, short stories and poetry. Students learn to analyze and compare works in terms of theme, historical influence and literary devices. Students study vocabulary, word roots and develop speaking and listening skills. They also learn to produce a variety of writing including but not limited to; narrative, short stories, expository, journals, persuasive, cause and effect, compare and contrast and research essays. **(MHS, UC, CSU)**

English 2P: (1133)

Writing: This class will help students discover and develop the writing processes to bring their proficiency to the level necessary for entrance into their respective curricula. The class will guide students through the process of starting, composing, revising, and editing. The class will emphasize strategies within the writing process to help students with specific writing situations. Students will develop techniques to improve clarity of writing and raise proficiency to the level necessary for entrance into particular curricula.

Literature: Each class will read a minimum of 5 books from the reading list. The works will be read in their entirety. Classes will focus on major elements of literature such as characterization, figurative language, theme, style devices, plot, conflict, tone, mood, point of view. Students will read short narratives, passages, short stories, and articles to help make inferences, draw conclusions, detect relationships between generalizations and supporting details, interpret graphic aids, and basic library skills. **(MHS, UC, CSU)**

English 3P: (1263)

English 3P (American Literature) is a junior level course intended to introduce students to literature from all different periods in the nation's history with a year-long emphasis on the pursuit of the American Dream. Students will write essays weekly and the course will have strong emphasis on vocabulary development, growth and independence through literature, grammar, reading comprehension and higher level thinking skills such as interpreting symbolism, diction, imagery, and tone. Students will be exposed to short stories, non-fiction pieces, traditional literature and poetry. The class will center on student involvement and discussion as well as written reflection, oral presentations, and various assessments. **(MHS, UC, CSU)**

English 4P: (1383)

Writing: The class will emphasize strategies within the writing process to help students with specific writing situations. Students will develop techniques to improve clarity of writing while developing writing fluency and editing for grammatical and mechanical accuracy. The class will guide students through the process of starting, composing, revising, and editing.

Literature: The reading emphasis is on contemporary nonfiction works, novels, short stories, plays, and poetry. A minimum of five works from the reading list will be read in their entirety. Students will concentrate on major elements of literature such as characterization, figurative language, symbolism, theme, style devices, plot, conflict, tone, mood, point of view. With a focus on analysis, students will learn through writing, discussion, debate and research based activities. **(MHS, UC, CSU)**

Mathematics (4 years required)

Pre-Algebra A: (6410)

This course builds upon the essential skills of arithmetic as they apply to algebra. Real numbers and linear equations, linear inequalities, factoring, fractions, graphing and some elements of geometry are stressed. This course also develops the student's ability to solve practical real problems and their algebraic equations, especially those involving multiple steps. **(MHS)**

Pre-Algebra B: (6411)

This course provides one year of high school mathematics for students who are not currently planning on attending a four-year university directly after graduation. It is designed to review basic arithmetic concepts, prepare students to pass the math portion of the California High School Exit Exam, and to prepare students for further study in algebra and geometry. Topics included are: arithmetic review, solving linear equations and inequalities, factors, exponents, ratio, proportion, graphing, area, volume, right triangles, data analysis, and probability. **(MHS)**

Algebra 1P: (2052)

This is a beginning course in Algebra. The course is based on the standards set by the State of California and is a necessary course for the High School Exit Exam. The following topics are included: algebraic operations; rules of exponents; solving and graphing linear equations, inequalities, and quadratics; solving systems of equations; parallel and perpendicular lines; functions and relations; application problems.

(MHS, UC, CSU)

Geometry P: (2103)

This is the second course in high school mathematics. The course is based on the standards set by the State of California. The following topics are included: geometric proofs; perimeter, area, and volume of two- and three- dimensional figures; size transformations; Pythagorean theorem; constructions; trigonometric functions; special triangles; coordinate geometry. **(MHS, UC, CSU)**

Algebra 2P: (2093)

This is a second course in algebra. The course is based on the standards set by the State of California. The following topics are included: functions; variation and graphs; linear functions; matrices; systems; quadratic functions; powers; inverses and radicals; exponential and logarithmic functions; trigonometry; polynomials; quadratic relations.

(MHS, UC, CSU)

Personal Finance: (4620)

This practical course will show students how to effectively use math in their daily lives. It covers topics such as: how to manage a checking account, develop a personal budget, calculate rate of pay, how to use math in the workplace and determine the cost of living independently. This is a very practical project based course that develops their ability to handle day-to-day personal finances. **(MHS)**

Pre-Calculus: (2130)

This course is designed to prepare students for the field of calculus. The course focuses on periodic functions, trigonometry, combinations of sinusoids, vectors, probability, matrices, conic sections, polar coordinates, sequences and series, and rational functions.

(MHS, UC, CSU)

Science (3 years required)**Biology P: (3133)**

Biology is a laboratory science course that covers the study of living things using a molecular approach. This course focuses on the study of life by examining cellular structure, function and process, genetics, ecology, evolution and physiology. Scientific processes and laboratory skills are emphasized along with scientific writing skills and biology's connection to other scientific disciplines. Students research current biological issues and investigate the ethical issues. The foundation of the class is based upon the standards developed by the California Board of Education. **(MHS, UC, CSU)**

Bio-Chemistry: (3162)

Biochemistry is an expansion of biology and chemistry which studies the structure and function of molecules of living cells. Emphasis is placed on the human body and investigating public health issues. Students will examine these issues and explain causation in terms of biology and chemistry and investigate solutions, treatments and prognosis from a Bio-Chem perspective. Major units of focus are cancer, genetic variation, technology and molecular biology and air quality. **(MHS, UC, CSU)**

Applied Chemistry: (3285)

This course is designed as a non-intimidating introduction to chemistry. This is not a traditional chemistry course. Rather than placing an emphasis on the mathematics of chemistry, Applied Chemistry for Life seeks to challenge students to use the knowledge of chemistry to make informed decisions about personal and societal issues. Topics covered will include atomic and molecular structure, bonding, conservation of matter, gases, acids and bases, solutions, thermodynamics, reaction rates, equilibrium, organic chemistry and biochemistry, and nuclear processes. **(MHS)**

Chemistry: (3263)

This course is designed to introduce students to basic chemical principles. Topics covered will include atomic and molecular structure, bonding, conservation of matter, gases, acids and bases, solutions, thermodynamics, reaction rates, equilibrium, organic chemistry and biochemistry, and nuclear processes. **(MHS, UC, CSU)**

Environmental Science: (3111)

Environmental Science is an introduction to the structure and function of terrestrial, aquatic and atmospheric systems and the human actions that affect them. The course is designed to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts and methodologies necessary to understand the interrelationships of the natural world and to be able to identify and analyze environmental problems, both natural and man-made. Laboratory and field activities are designed to further involve the students in recognizing "real world" problems. **(MHS, UC, CSU)**

Interactive Science: (3075)

This is an introductory class designed to prepare students for biology. Students will investigate the environment in terms of: cellular activity, genetics, ecology, evolution, and physiology. The course will include laboratory activities with a focus on student projects. **(MHS)**

Fine Arts (1 year required)

Art: (006003)

This introductory course is a comprehensive study of fundamental art skills with a strong emphasis on the elements of art and the principles of design. Students will have to solve a wide variety of visual problems that are designed around the five content strands of the Visual and Performing Arts Standards. Students will have the opportunity to experiment with a variety of two-dimensional art media while they are engaged in creative exploration. Art history and aesthetic valuing will be strategically interwoven throughout each unit of study. **(MHS, UC, CSU)**

Advanced Art: (6009)

Advanced Art is a drawing and painting course based on the idea that the true nature of an artist is to create significant meaning through visual expression. Therefore, the overall goal of this course is to help students become more personally expressive in their works of art by placing an emphasis on content while improving their level of technical skill throughout the creative process. Advanced Drawing and Painting is a course for those students whom have successfully completed an introductory 2-D art course and/or show an intermediate to advanced understanding of 2-D media and design.

Students will be presented with a wide variety of visual problems that are designed around the five content strands of the Visual and Performing Arts Standards. Students will be expected to solve these problems in such a way so that the finished product involves a solution that is unique to the individual and shows a mastery of the elements of design and a strong understanding of the principles of design. Students will have the opportunity to experiment with a variety of two-dimensional art media while they are engaged in creative exploration. Art history and aesthetic valuing will be strategically interwoven throughout the entire school year. **(MHS, UC, CSU)**

Electives (4 years required)

Academic Decathlon (Acadec): (0103)

This is nationally recognized as the premier academic competition for high school students. It looks great on college applications, and has significant weight on college admissions decisions. The competition is a ten subject academic challenge that is an annual event. There are many honors, awards, medals, and scholarships available to students who work hard and put in the effort necessary to medal in the various categories. All students who prepare themselves adequately for the competition will have an opportunity to compete. The San Joaquin County Office of Education has also partnered with California State University, Sacramento to offer college credit for academic decathlon courses in high school. Academic Decathlon is a challenging, but rewarding experience that

will give students an awesome opportunity to get the study skills necessary to be competitive in college, and earn scholarships to help them pay for college. **(MHS)**

Advanced Drama: (6053)

Prerequisites: Passing grade in Beginning Drama and/or Teacher Recommendation

Description: This class will explore a greater range of acting styles, techniques and production concepts involving the total theater experience. Students will be required to develop greater projection, memorization and overall commitment to performing and creating the magic of theater. This class will culminate in a showcase of student's talents at the end of each semester. The showcase will be a collection of rehearsed, memorized and staged scenes or one act plays that will be shown to invited audiences for their enjoyment. **((MHS, UC, CSU)**

Argumentation and Debate: (0147) (one semester)

This course covers the basic structure of argumentation and debate. This course covers the fundamentals of logical debate premises and validity as well as argument assessment, critique, logical fallacies, and rebuttal. In the course students will learn different styles of debate including factual, value, and policy debates. The goal of this course is that students will be able to assess and analyze all types of arguments in a logical manner. **(MHS)**

Drama - Introduction to the Theatre Arts (6042)

Students will explore different styles of theatre, learning about the specific elements that are unique to each one. Styles will include a range from Japanese Kabuki theatre, Italian Comedia Del Arte, Improvisational Acting, as well as Classical and Modern genres of performance. The class will serve as a total exposure to most areas involved in the performing arts; Culminating in projects that will engage the students on skills in Acting/Performance, Creativity/Design, and Leadership/Directing. The level for this class is structured for beginning to intermediate levels of experience, giving even the most 'stage shy' a chance to learn in a comfortable, engaging, and dynamic atmosphere. This class will culminate in at least two public performances that will be open for parents, friends, and fellow students' enjoyment. **(MHS, UC, CSU)**

Botany: (1545)

Botany is an introductory course which includes an overview of a variety of topics: gardening, use of the greenhouse, plant cell anatomy, and plant science. Plant science overview will survey vascular and non-vascular plants, mosses, trees, fungi, and flowering plants. **(MHS)**

Music Cultures: (1058)

Students will learn about various aspects of culture including: music, customs and traditions, art, history, relationships, holidays, food, architecture, pastimes, and the interactions of culture groups throughout history. They will gain more appreciation for the many different cultures that now reside in the

United States. Through this course they will develop a broader understanding of what it means to be an American. **(MHS)**

Film Studies: (6035)

This class is a survey of the history and development of the art of motion pictures, including criticism of aesthetic and technical elements. Photography, movement, editing, sound, acting and writing are all critical elements of the curriculum. Films are shown on a weekly basis, and are chosen to identify specific technical elements of a film. Students are required to explain how those elements are used to stimulate different emotional responses from the audience and to illuminate the lives of characters in the film. As a culminating project, students will analyze significant films to explain the techniques the filmmakers use to express their ideas and values. **(MHS)**

Graphic Arts: (6030)

Graphic Arts is an introductory studio course. Topics covered include art elements and design principles, historical, cultural and social perspectives, symbols, typography, design analysis and critiquing, career paths and portfolio development. Students will learn to use graphic design software and will complete a variety of interesting projects tailored to their specific goals and interests. Projects will be completed with the use of the latest design technology in concert with the fundamental principles of basic design. **(MHS)**

Global Trends: (0511)

Global Trends is a multi-media course exploring world changes from 1945 – Present. Students research by continent and country to discover significant events and trends in religion, politics, art, music, literature, and general social conventions. Information is shared among students and with the entire class. The project-based course requires the regular use of computers for research, PowerPoint presentations, poster creation and various other hands-on activities. **(MHS)**

Greek Philosophy: (1540) (one semester)

The Ancient Greeks course covers key Greek philosophers i.e. Plato, Socrates, and Aristotle. Once through the philosophy portion of the course the students will read through a selection of Greek plays including the Sophocles trilogy and Euripides and work on some compare and contrast assignments between the source plays and theatrical interpretations of the plays. Finally the course concludes with a look at the influence of the Greeks on modern society including a review of the influence of the Greeks on Shakespeare, modern politics, and philosophy. **(MHS)**

Introduction to Philosophy: (7340)

what is real? How do we know what's real? Is there only one 'Reality'? These are the questions that have interested philosophers for thousands of years. We will

examine the different answers that have been given to these questions. The course will pursue a close, scholarly reading and interpretation of Plato's dialogues. This will lead us to consider basic Platonic philosophical ideas, such as knowledge, the theory of forms, and the pursuit of wisdom and goodness. We will explore such philosophies (and philosophers) as transcendental idealism (Kant), absolute idealism (Hegel), expressivism (Schopenhauer), humanism (Feuerbach), perspectivism (Nietzsche), and materialism (Marx). The ideas developed by these individuals are now generally regarded as the most original and important since those of the ancient Greeks. **(MHS)**

Introduction to Information Technology: (5240) (one semester)

This course provides a detailed review of the field of technology and can assist students in making informed career choices. It reviews its impact of technology and computers on the growth of society by tracing its advances in major fields such as manufacturing, communication, transportation and energy. The course will also provide an overview of computer systems and how to diagnose and maintain computer related hardware and software. Along with classroom work students will be participating in field work within our campus to gain hands-on experience. **OBJECTIVES:** After completing the course, students will be able to:

- Understand the stages of technology from design, to production, and to use.
- Explain how problems of technology are addressed and solved.
- Understand the anatomy of computer systems, networks and other technology commonly used today.

Work with Microsoft applications and understand Windows XP operating system and supporting programs **(MHS)**

Journalism: (1363)

This course is a career laboratory that includes discussions and lectures on mass communication and the various aspects of paper, video, and online publications. Students will operate (under the teacher's direction) an online student newspaper. Students may also perform professional duties in a partnership with the Tracy Press, a local community newspaper. Internships may be possible. **(MHS)**

Leadership: (8460)

Leadership is a 2.5 unit semester long course. Students must submit an application for evaluation to the Leadership Director before being accepted. The purpose of the Leadership Class is to teach students the skills needed in order to be an effective leader. Students practice these skills through planning rallies, dances, school events, etc. Leadership students are responsible for selling spirit wear at home sporting events, promoting school pride and are taught how to budget appropriately for activities throughout the year. The Leadership Class provides students with the unique opportunity to become a leader of our school and make decisions that affect the student population.

Mythology: Past and Present (7028)

This course examines the study of mythology including such cultures as Greek, Roman, Norse, Mid and Far Eastern, African, and mythologies of Americas. The course emphasizes creation, nature and hero myths as they shaped ancient civilizations and discusses how these myths affect global cultures today. The course is also meant to provide experience in reading and understanding those stories in their original context-so as to discern how they have continued to influence western art and culture, and express its values. Part of appreciating that influence will rely on introducing key traditional interpretative methods and apply them to the mythology. **(MHS)**

The Romans: (7105) (one semester)

The Romans course covers key Roman philosophers i.e. Cicero, Lactantius, Greek philosophical influence etc. Once through the philosophy portion of the course the students will read through a selection of Roman Literature including the histories of Polybius, Virgil's Aeneid, Ovid's Metamorphoses, and Cicero's speeches, letters and essays and work on some compare and contrast assignments between the source material and theatrical/class/professional interpretations. All of this will occur with a specific focus on the differences and similarities between the Republic and Empire eras in Roman history. Finally the course concludes with a look at the influence of the Romans on modern society including a review of the influence of the Romans on Shakespeare, modern politics, and philosophy. **(MHS)**

Theater Dance: (8016)

Students will explore five different styles of dancing from Jazz, Ballet, Modern, Broadway Jazz, and Cultural. All dances will be from musical theater plays, with the elective culminating in a dance performance at the end of the year. Basic technique will be covered in all the above dance styles that are listed. **(MHS)**

Teaching Assistant: (0800)

This class is for students who are in good standing and on track to graduate. It is an opportunity for students to provide much needed help to teachers in a variety of disciplines. Students must get prior approval from the teacher they wish to TA for before being enrolled in the class and they must maintain good attendance. This class can be for one or two semesters. **(MHS)**

Technical Construction: (5139)

Prerequisites: None

This class will explore simple woodcraft projects geared to teach basic wood shop skills. Students will work with hand tools and power tools while completing five projects throughout the year. Geometry will also be covered in the class using a program known as Construction Geometry. Math is not a prerequisite for the course; however, a portion of the grade is going to be based on the

completion of math projects. Special projects will be granted to students who display a level of aptitude in the class. These projects are decided by the teacher on an individual basis. (MHS)

Technical Theater – Stagecraft (3067)

Prerequisites: None

This class will be the support class for all of MHS theater arts productions. Students will learn how to build the sets, costumes, props, and make-up for an actual MHS production. The class will be expected to work hard using power tools, hammers, drills, and other equipment in the creation of the sets. Once the production opens, community service opportunities will be offered to the class in the form of running crew for the week of the show. (MHS)

Technical Theater – Design (3068)

Prerequisites: Interest in design and theater

The focus of this class is to develop and enhance the design concepts used in theater. Students will build skills in set design, costume design, prop design, light design and sound design. Mini-projects will be used to measure skills and once a level of skill is reached students will form design teams to support MHS theater productions. This class will also explore the history of design concepts, exploring the evolution of design in theater. (MHS)

Spanish 1P: (4033)

This is a beginning course in Spanish with an emphasis on communication, listening and speaking, as well as reading and writing. Specific teaching techniques and modifications are used to facilitate a smooth transition into Spanish 2. (MHS, UC, CSU)

Spanish 2P: (4150)

This course is a continuation of the foreign language study from Spanish I. Emphasis is on cultural understanding, creation of advanced dialogue using more complex sentence structure and appropriate verbiage, and reading historical texts. Upon completion of course work, students will be prepared for Spanish 3. (MHS, UC, CSU)

Spanish 3: (4065)

Students will be expected to be able to read, speak, and write about topics such as the differences of culture between the United States and other countries with Spanish speaking citizens. Students will discuss local American customs, popular culture, music, international events and literature from around the globe. Students also will keep a diary throughout the school year.

Yearbook and Website Design: (6031)

Yearbook is now included as part of the Graphic Arts class. Students use the program by Taylor Publishing, and are required to obtain all of the photographs, write all of the captions, and organize the book according to the publisher's outline. Students are required to meet deadlines, use creative details, and provide all marketing materials for the yearbook. **(MHS)**

Other Requirements**Career Education: (7814) (one year required)**

This year long class is a graduation requirement. Students are introduced to various careers and colleges and are prepared for an internship which will take place during their senior year. Students learn about resume writing, interviewing, and general etiquette. Professional, vocational, and college guest speakers are regularly brought in to give students first hand information about the world of work and help them to identify some post-high school options. For students at the high-end of the academic spectrum, study-trips to various college and university campuses are regularly available.

The Phase Two coordinator uses conferencing opportunities to learn about and reflect upon each student's personal interests, post-secondary goals and future plans, as they can and sometimes do, change. These annual conferences allow the coordinator and Executive Director to revisit and revise each student's personal learning plan so that it will reflect their current interests, goals and needs. Students who are ready to begin college work in high school are encouraged to check for transfer courses that can be used in college. **(MHS)**

Senior Internship and Seminar: (2810) (one semester required)

The senior internship and seminar class provides students with an opportunity to intern at a local place of employment or maintain a part-time job in order to prepare them for the world of work. Students interview for their internship either at the end of their junior year or in the fall semester of their senior year. Students will work a minimum of 10 hours per week at their internship or job site and attend the seminar class once per week. The seminar class will provide them with an opportunity to learn from one another what it is like to be in the work force. The seminar class will also cover topics that will prepare them to be an asset to any organization. **(MHS)**

Life Skills: (5922) (1 year required)

This year long course is a requirement for all ninth grade students, including transfer students. It stresses the importance of making good, sound choices while in high school and beyond. Students develop and present a personal mission statement that reflects their own personal values. Collaboration, communication, interpersonal group interaction and complex thinking are not only encouraged, but a requirement. Students are taught to not compromise, but to look for new, better WIN-WIN solutions when presented with problems. Students are also taught the importance of understanding others before they can ever truly be understood. Diversity is celebrated rather than shunned or merely tolerated.

(MHS)

Physical Education: (9173) (2 years required)

Physical education at Millennium High School is an amalgamation of fitness and athletic competition. The course is based around the California State Standards. The students are expected to achieve a high level of aerobic and anaerobic conditioning. Students are required to participate in the following team sports; football, soccer, basketball, and baseball. The course also introduces new activities such as; Frisbee, Frisbee golf, team handball, indoor soccer, volleyball, and track and field. All of the students are tested regularly on their aerobic capacity and anaerobic improvement. **(MHS)**