

**TAMALPAIS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Larkspur, California**

**Course of Study**

**SENIOR PROJECTS**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

This course allows second semester seniors an opportunity to work and study in a more responsible, self-directed way. It allows students to interact with the larger community. It provides students with an academic culmination of their high school careers by allowing participating students to investigate subjects of genuine interest.

Senior Projects offers second semester seniors an opportunity to respond to concerns and issues with a sustained focus not available within the current curriculum. Whether the project is self-selected or selected by a group, the student will be able to investigate, research, and design a demonstration of his or her educational experience. This course would allow students to accept more responsibility for their learning which culminates in greater self-reliance, self-esteem and an awareness of how various disciplines interact. The project would result in an articulate presentation to the Redwood community.

**II. OBJECTIVES**

**A. Student Outcomes**

1. Students will demonstrate mastery of the integrated skills of thinking, learning, listening, speaking, writing, reading and calculating.
2. Students will develop and demonstrate academic self-reliance in designing and executing a long term project.
3. Students will participate in the larger community by identifying mentors in the community.
4. Students will use critical thinking skills to collect basic data, process information, and apply knowledge to their subject.
5. Students will design a long term project: how to budget time, make connections with the community, design and present a public demonstration of discoveries.

**B. Means**

1. Students will work with a committee to reach agreement and assign tasks.
2. Students will identify their goals in a letter of intent submitted to a screening committee. This letter of intent will identify at least two of the district outcomes their project will address. This letter will indicate how many units students are challenging with this course (5 unit minimum; 10 unit maximum).

3. Students make their presentations to a panel composed of faculty, students and community members. This panel will evaluate the effectiveness of the presentation and how the student has realized his or her goals. The panel will assign a grade of A, B, C or F and verify the number of units earned.
4. Students will design an appropriate project fair to display students' work to the community.

### **C. Course Assessment**

Student, staff and community members will evaluate the course at the end of the semester.

### **III. METHODS / MATERIALS**

Students enrolled in the course and students working on individual projects will work with the teacher to locate appropriate materials. Library research, interviews, and direct observation will be used by each student.

Technology will allow students a wider range of secondary materials and be incorporated as appropriate in students' projects.

### **IV. GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. Students must be second semester seniors.
2. This course is an elective course; such courses have been accepted by universities when students are in good standing.
3. This course will satisfy no UC entrance requirements.

BOT Approved: 2/14/95