



The Academy

at Laurel Springs School

2020-2021

Program of Study Supplement

COURSES OFFERED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
MINERVA IN THE ACTIVE LEARNING FORUM



Strategic Learning & Growth

Course Description

As upper school students prepare to take on the demands of planning for their continued education, they will face many challenges. In this course, students will discover the science behind learning and the cognitive processes associated with executive functioning. Through a blend of theoretical and practical activities, students will also use tools to reflect, plan, and perform in ways that will allow them to master new skills and reach goals more effectively, preparing them for what lies ahead. Students completing the course will work to develop a growth mindset and to create strategies for success during the final years of high school and beyond.

Strategic Learning and Growth classes are held in Minerva's Active Learning Platform. Students are required to attend a live synchronous class for 90 minutes, twice per week, over 10 weeks.

Prerequisite

This course is available to Laurel Springs Academy students who are at least age 15 and in grades 10-12. Students must have completed at least 1 Advanced Placement (AP course) earning a final grade of 82.5% (B) or higher, or completed Honors level English and Social Studies courses the school year prior, earning a final grade of 86.5% (B+) or higher.

Offered in Fall 2020

Course is a UC Honors Approved Elective.

Advanced Composition and Expressive Clarity

Course Description

In this course, students will hone their purposeful communication skills to present, persuade, and defend their claims. Beginning with an examination of Aristotle's rhetorical appeals (ethos, pathos, and logos), students will discover how writing can wield persuasive power through an appeal to authority and goodwill, the emotions, and logic. Next, students will study concrete language and physical description, adopting some techniques from celebrated creative writers, to make their writing more vivid. Students will have a chance to develop their long-form writing, exploring different genres such as the research proposal and the op-ed. Finally, students will work to tailor their oral and written composition by considering the situation and the perspective of the people receiving it. With a focus on clarity and style, students will leave the course with an understanding of why great writing and speaking matter and the ability to use effective word choice, phrasing, sentence structure, and tone with confidence across a variety of mediums.

Advanced Composition and Expressive Clarity classes are held in Minerva's Active Learning Platform. Students are required to attend a live synchronous class for 90 minutes, twice per week, over 10 weeks.

Prerequisite

This course is available to Laurel Springs Academy students who are at least age 15 and in grades 10-12. Students must have completed at least 1 Advanced Placement (AP course) earning a final grade of 82.5% (B) or higher, or completed Honors level English and Social Studies courses the school year prior, earning a final grade of 86.5% (B+) or higher.

Offered in Fall 2020 and Spring 2021

Course is a UC Honors Approved English and NCAA Approved English.

Applied Creative and Critical Thinking

Course Description

In this interdisciplinary course shaped by current issues facing society today, students will solve concrete problems using algorithmic thinking, reasoning, and analytics while employing skills from the fields of economics, statistics, science, and human geography. Students will apply deductive and inductive arguments, identify and explain biases, and reverse engineer solutions across domains. By the end of the course, students will have a foundation in critical and creative thinking upon which they can build expertise in any discipline.

Applied Creative and Critical Thinking classes are held in Minerva's Active Learning Platform. Students are required to attend a live synchronous class for 90 minutes, twice per week, over 10 weeks.

Prerequisite

This course is available to Laurel Springs Academy students who are at least age 15 and in grades 10 -12. Students must have completed Advanced Composition and Expressive Clarity and Geometry.

Offered in Spring 2021

Course is a UC Honors Approved Elective.