

SENIOR AP SURVIVAL GUIDE

STUDENT LIFE EDITOR: SHARON YEH

Every year, the junior class has to ask themselves: "To take the AP class, or not to take the AP class -- that is the question." For those who chose to take an AP class, or for some, multiple AP classes, do not fear, this survival guide is here! Whether you are taking the class so your college resume can stack up or if you are genuinely interested in the class, this guideline will help you conquer tests, projects, and debunk any rumor of notoriously difficult teachers. Although there are over ten AP courses to choose from, this guide will outline one class from each cour subject as well as a language: AP English, AP Calculus, AP Human Geography, AP Biology, and AP Spanish, as well as each senior's personal opinions and rating of the class, out of five stars. Good luck to the future seniors!



AP ENGLISH
TAYLOR KITCHINGS



AP CALCULUS
SALLIE MOSELEY



AP BIOLOGY
DR. KRISSEY REHM



AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY
DONNA PATRICK



AP SPANISH
NANCY RIVAS

*Not numbered in any specific order



AP ENGLISH
SENIOR SAM BROWN

Q: Why did you choose this course?

A: "I really enjoy english. I felt I needed to learn from the mind of the great Mr. Kitchings."

Q: Why would you recommend others to take this course?

A: "If you love poetry, take this class. We read a lot of poetry."

Q: How would you recommend taking notes/study for quizzes/tests?

A: "It's good to read the assigned reading because, if you don't, you will do poorly on the tests and quizzes. Actually read the books."

Q: What is one major work in this class that you have advice on how to work for?

A: "I would recommend reading the summer reading books. If you don't, you'll start off in a hole."

**I would give a 5/5 if it wasn't really hard at times.

RATING: ★★★★★**



AP CALCULUS
SENIOR CAROLINE WALKER

Q: Why did you choose this course?

A: "I chose AP calculus because I have always enjoyed math and I heard that Ms. Moseley is a good teacher."

Q: Why would you recommend others to take this course?

A: "I would recommend that others take this course because Ms. Moseley explains the topics thoroughly and it stimulates your brain. It also destroys your self-confidence and your social life... But in the best way possible."

Q: How would you recommend taking notes/study for quizzes/tests?

A: "In class, I recommend making sure you understand what Ms. Moseley is teaching because, if you don't, you will struggle on homework. To study for assessments, you should re-work the problems from notes and homework."

Q: What is one major work in this class that you have advice on how to work for?

A: "For memorization quizzes and tests, you should definitely make sure you know each formula and equation."

RATING: ★★★★★



AP BIOLOGY
SENIOR JAKE JOHNSTON

Q: Why did you choose this course?

A: "I chose the course because I did well in biology in 9th grade and because this is the science that I understand the best."

Q: Why would you recommend others to take this course?

A: "Yes. While there is a pretty heavy work load, I like the course. Dr. Rehm is a good teacher who explains the material very well and in a manner that is easy to understand. She also gives us a lot of good resources to study."

Q: How would you recommend taking notes/study for quizzes/tests?

A: "I would recommend watching the videos that Dr. Rehm makes for each chapter. These are very informative and present the material more efficiently than the book. They have been a major help for me."

Q: What is one major work in this class that you have advice on how to work for?

A: "I would advise people to keep on top of the homework. It is easy to get behind on it."

RATING: ★★★★★



AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY
SENIOR SUSANNA BLOUNT

Q: Why did you choose this course?

A: "I chose this course because I'll take anything Mrs. Patrick teaches."

Q: Why would you recommend others to take this course?

A: "I would recommend Human Geo because the material is interesting, it's not insanely difficult, and the class has a good atmosphere. And also sometimes Mrs. Patrick makes chess squares."

Q: How would you recommend taking notes/study for quizzes/tests?

A: "When studying for tests, I like to outline the textbook because it has all the important information. Another tip: there are lots of terms. Quizlet is your friend."

Q: What is one major work in this class that you have advice on how to work for?

A: "Guns, Germs, and Steel, y'all. DO NOT read it all in one weekend. You will want to die."

RATING: ★★★★★

WORDS OF WISDOM

AP HUMAN GEO - DONNA PATRICK

"Don't fall prey to 'senioritis' because APHG is a class that many students find can replace a college course that may not be of interest to them. It falls into the larger 'social science' area rather than history. This fact is especially important to those who have already taken APEH and/or APUS and will possibly receive credit for one of those courses."

AP BIOLOGY - DR. KRISSEY REHM

"Read your textbook, and then read it again."

AP ENGLISH - TAYLOR KITCHINGS

"Read, read, read--bring a relationship with poetry and fiction in August and be ready to deepen it with close analysis. And we do not forfeit an emotional connection to great lit in that analysis; we enhance our understanding of how great lit happens."

AP CALCULUS - SALLIE MOSELEY

"Homework."

AP SPANISH - NANCY RIVAS

"You already have the background of the language, so you should find short stories and news that relate to countries in Latin America and do it on a daily basis...In Spanish."



AP SPANISH
SENIOR ALLIE KATE WILLIAMS

Q: Why did you choose this course?

A: "I want to keep studying Spanish in college and study abroad, so I thought it was important that I take as much Spanish as possible in high school."

Q: Why would you recommend others to take this course?

A: "If you're even a little interested in continuing foreign language after high school I would definitely recommend taking AP Spanish. If you've had Ms. Rivas before, you know what to expect from this class because it's not much different than her lower level classes. There is more conversation in class but the workload only a little heavier."

Q: How would you recommend taking notes/study for quizzes/tests?

A: "The most important thing is just to study vocab and go over readings from the book."

RATING: ★★★★★



SA CLASSES



STAFF WRITER: TUCKER SHELSON

With course selection quickly approaching, many students find themselves lost in the deluge of options offered at St. Andrew's. From AP human geography to environmental science, anatomy and physiology to AP European history, there is no shortage of fascinating and rigorous classes available at St. Andrew's, covering a diverse range of study, including the humanities, sciences, world languages, and mathematics. However, with a myriad of choices for the upcoming school year, which classes do students recommend?

"The class I learned the most from was probably Mrs. Holmes's AP English 11," Senior Meg Case said. "She expanded my horizons while studying literature, and it was interesting to see how much I had learned going into AP English this year."

Case explains that the courses that she learned the most from were often among her favorites. Furthermore, her favorite class, anatomy and physiology, is no sinecure either.

"My favorite class was Honors Physics because I found the subject material intriguing." Senior Matt Harjes said. "The hardest class I've taken is AP physics C which is the physics class I'm in now."

Harjes regards honors physics as his favorite class, which, like AP English 11, is

acknowledged as one of the more difficult SA courses available to juniors. Similar to Case, Harjes chose a class that challenged him as his favorite, rather than an easy one. Both Case and Harjes note that their interest in the course material catalyzed their love for the class, meaning that easy classes are not necessarily students' favorites.

The graph below shows the results from a survey of juniors and seniors about their favorite classes. Honors chemistry, biology, and AP English 11 ranked first, second, and third respectively. Honors chemistry is greatly beloved for its former instructor, Dr. Stribling. Meanwhile, biology, taught by Mrs. LaFon, is regarded as one of the most fascinating and enjoyable classes at St. Andrew's. Rounding out the top three, Mrs. Holmes's AP English 11 is infamous for its rigger, yet loved for its extensive exploration of literature and rhetoric. As course selection draws nearer, students should choose classes which interest them, even if they have a greater workload than the alternatives. Moreover, students should find a happy medium of demanding, laborious courses and less stressful ones. Regardless of what classes students choose to take this upcoming school year, there is certainly no shortage of options at St. Andrew's.



PHILOSOPHY

HUMANITIES SPOTLIGHT

Following the untimely departure of Mr. Hude, many seniors found themselves looking for a new elective in place of philosophy. However, starting next year, Mrs. Holmes will be stepping in to teach the course.



ZOOLOGY

SCIENCES SPOTLIGHT

Beginning next year, the new chemistry teacher Mr. McWhorter will be offering a zoology course, which will include a trip to the zoo!



ITALIAN

LANGUAGE SPOTLIGHT

Also returning in the fall is Italian! After a hiatus following the departure of Mrs. Riggs, Señora Rivas will now be offering Italian after learning the language for herself.

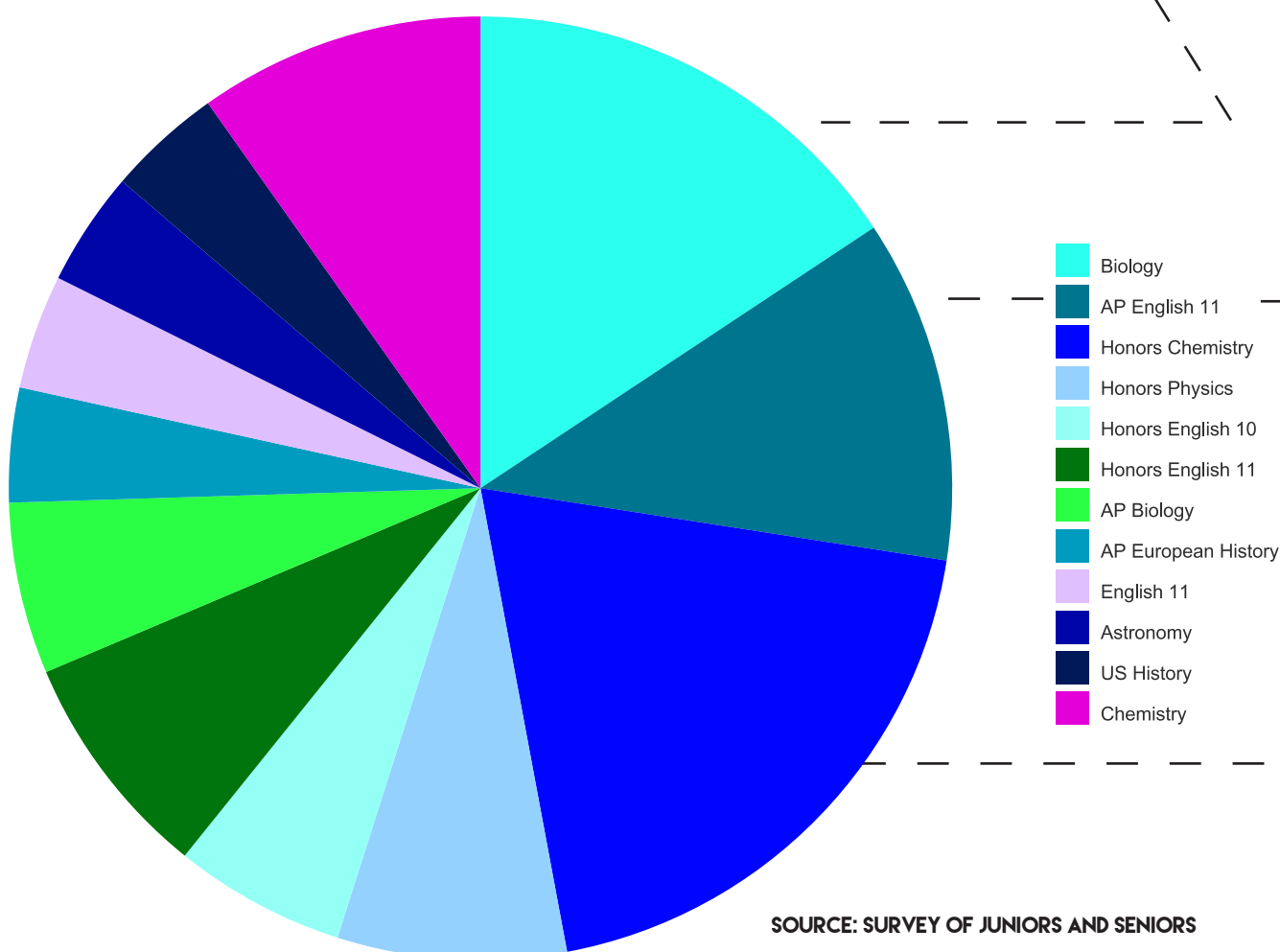
BIOLOGY

Receiving the second most votes for favorite class among juniors and seniors, biology with the uproarious Mrs. LaFon, is both a fun and enriching course!

AP ENGLISH 11

Infamous for its rigger, AP English 11 with Mrs. Holmes ranked third in the survey of juniors and seniors for favorite class. Despite its difficulty, this class is a favorite among students.

SA STUDENTS' FAVORITE CLASSES



SOURCE: SURVEY OF JUNIORS AND SENIORS

HONORS CHEMISTRY

Honors Chemistry earned the most votes for favorite class among juniors and seniors. After the departure of the beloved Dr. Stribling, Dr. Bhagat now teaches the course.