Year 12 courses for 2014

(Please note: Classes are formed on the basis of sufficient student interest. Not all courses offered in the counselling process will necessarily run in 2014.)

AUSTRALIAN AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Students examine the Australian system of government through topics that cover the constitution and federalism, political representation, the executive and parliament, voting and elections, and political parties. They study a selected topic related to international politics, and explore both conventional and unconventional forms of participation. Students consider and evaluate political systems, institutions and principles, and the ways in which these are justified in the face of competing ideologies and philosophies.

Credits: 20  Learning Area: Humanities and Social Sciences

BIOLOGY

In Biology students investigate and learn about the structure and function of a range of living organisms, how they interact with other living things, and with their environments. Students have the opportunity to engage with the work of biologists and to join and initiate debates about how biology impacts on their lives, on society, and on the environment.

Credits: 20  Learning Area: Sciences

CHEMISTRY

The study of Chemistry involves investigating and learning about the properties, uses, means of production, and reactions of natural and processed materials. It also includes a critical study of the social and environmental impact of materials and chemical processes.

Credits: 20  Learning Area: Sciences

ENGLISH COMMUNICATIONS

English Communications focuses on the development of English skills, and in particular the communication process. Students learn to recognise the conventions of different text types and contexts. They consider the role of language in communications between individuals, groups and organisations. By reading, writing, viewing, listening and speaking, and through the use of information and communication technologies, students develop literacy skills in a broad range of contexts.

Credits: 10 or 20  Learning Area: English

ENGLISH STUDIES

In English Studies students read a range of extended texts and a number of shorter texts. They read texts analytically from a range of contexts, including those from the past, contemporary texts, and those from everyday experience. Students focus on the skills and strategies of critical thinking needed to interpret texts. Through a shared and individual study of texts, they have opportunities to exchange and develop ideas, find evidence to support a personal view, and learn to construct logical and convincing arguments.

Credits: 20  Learning Area: English
ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE STUDIES

Students examine and analyse texts that they use and respond to in an English-speaking environment for social and academic purposes. They work independently and collaboratively, to solve problems by using contextual clues to predict and confirm the meaning of a text. They learn when and how to use a strategy such as asking questions to monitor their understanding of texts.

Credits: 20      Learning Area: English

GEOGRAPHY

The discipline of geography deals with environmental phenomena and human activities as diverse as natural hazards, landforms, tourism, economic development, agriculture, and urban planning. Through the study of Geography, students develop an understanding of the spatial interrelationships of people, places, and environments. They develop an understanding of how people interact with environments differently in different places and at different times, and of the opportunities, challenges, and constraints of different locations.

Credits: 20      Learning Area: Humanities and Social Sciences

GEOLOGY

Students design and conduct geological investigations and gather evidence from fieldwork, experiments, and research. They have the opportunity to engage with the work of practising geologists and join and/or initiate debates about how geology impacts on our own lives, society, and the environment.

Credits: 20      Learning Area: Sciences

MATHEMATICAL STUDIES

Through the study of Mathematical Studies students explore, describe and explain aspects of the world around them in a mathematical way. Students understand fundamental concepts, demonstrate mathematical skills, and apply routine mathematical procedures, making informed and critical use of electronic technology.

Credits: 20      Learning Area: Mathematics

MEDIA STUDIES

Media Studies develops students’ media literacy and production skills. They actively engage and interact with media, while learning to make informed choices. Students discuss and analyse media issues, and interact with, and create media products. The subject focuses on exploring the role of media in Australian and global contexts.

Credits: 20      Learning Area: Humanities and Social Sciences

MODERN HISTORY

The study of history gives students the opportunity to make sense of a complex and rapidly changing world by connecting past and present. Through the study of past events, actions, and phenomena students gain an insight into human nature and the ways in which individuals and societies function. Students research and review sources within a framework of inquiry and critical analysis.

Credits: 20      Learning Area: Humanities and Social Sciences
PHYSICS

The study of physics offers opportunities for students to understand and appreciate the physical world. This subject requires the investigation and interpretation of phenomena of physics through a study of motion in two dimensions, electricity and magnetism, light and matter, and atoms and nuclei.

Credits: 20 Learning Area: Sciences

PSYCHOLOGY

The study of psychology enables students to understand their own behaviours and the behaviours of others. It has direct relevance to their personal lives. Psychological knowledge can be applied to improve outcomes and the quality of experience in various areas of life, such as education, intimate relationships, child rearing, employment and leisure.

Credits: 10 or 20 Learning Area: Sciences

RESEARCH PROJECT

The Research Project gives students the opportunity to study an area of interest in depth. It allows students to use their creativity and initiative, while developing the research and presentation skills they will need in further study or work. Students will choose a topic of interest—it may be linked to a SACE subject or course, or to a workplace or community context. They will learn and apply research processes and the knowledge and skills specific to their research topic and record their research and evaluate what they have learnt.

The term ‘research’ is used broadly and may include practical or technical investigations, formal research, or exploratory enquiries.

Credits: 10 Learning Area: Cross-disciplinary

SCIENTIFIC STUDIES - AVIATION

Through Scientific Studies students develop knowledge of scientific principles and concepts through their own investigations. They develop the skills and abilities to explain scientific phenomena, and to draw evidence-based conclusions from investigations of science-related issues.

This program in Aviation concerns itself principally with Flight Operations. It covers most of the theory and appropriate applications leading to a private pilot’s license. Topics, focussed around fixed-wing, single-engine aircraft, include aviation units and charts, aerodynamics, aircraft general knowledge, flight operation and performance, flight planning, meteorology, navigation, human factors and other issues. Extended work will be undertaken with radio and navigation systems. Theory will be complemented with appropriate practical resources including an industry standard multi-functional synthetic flight trainer.

A sound understanding of Stage 1 Mathematics is of considerable benefit.

There is a special facilities fee of $180 for participation in this course.

Credits: 20 Learning Area: Sciences
SCIENTIFIC STUDIES – HUMAN PERFORMANCE

Through Scientific Studies students develop knowledge of scientific principles and concepts through their own investigations. They develop the skills and abilities to explain scientific phenomena, and to draw evidence-based conclusions from investigations of science-related issues.

This program in Human Performance combines a theoretical and practical study of human movement, health and physical performance. Students gain an understanding of human functioning and physical activity with a focus on bio-mechanics and sport psychology. Students explore their own physical capacities and analyse performance and health issues.

Credits: 10 or 20 Learning Area: Sciences

SPECIALIST MATHEMATICS

Through the study of Specialist Mathematics students gain the insight, understanding, knowledge, and skills to follow pathways that will lead them to become designers and makers of technology. The subject provides pathways into university courses in mathematical sciences, engineering, computer science, physical sciences, and surveying. Students envisaging careers in other related fields, including economics and commerce, may also benefit from studying this subject.

Credits: 20 Learning Area: Mathematics

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION STUDY

University Extension Study gives students the opportunity to undertake a first year university subject as a part of their SACE Stage 2 program. The university subject counts as a “Recognised Study” for SACE completion and for the calculation of an ATAR. Students normally complete two separate semester courses at university. The results for these two courses combined count for a 20 credit subject for the SACE. Achievement in the university subjects counts for university course completion when the students enrol in a full undergraduate program at university. Entry into University Extension Study is by invitation of the principal using school-based selection criteria.

Credits: 10 or 20 Learning Area: Recognised Study

For further information about SACE subjects and SACE completion requirements see www.sace.sa.edu.au

For information about the calculation of an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) see www.satac.edu.au