

## “Plus,” AP Classes and Special Opportunities at Park Tudor: An Overview

### Philosophy:

Advanced Placement (AP) classes are rigorous, content-heavy courses designed to be taught at a college level. Students are therefore admitted to AP courses by permission of the Department, which establishes the criteria and prerequisites for each AP course. Students enrolled in an AP course should expect significant amounts of homework (45 minutes or more per evening) and a level of academic difficulty commensurate with a college curriculum.

Park Tudor believes that students should be encouraged to challenge themselves academically. Our AP criteria are thus based on *both* demonstrated achievement and a student’s motivation to do high-level work. All placement criteria (see below) are published in the course of study guide and are subject to regular review.

**Students enrolled in an Advanced Placement (AP) course are expected to take the AP exam, except under unusual circumstances. Students who for any reason do not take the AP exam are required instead to complete a culminating assessment in the class.**

Note: In some instances, a student who falls just short of the formal guidelines for placement may request to be considered for an AP course. In such cases, the student must have demonstrated clear enthusiasm for the subject; must have the strong recommendation of his/her current teacher; and must arrange to speak directly with the Department Chair, who will make a final determination on the request in consultation with the student’s current instructor and advisor.

### Placement Criteria and Pre-Requisites:

#### **Fine Arts**

##### AP Art History

*Pre-requisites:* By departmental permission; generally, students must earn a B or higher in English and have completed World Civilizations I and II. Successful completion of U.S. History is also recommended, as is concurrent enrollment in Art Seminar.

*This course is especially suited for students who:*

- Are highly-motivated and have demonstrated success in the Arts, History and English
- Have a love of Visual Art and have demonstrated a strong interest/potential in the area
- Are strong readers and writers and can handle large volumes of information

##### AP Music Theory:

*Pre-requisites:* Music Theory and by departmental permission.

*This course is especially suited for students who:*

- Are highly-motivated and have demonstrated success in prior Arts and Music courses
- Have a love of music and have demonstrated a strong interest/potential in the area
- Have strong auricular skills and are willing to dedicate time and extra preparation for ear training, sight singing and harmonic analysis.

## **English:**

### English I+

*Pre-requisites:* By application and departmental permission; initial placement in a “Plus” class should be based on a record of achieving at least a “B+” average in previous English courses, as well as any standardized test scores or teacher recommendations that might be relevant.

*This course is especially suited for students who:*

- Are highly-motivated and have demonstrated success in English
- Are confident writers and strong readers
- Are comfortable in class discussion settings and other “public” forums

### English II+

*Pre-requisites:* By departmental permission; students currently enrolled in English I+ must maintain a B average or higher in the course; students currently in English I may elect to take English II+ if they earn an A or A- average in the course.

*This course is especially suited for students who:*

- Are highly-motivated and have demonstrated success in English I+ or English I
- Are confident writers and strong readers
- Are comfortable in class discussion settings and other “public” forums.

### English III-AP & English IV-AP

*Pre-requisites:* By departmental permission; student currently enrolled in English II+ or English III-AP must maintain a B average or higher in the course; students currently in English II or English III may elect to take an AP if they earn an A or A- in the course.

*This course is especially suited for students who:*

- Are highly-motivated and have demonstrated success in English II+ / English III-AP or English II / III
- Are confident writers, particularly under time pressures
- Are strong analytical and critical readers and who are comfortable with standardized writing tests

## **Math:**

### Calculus I-AP

*Pre-requisites:* By departmental permission; students must earn a B- average or higher in Pre-Calculus to be placed in the course

*This course is especially suited for students who:*

- Are highly-motivated and have demonstrated success in Pre-Calculus
- Are confident analytical thinkers
- Are comfortable with taking standardized mathematics tests under timed conditions and who can handle the fast pace of an AP course

## Calculus II-AP

*Pre-requisite:* By departmental permission; students must earn a B- average or higher in Calculus I

*This course is especially suited for students who:*

- Are highly-motivated and have demonstrated particular success in Calculus I
- Are considering majors and/or careers which utilize a strong mathematical foundation
- Are comfortable doing high-level mathematics; have facility with mathematical operations and concepts; and who can handle the fast pace of an AP course

## AP Stats:

*Pre-requisites:* By departmental permission; generally, students must earn a B- average or higher in Statistics or Pre-Calculus

*This course is especially suited for students who:*

- Are highly-motivated and have demonstrated particular success in Pre-Calculus and/or Statistics
- Want to challenge themselves mathematically in place of or in addition to Calculus.
- Are comfortable with the demands and pace of an AP class.

**Note:** Offerings beyond Calculus II-AP are reserved for the most outstanding mathematics students at Park Tudor. The offerings will tend to change year-to-year, depending on staffing and the interests / needs of the individual students.

## Computer Science / Science

**\*Note: Computer Science became part of the Science Department in fall 2012.**

### AP Computer Science

*Pre-requisites:* Intro to Computer Science

*This course is especially suited for students who:*

- Are highly-motivated and have demonstrated success in Intro to Computer Science (CS)
- Are self-starters and enjoy the challenges of project-based work
- Are willing to do extra preparation for an AP test

### AP Biology (11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> Grade Elective)

*Pre-requisites:* By departmental permission; students must earn a B- average or higher in Chemistry and Biology

*This course is especially suited for students who:*

- Are highly-motivated and have demonstrated success in introductory Chemistry and Biology
- Are strong readers and writers and who can handle large volumes of material
- Are willing to do extra preparation for an AP test and who can handle the fast pace of an AP course.

### AP Chemistry (Generally an 11<sup>th</sup> / 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Elective)

By departmental permission; students must earn a B- average or higher in Chemistry, Biology, and Algebra II, or pass a placement test (if they wish to take it in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade year)

*This course is especially suited for students who:*

- Are highly-motivated and have demonstrated success in introductory Biology and/or Chemistry
- Are strong mathematically, generally having completed at least Algebra II.
- Are willing to do extra preparation for an AP test and who can handle the fast pace of an AP course.

### AP Physics (11<sup>th</sup> /12<sup>th</sup> grade Elective)

*Pre-requisites:* By departmental permission; students must earn a B- or better in Physics and Pre-Calculus, and be concurrently enrolled in or have completed Calculus I.

*This course is especially suited for students who:*

- Are highly-motivated and have demonstrated success in introductory Physics or prior science classes
- Are strong mathematically and who have a Calculus-level ability
- Are willing to do extra preparation for an AP test and who can handle the fast pace of an AP course.

## **Special Opportunities in Science:**

### Organic Chemistry (11<sup>th</sup> / 12<sup>th</sup> grade elective; 1/2 credit per semester; full-year course)

*Pre-requisites:* By departmental permission; students must have taken Biology, AP Chemistry, and Pre-Calculus (B- or better in all); they must also be concurrently enrolled in Calculus I or higher.

*This course is especially suited for students who:*

- Are highly-motivated and have interest in a science-related major and career
- Can handle the challenges of “doubling” in science and managing a rigorous course load
- Are strong mathematically and analytically
- Can fit it into their schedule

### Microbiology (11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade elective; 1/2 credit; 1 semester)

*Pre-requisites:* By departmental permission; students must have completed Biology and Chemistry

*This course is especially suited for students who:*

- Are highly-motivated and have interest in a science-related major and/or career
- Can handle the challenges of “doubling” in science
- Enjoy hands-on, project-based learning
- Can fit it into their schedule

## History and Social Science

### AP U.S. History

*Pre-requisites:* By departmental permission; students must earn a B- average or higher in World Civ. II

*This course is especially suited for students who:*

- Are highly-motivated and have demonstrated success in World Civ. II and prior history and English courses
- Are strong readers and confident writers, particularly under time pressures
- Are comfortable participating in class, can handle large volumes of material and are comfortable with the fast pace of an AP course

### AP World History

*Pre-requisite:* By departmental permission; students currently enrolled in AP U.S. History must maintain a B average or higher in the course; students currently in regular U.S. History may elect to take the course if they earn a B+ or higher in the course.

*This course is especially suited for students who:*

- Are highly motivated, have a history of investing significant time and effort in their homework, and have demonstrated success in World Civ. II, AP U.S. History or regular U.S. History.
- Are strong, questioning readers and confident writers, particularly under time restrictions.
- Can handle analytical and synthetic thinking in 8-10 pages of reading and are comfortable with the fast pace of an AP course.
- Are prepared and excited to participate and debate in class and show particular passion and affinity for global issues or want to learn more about this subject.

### **Special Opportunity in History:**

American Military History & Legacy Initiative (1/2 credit; may be taken in either fall or winter term OR both terms)

*Pre-requisites:* Open to students in grades 10-12; ideally, students have earned a B average or higher in prior history classes. For details regarding the curriculum for each elective, review a detailed course description for both electives in MyClasses (history) on MyPT.

*This course is especially suited for students who:*

- Love history and are excited about working on ~~the~~ Legacy Initiative **projects**.
- Can handle the challenges of “doubling” in history
- Are strong readers and confident writers, particularly in terms of reading and annotating primary sources
- Can fit it into their schedules

## World Languages

Note: The World Languages Department encourages all of its students to advance as far as they can in their language study. There are no pre-requisites for taking an AP, save for the courses that lead up to the AP level in that language. Students electing to take an AP, however, should recognize the challenges—and joys—of advanced-level reading, speaking, writing, and conversation in the target language.

Below are the pre-requisite course for each world language AP:

### AP Spanish V

*Pre-requisite:* Spanish IV

### AP French V

*Pre-requisite:* French IV

### Latin Literature, IV V AP

*Pre-requisite:* Latin III

*These courses are especially suited for students who:*

- Love languages and have demonstrated success in the area
- Are comfortable reading, speaking, writing and conversing in the target language
- Have a love of Languages and who demonstrated a strong interest/potential in the area.
- Are comfortable with large volumes of material and the fast pace of an AP course

## **Special Opportunities in World Languages:**

### Spanish VI

*Pre-requisites:* Spanish IV or AP Spanish V; 12<sup>th</sup> grade students may, with the permission of the Department, move directly from Spanish IV to Spanish VI.

*This course is especially suited for students who:*

- Are interested in learning more about contemporary issues in the Spanish-speaking world
- Are comfortable reading, speaking, writing and conversing in the target language
- Are comfortable with presenting to peers and who enjoy project-based work

### French VI-Culture

*Pre-Requisite:* French IV or AP French V; 12<sup>th</sup> grade students may, with the permission of the Department, move directly from French IV to French VI.

*This course is especially suited for students who:*

- Are interested in learning more about contemporary issues in the French-speaking world
- Are comfortable reading, speaking, writing and conversing in the target language
- Are comfortable with presenting to peers and who enjoy project-based work