



National Sports Academy – Course Descriptions

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ENGLISH

Introduction to English Literature and Composition class will cover literature study, writing, and language. Students will read a variety of literary selections ranging from the classics to contemporary writings. Selections will include short stories, poetry, drama, novels, autobiographies, and other nonfiction. Students will be guided in close and active reading and the critical analysis of class reading selections through the literary elements.

Students will broaden their language skills through writing, vocabulary study and the study of the process and mechanics of writing. Students will study and apply these skills to writing essays, research papers, poetry, and speeches.

Critical Reading and Effective Writing will cover literature study, writing, and language. Students will read a variety of literary selections ranging from the classics to contemporary writings. Selections will include short stories, poetry, drama, novels, autobiographies, and other nonfiction. Students will advance their skills in literary analysis through written analysis and verbal discussions.

Students will broaden their language skills through writing, vocabulary study and the study of the process, structure and mechanics of writing. Students will study and apply these skills to writing essays, research papers, poetry, and speeches. The focus of written work will be the writing process and taking their work from the organizational and planning stages through the final draft.

American Literature at National Sports Academy is focused on commonly known American authors and their work. Students improve their critical-thinking skills as they determine the underlying assumptions and values within the selected works of novels, short fiction, plays and poetry. Additionally, an emphasis on literary techniques and connecting works from various time periods and genres to each student is placed. Students explore these works through a variety of writing assignments from fiction, research papers, and journals.

British and World Literature offers a survey of British literature that illustrates the origins of English-language literature and reflects its reach beyond the British Isles. The British and World Literature class gives students meaningful practice in fundamental literacy skills while introducing them to classics of British and world literature. This course will focus on reading and studying literary selections from the Renaissance period to the present day. Students will be asked to read and critically analyze through discussion and writing using the literary elements within their analysis.

Continuing to develop vocabulary, close and active reading, analytical thinking, and written language skills will form the basis for the activities integrated throughout this course. Students will be asked to complete activities including independent reading, writing, listening, speaking, and researching. Vocabulary study will be integrated into the literary study of each work as well as in isolation. Students will study the writing process, various genres of writing with a focus on developing a strong essay from the organizational through the final draft stages.

SOCIAL SCIENCE

World History covers Western Asia & Egypt (3500-500 B.C.) through to Africa and the Middle East (1945-Present). This class will focus on daily readings, with selected homework assignments on those readings. The goal is to improve each student's understanding of historic events and how it has created the world we live in today.

U.S. History is a year-long survey of American history from thriving Native American cultures pre-exploration, to the present. There is an additional focus on place-based history and connecting America's experience globally. Emphasis is placed on vocabulary, critical thinking skills, historical writing, and interpretation of original documents (DBQ's). Students are expected to participate in class through discussions, debates of key issues, project based learning and writing across the curriculum. Students are expected to maintain a notebook of all class handouts and materials, and integrate online resources in their learning and class preparation.

MATHEMATICS

Algebra 1 will focus on the application of algebraic tools and how it applies to a greater understanding of mathematics. Through focused study of mathematical tools, students will understand basic functions analytically and graphically.

Geometry focuses on Euclidean Geometry. Topics include the relationships between points, lines, and planes; logical thinking and proof-writing; measurement calculations including area and volume; congruency; similarity; two and three dimensional geometric figures; parallel and perpendicular lines; and the coordinate plane.

Algebra 2 is designed to build on algebraic and geometric concepts. We will examine concepts in advanced algebra and explore the foundations of trigonometry. Through focused study of mathematical tools, students will understand function theory graphically, numerically, and algebraically.

Precalculus combines the trigonometric, geometric, and algebraic techniques needed to prepare students for the study of calculus, and strengthen students' conceptual understanding of problems and mathematical reasoning in solving problems.

SCIENCE

Biology presents a solid, basic, grounding in the organization, structure and function of the living world. The topics covered include biological chemistry, cells, animal and plant maintenance, genetics, evolution, ecology, diversity of living things, and human biology. The main objectives for the course are: 1) To understand the fundamental principles of the physiology, natural history, taxonomy, evolution, morphology, and behavior of the major groups of living organisms and 2) To gain an appreciation of the incredible and important diversity in nature and the importance of the preservation of all life on earth. Student performance is assessed through tests, quizzes, laboratories, homework, reports, and in-class work.

Chemistry In this laboratory science course, the basic concepts of chemistry are covered. Topics include Matter and Change, Atoms, Periodic Table, Bonding, Chemical Formulas and Compounds, Chemical Equations and Reactions, Stoichiometry, Phases of Matter, Solutions, and Acids and Bases. Lectures, class discussions, group work, labs, field trips, and hands-on activities are the teaching platforms used. Assessments are based upon regular homework assignments, presentations, lab reports, projects, quizzes, tests, and participation. Scientific reading and writing skills are gained and students will learn how chemistry is an integral part of their daily lives through inquiry-based learning.

Physics presents a conceptual and mathematical introduction to the principles of physics. The main idea of the course is learning concepts before computation. The course makes maximum use of students' personal experiences in everyday life to illustrate classroom concepts. Topics covered include: Mechanics, Matter, Heat, Sound and Light, Electricity and Magnetism. Methods used for student learning are class discussions, lectures, guided practice, laboratories, and activities. Students are assessed through homework assignments, laboratory work, chapter tests and quizzes.

Exercise Physiology is an introductory college level course that takes anatomy and physiology one-step further by applying that knowledge to the pursuit of optimal athletic performance. This course introduces students to the anatomical and physiological elements used in sports, their measurement, and their responses both during an acute exercise bout and over time with training with regard to the training principles. Use of our own bodies as a laboratory and relation of the text to our own bodies will be stressed. The course will prepare students with background knowledge needed to be successful in college sports science programs and possible careers in exercise science, fitness, rehabilitation, athletic training, and allied health. Student assessment is through homework assignments, projects, and unit tests and quizzes.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Spanish 1-4 focuses on the four key areas of world language study: listening, speaking, reading and writing. The course represents an ideal blend of language learning pedagogy and online learning. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations and interactive activities and practices, which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing contact and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, participate in conversation and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products and perspectives of various Spanish -speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).