



ELECTIVE DESCRIPTIONS

College Readiness & Study Skills

This course teaches study skills and additional strategies for text-based learning in multiple content areas. Emphasis includes vocabulary, summarizing, identifying key ideas, and drawing inferences and conclusions. Students present their responses to text in a variety of ways.

Creative Writing

This course offers students experience in writing in several genres. Students engage in an editing and revision process designed to produce error free compositions suitable for publishing. Students examine important examples of literature in relevant genres as models and as subjects for technical analysis.

Literary Genres

In this semester-long course, students build an extensive vocabulary through wide reading of a variety of genres. Emphasis is on analyzing common themes in a variety of cultures. Students use writing to analyze literature and communicate with other writers. This course will be presented in a Special Topics format, with a different topic offered each semester. The topics currently available are below.

Science Fiction-

This course is designed to increase students' knowledge of the literary genre known as Science Fiction. Emphasis will be on the study of literature - novels and short fiction - that depicts our future world, visionary scientific endeavor, and conflicts between humans, aliens, and sentient technology. Students will study the history, contemporary trends, and the relevant contemporary issues in Science Fiction, including dystopia vs. utopia; artificial intelligence; current theory concerning technology, cloning, and physical science; human psychology in a futuristic environment; and the rise of Cyberpunk and Alternate Reality literature within the genre.

Women's Studies/Literature-

In this course, we will explore how women have used literature to reimagine and challenge their own worlds. Organized in a book club-style, students will be invited to think about female-authored texts and female characters in literature from different perspectives, considering topics such as class, education, race, sexuality, and barriers for women. We will read, discuss, and write about literature, art, and media that spans different genres and time periods up to modern day.

Graphic Novels-

In this course, we will look at the development of comics and investigate the graphic novel as popular entertainment, art form, and literature. Students will develop the vocabulary and skills to understand and analyze this deceptively complex medium on its own terms, and we will examine a variety of texts that define and redefine the genre while exploring themes essential to the contemporary human experience: race, class, gender, sexuality, politics, censorship, and conflict. Our journey will take us from early pulp vigilante fantasies to postmodern meditations on cultural identity, and we will interrogate the role of these texts in our cultural fabric. We will look at classic and contemporary works by artists such as Alan Moore, Grant Morrison, Chris Claremont, Frank Miller, Mark Millar, Garth Ennis, Dennis O'Neal, Alison Bechdel, Jack Kirby, and others.

Humanities

In this course, students study relationships among art, architecture, religion, philosophy, music, literature, and other creative endeavors in historic and contemporary world cultures.

Journalism I

This introductory course on the principles and practices of journalism includes fact gathering, developing interviewing skills, writing news stories, determining newsworthiness, studying and applying editing skills, studying journalistic style, using techniques of writing headlines and captions, studying the freedom and responsibility of the press, and the principles and ethics of journalism. This course will serve as a prerequisite for Woodrow's up-and-coming newspaper.

Photojournalism

This course includes a study of the use of photography in journalism and the application of photographic skills for journalistic purposes. Students develop competence in taking, developing, and printing news photographs for use in school publications. This course requires considerable time outside school hours.

Introduction to Engineering & Design

Students dig deep into the engineering design process, applying math, science, and engineering standards to hands-on projects. They work both individually and in teams to design solutions to a variety of problems using 3D modeling software, and use an engineering notebook to document their work. (Pre-AP)

AP Computer Science Principles

Using Python as a primary tool and incorporating multiple platforms and languages for computation, this course aims to develop computational thinking, generate excitement about career paths that utilize computing, and introduce professional tools that foster creativity and collaboration. This course helps students develop programming expertise and explore the workings of the Internet.

Principle of Business, Marketing, & Finance

In this course students gain knowledge and skills in economies and private enterprise systems, the impact of global business, marketing of goods and services, advertising, product pricing and business ethics. This course allows students to reinforce, apply, and transfer academic knowledge and skills to a variety of interesting and relevant activities, problems and settings in business, marketing, and finance.

Principles of Construction

Principles of Construction is intended to provide an introduction and lay a solid foundation for those students entering the construction or craft skilled areas. The course provides a strong knowledge of construction safety, construction mathematics, and common hand and power tools. For safety and liability considerations, limiting course enrollment to 15 students is recommended. This course also provides communication and occupation skills to assist the student in obtaining and maintaining employment.

Principles of Architecture

Principles of Architecture provides an overview to the various fields of architecture, interior design, and construction management. Achieving proficiency in decision making and problem solving is an essential skill for career planning and lifelong learning. Students use self-knowledge, education, and career information to set and achieve realistic career and educational goals. Job specific training can be provided through training modules that identify career goals in trade and industry areas. Classroom studies include topics such as safety, work ethics, communication, information technology applications, systems, health, environment, leadership, teamwork, ethical and legal responsibility, employability, and career development and include skills such as problem solving, critical thinking, and reading technical drawings.

Pre-AP Music Theory

This course will offer an in-depth study of the elements of music: pitch, rhythm, melody, harmony, texture and form. Students should have prior knowledge/study of music and the ability to play an instrument. Music skills in the course include listening, basic piano proficiency, keyboard theory, score analysis, sight singing, and composition. Students will be expected to take the AP practice exam and complete class projects which may require out of school time.

AP Music Theory

This course is intended to prepare students for college level music studies while in high school. Central to this course will be listening, score analysis, keyboard theory, composition, music literacy, sight singing, and basic piano proficiency. Students should have prior knowledge/study of music and the ability to play an instrument. Students will be expected to take the AP exam and complete class projects which may require out of school time.

Psychology

This course emphasizes the study of methods and theories used by psychologists to explain human behavior.

Sociology

This course examines dynamics and models of individual and group relationships. Students study topics such as the history and systems of sociology, cultural and social norms, social institutions, and mass communication. This course will describe the development of the field as a social science by identifying methods and strategies of research leading to an understanding of how the individual relates to society and the ever-changing world. Students will also learn the importance and role of culture, social structure, socialization, and social change today. In an increasingly interdependent world, students need to recognize how group behavior affects both the individual and society.

AP Seminar

This foundational course is the first of two courses and provides students with opportunities to think critically and creatively, research, explore, pose solutions, develop arguments, collaborate, and communicate using various media. Students explore real-world issues through a cross-curricular lens and consider multiple points of view to develop deep understanding of complex issues as they make connections between these issues and their own lives. Students read articles, research studies and foundation/philosophical texts; listen to and view speeches, broadcasts, and personal accounts; and experience artistic and literary works to gain a rich appreciation and understanding of issues. Teachers have the flexibility to choose appropriate themes that allow for deep exploration based on student interests, local and civic issues, global or international topics, and concepts from other AP courses.

Peer Helper

This course is designed to promote an inclusive educational environment for at-risk and special education/inclusion students. Peer Helper is a course where positive peers make a positive impact in their fellow peers' lives. It provides students the opportunity to develop leadership skills. The peer coaches obtain initial training and confidentiality for one week and continuous mini sessions throughout the year. There is an application process, which includes an interview and teacher recommendation. Please see Ms. Nelson for more information.

Link Crew

Link Crew is a year-long program where upperclassmen will mentor incoming freshmen through academics, events, and support entering the high school world. The class will provide training and support for the mentors. Applications are forthcoming. Please see Ms. Regenye for more information.