

High Mowing School

Course Descriptions 2009-2010

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Class offerings are subject to change. Contact the Dean of Academics with any questions or for further information.

Mathematics

Permutations and Combinations

Robert Sim

Block class required of freshmen

Life presents each one of us with manifold opportunities. We have to make decisions between many possibilities, and we don't know the exact outcome of the choices that we make. This block will look at the probability attached to particular outcomes in everyday life. In order to understand how many possibilities there are, we will look at the mathematics underlying permutations and combinations.

Surveying and Trigonometry

Robert Sim

Block class required of sophomores

This class gives an overview of the history of map making, engaging students in practical exercises to acquire skills in map making and orienteering. Students will map a given area and then compare their results to existing professional work. We will be working with the main ideas of trigonometry and related areas of mathematics.

Projective Geometry

Robert Sim

Block class required of juniors

Standing on the shoulders of the “finite” geometry developed by Euclid, projective geometry opens up the broader vista of the infinite by posing questions about the nature and influences of planes, lines, and points at infinity. From these questions, one can begin to glimpse the polarities between point and line, on the one hand, and between point and plane, on the other, that give rise to the living world around us.

We approach the subject primarily through drawings and constructions, beginning with the “Pappos Line” (an Ancient Greek anticipation of projective drawings) and spanning the discoveries of French mathematicians such as Desargues, Pascal, and Brianchon. In the closing days of this block, we expand our study from two-dimensional plane drawings to three-dimensional “projective transformation” drawings.

Algebra I

Marcia Page

Required track usually taken in the freshman year

The course begins with a review of basics including fractions, order of operations, and positive and negative numbers. We then proceed to algebraic topics which include the following: variables and formulas, solving linear equations, graphing linear relationships, solving systems of two equations, exponents and scientific notation, operations with polynomials, and solving quadratic equations using both factoring and the quadratic formula. Word problems with applications to real life will be used throughout the course.

Geometry

Marcia Page

Required track usually taken in sophomore year, or taken in the freshman year for students who excelled in Algebra in middle school

The basic terms of point, line, plane, ray, angle, and congruence are introduced in Geometry. Students begin to learn definitions, postulates and theorems, and planning and writing formal proofs. They apply these techniques to problems with parallel lines and triangles. We then study the classifications and angle measure of polygons as well as the properties of parallelograms and trapezoids. Next we focus on ratio and proportion, which leads us to the study of similar figures, followed by right triangles and Pythagoras' theorem. Lastly, we will study coordinate geometry.

Algebra II

Robert Sim

Required track usually taken in the junior year, or in the sophomore year for students who excelled in Algebra I and Geometry

Algebra II reviews material from Algebra I, including graphing, factoring trinomials, and solving quadratic equations. In addition, we will cover multiplying binomials, factoring quadratic expressions, solving quadratic equations, graphing (conic sections and exponential functions), exponentiation (including fractional exponents), and logarithms.

Trigonometry (Algebra III)

Robert Sim

Elective track for juniors or seniors who have taken Geometry and Algebra II

This course covers solving right triangles, unit circles, laws of sines and cosines, working with trigonometric identities, vectors, sine curves and cyclic functions, and applications. We will also review and expand upon Algebra II topics such as logarithms and exponents.

Pre-Calculus/Introduction to Calculus **Cedar Oliver**

Elective track for those who have completed Algebra III. (Also open to students who have not completed Algebra III but excelled in Algebra II.)

Mathematics is the art and science of patterns—the patterns we recognize in the world around us and the patterns we imagine and create ourselves. This course focuses specifically on patterns of change. Through active exploration and discovery, students explore how trigonometric, exponential, logarithmic, polynomial and linear functions relate to real-world dynamics of change. The course also includes modern topics such as nonlinear dynamics, iterated systems and fractals. The final trimester will focus on the fundamental concepts of calculus, including rates of change, limits, derivatives and integrals. Students should expect regular homework assignments. Grading will be through discovery projects and tests.

Intermediate Calculus

Cedar Oliver

Elective track for those who have completed a basic introduction to calculus, either through a class or through verified independent study.

Topics will include the calculus or trigonometric and exponential/logarithmic functions, a general study of the mathematics of change (dynamical systems), modern nonlinear dynamics, and select advanced topics in mathematics such as symmetry group theory, chaos theory, etc. Since the class meets only twice per week, a significant amount of homework will be assigned.

Science

Organic Chemistry with Lab

Kim McCormick

Block class required of freshmen

In this course, students study the properties of carbohydrates and their constituent elements in living systems and the environment. This is done primarily through student laboratory experiments and discussions. Laboratory safety and the proper use of equipment are covered thoroughly. Students create a block book containing write-ups and laboratory reports.

Anatomy and Physiology

Kim McCormick

Block class required of freshmen

This block will present a view of the human body as a total organism that integrates the various systems into a marvelously constructed whole. Specifically, the block will include a general overview of the digestive system, the circulatory system, the respiratory system, the nervous system, and the reproductive system. Following this overview, the emphasis will shift to a focused discussion on how the health of each of these body systems can be maintained.

Physics & Geology with Lab Oliver

Cedar

Block class required of freshman

How well do you know your world? This course combines the study of cultural geography, the physical world, and the study of the rocks and minerals that make up that world. Tracing the development of science and technology from the stone age through the bronze and iron ages to the “aluminum age” of modern times, students will see how the composition and geography of the Earth form the foundation of our civilization and society. Grading is based on several laboratory explorations, a research project, and a final exam.

Embryology

Douglas Powers

Block class required of sophomores

Embryology is the study of animal development, from fertilized ovum to the fully differentiated tissues of the human body. How does one cell hold the potential to become a being with specialized organs so beautifully adapted to the task for which they are intended? In the four-week embryology block the students will be encouraged to examine this miracle with a scientific eye. We will begin with an overview of the human reproductive system, focusing on the anatomy and physiology of the ovary and uterus. The study of early stages of fertilization and implantation will follow and be complemented by laboratory investigations of early embryology. We will also look at some of the moral and ethical questions that relate to human reproduction.

Acids and Bases with Lab

Kim McCormick

Block class required of sophomores

In this course, students study crystal structures, salts and salt solution properties, acids and bases. This is done primarily through student experiments, discussions, and some demonstrations. Students create a block book containing write-ups and lab reports and must complete a written and oral report on the biography of a great scientist.

Meteorology

Keith Badger

Block class required of sophomores

Meteorology covers the varied mysteries associated with atmospheric phenomena. Students will be actively engaged in taking up the fine art of cloud watching, and relating their myriad changes in appearance to meteorological wisdom. Beyond the immediate recognition and identification of cloud types, students will study frontal systems, wind patterns, high and low pressure areas, and extreme weather events. Trends within weather will be considered from a historical perspective and related to current changes within our earth's atmosphere and the ensuing climatic concerns which are becoming important today.

Motion and Forces with Lab

Cedar Oliver

Block class required of sophomores

This course explores the nature and causes of motion in the physical world, with emphasis on gravity and the movement of the human body. We study the relationships between mass, speed, momentum, tension and compression through direct experience, discussion, and analysis of static forces and movement. We also study Isaac Newton's life story along with his major experimental and theoretical work in developing the science of physical motion. Grading is based on a block book and final exam.

Electricity and Magnetism with Lab

Cedar Oliver

Block class required of juniors

Through their experience and observations of several experiments, students acquire necessary capacities for abstract thought, and then begin an experimental exploration into the nature of electric and magnetic phenomena. This begins with the study of static charge. Next, the seemingly unrelated phenomena of permanent magnetism is explored. This is followed by an introduction to the idea of electric potential and current flow that leads to experiments first performed by Oersted that link together the two phenomena of electricity and magnetism, and an introduction to modern electromagnetic devices.

Botany with Lab

Kim McCormick

Block class required of juniors

During this main lesson, we look at the four kingdoms of nature and the differences between plant and animal kingdoms. After a characterization of the plant between sun and earth, we look at the various parts of the plant and their functions in detail. The rhythms of plant life, photosynthesis, various forms of propagation, different classifications, and biomes are studied. Students put together their own field manual, developing capacities for observation of the plant, specifically its growth, habitat, abnormalities, and relationship to other plants and to animals.

Optics with Lab

Cedar Oliver

Block class required of seniors

Beginning with Newton and Goethe's theories of color and ending with modern theories of quantum optics, the senior class explores a wide variety of visual experiences. They are challenged to "see" seeing itself from more than one point of view, both scientifically and artistically. Each individual is encouraged to take a creative and personal approach to expressing his or her experience of concepts such as perception and recognition, reflection and transmission, diffuse and specular, focus, and projection.

Introduction to Chemistry

Cedar Oliver

Track elective for sophomores, juniors, and seniors

This hands-on course explores both the fundamentals of modern chemistry and the history and applications of chemistry from ancient metallurgy and alchemy to modern atomic theory. In addition to in-class lab work there will be college-preparatory level homework.

Physics

Cedar Oliver

Track elective for juniors and seniors

Combining lab work with academic study of the mathematical properties of the physical world, this course will introduce basic physics with an emphasis on the concepts of force, power, and energy.

Advanced Physics

Cedar Oliver

Track elective for students who have completed Introduction to Physics

This course will emphasize modern topics and lab techniques, with an emphasis on student-designed experimental research projects.

Health I and II

Beverly Boyer

Required track for freshmen and sophomores

In these courses, the following topics will be addressed: nutrition and exercise (eating disorders), substance abuse (tobacco, drugs, and alcohol), and human sexuality and relationships (birth control and

sexually transmitted diseases.) All of these subjects will be brought with the clear intention of leading students towards the ability to make healthy choices throughout their lives. In the sophomore course, issues surrounding human sexuality will be addressed, with an emphasis on giving students factual information and the interpersonal tools to help them make wise choices and build healthy relationships.

Beginning Naturalist

Keith Badger

Track elective for freshmen, sophomores, and juniors

This is an introductory class into natural history and field ecology. It is designed to introduce younger students (9th and 10th grades) to an approach toward understanding our plant and animal neighbors, and the dynamic between them at the habitat level. Primitive skills and technologies are explored as a means for deepening our relationship to, and understanding of, our home (Nature), and routines for enhancing and developing human awareness are explored extensively. New this coming year will be the Wilderness Trek offerings (additional credit awarded) on selected weekends, where primitive skills will be employed and tested. Honors Level opportunity available for all those wishing to take on additional challenge. This course can be taken for one, two or all three trimesters.

Intermediate Naturalist

Keith Badger

Track elective for those who have had Beginning Naturalist or the equivalent. (Double-period full-year course.)

Designed for those who have already taken beginning Naturalist, and/or for those who have had sufficient exposure and interest with field ecology and wilderness adventure (typically a 10th -12th grade offering). This is a year-long commitment to exploring the natural world in greater depth, along with a rigorous exploration of primitive skills used traditionally worldwide by indigenous cultures. These skills will focus upon the history, art and science of their traditional use and how such use through time has cultivated a very different value for the natural world than what is in evidence today. Weekend wilderness

treks (for additional credit) will likewise offer an opportunity to practice these skills in a more thorough, and authentic, way. Honors Level opportunity available for all those wishing to take on additional challenge.

Advanced Naturalist

Keith Badger

*Track elective for juniors and seniors who have had Intermediate Naturalist or the equivalent with permission of instructor.
(Double-period full-year course.)*

This class will be an exploration into Experimental Archeology where some facet of indigenous cultural interaction with the natural world will be explored in depth. This will involve research and experimentation into the ways in which cultures have historically interfaced with natural resources, and resulted in ecologically sound, and sustainable, lifestyles. Weekend wilderness treks (for additional credit) will likewise offer an opportunity to practice these skills in a more thorough, and authentic, way. Honors Level opportunity available for all those wishing to take on additional challenge.

Biochemistry with Lab

Kim McCormick

Block class required of seniors

How are inorganic substances brought into human beings and changed to serve living processes? In this block we will explore different ways of considering the intimate relationship between the inorganic and organic realms of nature, with a special emphasis on water. This class will include lab work and a short research project.

Zoology and Evolution

Kim McCormick

Block class required of seniors

In this block we will examine the major animal phyla and consider how the anatomy, physiology, and behavior of each animal group relates to its survival in a particular environment. We will explore the history of evolutionary thought and marvel at the individuals whose flexible thinking and imagination led them to new ideas about the origin of species.

English

Comedy and Tragedy

Judy Wachler

Block class required of freshmen

Through the polarity of tragedy and comedy, freshmen will explore the world of drama, from the earliest Greek theater to contemporary American plays. Drama exercises will help to align the life of feeling and intention with body language, gesture, stance, and use of space. Along with reading and study, we will use improvisation and guided exercises to prepare a performance that may include shorter pieces and/or a full-length play.

Creation Myths

Patrice Pinette

Block class required of freshmen

Creation myths address the most universal human questions. Where do we come from? How was the earth and all of its life forms created? Why are we here? What is the origin of good and evil? What is the nature of birth and death? Cultures have generated stories to give meaning, shape society, and secure the identity of a people in relation to the natural world they inhabit. We will read and tell stories from a wide range of cultures around the world, find common threads, and unique elements. We will discern ways that creation myths shed light on the creative process itself, and will engage in artistic responses to the stories. Students will reflect on their family of origin, write an original creation myth, and choose a favorite story as the focus of an artistic project and presentation.

Greek Drama

Dale Coye

Block class required of sophomores

What does it mean to stand by a truth that has the power to undermine the lives of loved ones as well as society itself? How does the individual stand against public opinion? Such questions have traditionally been addressed in the context of the history of theater and the performance of a Greek tragedy. Students write their own responses to the theme and then plunge into staging a performance.

The Odyssey

Cary Hughes

Block class required of sophomores

Homer's epic poem is the focus of our block. We explore the Heroic Age of Greece, the world of Homer, and the rich world of mythological characters active in and behind the story. We also draw on the work of Joseph Campbell and consider the story of Odysseus as one manifestation of the hero's journey.

Shakespeare

Wendy Bruneau

Block class required of juniors

In this block we explore Shakespeare's work as a bridge between medieval and modern times and intensively study one play. Our block work involves readings, short essays, and a culminating performance of a play.

Dante

Robert Sim

Block class required of juniors

Dante's *Divine Comedy*, a culminating work of the Middle Ages, displays the world of medieval thought and imagery, and at the same time offers glimpses of the emerging individual of the Renaissance. Human reason, divine love, choice, responsibility, free will, predestination, forgiveness, and hope are some of the themes that the poem presents. Dante himself claimed his purpose for writing the *Commedia* was a desire "to lead humanity from a state of wretchedness into one of happiness." Students deeply consider these themes through journal writing, discussion, a series of short essays, poetry writing, drawing, and an artistic piece.

Parzival

Robert Sim

Block class required of juniors

Wolfram von Eschenbach wrote his great poem, *Parzival*, around the year 1200. It describes the human journey through all its trials and tribulations. Focusing on this great work brings reflection on the dream life. Each one of us can relate to Parzival's struggles and his quest for the courage to take on life's challenges. Students will be

asked to reflect upon their own situation and will be encouraged to give voice to their inner journey.

Transcendentalists

Patrice Pinette

Block class required of seniors

The Transcendentalist block introduces students to the writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson. We explore the significance of their ideas, and their expression, and will take note of contributions from others as well, such as Bronson Alcott and Margaret Fuller. Inasmuch as these great thinkers all stressed the importance of the individual and direct experience, we will practice their technique of journal writing, (famously urged by Emerson, and followed devotedly by Thoreau) where we note our observations and reflections on the natural world, hoping to "...learn to detect that gleam of light that flashes before the inner eye." (Ralph Waldo Emerson)

Faust

Wendy Bruneau

Block class required of seniors

Faust is literally the achievement of Göethe's lifetime, and is one of the great iconic stories of Western culture. In this block, we will read the play closely, with an eye toward appreciating both its art and its meaning, and discuss many of the important themes and questions it presents. We will also discuss Göethe's life and the connections between his life and work.

Senior Drama Block

Patrice Pinette

Block class required of seniors

and Wendy Bruneau

This is the students' final block, a culmination of their years together as a class. It provides an opportunity to create something together with the intensity and intimacy—as well as the transcendence—that theater offers. Sometimes, rather than presenting a single play, the students create a collage including scenes from different plays and pieces of literature. The performance may also include music, poetry, and eurythmy.

Russian Studies

Cary Hughes

Block class required of seniors

Students follow the rise of modern Russian literature in the 19th century through the poet Alexander Pushkin and the novelists Fyodor Dostoevsky and Leo Tolstoy—three of the foremost writers of that century who served as inspiration for many contemporaries including Boris Pasternak and Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn (Russian writers who each won the Nobel Prize for Literature in the 20th century.)

We look at the view of the world as seen by Russians before the Revolution, a view that was shaped by Asian influences and Russian Orthodox Christianity over centuries of time. Since the fall of communism in Russia, these old views are emerging again with a mix of old world philosophy and new age technologies, and the questions raised by these authors remain as urgent as ever. The focus of our work in the block will be the novel *Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy.

English 9

Judy Wachler

Track class required of freshmen

In this course, freshman will build a strong foundation in both oral and written expression as well as critical reading and thinking. Through the reading of novels, short stories, essays, and poetry, students will explore both the syntax and the beauty of the English language. Students will then challenge themselves to deepen their growing capacities of self-expression through writing numerous short essays and a research paper. Together we will investigate the power of language to communicate the many facets of the human experience and the power of the writer to give voice to a unique, artistic perspective.

English 10

Wendy Bruneau

Track class required of sophomores

This class is centered upon the birth and flowering of English and the beauty of English in poetry. Texts include *Beowulf*, *The Canterbury Tales* and a play by Shakespeare. Poetry is an important focus in the spring term. Skills in reading more complex novels are also developed. Vocabulary work is based on Latin and Greek roots.

English 11

Wendy Bruneau

Track elective required of juniors

In the junior year, vocabulary work and composition are given special emphasis. We work with SAT words, focusing on distinguishing shades of meaning among similar words. Students will read and write about a variety of more complex works including novels, plays, memoirs, and short stories including *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Night*, and *The God of Small Things*. The literature in this course will support and further deepen the quest for self-discovery and transformation that is prevalent in the junior year.

English 12

Wendy Bruneau

Track required of all seniors

The focus of English 12 is completion of college essays and preparation of the senior research paper and project. Students will complete a major research paper and a related project on a topic of personal interest. (Note that this is a two-trimester course; the Great Novels elective is offered as an optional third trimester by permission of the instructor.)

Great Novels

Wendy Bruneau

Track elective open to juniors and seniors with permission of instructor

In this seminar-format class, students will read and discuss a variety of great novels by the American masters of the form, including Melville, Faulkner, and McCarthy. The course is discussion-based but students will also write regularly. *There will be no duplication of books covered in this course in 2008-2009.* (Note that this course will be offered for the third trimester only, following English 12, which is a two-trimester course.)

Creative Writing

Patrice Pinette

Track elective open to all students

This class offers students an opportunity to follow their own initiatives in the art of writing. It is a time to listen carefully to the work of other student writers and to receive responses to one's own efforts.

Sessions begin with individual and group writing exercises which are designed to challenge our imagination and use of language. We experiment with figures of speech, grammar, rhythms, and rhymes. We practice seeing things from different points of view and listen to examples of great writing. In all of our attempts we aim to experience language and life deeply and freshly—to be awake even in the dream.

Foreign Languages

Beginning French

Judy Wachler

Track class open to all students

We begin by hearing and practicing the sounds of the French language. Through poetry and other oral exercises, students will learn to independently pronounce French words correctly when they are reading or using dictionaries. At the same time, we will be learning basic conversational vocabulary, as well as fundamental grammatical structures. Listening, speaking, reading, and writing will receive equal emphasis so that students may eventually become adept in all four areas. The history, art, and literature of the French world, as well as the culture of day-to-day life, will be explored through reading and oral presentations.

Intermediate French I

Judy Wachler

*Track class for those with basic competency and/or passed
Beginning French*

The class begins with a review of basic vocabulary and grammar from previous years. Conversations, skits, and simple reading selections will be used to review and expand on the students' knowledge of the language. More complex verb tenses and grammatical structures will be studied; students will write in journals daily and will read short stories in French by the end of the year. Poetry, song, and drama will continue to play an important role in developing beautiful pronunciation and an appreciation for the feeling of the language.

Intermediate French II

Mark Ferguson

Track elective with permission of instructor

We start the year with a thorough review of verb tenses, basic grammatical structures, and vocabulary. As students gain mastery in grammar, writing assignments will become more advanced. Conversational practice is intensified; students will give oral presentations in French and francophone literature will be read and discussed in French. In addition, students will read and discuss articles from current French newspapers and magazines.

Advanced French/French Literature

Judy Wachler

Track elective with permission of instructor

In this course we will read and discuss selections from classic French literature. We will follow a chronological thread, beginning with adapted pieces from medieval times and culminating in a 20th century novel. The works will be discussed in French and students will write journal entries, responses and essays in French for each work that is studied. Grammar review will be ongoing as it applies to the composition tasks at hand. Students will give oral presentations related to the various literary periods being studied and will have the opportunity to lead conversations following reading assignments. Expectations and assignments will reflect whether a student is taking the class as Advanced French or as French Literature.

Beginning Spanish

Marguy Nelson

Track class open to all students

We begin by hearing and practicing the sounds of the Spanish language. Through poetry and other oral exercises, students will learn to independently pronounce Spanish words correctly when they are reading or using dictionaries. At the same time, we will be learning basic conversational vocabulary, as well as fundamental grammatical structures. Listening, speaking, reading, and writing will receive equal emphasis so that students may eventually become adept in all four areas. The history, art, and literature of the Spanish world, as well as the culture of day-to-day life, will be explored through reading and oral presentations.

Intermediate Spanish I

Marguy Nelson

*Track class for those with basic competency and/or passed
Beginning Spanish*

The course will review, reinforce, and add to the grammar foundation and vocabulary, as well as introduce short literary and cultural readings with appropriate written work. Development of conversational skill will be continued.

Intermediate Spanish II

Marguy Nelson

*Track class open to those who passed two years of Spanish and show
competency*

This class will begin with a review of grammar and vocabulary, and move towards an expansion of the compound tenses and more complex grammatical structure. In addition to class material, there will be literature, drama, and poetry as well as the use of audiovisual materials to further develop ease and fluency with the Spanish language.

Advanced Spanish

Marguy Nelson

Track elective with permission of instructor

In this course, students will continue to develop language skills through the expansion of grammar and the use of art, history, and literature from around the Spanish-speaking world.

Intermediate German

Robert Sim

Track class for those with basic knowledge of German

The course delves further into both the language and culture of the German-speaking world. We will build on the students' foundation through conversation, drama, and literature. In addition, we will study the grammatical underpinnings of the German language.

Advanced German

Robert Sim

Track class for those who passed Intermediate German and/or have equivalent competency.

The course furthers the study of basic grammar, fosters development of vocabulary, and broadens the range of situations in which students can understand and impart information. Readings of classical and contemporary authors and audio-visual materials provide the cultural context for linguistic activities. Regular work on assignments and compositions and active class participation will be the keys to progress in mastering the language and understanding of German culture.

Social Science

Modern History I (Revolutions)

Cary Hughes

Block class required of freshmen

In this block we will examine the ideals of equality, freedom, justice and peace that have inspired the creation of self government in the modern age in the United States and many other countries around the world. At the end of the course we should all have a deeper understanding of those ideals and what they mean for us today and what responsibility we have for those ideals.

Modern History II (20th Century)

Cary Hughes

Block class required of freshmen

This is the second of two history blocks for the freshman class this year. We will continue to explore political, social and economic ideals and ideas and their power in determining people's actions in modern history. Woven into this work are the ideals of justice, equality and freedom. In this block we will focus on the 20th century with an emphasis on WW I, the Holocaust, WW II, and the Cold War Era.

History Through Art *Block class required of freshman*

Wendy Bruneau

In this block, students will survey the important trends and artists in the history of art, from Lascaux to the present, including architecture and sculpture as well as painting. We will discuss varied questions such as: why the human impulse to create is so strong, what influences our sense of the aesthetic, what differentiates art from craft, and how the artist creates an emotional response in the viewer. Of central concern is the relationship of art to political and cultural history.

Ancient History I *Block class required of sophomores*

Cary Hughes

The objective of this course is to come to understand the elements that constitute and condition civilization. To achieve this we will study a variety of ancient civilizations including Ancient China (where we will meet Lao-Tzu and Confucius), Ancient India during the formation of Hinduism and the life of the Buddha, along with Ancient Egypt and the various aspects of the Babylonian and Assyrian empires of ancient Mesopotamia. We will study the development of writing in Sumeria and Egypt and the development of secular laws (Code of Hammurapi). Ancient Egypt represents an excellent example of a civilization almost completely controlled by a central authority so that we can study the relationship between religion and state, along with the pervasive effect of religion on the daily life of Egyptians. We will close with an introduction to the Persian Empire and its political organization under the early kings who created the empire.

Ancient History II *Block class required of sophomores*

Cary Hughes

This block will focus on ancient Greece and Rome. Starting with Sparta (approximately 700 B.C.), we will study the rise of City States (Poli) and the development of democracy. We will concentrate on Athens and Athenian democracy and empire, leading to an examination of the Peloponnesian Wars, the fall of Athens, and the story of Alexander the Great. Students will be introduced to the

foundations of western philosophy through some of the work of Socrates, Plato and Aristotle. We will study the formation of Rome as a republic and follow its evolution over hundreds of years to the rise of the Roman Empire lead by emperors and the course of that empire to the fall of Rome (476 b.c.e.) We will explore how a democracy and a republic operate, how they are different, and how Athens and Rome influenced the form of government we have today.

History Through Music

Elise MacDonald

Block class required of juniors

This course will examine the development of Western musical traditions over the past millenium. The major points of European (and later also American) sociopolitical history will be covered, as well as the confluence of musical and historical developments during this time.

Medieval & Renaissance History

Wendy Bruneau

Block class required of juniors

These two blocks cover a wide sweep of history from the decline of the Roman Empire through the Age of Exploration. The focus is Europe, although important events in other parts of the world will also be examined. Major topics include the rise of Christianity and Islam; feudalism; the plague; changes in art, in technology, and in scientific thought; and throughout, the difficulty of being king, or queen, in times of rapid change.

World Religions

Jonathan Northrop

Block class required of seniors

Religion has always been a major factor in world history and this fact has become very apparent today. In this course, we will examine all of the world's major religions and some sectarian differences within them. Scientific materialism, secularism, agnosticism, and atheism will also be considered. In our studies, we will seek to discover similarities as well as differences, as we strive for a respectful objectivity, knowing that all religions reveal something that is essentially human.

Art and Architecture

Patrick Stolfo

Block class required of seniors

This course is an overview of the development of architecture from pre-historic building methods to modern trends. The students are responsible for creating a cohesive main lesson book that characterizes this evolution via drawings and a written text. The lessons include slide presentations and discussions about the underlying cultural beliefs and ideas that are expressed in varying architectural styles. Finally, each student chooses a special project on an a specific building, architect, or architectural theme and gives an oral presentation in the last week of the block. It is hoped that we can include a field trip to Boston. The course ends with a review test and/or essay questions on the course material.

United States History

Cary Hughes

Track class required of juniors

This course covers American History from 1492 through the turn of the present millennium. On one level, the course examines the political, economic and social development of the country. This is done by lecture, reading of primary and secondary source material, writing of essays, informal class discussion, and occasionally, formally staged debates. The students make the acquaintance of various personalities from politics, industry, science, the labor movement, farming, and the military that have played pivotal roles in the story of America. On another level, the course helps the students to begin to understand the nature of the American character. In addition to knowing and understanding events and influential people of America, students should come away from this course with a better understanding of what it means to be an American.

Government and Economics

Cary Hughes

Track elective for juniors and seniors

This course examines the forms and purposes of government from the local level to the national level. Students are given opportunities to experience government in action at the local level each year and at the national level via seminars and projects as they become available. Woven into this work is the field of economics. Various economic

theories, including capitalist and socialist models, are examined. In addition, the course covers alternative approaches to governing and to fostering sustainable economic activity to meet the needs of the future.

World History

Cary Hughes

Track elective for juniors and seniors

This course will examine world history from the beginning of the Age of Exploration into the 20th century. The year-long course will divide its focus by trimester as follows: the first trimester will focus on the western hemisphere and relationships of Spain, England and France to this part of the world from 1492 onward to the influences of new powers such as the United States and the Soviet Union. The second trimester will focus on the continent of Africa with a similar list of nations struggling for control and influence on that continent. The third trimester will follow the thread of the efforts of these international powers in relation to Asia Minor, South and Southeast Asia and other major powers such as China and Japan. In addition to in-class presentations and discussions, students will do independent research and writing on key issues and present them to the class for debate and discussion.

Technology

Digital Arts

Cedar Oliver

Track elective open to all students

In this studio course, students may choose creative projects from a diverse variety of digital media, from color photography and photo-compositing to animation and programming.

Introduction to Filmmaking/Advanced Filmmaking

Track electives open to all students

Cedar Oliver

By studying famous films and creating our own short films, students will learn all aspects of filmmaking from scriptwriting and story structure to cinematography and editing techniques.

Performing Arts

Eurythmy

Patrice Pinette

Track elective open to all students

How can we enact a poem? How can we speak with our whole body? Can our imagination become visible to others? Words are powerful, as we know. Not only do words move us to action, to sorrow or delight—they themselves are in motion, have shape and dynamics. In eurythmy, an art of movement that brings language into the realm of dance, we learn gestures for the sounds of speech, and choreograph poetry, story, and drama. Our sources of inspiration include writings from contemporary authors and traditional cultures as well as original student work.

Chorus

Mary Beth Hallinan

Track elective open to all students who love to sing

The chorus is open to all students who love to sing. This class will include vocal warm-ups, tips on good vocal technique, sight-reading, and lots of rehearsal of choral music to be performed in concert. Willingness to sing and work on pieces for performance is a prerequisite for this class. Repertoire is dependent upon chorus size and ability. Several performances will be given throughout the school year, both on and off campus.

Chamber Music

Mark Ferguson

Track elective open to instrumentalists

Ensembles, ranging in size from duo to quintet, depending on enrollment and instrumentation, will study, prepare, and perform classical music. Chamber music performance puts a particular demand on ensemble skills and presents the best opportunity for developing those skills. Our emphasis will be on ensemble skill development through the process of sight-reading, rehearsal, and performance.

Advanced Chamber Music

Mark Ferguson

Track elective

The class will focus on string quartet and piano quartet literature of the Classical, Romantic and Modern eras. Students will be expected to practice outside of class rehearsals and be available for public performances.

Sinfonietta

Mark Ferguson

Acceptance into the Sinfonietta is through approval of the director

The Sinfonietta offers student musicians, music teachers, and other amateur musicians in Southern New Hampshire the opportunity to rehearse and perform a variety of orchestral music on a regular basis. Our goal is to strive for the best one can give, play expressively, listen to others, to work together in order to share some of the best music humankind has to offer. Small enough to maintain a chamber music-like atmosphere (whereby players are really heard and get as much attention as they need and deserve), The Sinfonietta is large enough to be able to perform works from the symphonic repertoire as well.

The Sinfonietta performs three formal concerts a year. Other, smaller performances (at Pine Hill, for Parents Weekend, etc.) may be required. Rehearsals are held one evening a week in the Big Room for two and-a-half hours. Attendance is obligatory. Extra rehearsals will be required before performances.

Beginning and Advanced Jazz

Elise MacDonald

Track elective open to all students

Through the study, preparation, and performance of jazz standard tunes, these ensembles will enable students to familiarize themselves with the basics of jazz musicianship: melodic and harmonic (chord symbol) reading and creative improvisation.

Beginner-level students will be expected to read and play melodies or chord symbols (depending on their instrument). More advanced students will also create solos based on the harmonic structure of each

piece. Harmony players, such as guitarists and pianists, will also have the opportunity to “comp” under (accompany) other players’ solos. Due to the particular demands that jazz performance puts on the player in terms of knowledge of music theory, some class sessions will be solely devoted to the study of theory. Several performances will be given throughout the school year, both on and off campus.

Studio Arts

Fundamentals of Art: Drawing and Painting Eunice Chalmers

Track elective open to freshmen and sophomores earnestly interested in developing skills in drawing and painting

The purpose of this class is to lay a foundation for a deeper understanding of the principles of art. We explore the concept of values, how light and shadow create shape, form, and the basics of design and portraiture. There is an emphasis on drawing from nature through observation, using the traditional art materials of graphite, charcoal, pastel, and watercolor.

Intermediate Art: Drawing and Painting Eunice Chalmers

Track elective for those with knowledge and experience of basic principles and skills

This class approaches the principles of art in greater depth. There is an emphasis placed on composition and design, color, and observational perspective. We go further with the basic drawing materials (graphite, pastels, and watercolor) and might also include pen and ink, oil painting, Asian brush painting, and figure studies.

Advanced Art: Drawing and Painting Eunice Chalmers

Track elective open to experienced art students

This is a class for experienced art students who are interested in furthering their development of traditional skills and techniques. The emphasis in this class is on independent projects geared toward the individual needs of the student. Some will wish to develop work for

college portfolios. Others can pursue their established interests or experiment with unusual media such as egg tempera, oils, and wood block printmaking.

Textiles

Susan Thompson

Track elective open to all students

This studio course ranges broadly over the textile arts, including weaving, spinning, papermaking, basketry, knotting, embroidery, beadwork, felting, knitting, and crocheting. We also experiment with various forms and materials of sculpture, regularly looking at and discussing relevant images and issues from art history (both contemporary and pre-modern). Students work independently on a wide variety of projects. Lessons in technique are presented regularly.

Pottery

Mrs. Karl

Track elective open to all students

New pottery students are told that pottery making was, before the machine age, never “taught” in a school. Instead, in areas where there were clay deposits one began to learn as a young apprentice. As much as possible, we try to approach clay work in a manner resembling that of the old apprenticeships. For instance, we do not buy wet prepared clay in plastic bags; we buy clays as supplied from the mines and weigh and mix by hand. We are a well-equipped pottery, built up over many years, but there are no machines to do the work of clay preparation, which is finished off by proper wedging (kneading). This first skill is seemingly simple but not so easy (yet possible for anyone with practice) and it gives a taste of what Chaucer meant: “The lyf so short, the craft so longe to learne.” But more experienced students carry the others along and gradually the new individual gifts, brought in each year, find their places for development in the larger whole.

Beginning Photography

Dianna Normanton

Track elective open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors. It is highly recommended that students enroll for two or three consecutive trimesters.

This is an introductory course in black and white photography. Using a 35mm camera, students will learn the basics of film exposure including film selection, aperture, shutter speed, metering, and lighting. Students learn how to prepare the chemistry to develop their own film and print black and white photographs. They will learn basic darkroom procedures, density control, contrast control, archival processing, and print presentation. In addition to the technical aspects of black and white photography, assignments will encourage the students to explore the artistic elements of photography, composition, framing, light, tone and texture, gesture and the moment, allowing the students to develop their own personal response to the visual world. Students will be exposed to various photographers' work through books and field trips to galleries and museums. A 35mm manual camera is recommended.

Advanced Photography

Dianna Normanton

Track elective open to students who have completed a full year of photography

Advanced photography explores more advanced darkroom techniques and alternative photography. Students will learn how different papers, developers, toning, and additive chemistry can help them realize their vision of the image. Alternative processes such as infrared film, cyanotype, applied emulsions, plastic camera, and hand coloring will be introduced. Assignments will focus on expanding each student's style and vision and on creating a cohesive body of work, culminating in a group show at the end of the year.

Studio Arts

Rachael Johnson

Track elective open to all students

This course includes drawing, painting, collage, batik, silk screen, block printing and more. Each technique allows for further development of skill and creative expression. Various themes and exercises will be introduced to stimulate observation of both the internal and external worlds, and to draw inspiration from these and other sources. Instruction will be given in groups and individually, with an emphasis on exploring the creative process and experiencing a variety of mediums.

Notes

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