



2013-2014 Course Selection Guide

Welcome to your 2013-1014 school year! This course selection guide is designed to help you choose your elective courses. Core academic classes like mathematics, science, history and English are scheduled in a progression determined by your year in school, your previously completed courses and the Nevada high school graduation requirements. What's left? The good stuff! The courses outlined and described in this catalogue are offered during elective class periods. There are some classes you will be required to take, like computer literacy, health and physical education. There are some classes you will choose, like art, creative writing or culinary. Read carefully, choose wisely and remember your classes are your stepping-stones.

Elective Courses

Elective courses earn a half (0.5) credit and are the duration of a semester (18 weeks).

Introduction to Yoga (5252)

This course will encompass a variety of relaxation techniques. We will learn to focus on our mind/body connection through the use of meditation, journaling, yoga, and music. This class will fulfill half a credit in physical education.

Creative Writing (1321-1322)

The focus of this class is the graphic novel! Students will produce a written and illustrated book using pen, ink, and paint to produce a personal expression. Students should plan to break out their poetry and prose skills. This class meets a general English requirement.

Culinary Arts (9621, 9622)

This class will explore the world of an industrial kitchen! There will be general information about safe food handling, utensils and tools used, and food preparation. Students should plan on classroom and lab time. Students should also plan to prepare and clean up for meals served in our dining area.

Drama (6451, 6452)

As a drama class, we will develop the art of expression through public speaking and creative staging. Activities will include play acting, preparing for and presenting a performance. New to the course is set design, stage makeup and costuming. This course will focus on all areas of creative expression and the arts.

Drawing (6141,6142)

This course will focus on using drawing media, including pencil, conte crayon, colored pencil, pen and ink. We will work from photographs and still-lives set up in the room. Students will learn shading, one- and two- point perspective, and atmospheric perspective. This class will create drawings for the school calendar. There will be a written exam for the course.

Painting (6151, 6152)

This advanced art course will explore the use of watercolor and acrylic paint. Working with a color wheel, students will study color mixing and creating subtle grey shades. Students will work from photographs and still-lives. Expect to adopt a favorite artist to emulate. The class will also create paintings of MidTown buildings.

Interdisciplinary Courses (ID)

This course makes Rainshadow unique. The main focus of the course varies by quarter, semester and year. The purpose of each course is to focus on learning using all academic disciplines. Each year, the staff comes together to determine a theme and teach a course incorporating the theme and their passion. The course earns half an elective credit unless otherwise specified and students will change each quarter (9 weeks). This means students have the potential to take four (4) different ID courses throughout the year. (Course Numbers are 7141, 7142 unless otherwise specified.)

Yearbook and Leadership

Students in this class will learn basic photography and composition skills and video editing. Students are responsible for photographing and filming all school events throughout the year. Students will be expected to plan and participate in school events, such as dances and fundraisers. Each quarter brings a variety of school activities including, but not limited to, art shows, poetry slams, Multicultural Day and Prom. Students in this class are expected to be self-motivated, self-starters and able to work independently and in groups.

Math Academy

This class is for juniors who need support and assistance passing the math portion of the High School Proficiency Examination. The course covers geometry, algebra, statistics, trigonometry and calculus. This course meets for a full semester (18 weeks) and earns one credit (1.0) for mathematics and course numbers vary based on student assessment and performance.

Nevada History

This nine week class will be offered first quarter and fourth quarter only due to outdoor conditions and travel considerations. Students will explore Nevada's unique and interesting history as an opportunistic state that has grabbed its share of sensationalism. There will be an in depth look at the boom and bust nature of the state and where it is headed today.

Nevada is more than gambling, mining, sin and easy divorce laws; it is also a place of opportunity, majestic peaks, beautiful sunsets and rich history. All of this will be explored.

Project Citizen

This course will be offered second quarter and third quarter. Students will focus on becoming active members in their community by engaging in the local political process. The class will look at citizen involvement from a historical perspective up to the present, namely how to involve students in changing their community in a positive manner. It is a civics class in action; we will explore local public policy, state statute, natural laws and how they all collectively shape our lives.

Social Reconstruction

This course will be offered quarter one (1) and two (2) and cannot be taken more than once during an academic school year. Social reconstruction defines a philosophy that promotes peaceful coexistence and unity within a population using nonviolent ways to settle disputes. At Rainshadow, we seek to support diversity and have an outward focus. The acronym T.E.R.M.S. (Trust, Equality, Respect, Maturity, and Success) reflects the values we hold at our school. In this class we will be exploring various social issues, including sexism and treatment of women, racism, homelessness, human trafficking, various environmental issues, and many others. By the end of the quarter, students will have chosen one specific topic in which to become expert.

College and Career Readiness

This course will be offered quarter three (3) and four (4), and should only be taken by students who truly want to explore their future options regarding a higher education. In order to be prepared for higher education, it is important to gain good note-taking habits, study habits, meeting deadlines, increase vocabulary, and have goals which are based on a higher level of academic rigor. In this semester-long class, students will be assigned college-type homework, will explore career options, experience college life and expectations, understand college entrance requirements, will be given chances to study for college entrance exams and invite guest speakers and/or go on fieldtrips to increase knowledge about opportunities for higher education after Rainshadow.

Health (5311)

This course will be offered first and third quarters and meets the health requirement for graduation. Students will examine the relationships between the structural and physiological functions required for mental, physical, social and emotional wellness. Topics include decision making, wellness, nutrition, physical activity, body systems, substance abuse, communicable and non-communicable diseases, violence prevention, safety mental health and consumer health.

Computer Literacy (9140)

This course will be offered second and fourth quarters and meets the computer literacy requirement for graduation. Students will be introduced to various aspects of computer technology. The appropriate use of technology is an integral part of the course.