

IPoly Elective Descriptions 2023-2024

Academic Decathlon – IPoly has applied to prepare a team for the county wide competition for the next school year. The Los Angeles County Academic Decathlon is a local-county competition designed to promote self-assurance, academic enrichment, and teamwork. The winners of the county participate in the State competition and then if they win at state, they participate nationally. Students of all achievement levels from all over the county participate in the highly anticipated three-day event. Teams are comprised of students from all grade-point averages —Honors (GPA of 3.80 or higher), Scholastic (GPA of 3.20 to 3.799) and Varsity (GPA up to 3.199). Decathletes are challenged to use analytical skills, performance abilities and writing aptitude in seven knowledge tests (Art, Economics, Literature, Math, Music, Science and Social Science) as well as Interview, Speech, Essay, and Super Quiz.

Art – To complete VPA credit students need to take two semesters of courses located under visual art discipline. You may match one semester of art with another semester course in a different discipline if you have planned to take your VPA credit in another option. *UC/CSU Approved for one semester of “f” Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) under Visual Arts discipline.*

Semester 1: Intro to Mixed Media Art **Semester 2: Fine Arts: Drawing and Painting**

Advanced Topics in Spanish: Language and Culture (12th ONLY Biliteracy Seal) This advanced topics seminar is designed for students who have completed AP Spanish Language and Culture. Conducted entirely in Spanish, this course aims to introduce students to literary works from Spain, Latin America and U.S. Diaspora. Students will engage in close readings of a variety of works ranging from essays, short stories, plays, novels, and vignettes. Upon completion of this course students will be able to conceptualize key time periods, historical contexts and literary themes that help to define a tradition of literary production from Spain, Latin America and the U.S. All the primary readings will be conducted in Spanish. This course will complete the requirements for students receiving their bi-literacy seal of Spanish on their high school diploma.

Circuit Training – 1 semester IPoly Elective

Circuit training is a type of high intensity workout involving cardio, endurance, and resistance by having participants rotate through a series of exercises. Students in this elective will be participating in workouts and classroom instructions on fitness and health. Fitness and health is not about how hard you work out that one time, it is about lifestyle.

Creative Writing – 1 semester IPoly Elective

Students will study literary theory of great writers of all genres including everyone from Kurt Vonnegut to Neil Gaiman to Margaret Atwood. Students will study both classic and relatively unknown works to explore the answer to what makes a great short story. We will work through pacing, dialogue, action, character, and more so that students can create their own piece. The culminating project will be a college-style writing workshop during which students can get critiques, share their ideas, and ultimately use the wisdom of their peers to revise their work.

Digital Broadcast Media: Eye on IPoly

The one-year course is dedicated to producing a weekly, 5–7-minute video broadcast (Eye on IPoly) that covers recent and upcoming school events. Students are responsible for producing three news segments each week. Students will learn both the technical production side of broadcasting as well as the journalistic. *(UC/CSU Approved “f”, Visual and Performing Arts under Visual Arts discipline)*

Drama: Drama will be divided into four UC “f” approved courses. (Visual and Performing Arts VPA under Theater discipline) You must complete one full year of VPA under the same discipline to meet you a-g course requirements. Drama courses have no prerequisites, you take the course associated with your grade level. *UC/CSU Approved for “f” Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) under Theater discipline.*

Drama 1 (Freshman)
Drama 2 (Sophomores)

Drama 3 (Juniors)
Drama 4 (Seniors)

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Facing History and Ourselves – 1 semester IPoly Elective

Students will engage, reflect, and explore topics such as: Culture & Identity, Global Migration & Immigration, Human & Civil Rights, Racism & Social Justice, and Equity & Inclusion. Through democratic discourse, students will be focusing on issues and questions regarding race, belonging, justice, and the common good in modern society. Lastly, students will implement practices that foster inclusion and belonging, promote civic engagement, and support deep academic learning.

Film and Media: These courses can be taken separately but the completion of both courses will fulfill your one-year of VPA credit requirement under Visual Arts discipline. All students must complete Film Creation (one semester) before the end of their sophomore year.

Film Studies A: Appreciation – 1 semester

Students will learn to view films as communication and to interpret and appreciate the messages and language of film and the film industry. Students are given an historical overview of the medium and are introduced to different film genres. *UC/CSU Approved for one semester of “f” Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) under Visual Arts discipline.*

Film Studies B: Creation – 1 semester

Students learn to create a film by generating a pitch, storyboard and script and applying filming and editing techniques. *UC/CSU Approved for one semester of “f” Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) under Visual Arts discipline.*

Graphic Design CTE: This one-year class, is taught by a career and Technical Educator. Students will **explore their artistic creativity while using computers as the primary artistic medium.** This course will cover the basics of art, including the elements and principles of design, color theory, art history, and creative expression. All students will work toward successfully completing their Adobe Creative Suite certification. *UC/CSU Approved for “f” Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) under Visual Arts discipline.*

Greek/ Roman/Medieval History – 1 semester IPoly Elective

Students will learn about various histories that shaped the ancient and medieval world. For example, did you know In Ancient Greece, for the first-time people wrote down what had happened in detailed narratives. We think of this as the Dawn of History, when we can truly begin to analyze human behavior.

Personal Wellness (Tentative): You can only choose this as a second option. This comprehensive health course provides students with essential knowledge and decision-making skills for a healthy lifestyle. Students will analyze aspects of emotional, social, and physical health and how these realms of health influence each other. Students will apply principles of health and wellness to their own lives. In addition, they will study behavior change and set goals to work on throughout the semester. Other topics of study include substance abuse, safety and injury prevention, environmental health, and consumer health.

Music Appreciation: The goal of this semester-long course is to provide instruction in basic musical elements, trace the development and growth of classical music, and give students a strong foundation for a greater appreciation of music. Students will examine music in the world around them and discover how they experience music. This course also provides students with lessons in engaged listening. We will be learning to appreciate music. This will include learning the language of music such as Notes/Chords and Rhythm/Tempo, etc. We will learn about different instruments and how they generate tones. Finally, we will look at the history of music by examining the major works of each time period. This includes Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and modern music.

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Model United Nations: In the Model United Nations course, students will be introduced to major issues in global foreign policy and international relations using a constructive model of study including research, simulation, and debate. The course will focus on introducing the social, political, and economic role of the United Nations in world affairs, as well as modern and historical foreign policy issues including free trade agreements, humanitarian and military interventions around the world, international support of basic human rights, attempts at promoting sustainable economic development around the world, and upholding international law.

Electives that require prerequisites or are audition based are as follows:

Associated Student Body

ASB Members of this class are the elected student body and class officers. They meet during elective, and receive instruction in parliamentary procedures, effective leadership, and how to run successful student activities, including the Junior-Senior Prom, Homecoming, and student dances. Students must maintain a GPA of 2.5 or higher in order to serve on ASB. Students receive 10 credits for the course. Prerequisite: students who have been elected to a student body or class office must take this class. *UC/CSU approved for "G" Elective discipline*

Academic Support

Students will be placed in this class based on individual need. Now focused on all subjects.

Dance: A four-year progression designed to allow students to showcase their talents as a team at all assemblies and school events. Students must audition to join the dance team. *Students who have not previously enrolled in the Dance elective must forward a 60-90 second try out video of their dance or choreography talents to: cancio_denise@ipolyhighschool.org*

Dance 1: Audition Based – Year 1- grade 9-12

This one-year course is designed as an introduction to the foundation concepts of dance, dance forms and to the theatrical aspect of dance performance. Students will study a variety of dance genres including jazz, modern, tap, theatre and world dance. Students will explore the different dynamics of building pieces such as solo work, group work and the creation of choreography for the classroom and performances. *UC/CSU Approved for "F" Visual Performing Arts (VPA) Dance discipline*

Advanced Dance: Audition Based – Year 2 - grade 10-12

This one-year course is an advanced level dance class where students will demonstrate mastery in numerous styles of dance and technique create works of art through choreography projects and perform in numerous concerts and events. Advance Dance is designed for those students with prior dance training and enrollment is by audition or teacher approval only. This course is a continuation of their dance education that will increase their knowledge of dance terminology while exposing them to multiple genres. *UC/CSU Approved for "F" Visual Performing Arts (VPA) Dance discipline*

Performance Dance: Audition Based – Year 3 - grade 11-12

This one-year course helps students refine advanced skills of dance while improving their techniques, poise, self-confidence, and creative ability. Through weekly participation in dance instruction, students will demonstrate a high level of consistency, reliability, and technical skill in one genre, style, or technique, use expressive musical phrasing and dynamic control, move on mixed meters with and without musical accompaniment, demonstrate advanced proficiency in a variety of partnering techniques, execute extended sequences in a variety of dance forms with dependable accuracy as well as understand and demonstrate how dance creates and conveys meaning. They will achieve performance skills and conceptual understanding in a variety of dance forms, while achieving proficiency in at least one style. Students will teach and demonstrate for peers. They will demonstrate the ability to self-correct without suggestion. They will create improvisational problems for class exploration and develop a repertoire of their own choreography. Students will choreograph and dance in public productions. Students will create and publicly perform a senior dance project. *UC/CSU Approved for "F" Visual Performing Arts (VPA) Dance discipline*

Choreography Dance: Audition Based – Year 4 - grade 12

This one-year course helps students refine advanced skills of dance while improving their techniques, poise, self-confidence, and creative ability. Through weekly participation in dance instruction, students will demonstrate a high level of consistency, reliability, and technical skill in one genre, style, or technique, use expressive musical phrasing and dynamic control, move on mixed meters with and without musical accompaniment, demonstrate advanced proficiency in a variety of partnering techniques, execute extended sequences in a variety of dance forms with dependable accuracy as well as understand and demonstrate how dance creates and conveys meaning. *UC/CSU Approved for “F” Visual Performing Arts (VPA) Dance discipline*

Yearbook: A Sociological Year in Review

Audition based. The yearbook course has been designed to provide students with the journalism skills and the ability to apply those skills to the actual production of the yearbook. Units of study include teamwork, responsibility, brainstorming, content, coverage, concept, reporting, writing, headlines, captions, editing, photography, typography, design, graphics, finances, yearbook campaigns, advertising and distribution. Actual work results in the current volume of the school’s yearbook. The publication strives to maintain a tradition of excellence in which the school and the community can take pride. *UC/CSU approved for “F” Visual Performing Arts (VPA) Interdisciplinary discipline*

Fitness Training: 11th and 12th

This class is designed to improve your mental fitness through physical fitness. Fitness is defined as the quality of being suitable to perform a particular task and physical and mental fitness are tied to an individual’s health and well-being. Students will be introduced to what it means to live a healthy lifestyle, which includes exercise, diet, as well as a positive attitude. Your activities will be defined by which fields or spaces that CalPoly Pomona has available for IPoly to use during that month.

4th Block: Graphic Communications CTE: This one-year class, is taught by a career and Technical Educator. The class will explore the key elements and principles of design in relation to Entertainment Design and Production Design. We will explore the fundamentals of illustration, color theory, composition, and several other key elements needed to compose an appealing design or project. Once fundamentals have been established, students will have the opportunity to display their skills in projects such as: Character concept and design, Environmental design, Logo design for your own personal brand, and many more. Professionals use the concepts explored in this course in the following disciplines: advertising, graphic design, character designer, fashion illustration, prop design, photography, video game design and many others. *UC/CSU Approved for one semester of “f” Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) under Visual Arts discipline.*