

AJ Tutoring

Summer 2020 Course Catalog

Enroll Today!

(650) 331-3251 | (408) 345-5200 | (415) 419-8786
info@ajtutoring.com



Course Offerings

- Bridge courses to get students back on track after COVID-19 disruptions
- AP and honors primer courses
- Fun academic courses that go beyond the high school curriculum
- Test preparation (PSAT, SAT, ACT, SAT Subject)
- For-credit, WASC-accredited courses



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Summer is Here!

Struggling with disruptions caused by COVID-19 and distance learning?

Falling behind in a subject or moving up a lane?

Getting ready for your first AP or honors course?

Struggling with test taking skills? Need a fun extra challenge in a favorite subject?

Let our team of teaching experts help you with 1-on-1 summer academic and test prep tutoring!

Our Summer Programs

The summer is a great time to get a jump-start on the upcoming school year or engage with academic material at a deeper level. We are excited to provide a variety of summer programs to meet your unique learning needs.

The ongoing situation with COVID-19 has been extremely disruptive to many students' educations. At AJ Tutoring, we specialize in delivering high quality education that is tailored to a student's unique needs. We can help bridge between classes for students who missed foundational knowledge by teaching and reviewing core content from this year's class and previewing upcoming material for the fall. For students who are ahead of the curve or whose classes got shifted to pass/fail, we can help students demonstrate their mastery of a subject with an SAT subject test or by completing the year with a for-credit graded class.

Whether you're looking to get ahead on an upcoming class or dive deeper into a subject, we are happy to collaborate with you to create a program that works for you.



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COVID-19 Programs

Many students have experienced a disrupted 2019-20 school year as a result of shelter-in-place orders, but AJ Tutoring is here to help! We can start any summer program early according to your student's unique needs. Our programs are available online and will be offered in person when it is safe.

Students can benefit from enrolling in AJ Tutoring's summer courses today, especially if they

- missed foundational knowledge in their core classes.
- want to receive a letter grade despite pass/fail grading.
- want to demonstrate their mastery with an SAT Subject exam.

Our tutors can support students with transitional courses that begin in the spring or summer by

- teaching missed second-semester content.
- reviewing material necessary for the student's fall class.
- previewing content from the fall semester to allow for a smooth return to school.

We are happy to collaborate on a personalized plan to overcome any educational setbacks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic!

Please call us at (650) 331-3251 to discuss a program for your student.

For-Credit High School and AP Courses!

Along with our typical summer enrichment offerings, High Bluff Academy is proud to offer 1-on-1 and small-group WASC-accredited courses in select subjects at certain AJ locations! These courses fulfill A-G requirements for high school graduation and college admission and are tailored to your student's needs.

The program offers convenience, accessibility, and an individually-tailored learning pace to support students from various backgrounds:

- Students looking to advance to a higher-level course.
- Students who perform better in the 1-on-1 tutoring environment due to non-standard schedules, learning differences, or other needs.
- Students who are trying to recover course credit.
- Students who are trying to finish a full semester of coursework over the summer.

For-credit courses are limited to select subjects and depend on whether your high school will accept outside courses for credit, but we're here to help you navigate the process.

For details, email forcredit@ajtutoring.com



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ISEE, SSAT, & HSPT Prep: Entrance Exams for High School & Middle School

Is your student applying to private middle or high schools? Use the summer to help your student prep for the ISEE, SSAT, or HSPT exam(s).

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Carlos, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: \$160/hr

Recommended hours: 8-12

Goals: Improve your ISEE, HSPT, or SSAT score more efficiently.

Course Description

We meet with students for 8 to 12 sessions. As homework, students have 45-minute assignments about half the time and a full-length practice test the other half.

The program covers test-taking skills and content, including question interpretation, guessing strategy, time management, arithmetic skills, algebra concepts, geometric reasoning, reading comprehension, vocabulary, grammar, and essay writing.

We use our own proprietary materials that are updated annually to reflect current content on the test.



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PSAT Test Prep

AJ Tutoring can help your student do better on the PSAT! Our flexible PSAT program helps students build test-taking confidence and develop a systematic approach to the test.

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Carlos, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: \$160/hr

Recommended hours: 4.5-13.5

Goals: Improve your PSAT score and lay the groundwork for your SAT prep.

Course Description

We meet with students for either an introductory 3-session PSAT prep or a full 10-session PSAT prep. Each session is 90 minutes long, and for homework, students will have either a 90-minute assignment or a full PSAT practice test.

Our standard PSAT program covers test-taking strategies such as timing, guessing strategy, and question interpretation. Although not comprehensive, it gives students the most fundamental test-taking strategies so that they can treat the PSAT as a serious practice for the SAT.

Our full PSAT program provides students with a deep understanding of the content on the test, including algebra concepts, geometric reasoning, reading comprehension, and grammar.



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SAT Test Prep

Our 1-on-1 SAT program is the most efficient and effective way to improve your SAT score. Simply put, our talented team delivers results!

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Carlos, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: \$160/hr

Recommended hours: 10.5-15

Goals: Improve your SAT score more efficiently.

Course Description

We meet with students for 8-10 weekly sessions, each lasting 90 minutes. We assign students a mix of full-length practice tests and 90-minute assignments as homework.

The program covers test-taking skills and SAT content, including question interpretation, guessing strategy, time management, algebra concepts, geometric reasoning, reading comprehension, grammar, and essay writing.

We use our own proprietary materials that are updated annually to reflect the current content and teach the best strategies for the test.

SAT/ACT Parents' Night

Looking for more information about our test prep programs?
Trying to better understand the changing testing landscape?
Join us for a virtual Parents' Night!

When: Wednesday, May 13, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Where: Via Zoom

For registration information,
please email parentnight2020@ajtutoring.com



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SAT Subject Test Prep

Are you looking for another opportunity to showcase your skills beyond the SAT? Let AJ Tutoring help you with the SAT Subject Tests!

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Carlos, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: \$160/hr

Recommended hours: 4.5-6

Goals: Improve your SAT Subject Test score more efficiently.

Course Description

We meet with students for 3 or 4 (90-minute) sessions per subject. In between sessions, students complete two 1-hour practice tests for homework.

The program covers test-taking skills such as timing, guessing strategy, and question interpretation. Based on a student's performance on their first practice test, we also pinpoint content gaps and teach valuable concepts they may have missed in school.

We use materials that are updated annually to reflect current content on the test.

SAT Subject Tests Tutored:

- Math (Levels 1 & 2)
- Literature
- Biology E/M
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Spanish (with and without listening)
- French (with and without listening)
- US History
- World History



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ACT Test Prep

Do you feel that your standardized test scores don't reflect your performance in school? Let AJ Tutoring help you ace the ACT exam!

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Carlos, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: \$160/hr

Recommended hours: 4.5-13.5

Goals: Improve your ACT score more efficiently.

Course Description

We meet with students for 8-10 sessions, each lasting 90 minutes. Homework includes a mix of full-length practice tests and 90-minute assignments.

The program covers test-taking skills and ACT content, including question interpretation, guessing strategy, time management, algebra concepts, geometric reasoning, reading comprehension, grammar, and essay writing. We use our own proprietary materials that are updated annually to reflect the current content and teach the best strategies for the test.

SAT/ACT Hybrid Program:

The content tested on the SAT and ACT is similar. Many students take both tests, and our SAT/ACT hybrid program is the most efficient and effective way to comprehensively prepare for both exams.

After students complete our comprehensive SAT tutoring program, they can continue with our three or four session ACT hybrid preparation. The ACT hybrid course takes the content students mastered in their SAT preparation and teaches them how to apply it to the different format of the ACT. The ACT hybrid tutoring starts with teaching students the correct approach to the science section, for which there is no equivalent on the SAT; gets them comfortable with the English section, which tests the same grammar rules as the SAT in a different format; and helps students adjust to the accelerated timing of the ACT.



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GRE/GMAT Test Prep

Applying to graduate school or an MBA program? Get an edge on the GRE or GMAT!

Locations: Los Gatos, Los Altos, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Carlos, San Mateo, Lafayette, Online

Cost: \$200/hr

Recommended hours: 12-15

Goals: Improve your GRE or GMAT score more efficiently.

Course Description

Many graduate programs require strong scores on the GRE or GMAT for acceptance. AJ Tutoring's 1-on-1 GRE and GMAT tutoring class covers test-taking skills and content, including question interpretation, strategies for navigating the computer interface, time management, reading comprehension, quantitative comparison (GRE) or data sufficiency techniques (GMAT), and essay writing.

We use current GRE and GMAT materials that reflect the current content and teach the best strategies for the test.

We meet with students for 8-10 weekly sessions, each lasting 90 minutes. Homework includes a mix of full-length practice tests and 90-minute assignments.



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Math Boot Camp: Transitioning to Middle School

Students can forget a lot over summer break! Help your student keep math skills fresh with a math boot camp.

Locations: Menlo Park*

Cost: \$700

Schedule: 12 hours of class time and 3 hours of 1-on-1 instruction

Goals:

- Strengthen mechanics and foundations (multiplication, word problems with whole numbers, place value and decimals)
- Review 5th grade (intro to algebra, fractions and ratios, order of operations. coordinate grid)
- Preview 6th grade (exponents, series and functions, more word problems)

Course Description

The transition to middle school can be daunting, and taking two months off math adds to the pressure of starting a new school. This is particularly true for students who are starting at a private middle school! This group class is designed to make the transition from summer to middle school a little more comfortable. Students can expect to solidify foundations, review some of the trickier math topics from 5th grade, and preview core concepts from 6th grade.

For three weeks, students will meet for two two-hour group classes and one individual session with the instructor. The one-on-one sessions will either reinforce or expand upon topics from the week, depending on each individual student's needs. Homework and assessments between classes will be assigned.

* Classes might switch to an online setting depending on the circumstances.



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Math Boot Camp: Transitioning to High School

Students can forget a lot over summer break! Help your student keep math skills fresh with a math boot camp.

Locations: Menlo Park*

Cost: \$980

Schedule: 18 hours of class time and 3 hours of 1-on-1 instruction

Goals:

- Strengthen mechanics and foundations (combining like terms, adding vs multiplying terms, exponent rules, distribution, fractions, negative numbers)
- Review 8th grade (solving for variables, manipulating expressions, functions, graphing and $y = mx + b$)
- Preview algebra (systems of equations, inequalities, quadratics)

Course Description

The transition to high school can be daunting, and taking two months off math adds to the pressure of starting a new school. This group course targeted at rising 8th graders in advanced math or rising 9th graders entering algebra 1. We will spend time emphasizing foundations and mechanics, reviewing pre-algebra, and previewing core concepts from algebra 1.

Students will meet twice per week as a group for three-hour classes, and once per week one-on-one with the instructor for an hour. The one-on-one sessions will either reinforce or expand upon topics from the week, depending on each individual student's needs. Homework and assessments between classes will be assigned.

* Classes might switch to an online setting depending on the circumstances.

Algebra 1 Primer

Gain an edge in math knowledge over the summer! Sessions will be customized for each individual student, whether the student is struggling or trying to get ahead, and content will be maximized for effectiveness.

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Carlos, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: \$100-\$110/hr

Recommended hours: 9-12

Goals:

- Master pre-algebra basics: integers, variables, exponents, PEMDAS
- Solve multi-step equations
- Write and graph linear functions
- Learn about linear inequalities, systems of equations, properties of exponents, growth and decay functions
- Become comfortable with radicals and factoring polynomials

Course Description

This summer course is great for any 5th-8th grader who would like to spend a small portion of their break time going over math topics that will be the main foundation for future geometry, algebra 2, and calculus classes. The content and pacing for this summer course will be tailored specifically for each student. Emphasis will be placed on important core concepts and intuitive explanations for students who may be struggling, whereas rapid progression to more challenging topics is possible for students who are trying to advance quickly. By the end of the course, the student will learned the main concepts typically taught in an Algebra 1 class in school, as well as some topics relevant for geometry. Depending on parent and student needs, homework can be assigned according to the student's goals.

Geometry Primer

Do you want to prepare for an upcoming geometry course? AJ Tutoring can help you learn how to navigate through the maze of proofs, theorems, and geometrical constructions.

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Carlos, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: \$100-\$110/hr

Recommended hours: 9-12

Goals:

- Learn how to construct geometric proofs
- Understand the Cartesian coordinate system
- Learn how to apply the most important geometric theorems
- Understand basic trigonometric concepts
- Visualize and construct 2D and 3D figures

Course Description

This 1-on-1 class introduces students to geometry and gives them a leg up in the challenging course ahead. This course is designed to help students bridge the gap between numeric- and operation-based algebra/pre-algebra courses and the more proof- and shape-based geometry course. We will cover how to make logical proofs of the most important geometric theorems and apply these theorems to problems, master the techniques of graphing and the formulas for the Cartesian coordinate system, and learn the properties of the major geometric figures.

Students will be taught the most efficient and universal methods for proving theorems and distinguishing which theorems to apply to specific problems. They will be taught how to graph lines and shapes on the coordinate plane and how to find important points.



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Algebra 2/Trigonometry Primer

Did you just finish geometry and want to prepare for a return to Algebra 2? AJ Tutoring can help you review and accelerate through a range of topics covered in algebra 1 and 2.

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Carlos, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: \$100-\$110/hr

Recommended hours: 8-10

Goals:

- Review algebraic concepts, systems of equations, and inequalities
- Understand properties of exponents
- Learn graphs and equations of various types of functions
- Understand quadratics
- Evaluate conics and their relation to each other
- Preview trigonometry if applicable

Course Description

This 1-on-1 class helps students review algebra and gives them a leg up in the challenging course ahead. This course is designed to help students transition from geometry to algebra courses. We will provide an overview of how to solve equations involving many different operations and concepts, finding zeros of polynomial functions, and provide insight on some advanced topics in algebra. Students will be taught the most efficient and universal methods distinguishing which approaches to apply to specific problems. They will be taught how to solve various equations, and evaluate and graph different types of functions. Students will review major topics of algebra 1 and get a head start on algebra 2 concepts to better prepare them for the upcoming school year.

Trigonometry/Precalculus Primer

Do you want to prepare for your upcoming course on trigonometry/ precalculus? AJ Tutoring can help prepare you for the world of the unit circle and the assortment of concepts that comprise the trig/precalc course.

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Carlos, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: \$100-\$110/hr

Recommended hours: 9-12

Goals:

- Understand the unit circle and trigonometric functions
- Learn how to show trigonometric identities
- Learn how to graph conic sections and vectors
- Review or introduce logarithms and matrices
- Understand functions from a calculus perspective

Course Description

This 1-on-1 class introduces students to trigonometry and focuses on the trigonometric side of the trig/precalc course. The course is designed to familiarize students with the unit circle and the other central concepts. We will cover the unit circle and trigonometric functions, methods for proving trigonometric identities, functions as they relate to calculus, and major concepts such as conic sections, vectors, and matrices.

Students will be taught the best methods for learning trigonometric functions, graphing these functions, and proving trigonometric identities. They will learn how to graph and distinguish conic sections, graph and combine vectors, and work with matrices to solve systems of equations. They will also be taught how to look at functions from a calculus viewpoint, looking at limits and infinity.



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Intro to Analysis & Calculus Primer

Give your student a leg up on Intro to Analysis and Calculus this summer!

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Carlos, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: \$100-\$110/hr

Recommended hours: 12-15

Goals:

- Transition students from Algebra 2 to Intro to Analysis and Calculus (IAC)
- Build a solid conceptual understanding of IAC before students enter the class

Course Description

This class is designed for students moving from Algebra 2 to IAC (particularly those who want to take the honors version of the class) and will prepare them for the wide variety of subjects in IAC—some of which are not clearly related to each other. Topics include: functions (definition, motivation, and behavior); specific algebraic tricks that show up often in IAC (e.g. factoring & canceling to identify holes in rational functions); permutations & combinations, as well as a preview of trigonometry (unit circle, radians, standard trig functions [sin/cos/tan], some basic identities). If time allows, we will also cover matrices, vectors, logarithmic modeling, and limits.

IAC is a notoriously challenging course, and students often struggle to both learn and competently use all the new material they learn. By teaching many of the key concepts of IAC in advance, this course is designed to take some of the pressure off of the learning process during the academic year.



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AP Calculus AB/BC Primer

Intimidated by your upcoming AP Calculus (AB or BC) class? Our summer calculus primer is designed to build skills and confidence in preparation for calculus!

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Carlos, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: \$100-\$110/hr

Recommended hours: 9-12

Goals:

- Prepare for success in an upcoming calculus course
- Introduce the fundamental concepts of calculus
- Instill an understanding of calculus's relevance to real-world applications

Course Description

This class is designed to get students ready to ace their upcoming calculus course. It focuses on limits (including limits at a point, limits at infinity, limit properties, and more advanced applications); continuity (including open/closed intervals, polynomials and rational functions); and basic differentiation (including differentiation at a point, graphical interpretations of derivatives, differentiation on intervals, and properties of the derivative).

We will also emphasize the real-world applications of calculus, which are sometimes ignored in a fast-paced AP class. This course will introduce initially intimidating calculus ideas at a comfortable personalized pace.



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AP Statistics Primer

Statistics is one of the most practical math courses that a high school student can take. Our summer AP Statistics primer helps you build skills and confidence in statistics!

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Carlos, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: \$100-\$110/hr

Recommended hours: 9-12

Goals:

- Prepare students to succeed in their upcoming statistics courses
- Introduce the fundamental concepts and vocabulary necessary to AP Statistics
- Teach graphing calculator fluency, necessary to the AP Statistics curriculum
- Instill an understanding of the relevance of statistics to real-world applications

Course Description

Statistical literacy is more important than ever in our data-driven world. This class is designed to get students ready to ace their upcoming AP Statistics course. It focuses on graphical displays of data, experimental design, regression analysis, probability, and a comprehensive preview of the first semester of AP Statistics. We will also emphasize the real-world applications of statistics and interpretation of data at a manageable pace.



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Analysis Honors Primer

Advanced precalculus classes often have reputations for challenging even the strongest math students. Let's prepare you for the class and hone your problem solving skills so that you can enter the school year confidently.

Locations: Palo Alto, Online

Cost: \$110/hr

Recommended hours: 8-12

Goals:

- Learn problem solving techniques and strengthen problem solving skills
- Preview content from the early chapters in the course and possibly other selected topics
- Become comfortable with handling unfamiliar questions

Course Description

Advanced precalculus classes such as Analysis Honors have notorious reputations among even high-performing students. These courses tackle challenging content with significant depth and emphasize problem solving techniques to a degree that many students have not experienced.

This course will emphasize developing problem solving skills and expose the student to topics they'll encounter early in the school year.

Additionally, we'll work on study skills that encourage students to take an active role in their learning process.



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Intro to Linear Algebra

How do computers encrypt information? How do they compress images in files? How can we compute linear regressions in statistics? Linear algebra shows the way...

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Lafayette, Online

Cost: \$100-\$130/hr

Recommended hours: 12

Goals:

- Explore the meaning and significance of “linear” transformations
- Learn more about matrices and use them to solve equations containing many variables
- Look at applications of matrices to real-world problems

Course Description

Many students encounter matrices somewhere over the course of their algebra 2 or precalculus classes. Unfortunately, these encounters are often brief, have little context, and emphasize rote use of techniques.

Linear algebra is heavily used in many fields, including statistics, cryptography, economics, and throughout the sciences. We will delve into the basic theory behind these techniques and examine their real-world applications.



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Vectors: 3D Analytic Geometry

Add a dimension to your knowledge and learn to answer important questions about objects in the real (3D) world!

Locations: Saratoga, Los Gatos, Menlo Park, Online

Cost: \$100-130/hr

Recommended hours: 9-18

Goals:

- Learn about vectors and 3D geometry
- Answer interesting applied geometry problems using vectors
- Visualize and construct parametric vector functions to describe real world motion
- Visualize and interpret scalar and vector functions of vectors by constructing topographies and vector fields

Course Description

Most high school courses focus on two-dimensional geometry, leaving students mystified by the three-dimensional world around them. In this course, students will explore the geometry and algebra of vectors in both two and three dimensions. Students will learn to find the equations of curves, planes, and their possible intersections, and to parameterize them in useful ways. Students will soon be able to answer interesting questions, like “What are the bond angles in a molecule?” and “How much leather does it take to make a soccer ball?” Interested students can explore relevant and related applications of matrix algebra. With these tools and insights, students can make conclusions and interpret various possibilities of 3D space in practical and concise ways. Students familiar with calculus can also explore more advanced topics, such as derivatives and applications of vector valued functions, directional derivatives of scalar functions, multiple integrals, path and surface integrals, gradient vectors, divergence, curl and Green’s theorem, and Gauss’s law. Knowledge of Calculus is not required for this course, although we recommend students have completed coursework in Algebra 2 Trigonometry or Precalculus.

Mathematics for AMC

Ever wanted an exciting challenge in mathematics? This course will prepare students for the AMC 8 or AMC 10 competition exam, covering topics across a broad range of approachable mathematics.

Locations: Saratoga, Los Gatos, Menlo Park, Online

Cost: \$100-130/hr

Recommended hours: 15

Goals:

- Develop basic rules of geometry and triangles
- Apply rules of algebra in various ways
- Apply basic number theory including remainder investigation and counting rules including permutations/combinations/multiplication rules of counting
- Learn and apply basic probability rules

Course Description

This course will explore various mathematical challenge problems that may never be explored in normal school math classes. We'll develop and apply basic rules of geometry, algebra, counting, and number theory. With these tools we can solve various types of problems, and set ourselves up to be able to take AMC exams to compete with other students across the country in mathematical challenges!



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AP Biology Primer

Is your student feeling unprepared for their upcoming AP Biology course? Let AJ Tutoring give your student an edge this summer!

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Carlos, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: \$100-\$110/hr

Recommended hours: 12

Goals:

- Introduce students to key concepts tested in AP Biology courses
- Acquaint students with the question styles, grading standards, and pacing of the AP exam

Course Description

The AP Biology exam was revamped in 2013 and organized into 4 Big Ideas: Evolution, Energy, Information (Genetics and Signaling), and Systems Interactions.

Our summer program is designed to provide students with a solid foundation from which to approach this college-level biology course. In session, students will review the biology they learned in previous years and then look ahead to the major concepts covered in AP curricula. Students will apply these ideas to conceptual questions and practice problems to solidify their understanding, all while familiarizing students with their textbooks. AJ Tutoring will provide all necessary materials.



To enroll, call (650) 331-3251, (408) 345-5200, or (415) 419-8786

AP Physics 1, 2, or C Primer

Is your student feeling unprepared for their upcoming AP Physics 1, 2, or C course? Let AJ Tutoring give your student an edge this summer!

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Carlos, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: \$100-\$110/hr

Recommended hours: 12

Goals:

- Introduce students to key concepts tested in AP Physics 1, 2, or C courses
- Acquaint students with the question styles, grading standards, and pacing of the AP Physics exam

Course Description

The former AP Physics B class was split into AP Physics 1 and 2 in 2014; AP Physics 1 now covers mechanics and introduces electricity, while AP Physics 2 covers fluids, thermodynamics, electricity, magnetism, optics, and modern physics. Schools in our area have now converted their AP Physics B classes into either only AP Physics 1 or a combination of AP Physics 1 and 2. AJ Tutoring has stayed current on these changes and can help students understand what their particular class will cover next year. Though AP Physics C has not changed, it can be a challenging course, as it incorporates calculus into the physics curriculum and requires a mastery of both calculus and physics.

Our summer program is designed to provide students with a solid foundation from which to approach these college-level physics courses. In session, students will review the physics they learned in previous years or introduce first-time physics students to the fundamental concepts they will learn in their class next year. We then look ahead to the major concepts covered in AP Physics curricula. We emphasize problem-solving and an understanding of how different physics concepts are connected in the bigger picture. Students will apply these ideas to practice problems to solidify their understanding, and AJ Tutoring will provide all material necessary.



To enroll, call (650) 331-3251, (408) 345-5200, or (415) 419-8786

AP Chemistry Primer

Is your student feeling unprepared for their upcoming AP Chemistry course? Let AJ Tutoring give your student an edge this summer!

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Carlos, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: \$100-\$110/hr

Recommended hours: 12

Goals:

- Introduce students to key concepts tested in AP Chemistry courses
- Acquaint students with the question styles, grading standards, and pacing of the AP exam

Course Description

The AP Chemistry exam was revamped in 2014 and organized into 6 Big Ideas: Structure and Matter, Bonding and Intermolecular Forces, Chemical Reactions, Kinetics, Thermodynamics, and Chemical Equilibrium.

Our summer program is designed to provide students with a solid foundation from which to approach this college-level chemistry course. In session, students will review the chemistry they learned in previous years and then look ahead to the major concepts covered in AP curricula. We emphasize problem-solving and an understanding of how individual chemistry concepts are connected in the bigger picture. Students will apply these ideas to practice problems to solidify their understanding, and AJ Tutoring will provide all material necessary.



To enroll, call (650) 331-3251, (408) 345-5200, or (415) 419-8786

AP Environmental Science Primer

So what does it really mean to “go green”? Find out and get a head-start on AP Environmental Science preparation this summer!

Locations: Los Altos, Menlo Park, San Mateo, Online

Cost: \$100-\$110/hr

Recommended hours: 6-12

Goals:

- Learn about major environmental problems (deforestation, overfishing, and water and air pollution)
- Understand the causes of environmental problems (urbanization, demand for energy and raw materials, etc.)
- Discover potential solutions to alleviate environmental impacts
- Learn about major organizations and legislation as factors in environmental issues

Course Description

This 1-on-1 course is designed to give students who are taking AP Environmental Science in the fall a leg up on the material and is also available for students who have a special interest in environmental science.

The course will move from explaining current environmental problems to a discussion of their causes. The last part of the course will focus on potential solutions to the presented problems and on the major organizations, legislation, and movements that have tried to alleviate environmental destruction (e.g. The National Forestry Service’s “roadless areas” and the electric car movement).

The course will also introduce students to laboratory topics they may see in AP Environmental Science, as well as questions in the AP exam format.



To enroll, call (650) 331-3251, (408) 345-5200, or (415) 419-8786

California Endangered Species Ecology

Are you passionate about the world around you? Do you find yourself daydreaming about how you would help save the endangered peregrine falcon? In this course you will learn about a variety of California native species currently on the endangered species list, what got them there, and what is being done to help them recover.

Locations: Saratoga, Los Gatos, Online

Cost: \$100/hr

Recommended hours: 5-10

Goals:

- Promote creative problem solving
- Develop awareness of ecological problems and legislation
- Analyze scientific reports and articles

Course Description

This course is ideal for a student interested in the environment, but craving more engaging and unique subject matter than the general information they get in science class. For students looking to take environmental studies next year, this class will help them ease into the subject in an interesting and relevant way.

Each session will target one California native endangered species. We will explore the factors which have contributed to its endangered status, the ecological impacts of the species on their environment (i.e. why they are important to the ecosystem), and what strategies scientists are currently employing to rehabilitate the population. Students will learn about the laws and programs currently in place and the steps it took to implement them. We'll look at both success stories and failed attempts at rehabilitating wildlife and their habitats.

Homework will include reading and summarizing articles on each endangered species, and developing ideas on how to rehabilitate the population in question. Students will demonstrate their skills at the conclusion of the course by preparing a short, 10-minute presentation to present to me in our final class on a species of their choice.



To enroll, call (650) 331-3251, (408) 345-5200, or (415) 419-8786

Clinical Anatomy & Physiology

Are you interested in a medical or allied health career? Join us for an anatomy and physiology class with a clinical twist!

Locations: San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: \$110/hr

Recommended hours: 9-12

Goals:

- Understand how the anatomical structure of the human body determines its physiological function
- Incorporate clinical thought as a means of preparing students for medical/allied health careers

Course Description

This course is designed to provide medically oriented students with a basic understanding of the structure, function, and disorders of the human body. Emphasis will be on the human levels of organization and the systems involved with support and movement as well as control and regulation.



To enroll, call (650) 331-3251, (408) 345-5200, or (415) 419-8786

Understanding DNA: From Genotype to Phenotype

Genetics is a fascinating albeit sometimes bafflingly complicated subject. Using real-world, commonplace examples of complex genetic phenomenon we will go beyond the classic recessive vs. dominant understanding of inheritance.

Locations: Palo Alto, San Mateo, Burlingame, Online

Cost: \$110/hr

Recommended hours: 9-12

Goals:

- Cover the basic to advanced forms of genetic inheritance
- Understand pedigrees
- Gain an understanding of natural and man-made selection
- Understand domestication of animals
- Explain how one might theoretically create a unicorn

Course Description

Gaining even a basic understanding of genetics can be a challenge due to the complexity of the subject and often the need for prior knowledge to even know where to start. In this course we will break down the barrier to entry for genetics. In a series of engaging lessons, we will use familiar examples of real-world genetic variation and forms of inheritance, such as hamster fur colors and differences between dog breeds. There will also be a creative element to this course, as students apply their knowledge of natural genetics to fun hypothetical scenarios, like how we could realistically create a unicorn.

There will be an emphasis in this course about how natural environments or direct human manipulation can alter the evolution of species over time and the rate of this change. By focusing on commonplace phenomena such as animal domestication and predator-prey interactions, students will come away with an understanding of how genetics shapes the world around us.



To enroll, call (650) 331-3251, (408) 345-5200, or (415) 419-8786

Engineering Mechanics

Are you interested in mechanical, aerospace, civil, or architectural engineering? Get a taste of college-level vector mechanics!

Locations: Palo Alto, Online

Cost: \$110/hr

Recommended hours: 6-30

Goals:

- Preview a selection of core classes for engineering majors
- Apply concepts from theoretical math and physics classes to more practical problems
- Gain intuition about problem solving and the design of machines and mechanical structures

Course Description

This course is a survey of topics from engineering courses such as statics, dynamics, and mechanics of materials. It's a great fit for someone considering an engineering major! Topics fall into three major categories: statics, dynamics, and mechanics of materials (see full descriptions on AJ's website). The course is customizable and can explore as many or as few of these topics as desired. What is actually covered is tailored to what the student is interested in and to background in math and physics.

Pre-requisites:

- Precalculus or above (content can be adjusted to student's math level)
- Physics or above (content can be adjusted to student's physics level)

Spanish Grammar & Conversation

Worried about your Spanish skills? AJ Tutoring can help build grammar and conversation skills.

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Carlos, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: \$100-\$110/hr

Recommended hours: 8-12

Goals:

- Review grammar concepts taught in previous Spanish classes
- Preview grammar concepts for the next level of Spanish
- Apply grammar concepts to conversational speaking
- Build and practice academic vocabulary

Course Description

Learning a foreign language for an hour a day, five days a week is difficult enough; adding a two-month break to a student's language acquisition makes it even tougher. This Spanish tutoring course is designed to keep students thinking about their foreign language over the summer and build on their grammar knowledge and conversation skills.

Students will review and practice past grammar concepts and learn more sophisticated grammatical structures that they will see in their upcoming classes. They will then apply these structures in both formal and informal conversational settings to build their language production skills. By the end of the tutorials, students will be able to hold discussions in Spanish on a variety of topics and will feel more confident going into their Spanish class in the fall.

French Grammar & Conversation

Get beyond the classroom and start speaking—and even thinking—in French!

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Carlos, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: \$100–\$110/hr

Recommended hours: 8–12

Goals:

- Review grammar concepts taught in previous French classes
- Learn to express opinions and emotions in French
- Improve listening comprehension
- Gain speaking confidence through guided practice
- Apply language mechanics as students learn to think in French

Course Description

This 1-on-1 private tutoring course is tailored to each student's French proficiency and designed to provide an opportunity for students to feel as comfortable speaking French as they do reading or writing it. While all students will work on listening comprehension, the focus will range from basic conversational exchanges and language conventions to sharing opinions, discussing future plans, and recounting past anecdotes, depending upon the student's level. By the end of the course, students will work up to telling a short personal story and answering conversational questions.

As a framework for storytelling and describing actions, students will first review well-known fables in French to focus on retelling existing stories in their own words. Students will also learn new vocabulary, the mechanics of asking relevant questions, and, most importantly, how to think on their feet when asked to give an opinion or make a statement.

Intro to Latin

Are you going to be studying Latin or are you interested in building your English vocabulary and grammar skills? AJ Tutoring has a summer Latin course to help you reach your goals.

Locations: Burlingame, Online

Cost: \$120/hr

Recommended hours: 8-12

Goals:

- Become familiar with the common Latin prefixes and suffixes
- Learn the cases and declensions of Latin nouns
- Better understand English grammar rules
- Build your English vocabulary and improve your SAT score
- Learn the verb conjugations and tenses
- Understand Latin and English syntax

Course Description

This 1-on-1 class introduces Latin's most fundamental concepts. Students will be introduced to the multiplicity of cases and tenses, and we will cover the six cases of the Latin noun and the four conjugations of the verb in the indicative voice, as well as important roots and vocabulary that will help the student understand even unknown vocabulary and see the connections in the English language.

Students will be taught efficient ways to learn declensions and conjugations, along with Latin sentence structure and grammar consistent with the content of a first year Latin course. With minimal memorization, students will learn to distinguish parts of speech, even in difficult sentences, and major vocabulary and grammatical structures.

This course is designed not only to give students the tools needed to excel in Latin but also to improve their understanding of English. The course covers study of Latin prefixes and suffixes, but also goes further to focus on reading and understanding Latin syntax with an emphasis on how this applies to English.

Intro to Portuguese

Traveling to Portugal or Brazil? Interested in learning a second (or third, or fourth) language? Learning Portuguese is easy and fun! We'll learn conversational skills, pronunciation, regional accents, and even non-verbal communication strategies!

Locations: Menlo Park, Online

Cost: \$110/hr

Recommended hours: 9-15

Goals:

- Carry on a basic conversation in Portuguese
- Know how to read basic texts, such as news sites or menus
- Watch funny videos and listen to great music
- Learn more about Brazilian culture
- Have a system for continuing to build knowledge beyond the summer

Course Description

In this course, students of all ages will have the chance to learn a new alphabet, make basic sentences in a new language, and become familiar with another culture. Students will assess their starting fluency with the help of the instructor, map out their proficiency goals for the summer, and then work hard (and have fun!) meeting them! Possible areas of focus include reading comprehension, listening comprehension, conversation, understanding videos, understanding the words in Brazilian music, and more. This is a highly student-centered course that can also be adapted for students who would like to develop intermediate or advanced fluency.

AP US History Primer

Worried about your student's difficult and time-consuming AP US History class? Let AJ Tutoring give them an edge this summer!

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Carlos, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: \$100-\$110/hr

Recommended hours: 10.5-13.5

Goals:

- Build a strong foundation in the content of the class (especially early American history)
- Bolster critical APUSH skills such as note-taking, essay-writing, reading, and historical thinking
- Help students complete any summer reading and writing exercises assigned by their teachers

Course Description

Many AP US History courses overlook or rush through the early chapters of assigned textbook readings but demand of their students mastery of the material. In particular, European expansionism, the settling of the New World, the social history of the early colonies, and the pre-Revolutionary era—all periods tested by the AP exam—are often not explored thoroughly. Because historical understanding is cumulative and rests on knowledge of causal links between events, a mastery of the most remote periods of American history is critical to success in APUSH.

The AP US History Primer is designed to give students tools they need to be truly successful throughout the yearlong APUSH course. We'll help students work through summer reading while building note-taking, memorization, and historical critical thinking skills. As this course will be highly customized, students will be able to read and write about the stories that most interest them.

AP World History: Modern Primer

As suggested by its name, AP World History: Modern covers many, many concepts. Give your student a head start on the major themes and skills necessary to succeed!

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Carlos, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: \$100-\$110/hr

Recommended hours: 10.5-13.5

Goals:

- Build a strong foundation in the content of the class
- Bolster critical AP World History skills such as note-taking, essay-writing, reading, and historical thinking
- Help students complete any summer reading and writing exercises assigned by their teachers

Course Description

The AP World History: Modern test covers the most breadth of any of the AP History Tests. The summer bridge program is here to help students master the skills they'll need to tackle the class and the AP Test. We'll work on building a basic foundation of content knowledge while also exploring techniques for note-taking, research, memorization and analytical essay writing.

AP European History Primer

The AP European History course will challenge students to master the history of Europe from the Renaissance right up to the modern day. Let AJ Tutoring give them an early introduction to this expansive period in history!

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Carlos, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: \$100-\$110/hr

Recommended hours: 10.5-13.5

Goals:

- Build a strong foundation in the geography and background of Europe
- Introduce students to the format and grading standards of the AP exam
- Help students complete any summer reading and writing exercises assigned by their teachers

Course Description

AP European History is a wide-ranging Advanced Placement course that can intimidate students with the amount of reading and studying necessary. This course emphasizes the geography and study skills necessary to succeed in this challenging class, while previewing the historical background of Europe through key moments in the Renaissance and through summer reading.

AJ Tutoring's flexible and efficient 1-on-1 summer tutoring program is customized to meet individual students' needs and to work around their schedules. A comprehensive preview course takes most students 7-9 1.5-hour sessions to complete.

AP US Government Primer

Give your student a headstart on the major themes and skills necessary to succeed in AP United States Government and Politics!

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Carlos, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: \$100-\$110/hr

Recommended hours: 10.5-13.5

Goals:

- Build a strong foundation in the content of the class
- Bolster critical AP US Government skills such as note-taking, essay-writing, and reading
- Help students complete any summer reading and writing exercises assigned by their teachers

Course Description

This primer is built to prepare students for the rigors of the AP US Government and Politics class. It will focus on building the foundational constitutional knowledge and the essay writing skills that they'll need through the course and the test.



To enroll, call (650) 331-3251, (408) 345-5200, or (415) 419-8786

AP Psychology Primer

Give your student a headstart on the major topics, skills, and subjects to succeed in AP Psychology!

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Carlos, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: \$100-\$110/hr

Recommended hours: 10.5-13.5

Goals:

- Give students a strong foundation in the content of the class
- Bolster critical AP Psychology skills such as case study analysis, physiology, and memorization.
- Help students complete any summer coursework and catch-up material assigned in their class.

Course Description

This summer bridge is built to prepare students for the rigors of the AP Psychology class. Students will focus on the core concepts and methodology of psychology, such as case study analysis, short answer response, and a survey of topics in AP Psychology that will help students succeed in the course and AP exam!



To enroll, call (650) 331-3251, (408) 345-5200, or (415) 419-8786

Public Speaking

Do you freeze up when you speak in front of the class? Or would you like more poise when put on the spot? Gain confidence for public speaking!

Locations: Los Altos, Online

Cost: \$120/hr

Recommended hours: 5-10

Goals:

- Learn a process for outlining, writing, and practicing speeches
- Identify and address individual speaking issues
- Utilize volume, tone, rhythm, and gesture to create emphasis
- Explore and become familiar with different visual aids
- Increase confidence in public speaking and feel prepared for any group or individual presentations

Course Description

In this confidence-building course, students will learn fundamental techniques for prepared and impromptu public speaking. Students will learn how to write and structure a speech as well as how to deliver it in a confident, clear, and engaging way.

Public speaking is a very valuable job skill which employers find in short supply. While many colleges require public speaking courses, high school students often lack an opportunity to develop their skills. This course focuses on developing technique through continual practice. While the class will sample a few different forms of public speaking, the primary aim is to give students an introduction to fundamentals that can apply to any setting. Students will practice short-form speeches each lesson while building towards a long-form speech to be delivered at the end of the course.

What is Home? Immigrants Speak About Immigration

Immigration is and will continue to be an integral part of collective and individual histories. While popular companies such as 23andMe paint ancestral lineages with forensic data, it's important for young writers to articulate and connect with their identities through prose. Students will practice story-telling, learn cross-cultural communication, and embrace critical thinking as they draw inspiration from first-hand accounts of immigrant experiences.

Locations: Mountain View, Online

Cost: \$110/hr

Recommended hours: 10

Goals:

- Use the essential elements of powerful story-telling in personal narratives and speeches
- Analyze and critique perspectives from a variety of selected source material
- Compose an oral history interview and evaluate the results

Course Description

First-hand immigrant experiences and fictional dramatizations of those experiences offer a wealth of breath-taking stories, making these ideal models for teaching students how to become powerful storytellers in their own right. The course features stories about immigration written by immigrants and devotes time for students to explore their own ancestral backgrounds. Assignments emphasize creative freedom, while still developing critical tools needed for strong verbal and written communication. By the end of this course, students should come away with an appreciation for immigrant experiences and a passion for their own genealogical stories they have yet to tell.



To enroll, call (650) 331-3251, (408) 345-5200, or (415) 419-8786

The Philosophy of *The Good Place*

Now that The Good Place has ended, are you still pondering questions of good and evil, right and wrong? Need a Chidi-surrogate? This course will help students develop an understanding of core philosophical schools and thinkers.

Locations: Menlo Park, Woodside, Online

Cost: \$110/hr

Recommended hours: 8

Goals:

- Develop a familiarity with philosophy as an academic discipline
- Expand critical thinking skills
- Engage with difficult questions
- Explore how others have responded to those questions in the past

Course Description

This course will introduce students to the realm of philosophy. We will explore contributions to philosophy from around the world and throughout history. In addition, we'll address some of the basic schools, paradigms, and belief systems which have guided schools of thought. Students will also read excerpts of texts published by famous thinkers. As they explore the ideas of famous thinkers and fundamental question about reality and our place within it, students will have the opportunity to their critical thinking skills as they engage with tough questions and evaluate both their own ideas and the ideas of others.

The Women of American History

Did you just take US history (or are you about to)? Did you find that the historical figures discussed were mostly male, and were you rather disappointed by this? Then this is the class for you!

Locations: Menlo Park, Online

Cost: \$120/hr

Recommended hours: 6

Goals:

- Analyze primary source documents
- Argue historical points—both through writing and speaking
- How to find and cite sources
- Critically think about history
- Go beyond the primarily male-centric narrative of American history

Course Description

Women make up about 50% of the human population, yet in most high school history classes they only make up a tiny percent of the information covered. In this class, we will cover several of the overlooked women who are part of American history. We will also discuss why women are so frequently left out of the historical narrative. Various skills we will work on within this context include: analyzing primary source documents, effectively arguing historical points, how to find information about frequently overlooked minority voices (beyond just women), and how to think critically about history. Well-behaved women rarely make history, as they say, so this class will cover several totally awesome rebellious women who definitely did not behave.



To enroll, call (650) 331-3251, (408) 345-5200, or (415) 419-8786

Art as a Bridge to World & European History

Engage your mind and dazzle your eyes by discovering European and World history through the visual arts.

Locations: Menlo Park, Online

Cost: \$120/hr

Recommended hours: 12

Goals:

- Construct a framework for world history timelines through visual arts
- Understand how art reflects reality and reality reflects art
- Become familiar with the historical practices that will be expected in history class

Course Description

This course serves as a bridge from American history focused classes to world and European history classes, including AP World History and AP European History. Students often experience a bumpy ride transitioning from the 18th, 19th, and 20th century focus of American history to the multiple millenia of history covered in world history and European history. This history course is designed to help the student build a mental framework, through visual arts, of the history of the world from the Egyptians to the present, including under-represented cultures sometimes ignored by history textbooks.

Writing for History Classes

Do you enjoy debating with your friends? Are you going to be taking an AP- or college-level history class next year and want to get a head start on essay writing strategies? Then this class is for you!

Locations: Menlo Park, Online

Cost: \$120/hr

Recommended hours: 7.5-12

Goals:

- Develop important writing analysis skills
- Learn more about a historical topic you're interested in and discover the joys of research
- Learn how to effectively read history textbooks
- Develop and learn strategies to lower the stress of essay writing
- Learn to love writing persuasive essays!

Course Description

Using a historical topic of the student's choice, this class will help students develop the reading and writing skills that are needed for history classes. The course will be tailored to the student and their next history course in both content (World, European, U.S., etc.) and level (regular, AP, college). We will focus on in-class writing strategies, understanding history textbook readings, research papers, and more.

Before the first class, the student will choose a topic that they are interested in from a list of potential topics that span a time-frame from ancient civilizations to the 20th century. Over the course of the class, we will discuss the topic and develop reading strategies, writing strategies (including coming up with a topic, writing a thesis sentence, what it means to analyze a topic in writing), and research strategies. Homework assignments will include readings on the student's chosen topic, short essays, research, and drafts of a full research essay.

LGBTQ+ History

From the Stone Age to Stonewall and well into today, this course will cover the history of the LGBTQ+ community. Learn the story of its diverse past and the challenges that it is overcoming today.

Locations: Menlo Park, Online

Cost: \$110/hr

Recommended hours: 12

Goals:

- Establish the historical background of queer and trans people
- Explore the sociopolitical atmosphere throughout history surrounding LGBTQ+ people and its impact
- Learn about issues that LGBTQ+ people face in law and society
- Receive a well-rounded account of LGBTQ+ history, allowing students to navigate these issues in an informed manner

Course Description

LGBTQ+ History, as a course, serves to recognize gender and sexual diversity throughout human history from the ancient world, Industrial Revolution, and modern day, while also drawing parallels between the past and modern day.

The ancient history segment of the course addresses the role of gender and sexuality in Western and Eastern Civilizations, as well as the Americas. The objective of covering LGBTQ+ people in ancient history is to challenge the notion that humanity, by tradition, has been completely heteronormative and binary.

This course will also discuss LGBTQ+ people of the Industrial Revolution and modern day. Subjects covered include the impact Industrialization, Colonialism, and American Expansionism had on gender and sexual expression throughout the world. We also discuss the effect that modern innovations, such as the internet and social media, have had on our community. Students will learn about recent legislation, court rulings, and actions taken by the UN that have an impact on the future of the LGBTQ+ community. Modern issues we will address include *Obergefell v. Hodges*, North Carolina HB1, religious freedom laws, international travel, HIV/AIDS, and healthcare inequality.

Creative Writing: Short Fiction or Poetry

Do you enjoy writing fiction or poetry in your spare time but wonder where to go from there? Come hone your writing under the guidance of an experienced creative writing instructor and prepare a portfolio of works for self-publication and submission

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Carlos, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: \$100-\$110/hr

Recommended hours: 9-12

Goals:

- Focus on writing and development of short fiction or poems
- Encourage and develop the work of aspiring writers while they formalize their ideas and voice
- Prepare a personal portfolio of writing for self-publishing and submission to contests or student journals

Course Description

This 1-on-1 class is designed for highly motivated students interested in either fiction or poetry writing and who are motivated to write several high-quality pieces. The goal of the course will be to finalize students' writing for a personal portfolio that will be self-published and that can be submitted to contests or student journals, such as Scholastic, Bennington Young Writers, and the Middlebury Breadloaf Program. While students are encouraged to begin the class with some ideas for topics they'd like to write about, their personal tutor will guide them through the brainstorming, writing, and revising process.

The class will be fast-paced and will involve reading assorted short stories or poems. These readings will serve as models and inspirations for students' own projects. Students are encouraged to begin the class with some ideas for topics they'd like to write about. Homework will be assigned and will consist of reading 1-2 stories or poems between each session and writing or editing original work.

AP English Language & Composition Primer

This class provides an introduction to AP English Language and Composition, with a particular focus on reading, analyzing, and writing about nonfiction. This class will teach students how to synthesize and compare relevant texts; perform rhetorical analysis; comprehend some of the more challenging nonfiction texts, essays, and criticism in English; and produce clear, effective analytical writing.

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Carlos, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: \$100-\$110/hr

Recommended hours: 10-15

Goals:

- Students will learn specific methods of reading, annotation, and text analysis
- Students will engage in various types of persuasive, analytical, and synthesis-based writing
- Students will receive a preview of the AP English Language exam
- Students will feel confident and prepared for the AP English Language class

Course Description

This class is designed for students with reservations about taking the AP English Language class and for those who are looking to get ahead. Reading challenging texts and writing complex essays are requirements of the AP course, and this class will provide a framework for doing both tasks effectively. Topics this course covers include argumentative writing, rhetorical analysis, and textual interpretation. We also integrate the study of grammar, annotation, and quotation choice into our study.

AP English Literature & Composition Primer

This class provides an introduction to AP English Literature and Composition, with a particular focus on reading, analyzing, and writing about poetry and prose. This class will teach students how to synthesize and compare relevant texts; comprehend some of the more challenging literature and criticism in English; and produce clear, effective analytical writing.

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Carlos, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: \$100-\$110/hr

Recommended hours: 10-15

Goals:

- Students will learn specific methods of reading, annotation, and text analysis
- Students will engage in various types of analytical, argumentative, and expository writing
- Students will receive a preview of the AP English Literature Exam
- Students will feel confident and prepared for the AP English Literature Class

Course Description

This class is designed for students with reservations about taking the AP English Literature class and for those who are looking to get ahead. Reading challenging texts and writing complex essays are requirements of the AP course, and this class will provide a framework for doing both tasks effectively. Topics this course covers include argumentative writing, literary analysis, and poetry interpretation. We also integrate the study of grammar, annotation, and quotation choice into our study.



To enroll, call (650) 331-3251, (408) 345-5200, or (415) 419-8786

Reading Comprehension Skill Building

Reading comprehension is the most valuable skill for academic success. Help your student better understand what they read!

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Carlos, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: \$100-\$110/hr

Recommended hours: 10-12

Goals:

- Cultivate reading comprehension skills that can be used across a variety of academic courses
- Attune students to the nuances of what they read
- Equip students with specific note-taking strategies to facilitate better understanding of what they read
- Encourage a passion for the written word

Course Description

AJ Tutoring's summer reading comprehension course prepares students for all levels of text-based, elementary, middle and high school courses (English, history, government, economics, to name a few) by equipping students with the skills they need to analyze the written word. It will cover rhetorical analysis (identifying occasion, audience, purpose, and tone), as well as strategies for close reading (interpreting how stylistic choices contribute to the meaning of a passage). Although the emphasis of the course is on rudimentary reading comprehension, this customized reading comprehension program can also delve into more advanced approaches to poetry, Shakespeare, and longer novels.

English for the STEM Fields

Do you want to be a doctor? Maybe a software engineer or a scientist? Do you think that English class ends in high school? Learn how to use writing to succeed in STEM majors and a competitive tech job market!

Locations: Menlo Park, Online

Cost: \$130/hr

Recommended hours: 9-10.5

Goals:

- Introduce students to technical forms of writing (APA, Chicago)
- Develop the basics of grant notation and drafting (medical, research)
- Develop the basics of research presentation/IRB drafting (science)
- Develop the basics of quantitative data presentation in draft form (engineering)

Course Description

English for the STEM Fields is designed to introduce students to the types of writing and rhetoric that will give them an edge in the competitive worlds of science and technology! Every technical field is presented with challenges that will require a budding physician, engineer, or scientist to pull out those English skills and write again. Whether it is a long-form research proposal for a biochemical lab, a technical presentation to a software startup, or a grant proposal for a medical department, writing and rhetoric play an integral part in every STEM field.

This course will help young scholars who might think that they “just don’t need English anymore” and prepare STEM students for the writing rigors of their future fields. Students will learn technical writing structures such as American Psychological Association (APA) and Chicago literary notations used for scientific and research texts. Additionally, students will learn how to put together basic research proposal structures, grant proposals for medical/technical fields, and quantitative presentation methods for displaying computer science and engineering data in an approachable manner.

The Meaning of Tragedy

Ever wondered where the ideas of the “tragic flaw” and the “tragic hero” came from? Have trouble distinguishing between pathos and catharsis? Or just wonder what tragedy really means? Explore the ideas of great minds throughout the centuries on the subject, read the most compelling tragedies ever written, and decide for yourself!

Locations: Burlingame, Online

Cost: \$120/hr

Recommended hours: 6-12

Goals:

- Read and discuss tragedies by playwrights such as Sophocles and Shakespeare
- Follow the evolving idea of tragedy through Western thought
- Write a culminating essay on what truly defines a tragedy

Course Description

Students will analyze and discuss the thoughts and plays of authors including Sophocles, Aristotle, and Shakespeare. They'll engage with various understandings of what tragedy has meant to mankind, and examine what it means to them. Each student will then formulate a thesis and write an essay on the essence of tragedy and how it affects us.



To enroll, call (650) 331-3251, (408) 345-5200, or (415) 419-8786

Summer Reading Round-Up

Summer reading can be a bummer, but you don't have to do it alone. AJ's English department can help you master those summer reading lists!

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Carlos, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: \$110-\$120/hr

Recommended hours: 3-6

Goals:

- Complete those tough English reading lists before the end of the summer
- Master plot, characters, and details so you can ace first-day pop quizzes
- Introduce important conversations around the book's themes
- Discover the historical, political, and social context for each book
- Practice writing and analysis before the first in-class essay

Course Description

Join an AJ Tutoring English expert, who can provide reading support for your summer reading list. Not only do our tutors genuinely love these books, but they have the knowledge, passion, and teaching skills to bring these tough books to life.

You don't have to tackle your summer reading list alone. Call AJ Tutoring and let's read these books together!

Refer to AJ's website for a list of books commonly assigned for the summer months. If your student is reading a book not listed on the site, please call AJ Tutoring and we will be happy to accommodate their needs.

Exit, Pursued by Bear: Shakespeare in Action

Is Shakespeare all Greek to you? Do you ever wonder wherefore Romeo art? Fear not and discover the secrets to unraveling literature's greatest mind!

Locations: Los Gatos, Online

Cost: \$100/hr

Recommended hours: 9

Goals:

- Explore Shakespeare's plays from the perspective of performance
- Understand how dialogue informs staging and props
- Develop analytical and writing skills

Course Description

Shakespeare was a prolific writer and one of the most influential poets and playwrights to ever live. But his works were intended for everyday entertainment, not just scholarly interpretation. Today's students find themselves expected to read, analyze, and write about Shakespeare's works, but are not taught a constructive approach to understanding them. Over ninety percent of the text in Shakespeare's plays is pure dialogue. In order to truly grasp the most from each of his creations, it is first necessary to see and understand them as Shakespeare would have presented them.

This course will address how to read and interpret Shakespeare not only as a literary work, but as a play performed for an audience. Students will read *Othello* and *The Tempest* and learn how to use dialogue to inform their decisions about character, staging, and props. They will prepare scenes for performance and evaluate how performance improves their understanding of the texts. Students will also develop their writing skills through analytical writing assignments. At the conclusion of the course, students will record a performance of a soliloquy of their choosing and write a full analytical essay.

Intro to Classics & College Writing

Want to learn the real history behind Gladiator, Troy, and 300? Gain all this knowledge as well as the writing, research, and argumentative skills to succeed in college-level humanity courses by taking this course!

Locations: San Jose, Online

Cost: \$110/hr

Recommended hours: 9-12

Goals:

- Learn how to read and comprehend dense material
- Understand how to write a college-level argumentative paper
- Write weekly responses to questions pertaining to chosen texts
- Compose a college-level paper pertaining to classical text(s)
- Gain an understanding of the societies of the Ancient World and how they still influence our lives today

Course Description

The transition from high school to college-level writing is one that nearly every college freshman finds challenging. Whether or not students plan on majoring in the humanities, they will inevitably take a course that requires advanced reading and writing skills. This summer course is designed to bridge the gap between college and high school writing and help students gain exposure to the most influential works of literature in human history.

Students will choose two works from the Greco-Roman time period to read, discuss, and write about over the course of the summer. Short one- or two-paragraph responses to discussion questions will be assigned each week. At the end of the course, students will submit a 4-6 page argumentative paper about one of the works they read over the summer. Detailed constructive feedback will be provided throughout our odyssey together!

The Russian Soul: Short Stories of Russian Authors

Have you ever been frustrated with how Anglo-centric many English classes are in school? Are you curious about the intersection of culture, history, and literature? Come explore the world of Russian writers and thinkers (in translation!) while developing your reading, writing, and analytical skills.

Locations: Los Gatos, Online

Cost: \$120/hr

Recommended hours: 8-10

Goals:

- Gain a new appreciation of the relevancy of literature and history
- Build upon reading comprehension, analytical, and critical thinking skills
- Develop a strong grasp of writing skills through 1-on-1 feedback and coaching

Course Description

This course will introduce students to the short fiction (in English translation) of some of Russia's greatest writers, including Dostoyevsky, Tolstoy, Chekhov, and Turgenev. Along the way, we'll weave in history and culture and explore the ways in which these have influenced Russian ideology and literature. In addition to reading, analyzing, and discussing a variety of short stories, students will hone their writing skills with lessons and short assignments designed to help strengthen their grasp of key aspects of academic writing (including thesis statements, effective use of evidence, and analysis). They will then have the opportunity to pull together all they have learned in a culminating essay on a topic of their choosing, using resources and texts from the course.

Plato's *Republic*: A Critical Reading

Are you interested in politics? Ethics? Metaphysics? Explore these topics and more through a critical reading of Plato's masterpiece, the Republic.

Locations: San Jose, Online

Cost: \$110/hr

Recommended hours: 8-10

Goals:

- Learn how to critically examine a foundational philosophic text
- Develop the ability to summarize philosophical arguments with both in-session discussions and short writing assignments
- Learn about the various ways of interpreting Plato's *Republic* and gain an appreciation for the exacting subtlety of Plato's thought
- Learn how to apply ancient philosophic insights to contemporary social issues

Course Description

After more than two millennia, Plato's *Republic* remains one of the most widely studied texts in the world. This controversial dialogue examines the question, "What is justice?" but, in doing so, it touches on a number of other important subjects including ethics, politics, and the role and value of philosophy in human affairs.

In this course, students will learn how to think critically about philosophic topics, develop their ability to deconstruct an argument and evaluate its validity, and apply philosophic insights from antiquity to current events and social issues.

Grammar & Style: Everything You Need

This course is designed to teach you everything you need for grammar, from the basics to advanced topics that will sharpen your writing and speaking.

Locations: Los Gatos, Menlo Park, Online

Cost: \$100-\$110/hr

Recommended hours: 12

Goals:

- Understand punctuation, parts of speech, verb tenses, and syntax
- Incorporate sentence variety into writing
- Differentiate between passive and active voice
- Develop a collegiate voice in writing

Course Description

No matter what your form of communication, whether writing or speech, the content—the “what”—is arguably not as important as the way the information is delivered—the “how”. A paper on an interesting topic that lacks connections in thought and is written with repetitive sentence structure, for instance, may not be as effective in its hold over the audience as a paper on a dry topic that is written well. Hence the importance of grammar and style!

This course will instruct students in the mechanics of grammar and style to help them not only develop their thoughts into interesting, coherent pieces of writing, but also read and decipher texts. Often, the meaning of challenging passages can be unraveled simply by having a proper understanding of writing elements such as parts of speech and transitions. The course will include focused instruction on essential grammatical concepts and exercises to hone students’ writing.

Overall, after this course, students will have developed fluency in—and a strong command of—the English language and its unique oddities, and they will walk away with fundamental skills that will help them succeed in high school, college, and beyond.

From Films to Books: Honing Analytical & Interpretive Skills by Studying Film

Learning to analyze and interpret literature can be time-consuming and difficult, but the good news is that you can hone cognitive skills by analyzing films. Rather than trudging through dense, unrelatable material, we will develop critical thinking skills by dissecting great films that have changed our culture.

Locations: Los Gatos, Online

Cost: \$110/hr

Recommended hours: 4-6

Goals:

- Effectively research the story's context to better grasp its meaning
- Understand how a plot can create or contradict a story's intended theme
- Identify story elements, including plot points and literary devices from the Greek playwrights
- Notice how details manipulate audience perceptions
- Articulate how a work of art creates or joins a cultural dialogue

Course Description

During this course, we will be analyzing the films that have impacted our culture and history. Audiences are often unaware of how films and TV shows can manipulate their worldviews, so we will unpack the hidden messages within each work and discuss how the themes influence individuals and nations. Compared to novelists, filmmakers have to pack more meaning into fewer words, giving the audience material which is just as complex but more accessible than novels. The skills used to fully comprehend a film's meaning are applicable to literary interpretation because novelists, poets, and screenwriters use many of the same tools and techniques.



To enroll, call (650) 331-3251, (408) 345-5200, or (415) 419-8786

The Monster in Literature

Come delve into the world of literary horror and discover some of literature's most famous monsters.

Locations: Menlo Park, Online

Cost: \$110/hr

Recommended hours: 10

Goals:

- Build reading comprehension, analytical, and critical thinking skills
- Hone writing skills such as organization, analysis, and thesis statements

Course Description

In this course, students will explore the literary genre of horror through the famous works of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, and Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. We'll discuss the context of these texts in terms of literary movements and the author's lives and use them as a foundation to develop the strong reading comprehension and analytical skills that students require to succeed in their courses.

We'll cover note taking and annotation skills that students can use to prepare for future assignments and deepen their understanding. Students will delve into the themes of each work, and evaluate ways in which they address similar and different issues, in both discussion and writing.

Students will also have the opportunity to hone their writing skills through three essays, which will demonstrate both their mastery of the texts and their grasp of analytical essay writing. We'll use these essays as an opportunity to expand upon the student's existing skills to set them up for success in their future English classes.

Science Fiction: Distinctly Alien & Oddly Familiar

Have you ever asked what aspects truly define science fiction? Have you ever asked what makes the genre particularly special? Engross yourself in the worlds, times, and ideas of science fiction!

Locations: San Carlos, Online

Cost: \$110/hr

Recommended Hours: 9-12

Goals:

- Understand and appreciate the literary and media genre that is science fiction
- Explore the complex ideas discussed in a variety of science fiction narratives
- Enhance reading comprehension and analytical skills

Course Description

“Let us think the unthinkable, let us do the undoable, let us prepare to grapple with the ineffable itself...”

From the first shaping of stone to planets unknown, from “a long time ago” to the worlds of tomorrow, from resurrection of the dead to robots in our stead, science fiction is as widely varied as it is full of depth. In this course, students will learn the defining aspects of science fiction and its various sub-genres. They will delve into a variety of different short stories (and potentially movies) that investigate substantial—sometimes existential—ideas and notions. They will identify how many of these ideas are designed to reflect and respond to the problems authors noted in their own times by exploring the societal context of the works. Along the way, students will develop a greater appreciation for a genre which seeks, with some inventive thinking, to “help readers explore their world, their society, [and] their [lives].” This course will use the exploration of science fiction as a foundation on which to develop and hone students’ reading comprehension, critical thinking, and analytical skills through discussion and writing assignments.



To enroll, call (650) 331-3251, (408) 345-5200, or (415) 419-8786

Summer Computer Science Java Bootcamp

Programming is a collaborative undertaking, so this 4-week course will help students learn Java in groups, pairs, and on their own, all while working toward and completing a project that is uniquely theirs.

Locations: Los Altos, Menlo Park*

Cost: \$1400

Hours: 24 hours of class time, 6 hours of 1-on-1 instruction

Goals:

- Prepare students to succeed in their upcoming AP computer science course in a 1-on-1 setting
- Introduce and shore up fundamental concepts in Java
- Instill an understanding of the upcoming year's curriculum in the context of real-world applications

Course Description

This 4-week course will be comprised of a mix of project-based applications of Java and theoretical concepts critical to understanding the first semester of AP Computer Science. Starting with the core components of Java, students will explore coding and theory in an environment modeled after the best coding bootcamps. Students will learn to problem solve and write code in groups, pairs and on their own. Each week, they'll build on the lessons from the week before to develop their very own 2D game. Students will end the summer with a portfolio-ready application, as well as the confidence needed to succeed in their AP Computer Science classes.

Beginners and intermediate students welcome!

* Classes might switch to an online setting depending on the circumstances.



To enroll, call (650) 331-3251, (408) 345-5200, or (415) 419-8786

AP Computer Science Primer

AP Computer Science can include students with a wide range of coding experience. Let AJ Tutoring's personalized summer AP Computer Science primer help you level the playing field next year!

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Carlos, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: \$100-\$110/hr

Recommended hours: 9-12

Goals:

- Prepare students to succeed in their upcoming AP Computer Science course in a 1-on-1 setting
- Introduce and shore up fundamental concepts in Java
- Instill an understanding of the upcoming year's curriculum in the context of real-world applications

Course Description

This customized class is designed to get students ready to ace their upcoming AP Computer Science course. It focuses on official AP topics such as Program Implementation (writing a program), Program Analysis (debugging programs), Standard Data Structures, Standard Operations and Algorithms, Object-Oriented Program Design, and Computing in Context.

This course will introduce initially intimidating programming ideas at a comfortable personalized pace to help your student succeed in AP Computer Science.



To enroll, call (650) 331-3251, (408) 345-5200, or (415) 419-8786

Introduction to C++ & Algorithms

Want to get into coding? Solve difficult problems and make your life easier? Then you're in the right place and time! Introduction to C++ and algorithms provides basics in C++ programming and how to use this tool to solve problems.

Locations: Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Online

Cost: \$110/hr

Recommended hours: 7.5-12

Goals:

- Learn C++ syntax
- Learn data types and how to distinguish them
- Learn how to debug your program
- Learn by practice, not by reading books
- Solve amazing problems

Course Description

This 1-on-1 class teaches students how to use C++ to solve problems from a variety of fields while understanding the “how” and “why” of computer programming.

Students will learn the structure and syntax of the language and how to work with the interface by turning logical reasoning into written code. Then various problems will be presented, and students will be coached through applying skills they developed to create simple, effective codes to solve them. Special attention will be paid to the problem-solving process and how to debug, or fix, incorrect code.

Program Your Own Game

How many times have you seen a game like Flappy Bird and said, "That's so simple, anyone could make it!"? Now you can! In this course, you'll build your very own computer game using popular programming languages such as Java, Python, Scratch, or Unity.

Locations: Los Altos, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, San Carlos, Online

Cost: \$110/hr

Recommended hours: 6-12

Goals:

- Engage with a programming language
- Learn how to structure a game engine
- Develop good debugging practices
- Brag about your game to friends!

Course Description

People love video games. Some people end up wanting to build them, but are not quite sure where to start!

We will start with an exploration of a programming language through building basic game mechanics. Later, we will focus on coding best practices and work toward a higher-level approach through advanced code organization, good debugging habits, and breaking code into simple and meaningful chunks.

This course is geared toward beginners with very little knowledge of programming, or intermediate students who already have a basic understanding of programming concepts (equivalent to a one-year high school object-oriented programming class). The only main requirement is a passion for video games!

Building a Personal Computer

Need a new computer? Did you know that building one yourself can be a lot cheaper than buying a pre-built one? Discover the benefits of building a custom PC, get tips on how to select and buy the best components, and learn how to put all the pieces together!

Locations: Palo Alto, Online

Cost: \$110/hr

Recommended hours: 6

Goals:

- Explore the pros and cons of building a custom PC
- Learn what the various components of a PC do and how to select them
- Practice how to effectively shop for components
- Assemble and configure a new PC in a hands-on tutorial with the instructor

Course Description

Building a new computer, instead of simply buying one, has many benefits: more bang for your buck, more control over what's inside and how it looks, and more knowledge of how to make incremental upgrades over time. While building isn't for everyone, it's probably easier to do than you expect!

Students will discuss the reasons for building a computer, then explore the entire process of building a new PC from parts. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to answer key questions about computer hardware (What is a CPU? How much RAM do I need? What does a graphics card do? How do I plug things into each other? What tools do I need?) and software (How do I install an operating system? What do I do when things don't go as expected?). Students are welcome to bring in their own computer parts, but we will have a computer available to take apart and put back together for practice.

AP Music Theory Crash Course

Love singing but hate theory? Love theory but afraid of sight-singing? If you're looking to take AP Music Theory this year, then this is the summer course for you!

Locations: Los Gatos, Online

Cost: \$120/hr

Recommended hours: 15-20

Goals:

- Gain confidence sight-singing
- Train your ear and improve your musicianship with melodic, rhythmic, and harmonic dictation
- Learn scales, key signatures, clefs, modes, and more!
- Gain a new appreciation for all the music you already listen to and the music you already make!

Course Description

Music theory can be one of the most difficult AP tests. Passing this exam requires not only a solid knowledge of melodies, harmonies, and rhythms, but also the ability to demonstrate this knowledge in ways that music performers are seldom—if ever—asked to do.

We will help our budding young musician hone their skills, transforming their already existing knowledge into something they will be able to both write and sing.

A student entering AP Music Theory and this summer course should already have at least 3 years of music performance experience and know how to read notes from one clef.



To enroll, call (650) 331-3251, (408) 345-5200, or (415) 419-8786

Intro to Digital Photography

Want to take better pictures? Want to learn some photography tricks? You're just a click away!

Locations: Los Altos, Mountain View, Online

Cost: \$110/hr

Recommended hours: 9-12

Goals:

- Learn the basics of a digital SLR (DSLR) camera
- Understand various camera controls and how they impact the composition of the image
- Create a photography portfolio

Course Description

In this course, we will explore digital photography. We will start with the basics such as understanding the history of photography and the evolution of the camera and take a deeper dive into the technical elements of digital SLR (DSLR) photography. We will discuss the various parts and controls on the camera and how they influence the final picture, and we'll focus on the elements of image exposure and the effect of these elements on composition. Through diving into various forms of photography, including nature and wildlife photography, portrait photography, food photography, long exposure, and creative photography, we will discuss how the camera controls can be creatively manipulated to produce such images. At the end of this course, students should be able to create a portfolio of their photography which exhibits their artistic style.

Music Production & Composition

Are you passionate about music? Are you looking to take your art into the digital world? Learn the basics of using a Digital Audio Workstation in this hands-on course!

Locations: Los Altos, Lafayette, Online

Cost: \$110/hr

Recommended hours: 9-12

Goals:

- Understand how to navigate a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) program and the necessary tools for production
- Understand the basics of music composition and how to create a song
- Create a 1-minute composition using the tools learned in class

Course Description

Composing and producing music can be an all-encompassing activity for an aspiring musician. Rather than just reading scores or memorizing a piece, students will discover the joy of making music themselves while also learning the fundamentals of composition and production.

Students should have some prior knowledge of musical theory (such as the study and practice of a musical instrument) to get the full benefits of this course. Students may want to purchase materials in order to continue their work outside of the course, but the instructor will be able to provide materials that students can use during the sessions.

Hip Hop Lyrics/Rhyme-Writing

Learn to write creative, cohesive rhymes like your favorite emcees! Rap appears in movies, on TV, and even in classrooms —teachers often include creative options for class projects and presentations, including writing rap/hip hop songs about topics on upcoming exams! Try your hand at writing your own original lyrics with guidance and feedback.

Locations: Los Gatos, Online

Cost: \$100/hr

Recommended hours: 1-1.5 hr./wk. for 6 weeks

Goals:

- Foster lifelong love of language (English and otherwise)
- Heighten ability to recognize connections between related sounds and between related words
- Develop critical thinking, logic, and creative skills
- Gain confidence through self-expression
- Practice writing and revising daily to craft a polished song/verse

Course Description

This course covers songwriting basics such as structure (including narrative and experimental structures), rhythm/meter/cadence, and the writing process, as well as more advanced/hip hop-specific topics like creative vocabulary, rhyme (including slant/B rhymes, internal vs external rhymes, etc.), figurative language, and working with/without a beat. Students will learn to use few words to speak volumes and will engage in a variety of rhyming and freewriting exercises in addition to drafting and developing polished songs/verses. Students will also gain exposure to the history and purpose of hip hop lyrics as well as inspiration for their own writing.



To enroll, call (650) 331-3251, (408) 345-5200, or (415) 419-8786

Study Skills Basics

Time management, organization, and note-taking are valuable habits that pertain to all aspects of life. Why not get started early?

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Carlos, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: \$100-\$110/hr

Recommended hours: 9-13.5

Goals:

- Build lasting organizational and time-management practices
- Cultivate test-taking strategies
- Train students to better retain what they read

Course Description

Studying is an individualized process. Some people prefer the pressure of the pre-test cram, while others need small spurts of studying over the course of a month. AJ's study skills class will improve your study skills by giving tools and approaches that work best. This course will furnish students with systematic study strategies that will improve academic performance and that will be useful for the rest of their lives. Our program focuses on note-taking from both textbooks and lectures, test preparation techniques, outlining, reading retention strategies, and stress management skills.

We will structure study skills instruction around a class students will take next year at school. Study skills will be taught in the context of that course, so students will learn academic content while improving study skills. For example, if a student will be taking US History next year, we will teach reading comprehension and note-taking skills from the history textbook and the tutor's lectures, essay outlining and organization, and time-management and test-preparation techniques geared towards history exams. Improving study skills is helpful for all age levels but especially for students transitioning from middle school to high school or from high school to college.

Note-Taking for All Types

Would you like to take better notes? Do you ever wonder which note-taking style is most effective for you? Learn multiple note-taking styles that can be adapted for every course and tailored to suit your individual needs.

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Carlos, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: \$100-\$110/hr

Recommended hours: 9

Goals:

- Learn and understand how to use at least 5 different note taking styles
- Assess which style works best for the student in various courses
- Master the note-taking style that works best for the student

Course Description

Students will learn and practice note-taking styles, such as outline notes, map notes, chart notes, and Cornell notes. All styles will be demonstrated for various academic courses.

After all the styles are taught, the tutor will work with the student to assess which style works best for the student in various courses and help the student master that note-taking style. Students will leave this course feeling confident in their note-taking abilities.

Middle School Skills

Middle school is when students build the foundations for the skills that they use for every class for the rest of their career. Too often, however, these skills aren't explicitly taught, and students are left to blindly figure out what to do. This course will develop effective individual study strategies based on students' specific learning styles, past challenges, and current needs.

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Carlos, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: \$100-\$110/hr

Recommended hours: 13.5-15

Goals:

- Develop organizational and long-term planning skills
- Learn how to prepare for tests
- Preview middle school curriculum

Course Description

This course is designed for rising 6th and 7th graders. Our program focuses on organization, planning, test preparation, and time management in order to foster study habits that are both effective and efficient. Common topics include learning the difference between reading for literature and reading for science, predicting test questions, and math problem solving strategies.

Since study skills are best taught in the context of content, we structure courses around the middle school curriculum, previewing new material even as we build effective study tools.

Students will have short homework assignments between sessions to help them build at home study skills. These may include short math sets, short readings, and desk and backpack cleaning. In addition, students will need a binder and a planner.

How to Succeed in High School

High school can be a difficult experience: keeping up with all the classwork and managing teenage life is a challenge. This class is designed for students who are rising freshmen, sophomores, or juniors and want to learn skills that will help them feel confident and ready to excel in high school.

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Carlos, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: \$100-\$110/hr

Recommended hours: 5

Goals:

- Learn how to get organized and manage time
- Become an active learner
- Develop strong study skills for tests
- Strengthen writing skills

Course Description

Transitioning to high school is a major adjustment. When students have a strong foundation in study skills and content knowledge this transition becomes easier.

In this summer course, we explore seven major topics to help you gracefully transition to high school: how to get organized, how to manage time, how to be an active learner, how to study for tests, how to be a strong writer, how to build reading skills, and how to solve problems.

We draw on material from a variety of sources and teach these skills in the context of preparing for and previewing the material you'll encounter in your classes. Students will be assigned projects, reading assignments, and writing assignments to practice these skills at home.

Financial Literacy for Young Adults

Got money? Know what to do with it? If you answered, "spend it!" this course is for you. If you answered, "save it!" this course is still for you. Thinking more about your finances now is the first step in a successful financial future. Let's talk about the ways to get more bang for your buck and to achieve your financial goals, beyond the black and white of "spend" and "save."

Locations: Mountain View, Palo Alto, Online

Cost: \$110/hr

Recommended hours: 6-9

Goals:

- Discuss the difference between banks and credit unions
- Budgeting tips and tricks to save
- Discuss the credit score system and its function
- Learn about the different types of credit cards
- Learn about the different types of student loans
- Investing basics

Course Description

As high school students approach graduation, college entrance, and beyond, they often face a great deal of confusion about money matters: it's there, it's not, it's lost in the shuffle now that cash is entering obsolescence and plastic seems to be the way of things. Many students may already have a credit card or checking/savings account, but do they really understand what happens every time they swipe/tap/insert credit cards or type in credit card information online?

This course is about starting a conversation about money and credit and how to get on track and stay on track. Entering college and on to adulthood, several things may happen that can boost or sink credit scores and/or savings accounts. In session, we will try to identify some of those big moments and ways to save now for when life happens any time, and hopefully avoid the avoidable debts.



To enroll, call (650) 331-3251, (408) 345-5200, or (415) 419-8786

What's Your Personality Type? Choosing a Major & Career Path

"What do you want to study?" If you've been getting this question a lot, but are not sure how you feel about the answer, this course is for you!

Locations: Los Gatos, Online

Cost: \$120/hr

Recommended hours: 3

Goals:

- Determine student's Myers-Briggs personality type
- Learn the various ways type plays a role in your day-to-day life
- Discuss how career fields and areas of study relate to student type

Course Description

Prior to the course, the student will complete a short online personality questionnaire. The first session will consist of verifying the student's Myers-Briggs personality type and exploring what the different dimensions of personality mean. For example, what does it mean that I'm an Extraverted Thinking type? How does that compare to my friend who's an Introverted Feeling Type? The goal here is to give the student a fluency in the "language" of personality, which has great value in understanding oneself and one's relationship to others.

The second session will focus on applying this newfound understanding to the question of career and what to study in college. We will explore the intersection of the student's personality type, personal interests, and the types of careers projected to be in demand in the future. While we of course won't be able to explore every possibility in an hour and a half, the goal for the student to learn how to conduct this research further on his or her own. We will also come up with at least a few possible paths for the student to explore further.

There is a wealth of resources available on this topic, so the ultimate goal is for this course to be a springboard to the student's own process of self discovery!

Master the Resume & Interview

Do you have a dream job or summer internship? Structuring your resume and navigating the interview process can be daunting the first or second (or even 50th) time, but it doesn't have to be as scary as it seems.

Locations: Menlo Park, Online

Cost: \$130/hr

Recommended hours: 7-9

Goals:

- Build a basic resume for summer internships, part-time jobs, and other opportunities
- Start and explore LinkedIn as a good resource
- Learn tips and tricks for a great interview
- Succeed at the mock interview for a variety of behavioral questions (learn the do's and don't's of interview behavior)

Course Description

Starting the job hunt process can be intimidating and confusing—it's hard to know where to start and whether or not you're doing things right. This course provides structure, and most importantly, a starting point for the ambitious young student hoping to gain some work experience.

Whether your student wants to get a part-time job or start looking for those resume-boosting internships, they can learn to master resume writing, interview skills, and professional etiquette in a fun and interactive class. Your student will write and edit their resumes, build their LinkedIn profiles, and rehearse interview strategies. Kick start their confidence now!



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