Palm Springs Unified School District
Secondary Course Description

Please read: **Sections 1 and 2 must be completed and submitted to the Director of Secondary Curriculum and Instruction for all courses seeking PSUSD Cabinet and Board approval. Sections 3 and/or 5 must be completed if the course will be submitted to the University of California (UC) for placement on your school's a-g list and/or Career and technical educational (CTE).**

District Office Use Only

Transcript Title(s)/Abbreviation: Exploratory Elective

Transcript Course Code(s)/Number(s): 8055

Cabinet/ BOE Approval Date: July 25, 2017

Section 1: Course Content

1. Course Title: **Exploratory Elective**

   Date this course was first submitted to the Curriculum Advisory: 7/12/17

2. Is this a re-write of an existing course? No   If "Yes," what is the District Course Code: _____

3. CALPADS Code : 6024

4. PSUSD graduation requirement subject area: General Elective

5. Unit Value for complete course: 5 PSUSD credits (half year/one semester)

   Course can be repeated for Credit? ✓

6. Grade Level: --   10   11   12

   Note: Grade level pertains to which grades the course has been designed.

7. PSUSD Department: Non-Departmental

8. PSUSD weighted GPA? No

9. Is this an "online" learning course? No

   If "Yes," list the online provider: _____

   Note: If "Yes," an additional course code will be created by ETIS with a virtual designation.

10. Will this course be offered only through the Alternative Education Program? Yes

11. Career Pathway Relationship

    Note: Refer to the list of Industries and their associated Pathways in Section 5, Item #38

    Is this course an Industry and Career Pathway-related Course? No

    If "Yes," which Industry? --

    Which Pathway? _____

    What sequence level? --

12. Is this course an Academy-related Course? No   If "Yes," which Academy? _____

13. Course Content:

For each unit of the course, provide:

1. A brief description (5-10 sentences) of topics to be addressed that demonstrates the critical thinking, depth and progression of content covered.
2. A brief summary (2-4 sentences) of at least one assignment that explains what a student produces, how the student completes the assignment and what the student learns.

Name	Description
Career Exploration	A course where students are introduced to the world of career exploration, with emphasis on techniques for filling out job applications, interviewing techniques, preparation of a resume, communication and stress management skills.
Consumer education	This concentration course prepares students to understand and analyze values, needs, wants, goals and resources in order to make decisions that contribute to personal and family economic stability. Instruction includes the steps in decision making, earning an income, taxes, money management, financial planning, understanding the marketplace, selling methods, retail information, consumer rights and responsibilities, managing credit, housing decisions, and the consumer as part of the national and global economy. This course provides the background needed in a variety of careers that involve consumer information and purchasing as well as financial planning. Course titles may include: Personal Financial Management.
Current events	This course is one in which students identify, research, analyze, and discuss contemporary social, economic, and political issues and events from the different points of views identified in the United States and the world. The course covers the global context of issues, as well as their importance in local, state, or national affairs. Ideally, students study the topics in their historical context, thereby making connections from past to present. Students present their positions on the issues.

Economics for living	This is a concentration course that provides an in depth study of how consumer decisions impact the economy. Instruction includes the study of making individual and family decisions, the type of economic systems, the role of government, supply and demand , market equilibrium, type of business organizations, monopoly, competition, the labor market, unemployment, inflation, income taxes, monetary policy, fiscal policy; measuring economics activity , money and banking, consumer credit, economic growth, and the global marketplace. This course provides the background needed in a variety of careers that involve consumer services as well as financial planning.
Introduction to American literature	This course is designed to offer the student an opportunity to study and reflect upon American literature. Students improve their critical thinking skills as they determine the underlying assumptions and values presented in American literary works. Oral discussion and written composition are integral parts of the course emphasis. The course may survey representative works of a particular genre or a specific theme or works of a particular era of American literature.
Introduction to Chess	This course is an introduction to the basic concepts of chess strategy and tactics. It includes lectures and discussions of the three phases of chess: opening, middle game and endgame. Additionally, topics of chess history and practical decision-making will be addressed. Each Class emphasizes understanding rather than route memorization's of chess
Introduction to Crafts	This course emphasizes original creative design and appropriate use of materials such as paper, fabric, fiber, clay, wood, plastics, plaster, and metal. The course stresses understanding the suitability of design to materials, respect for the integrity of materials, and good craftsmanship. Crafts such as wood carving, fiber arts, and jewelry approached from an artistic intent may be included. Students study the history of crafts in art and their use in specific media.

Introduction to Digital Literacy	This course teaches students how to use a computer or communication device to effectively and critically navigate, evaluate and create information using a range of information technologies and sources available from the Internet. Students recognize and use the power of digital technologies to manipulate and transform digital media, to distribute it pervasively, and to easily adapt them to new forms. Students enhance their ability to read for knowledge, write coherently, and think critically about the written word. Course titles may also include: Internet Safety.
Introduction to Drawing	This course provides a foundation in drawing using a variety of media and techniques in both black and white and color. The course emphasizes observation and interpretation of the visual environment, life drawing, and drawing from the imagination. Included are the application of the elements and principles of design, a study of historical and contemporary art and artists from a worldwide perspective, and instruction and practice in the critique process.
Introduction to History through Film and Documentaries	This course is for students who desire knowledge in the history of drama, plays, theater, and writers. The course may include the study of outstanding examples in the fields of motion pictures, radio, and television. The course includes instruction in reading, writing, critique processes, and research.
Introduction to Journalism	Journalism prepares students for work on school newspapers by fostering habits of clear, concise, written expression and by developing the ability to write interestingly. The course improves students' use of grammar, spelling, punctuation, sentence and paragraph form, style, and structure and offers basic training in techniques of interviewing and news writing. It fosters a critical attitude toward news and develops the ability to evaluate the worth of publications through wide and intelligent readings of newspapers and periodicals.

Introduction to Knitting	In this beginner's workshop, you'll receive a general overview of knitting and learn the basics for skills such as reading a pattern, choosing materials, choosing & using knitting tools, casting on, knitting, purling, counting stitches, shaping fabric through increases & decreases, troubleshooting, fixing mistakes, binding off, and more. This workshop emphasizes mechanics so you will have enough direction to start your own independent projects outside of class. While working with the community providing blankets and hats for the homeless in the local area.
Introduction to Movement with Dance.	This course studies dance as a communicative art. It includes dance technique, choreography, and production. Students may experience more than one dance form (modern, jazz, ballet, tap, or others). They gain an appreciation of dance as an art form and develop self-expression. Students gain an appreciation of dance as an art form and develop self-expression through direct experience. The course includes application of the elements and principles of dance, study of historical and contemporary dance from a worldwide perspective, and instruction in the critique process.
Introduction to Music	This program is a performing band, typically of fifteen or more students, in which students learn proper individual and band instrument technique, receive standards-based sequential music instruction. It may include guitar band, garage band, symphonic band, marching band, Mariachi, jazz band, swing bands, or stage bands. There may be more than one band group at the same time, within the course of instruction.
Introduction to Music appreciation	This class emphasizes listening activities related to the structure or design of the music from perceptual, creative, historical, and critical viewpoints using a variety of musical forms and styles.

Introduction to Speech	Speech develops fundamentals of effective oral delivery such as voice, diction, poise, and ease. The course develops effective organization through selection and arrangement of material, transitions, and rhetorical effect. Activities include preparation and practice in making short speeches to inform, convince, stimulate, actuate, and/or entertain. The course may include instruction in parliamentary procedure, discussion, debate, and oral interpretation.
Introduction to Web Design	This course introduces students to the Internet and World Wide Web. Students will study the history of the Internet, search engines, Web design process, navigation strategies, creation and editing of graphics, Web hosting services, and Web publishing.
Introduction to Yoga and Meditation	Through a concentrated study of yoga asanas (postures), mantras (sacred chants), meditation techniques, pranayama (breath 2 control) and philosophical and religious scriptures, students will engage in questioning, analysis, and application. Studio and theory.
Life skills	Life Skills is designed to increase student knowledge and ability in skills necessary for everyday living. The course emphasizes defining personal values, goal-setting and planning, making decisions and solving problems, evaluating information and dealing with media and peer pressure, communication and relationships, decision making, wellness and personal safety, and contributing to your community.
Peer counseling/conflict management	This class is designed to provide students with skills in conflict resolution. Students learn to mediate disagreements through nonviolent means. Students develop an awareness of differences that may arise from a student body that is racially or culturally diverse. Students learn the importance of a neutral third party who can assist in negotiating a solution to any potential conflict.
Service Learning	Students volunteer in the community at non-for profit organizations. They intern and build relationships with community organizations. They learn from adults, work with others in teams, and provide support to others. They complete final writing project that reflects experiences/learnings.

Senior Portfolio	Seniors develop a portfolio that would be inclusive of resume, personal statement, letters of recommendation, sample job application, notes from mock interview and dress for success.

14. Course Overview [Provide a brief summary/snapshot (3-5 sentences) of the course's content]:

The exploratory Elective is a common elective choice primarily for first-year students to the school. The exploratory rotates several subjects during a one- or two-semester course, thereby exposing students to a variety of new experiences. Exploratory electives often include short classes in art, music, drama, technology, foreign language or culture, food science, or other areas of specialty represented on the faculty. Exploratory classes offer students a range of opportunities or experiences that they may want to pursue in the future.

15. Texts and Supplemental Instructional Materials *(all non-core instructional materials are the responsibility of individual schools to purchase.)*

Texts:

Supplemental Materials:

16. Will this course be submitted for approval by UC?   No

Section 2: School and District Information

School Information

1. School Name: Mount San Jacinto Continuation High School

School District: Palm Springs Unified School District

City and State: Palm Springs, California   District Web Site: http://www.psusd.us

School Course List Contact Information (Name of AP of Curriculum or Principal)

2. Name: Brian Hendra

Position/Title: Principal   Email: bhendra@psusd.us

Phone #:   760-770-8563   Ext:

Teacher Contact Information (Name of teacher/administrator who authored this course)

3. Name:

Position/Title: Email:

Phone #:   Ext.

Secondary Course Description

Palm Springs Unified School District
Secondary Course Description

Section 3: Course Information

1. Was this course "Previously Approved" by UC?   No

Note: if this course is to be submitted to UC and it was "Previously Approved," the exact same course title as the previously approved course must be used. Compete outlines are not needed for courses previously approved by UC. Courses that are defined as "previously approved" are courses from the following programs (Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, ROP courses, etc.), or courses from within the same district, or courses that have been removed within a three-year window are being reinstated, and/or courses from UC-approved online providers. Courses modeled after courses from outside the school district are also defined as "previously approved" but a complete course description will be required for submission to UC. Each section below represents an individual page on the UC electronic submission site.

If "No," proceed to the Course Description Section (Section 4).

If "Yes," indicate which category applies:

2. Is this course modeled after a UC-approved course from another high school outside of our district?   No

Note: If "Yes," you will be required to submit a complete course description. UC will review the previous submission, if it is available, to assist them in their review process.

If "Yes," list which school:

Exact Course Title:

3. Is this course modeled after an identical course approved by UC for the current year at another high school in PSUSD: No

If "Yes," what school?

Exact Course Title:

4. Is this course being reinstated after removal within 3 years: No

If "Yes," what year was the course removed from the list?

Exact Course Title:

5. Has this course been provided program status, is not an online course, and is it listed below?   No

If "Yes," select an option from the Program

Status list: --

6. If "Advanced Placement," has it been authorized by the College Board through the AP audit process?   --

Note: UC will only allow Advanced Placement courses that have passed or are in the AP audit process. UC requires all AP courses on your list, including those approved in prior years, to be verified via the College Board AP audit process. UC will run quarterly reports based on AP Audit data. AP courses not listed on the AP audit list will be removed.

If "In Progress," date submitted to AP:

MM/DD/YYYY

Exact Program Course Title: --

7(a). Is this course provided by one of the UC-approved online curriculum providers listed in #8?

No

7(b). Have you signed the appropriate partnership agreement with the provider regarding methods of delivery and instruction?

No

Note: You must have signed an agreement with the appropriate provider and filed with UC in order to use their courses.

8. If the answer to either 7(a) or (b) is "No," UC will not approve this course. If "Yes" to both 7(a) and (b)., then select the appropriate option from the Online Provider List below:

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9. Seeking "Honors" Distinction

Note: To receive "Honors" distinction for both UC and PSUSD, the course content must satisfy certain requirements. For information about these requirements, refer to the a-g Guide: http://www.ucop.edu/a-gGuide/ag/a-g/honors.html. For "Previously Approved" courses (including AP and IB), the honors information will be pre-populated as applicable on your UC submission template.

No

*Note: "Other Honors" is defined by UC as a course specifically designed with distinctive features which set it apart from regular high school courses in the same discipline areas. The course should be seen as comparable in terms of workload and emphasis to AP, IB or introductory college courses in the subject. Honors courses must be designed for the 11th and 12th grade level to be UC approved and require a comprehensive, year-long written final exam. In addition to AP and IB higher level courses, **high schools may certify not more than one honors level course per grade level in each of the following subject areas only: history, English, advanced mathematics, each laboratory science course, each language other than English, and each of the four VPA disciplines.** If there are no AP or IB or higher level courses in a given subject area, the high school may certify up to, but not more than two honors level courses in that area.*

10. Subject Area and Category

"a"- History/Social Science

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"b"- English

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"c"- Mathematics

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"d"- Laboratory Science

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Note: Students electing to enroll in an integrated-science program (ISP) are strongly advised by UC to complete the entire three-year sequence. In most cases, the first year of an integrated science sequence fulfills only the "g" elective requirement: the second and third years of the sequence then fulfill the two-year "d" laboratory science requirement. Accordingly, if only ISP 1 and only one of ISP 2 or ISP 3 are completed, then one additional course from the categories of Biology, Chemistry, or Physics from the "d" subject area must be taken to fulfill the "d" requirement.

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Note: This category demonstrates that the course is cross-disciplinary and is often used for advanced science courses such as AP Environmental Science or Biochemistry

"e"- Language Other than English

--   Language --

"f"- Visual and Performing Arts   "g"- Elective

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Secondary Course Description

Palm Springs Unified School District
High School Course Description

Section 4: Course Attributes

1. Is this course classified as a Career Technical Education Course?

   No _____

   If no, skip item #2

2. If "Yes," select the name of the industry **and** Career Pathway:

   _____ Agriculture and Natural Resources   -- _____

   _____ Arts, Media, and Entertainment   -- _____

   _____ Building and Construction Trades   -- _____

   _____ Business and Finance   -- _____
   _____ Education, Child Development and Family
         Services   -- _____

   _____ Energy, Environment, and Utilities   -- _____

   _____ Engineering and Architecture   -- _____

   _____ Fashion and Interior Design   -- _____

   _____ Finance and Business   -- _____

   _____ Health Science and Medical Technology   -- _____

   _____ Hospitality, Tourism, and Recreation   -- _____

   _____ Information and Communication Technologies   -- _____

   _____ Manufacturing and Product Development   -- _____

   _____ Marketing, Sales, and Service   -- _____

   _____ Public Services   -- _____

   _____ Transportation   -- _____