

Millennium Charter Academy Upper School



High School Elective Course Descriptions

2021-2022

Year-Round Elective Courses

PERIOD	COURSES OFFERED
First Period	Anatomy and Physiology AP Chemistry AP Computer Science A Intro to Computer Science
Second Period	AP Chemistry AP Computer Science A Intro to Computer Science
Third Period	AP Computer Science A Intro to Computer Science Latin III
Fourth Period	AP Computer Science A Band Choir Intro to Computer Science
Fifth Period	AP Computer Science A Intro to Computer Science Precalculus
Sixth Period	AP Computer Science A Interior Design Intro to Computer Science
Seventh Period	AP Calculus AB AP Computer Science A AP US History Choir Intermediate Band Intro to Computer Science Physics Spanish III



Fall Semester Elective Courses

PERIOD	COURSES OFFERED
First Period	Advanced Health and Fitness Beginning Band Dual-Enrollment: Career & College Promise Fine Arts Survey Study Hall Weightlifting
Second Period	Advanced Health and Fitness Dual-Enrollment: Career & College Promise Music Theory Study Hall Weightlifting
Third Period	Dual-Enrollment: Career & College Promise Latin American Studies Music Theory Study Hall
Fourth Period	Advanced Health and Fitness Art Studio Ballet Fantasy, Mystery, and Sci-Fi Hobbits and Heroes Mock Trial Southern Goth Study Hall The Age of the American Revolution Weightlifting
Fifth Period	Dual-Enrollment: Career & College Promise Personal Finance Study Hall The Art of Rhetoric
Sixth Period	Dual-Enrollment: Career & College Promise Study Hall Theatre Arts
Seventh Period	Dual-Enrollment: Career & College Promise Fine Arts Survey Philosophy of Anthropology Study Hall



Spring Semester Elective Courses

PERIOD	COURSES OFFERED
First Period	Advanced Health and Fitness Beginning Band Dual-Enrollment: Career & College Promise Philosophy of Anthropology Study Hall Weightlifting
Second Period	Advanced Health and Fitness Dual-Enrollment: Career & College Promise Music Theory Study Hall Weightlifting
Third Period	Dual-Enrollment: Career & College Promise Latin American Studies Music Theory Study Hall
Fourth Period	Advanced Health and Fitness Art Studio Ballet Ghosts Among Us Study Hall The Art and Literature of Warfare The Third Reich Weightlifting
Fifth Period	Dual-Enrollment: Career & College Promise Introduction to Broadcasting Personal Finance Study Hall
Sixth Period	Dual-Enrollment: Career & College Promise Study Hall Theatre Arts
Seventh Period	Dual-Enrollment: Career & College Promise Fine Arts Survey Philosophy of Anthropology Study Hall



Elective Course Descriptions

Advanced Health and Fitness — *Rodney King*

Advanced Health & Fitness builds on the concepts learned in the previous course. Students will learn how to exercise more efficiently and properly, while participating in physical activities such as jogging and conditioning, plyometric training, agility training, and weightlifting. Basics anatomy, biomechanics, physiology, and sports nutrition will be taught as well.

Anatomy and Physiology — *Amber Brown*

This course will enable students to develop an understanding of the relationships between the structures and functions of the human body including cells, tissues, and organs of the major body systems. Students will also learn the mechanisms for maintaining homeostasis within the human body. This course will involve laboratory activities, projects, dissections, models, diagrams, journal writings, and clinical studies to help further understand the complexity of course material. Background knowledge in basic biological concepts is recommended. *This course may count as a fourth science credit.*

AP Calculus AB — *Christie Speer*

Calculus furthers students' knowledge of sequences and series and introduces students to the mathematics of motion. Students will apply derivatives and integrals to model and solve problems. This course is designed to develop conceptual understanding to prepare for college level Calculus. The AP exam is not required. Because of the breadth of material covered and the depth necessary to ensure student understanding, the pace of the class is fairly quick. *This course may count as a fourth math credit.*

AP Chemistry — *Kevin Currie*

This course is designed to be the equivalent of a first year, general chemistry college course. As such, the course is suitable only for high school students who are particularly able in chemistry and who have taken a first course (Honors Chemistry). Topics will include: chemistry of atoms and elements, chemical bonding, chemical reactions and energy changes, chemical kinetics, thermochemistry and chemical thermodynamics, and chemical equilibrium. There will be a lab component in this course. This course will meet regularly for one period per day and sometimes for two periods per day. *This course may count as a fourth science credit.*

AP Computer Science A — *Charlie Sealey*

The AP Computer Science A course introduces students to computer science with fundamental topics that include problem-solving, design strategies and methodologies, organization of data (data structures), approaches to processing data (algorithms), analysis of potential solutions, and the ethical and social implications of computing. The course emphasizes both object-oriented and imperative problem solving and design. These techniques represent proven approaches for developing solutions that can scale up from small, simple problems to large, complex problems. This course will be utilizing the Java programming language. *This course may count as a fourth math credit for those intending to enroll in a community college.* +



AP United States History — *Rusty Roberson*

AP US History (APUSH) is an advanced placement course that prepares students to sit for the examination offered by the College Board, which is in alignment with the Advanced Placement Program. If successful on the exam, students will earn college credits for taking this course. With this in mind, the expectation is that students will be receiving (at least to some degree) the level of content and instruction that they would have in a college-level American history survey course. To prepare properly for the AP exam, students will study US history in its entirety: from the Native Americans (pre-European contact) until the present day. But this course is meant not only to prepare students to take a test and receive college credits. It is the objective of this course also to provide an excellent opportunity for students to gain broader and deeper perspectives on what it means to be an American living in the twenty-first century. Even further, this course will demonstrate how American history is so intimately linked and in continuity with the Western Tradition, and how the pursuit of truth, beauty, and goodness continues onward to this very day within the American context (just as it has for millennia in a variety of other contexts). Therefore, students must be prepared for a profoundly rigorous and complex curriculum, and to be challenged deeply with the breadth and depth of coursework. But students should also enjoy this class, and through academic rigor (combined with a loving intellect) also seek to understand themselves and the world around them more fully. It is this combination of factors that will make this course an exhilarating and illuminating journey.

Art Studio — *Mary McCormick*

This course is loosely based on a classical, Renaissance master's studio. Students will create work in an art studio environment. The curriculum is designed to encourage students to incorporate new techniques into their work while beginning to develop a more personal style. Improvement of skills will be emphasized. Advanced students will design their work contract and plan. Any media are available to students. There will be several exhibition opportunities to showcase art including the MCA Art Show, senior show, etc. Assistance with portfolio compilation will be available upon request.

Band — *Rodney Money*

This course includes a balanced comprehensive study of music that develops skills in the psychomotor, cognitive, and affective domains. Classroom activities are designed to develop elements of musicianship including tone production, technical skills, intonation, music reading skills, listening skills, analyzing music, studying historically significant styles of literature, transposition, composition, and integration of other applicable disciplines such as sight-reading and correct responses to a conductor's musical insight into the literature being studied and to be performed. The sole purpose of the class is to prepare the students for real world applications involving music while developing them as artists.

Ballet — *Amber Brown*

Come enjoy the beauty and grace of classical ballet! This class will cover basic ballet positions, steps and vocabulary with a focus on the student's awareness of proper posture and body alignment. Standing barre work and center floor exercises will be given to enhance coordination, strength, balance and flexibility. Participants will also develop a sense of musical awareness and movement quality. No prior ballet experience necessary.



Beginning Band — *Rodney Money*

This course is offered to students with no previous music experience who plan on being in band in high school. Emphasis for this class will be mainly on development of basic technical skills. The students are required to either buy or rent their own instruments and purchase the book “Tradition of Excellence” which can be found in most music stores. Beginning Band students from the 2020-2021 school year may also choose to take this class as a review or even to learn a new instrument.

Choir — *Danielle Davis*

The high school choral program at MCA affords its members every opportunity to improve their skills, knowledge, and confidence as vocalists and choir members. Students will learn the elements of musical language and will practice using that language independently through sight-singing with excellent phrasing, pitch, and rhythm. The choir will perform publicly at school and community concerts, as well as choral competitions as they learn and perform various styles of choral literature from Medieval to Contemporary. Students will gain experience auditioning for *small* ensemble singing (solos, duets, trios, etc.) throughout the year.

Dual-Enrollment through Career & College Promise Program — *Paul Rezzo*

Juniors and Seniors in North Carolina have the opportunity to take tuition-free, dual-enrollment college courses online that provide them with both high school credit and college credits for each course. Both College Transfer Pathways and Career/Technical Pathways are available allowing students to either explore a career area or work through a college-transfer general education course. Students remain in Millennium's classical core high school classes, but if they are interested, they can opt to add a Surry class to their schedule and/or in place of an elective.

Fantasy, Mystery, and Sci-Fi — *Eric Cook*

A literature based class to explore key areas of classic genre fiction that have had wide cultural impact and influenced writers in more consciously literary circles as well. Beginning with folk and fairy tales and moving through the fantasy literature of the Medieval and early Modern period into the rise of horror, science-fiction and mystery genres in the early to mid-19th centuries. We will study how storytelling has embraced the uncanny, the imaginative, and the futuristic to reflect on both the concerns that were contemporary with their creation, but how they continue to explore important social, political and philosophical questions that matter today.

Fine Arts Survey — *TJ Lievsay*

Beginning with ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia, this course will trace development in the fine arts throughout history to parallel what students are learning in their literature and history courses. Students will learn how art, music, theater and dance flowed from overarching ideas of major historical time periods, exploring the interplay among art and music in various historical styles, combining intellectual challenge with application.



Ghosts Among Us: 18th Century Revolutionaries, Black Lives Matter, and the Alt-Right

— *Erick Allen and Rusty Roberson*

Western Civilization is both a product and an ongoing experience of revolution. The French Revolution and the American Revolution may be viewed as two fountainheads from which emerge two visions of freedom, equality and justice. Sometimes affirming, sometimes denying, but always struggling to find a way to exist peaceably within these visions, is a third way more explicitly rooted in the Judeo-Christian tradition.

In order to explore these ongoing revolutionary streams, students will listen and read, but will also do in-class research and engage in "scholastic disputation" (ie discovering truth together through healthy debate; not stroking egos and tearing each other down) whereby they will seek to represent the viewpoints represented in the readings. For example, Edmund Burke might debate Jean Jacques Rousseau or G.K. Chesterton might debate Lenin. Students will represent one side or the other and apply their respective thinker to a current issue of importance.

Hobbits and Heroes: The Epic Journey of the Lord of the Rings — *Rusty Roberson*

This elective course affords students the exhilarating opportunity to read the entire *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. Most if not all of the reading will occur during class time so that homework can be mostly if not entirely avoided. Students will spend most of the class time reading and sharing this treasured classic (it is technically one work). Along with reading and discussing the treasures and timeless truths within the texts, students will also be able to explore the literary contexts of what inspired Tolkien as well as the historical context of when this masterpiece was written. Join Dr. Roberson on this fun-filled and inspiring journey to the Shire!

Interior Design — *Annaley Donabo*

This course will introduce the fundamental philosophy and elements of traditional architecture and their interiors. Students will learn the design principles that are common to the great buildings and interiors of the past. Students will discover how ancient Egypt, Rome, and Greece influenced the evolution of interior design, eventually resulting in the practical and minimalist interiors of today. Our students will further build their content knowledge and hone the technical skills necessary to provide a foundational knowledge of design. Emphasis will be placed on: design thinking and utilization of the interior design process; human, environmental and behavioral factors; color theory, elements and principles of design; hand sketching, space planning, selection of products and materials for residential interiors. *This course may count as a fourth math credit for those intending to enroll in a community college.*

Intermediate Band — *Rodney Money*

This year-long, high-level course focuses on performance. Students must be self-motivated, able to work well with others, and able to count eighth-note rhythms. Students are required to perform in at least two Christmas concerts, two spring concerts and other events, possibly outside regular school hours. Students may have the opportunity to travel as well. Students interested in Intermediate Music are required to do a light, non-threatening audition to make sure the student understands the basic concepts of reading and counting music.



Introduction to Broadcasting — *Paul Rezzo*

Have you ever thought about working at a TV or radio station? What about starting your own podcast? In this course, students will have the opportunity to explore this career interest and further develop their rhetorical abilities by having fun writing and performing basic types of programming that are to be found on radio and television today such as news, sports, weather, entertainment, and more. Upon completion of the course, students should have grown in their ability to clearly, thoughtfully, and truthfully present entertaining, informative, and persuasive content for broadcast media.

Introduction to Computer Science/Computer Programming — *Charlie Sealey*

This course is designed to offer an introduction to computer science for students in grades 9-12. Students will learn the basics of computer programming along with the basics of computer science. The material emphasizes computational thinking and helps develop the ability to solve complex problems. This course covers the basic building blocks of programming along with other central elements of computer science. It gives a foundation in the tools used in computer science and prepares students for further study in computer science, including AP Computer Science Principles and AP Computer Science A courses. The course is 100% coding, and allows students to work independently in text-based Python. The course also includes a career focus, where at the end of units, students meet (via videos) individuals from different industries who work in coding (medical, music, etc.). No prior computer science knowledge or experience is necessary for this course. *This course may count as a fourth math credit for those intending to enroll in a community college.*

Introduction to Theatre and Acting — *TJ Lievsay*

This course will provide an introduction to the fundamental elements and terms necessary to appreciate theatre as an art, with a particular focus on acting and basic performance techniques.

Latin III — *Erick Allen*

In Latin III, the students will build on the skills developed in Latin I and II by tackling longer and more challenging Latin texts. The primary focus will be on Classical literature, but some Medieval and later works may be considered depending on student interest. We will read and translate extended passages of Latin prose, including selections from Caesar and Livy. In addition, students will learn the fundamentals of Latin poetry, including scansion. We will read passages from Vergil, Horace, Ovid, and others. Latin III students will also prepare and present an historical and linguistic analysis of a text in the spring semester as a major project.

Latin American Studies — *Jennifer Baker*

An anthropology course that examines Latin American culture, history, society, and geography. Students will study in-depth the cultural and ethnic distinctions that exist between Latin-American countries, both historical and contemporary. This course will emphasize critical thinking, writing, and analysis. Current events and issues in the Latin-American world will be incorporated and explored in order to raise awareness of ourselves as members of a global community.



Mock Trial — *Josiah DeGraaf*

Students in this class will learn the skills of public speaking as they dive into the dynamics of the legal system. They will learn how the law relates to certain “mock” trial cases that are developed by the North Carolina Bar Association. Students will be required to participate in the mock trial competition and assigned positions within their team. The positions for each team include attorneys (3), witnesses (3), timekeeper (1), and bailiff (1). The Mock Trial team that is created through this class will travel to the regional competition to compete against other teams in the hopes of advancing to the State competition. Competition is mandatory.

Music Theory — *TJ Lievsay*

This course provides beginning music theory for singers and instrumentalists in order to improve their proficiency and understanding of music notation, melody, harmonic structures and music analysis.

Personal Finance — *Nancy Cockerham*

Imagine a personal finance curriculum that’s full of high-energy, fun video lessons taught by nationally recognized financial experts. That’s Foundations in Personal Finance! You can’t miss out on this class! You will learn real world personal finance principles like how to budget, save, avoid debt and invest. Yes, this stuff matters! The all-new, third edition of Foundations high school curriculum also has brand-new content, and flexible format options for in-classroom or remote learning. Foundations in Personal Finance is the perfect way to give students the tools they need to take on their future with confidence!

Philosophy of Anthropology — *Paul Rezzo*

The word Philosophy breaks down to mean "love of wisdom" and the word Anthropology breaks down to mean "study of humankind." Therefore, in Philosophy of Anthropology, we will be seeking wisdom about "what it means to be human" by closely examining our unique purpose (*telos*) as human beings and how that purpose plays out over the course of our human experience. In this class, we will use a classical anthropology and the natural law to approach various contexts such as friendship, family, technology, education, dating, and modern culture. To do this, we will consider the differences between the classical and modern assumptions about humanity and how these differences lead to different understandings of who we are and how we are to flourish. Upon completion of the course, students should be able to discover the anthropological assumptions within various forms of cultural expression and track these assumptions to their logical conclusions as they themselves seek to fulfill their purpose and flourish as truly free and virtuous human beings.

Physics — *Kevin Currie*

This course is designed for students with a strong foundation in mathematics and the physical sciences. The format will include lecture, discussion, problem-solving, and laboratory work. Quantitative skills learned in second year algebra/trigonometry and chemistry will be employed in the problem solving concepts covered. General areas of study will include concepts of mechanics, motion, gravitation, heat, light, sound, magnetism, and electricity. *This course may count as a fourth science credit.*



Precalculus — *Christie Speer*

This course will provide an in-depth study of all topics essential to the study of AP Calculus. Students will be actively engaged in problem solving, reasoning, connecting and communicating mathematically as they explore families of functions. Special emphasis will be on the exponential, logarithmic, logistic, trigonometric and inverse trigonometric functions from numerical, graphical, and algebraic approaches. Additional topics to be investigated include sequences, series, polar coordinate system, DeMoivre's theorem, binomial theorem and math induction. *This course may count as a fourth math credit.*

Southern Goth: The Works of Flannery O'Connor — *Erick Allen*

In this course, we will read a large selection of Flannery O'Connor's short stories and one of her novels. Students will see how O'Connor used graphic depictions of violence and tragedy to reveal aspects of human nature we like to keep concealed.

Spanish III — *Jennifer Baker*

This class is a continuation of Spanish II focusing on the fundamental elements of the Spanish language within a cultural context. Emphasis is placed on the progressive development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Upon completion, students will be able to demonstrate an accurate understanding of spoken Spanish and respond to complex questions in Spanish. Students will be able to communicate effectively, accurately, and creatively about the present, past, and future when using the Spanish language. Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of edited written texts and write structurally correct compositions at an intermediate level of Spanish. Students will be able to demonstrate a cultural awareness of the many Spanish-speaking countries and peoples. Students will be able to engage in critical thinking through actively using the Spanish language and through analyzing various cultural topics related to Spanish-speaking countries.

The Age of the American Revolution — *Anna Kiefer*

This course will explore the Atlantic world in the long 18th century, with emphasis on the period between 1754 and 1789. It will examine the factors that led to the separation of the American colonies from Great Britain and cover the events leading to the Revolutionary War, the problems faced by the revolutionary government in fighting the war, the war itself, and the postwar events leading to the adoption of the United States Constitution.

Theatre Arts — *TJ Lievsay*

The major goal of this course is to introduce students to the basics of performing in theater and to strengthen public-speaking skills. Students explore how theatre is the art of telling stories through live acting. They will learn to work together, build trust, and involve every member in a performance. We will explore how pantomime and behavior help tell a story; how being present, listening and reacting are an important part of being a performer; and to understand the importance of articulation, projection and voice variation.



The Art of Rhetoric — *Paul Rezzo*

This course will introduce students to the classical art of speaking well. Students will learn to communicate effectively through traditional public speaking opportunities and competitive speaking exercises such as dramatic or humorous interpretation. In this class, students will have fun shaping their own ideas into informative, persuasive, or ceremonial speeches in addition to performing material from their favorite speeches, books, plays, films, or poetry. Upon completion of the course, students should be more confident as they present themselves in front of anyone in any rhetorical situation in which they may find themselves.

The Art and Literature of Warfare — *Anna Kiefer*

This course will delve into the literature of warfare from the ancient world through present day. Works of literature may include the Aeneid, Henry V, the Civil War writings of Walt Whitman, post-war writings of Ambrose Bierce, the poetry of WWI, E. B. Sledge's *With the Old Breed*, and Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried*. These will be paired with art from, and inspired by, the period (i.e., Sledge's works with WWII propaganda).

The Third Reich — *Eric Cook*

A look at Nazi Germany from 1933-1945 with reference to the period before and after. The class would use a combination of primary and secondary sources including: film, books, magazines, as well as lectures and readings to explore this infamous regime and the lessons we can learn from the failures of German politics and society.

Weightlifting — *Rodney King*

The emphasis in this course is on muscular strength, endurance, flexibility, and safety. The core lifts in this course include parallel squats, cleans, and bench press. Students will benefit from comprehensive weight training and cardio endurance activities. Students will learn the basic fundamentals of weight training, strength training, aerobic training, and overall fitness and conditioning. Weight room safety, warm-up/cool down procedures, lifting technique and safety for all lifts, major muscle identification, and individual goal setting will also be taught in this course.



