

High School Elective Course Descriptions

Course: American History in Film

Duration: 1 Semester (1/2 credit)

Prerequisites: Successful completion of American History 1 and 2.

Grades: 10 & 11

This course targets the analytical thinker who enjoys finding interesting features in film. This class explores American films as primary documents of American history. Students will dissect films from American popular culture and analyze the way in which the represent time periods from history. A mini-research response accompanies each film.

Course: Spanish History & Culture

Duration: 1 Semester (1/2 credit)

Prerequisites: None

Grades: 9, 10, & 11

This class deals with the Spanish History and Culture. The class touches on the different countries in which Spanish is spoken. The course will be conducted in English.

Course: French History & Culture

Duration: 1 Semester (1/2 credit)

Prerequisites: None

Grades: 9, 10, & 11

This class deals with the French History and Culture. The class touches on the different countries in which French is spoken. The course will be conducted in English.

Course: Percussion Ensemble

Duration: 1 Semester (1/2 credit)

Prerequisites: Own drum sticks and practice pad and can transport to and from school

Grades: 9, 10, & 11

The Percussion Ensemble is comprised of primarily students who have little or no previous experience on a percussion instrument. This course is an introduction to battery and mallet percussion. Students will be expected to learn to perform on an instrument from each of the groups. Students will be taught fundamental techniques applicable to percussion instruments, and will be expected to demonstrate these techniques during rehearsal and performance. In addition, students will be introduced to basic music theory. The teaching methods used in the class will develop personal skills and discipline that can also be applied in the other academic areas as well as their personal life.

Students and parents should understand that The Percussion Ensemble is a performing arts class that requires student's participation in rehearsals and performances scheduled outside of, and in addition to regular daily class meetings. Participation in all performances is required.

Course: Digital Photography

Duration: 1 Semester (1/2 credit)

Prerequisites: Basic art skills

Suggested: Owning a digital camera

Grades: 9, 10, & 11

This is an introduction to digital cameras and the programs associated with them. Students will learn how to shoot pictures, and manipulate them using GIMP photo program. They will explore the elements of art, principles of design, and composition while exploring the genres of landscapes, architecture, still life, portrait, documentaries, journalism, etc. Since this class covers the use of digital cameras, a digital camera is suggested.

Course: Filmmaking

Duration: 1 Semester (1/2 credit)

Prerequisites: Basic art skills

Suggested: Owning a digital camera

Grades: 9, 10, & 11

This class is an introduction to the different types of films that are made. Students will explore different projects such as stop motion, claymation, documentaries, cell animation, etc.

Course: Printmaking

Duration: 1 Semester (1/2 credit)

Prerequisites: Basic Design, or one year of Art

Grades: 9, 10, & 11

This class is based around two dimensional designs. The projects will cover the different forms of printing ranging from linoleum prints to screen prints.

Course: Sculpture

Duration: 1 Semester (1/2 credit)

Prerequisites: Basic Design, or one year of Art

Grades: 9, 10, & 11

This class will focus on three dimensional designs. We will be covering the different forms of sculpture through additive, reductive, and kinetic techniques. Students may use many media including clay, plaster, wire, found objects, etc.

Course: Drawing

Duration: 1 Semester (1/2 credit)

Prerequisites: Basic Design, or one year of Art

Grades: 9, 10, & 11

This class teaches basic drawing skills of perception and technical drawing skills of composition, foreshortening, sighting, use of grids, and drawing in perspectives. Media used will include pencil, ink, washes, and various chinks. The study of art from various artists, countries, eras, art criticism, and aesthetics will be included in their studio work.

Course: Painting

Duration: 1 Semester (1/2 credit)

Prerequisites: Basic Design, or one year of Art

Grades: 9, 10, & 11

This is a course that will begin with a review of the elements of art, the principles of design, and the fundamentals of art. The class will investigate a variety of painting media: acrylic, tempera, gauche, and watercolors.

Course: American Music History

Duration: 1 Semester (1/2 credit)

Prerequisites: None

Grades: 10 & 11

During this course students will survey music in the United States from the time of the earliest settlers to the present, including Shaker hymns, Civil War tunes, the establishment of a distinctive American style, the beginnings of jazz, and current experimental styles. Other styles studied during this course will include: The roots of African American Music, The Roots of Hispanic/Latino Music, The Blues, Jazz, Gospel, Cajun and Zydeco, Country, The Urban Folk Revival, The ethnic and racial roots of Rock 'n' Roll, Motown, Soul and Funk, Tejano, Banda, and Contemporary Mexican, Caribbean and Salsa, Asian American Music, Hip-Hop and Rap. A wide variety of resources will be used to teach this course including: books, periodicals, audio recordings, video recordings and intranet resources. The teaching methods used in the class will develop personal skills and discipline that can also be applied in the other academic areas as well as their personal life. In addition to surveying the musical aspects of these genres, this course in large part will also be researching the historical/political/social content that revolves around all music.

Course: Speech

Duration: 1 year (1 credit)

Prerequisites: None

Grades: 9, 10, & 11

This course is a basic introduction to communication principles covering multiple areas including communication behavior, speaking, writing, and debate. This elective class will teach students to speak with confidence and more effectively, while learning the impact that communication has on the world and in their own lives.

Course: Physical Education 2

Duration: 1 Year (1 credit)

Prerequisites: Passing 9th grade Physical Education or equivalent

Grades: 10 & 11

The class will be a combination of individual and team sports. Some of the sports that will be played include badminton, basketball, flag football, soccer, and ultimate Frisbee.

Course: Spanish 1

Duration: 1 Year (1 credit)

Prerequisites:

Grades: 9, 10, & 11

Students will be able to read, write, and communicate in the target language by the end of the year. Students will learn the present tense and will be introduced to the past tense at the end of the year. Students will read one novel by the end of the year. The target language will be used 50% of instructional time.

Course: Spanish 2

Duration: 1 Year (1 credit)

Prerequisites: Spanish 1

Grades: 10 & 11

Students will be continuing to become proficient readers, writers, and communicators in the target language. They will learn and use the present, past and future tenses in writing and in communication. Students will read at least one novel by the end of the year. The target language will be used 60% of instructional time.

Course: Spanish 3

Duration: 1 Year (1 credit)

Prerequisites: Spanish 1 & 2

Grades: 11

Students will learn all other verb tenses. Students will be reading novels, discussing material in the target language. Students are also required to write reports and essays in the target language. Students will be able to surf internet sites to learn and discuss current events in the target language. The target language will be used 75% of instructional time.

Course: Spanish 4

Duration: 1 Year (1 credit)

Prerequisites: Spanish 1, 2, & 3

Grades: 12

Students will be reading at least one book at the college level in the target language. Students will be giving written and oral presentations on various subjects. They will learn about the target language history and culture. They will watch movies in the target language and discuss and analyze the films. The target language will be used 90% of instructional time.

Course: French 1

Duration: 1 Year (1 credit)

Prerequisites:

Grades: 9, 10, & 11

Students will be able to read, write, and communicate in the target language by the end of the year. Students will learn the present tense and will be introduced to the past tense at the end of the year. Students will read one novel by the end of the year. The target language will be used 50% of instructional time.

Course: French 2

Duration: 1 Year (1 credit)

Prerequisites: French 1

Grades: 10 & 11

Students will be continuing to become proficient readers, writers, and communicators in the target language. They will learn and use the present, past and future tenses in writing and in communication. Students will read at least one novel by the end of the year. The target language will be used 60% of instructional time.

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Course: Concert Band

Duration: 1 Year (1 credit)

Prerequisites: Own or rent an instrument and have supplies

Previous experience in band, audition may be required

Grades: 9, 10, & 11

The Concert Band is comprised of students who **have** previous experience on a band instrument. The following instruments in this class are woodwinds, brass and percussion. The Concert Band will perform a wide variety of quality literature that is standard to wind ensembles. In addition to daily rehearsals each student is expected to practice at home on his or her own time. In the Concert Band, students will be taught fundamental and advanced techniques applicable to their instruments, and will be expected to demonstrate these techniques during rehearsal and performance. In addition to those techniques, students will be introduced to basic music theory. The teaching methods used in the band class will develop personal skills and discipline that can also be applied in the other academic areas as well as their personal life. Students and parents should understand that The Concert Band is a performing arts class that requires student's participation in rehearsals and performances scheduled outside of, and in addition to regular daily class meetings. Participation in all performances is required

Course: Concert Choir

Duration: 1 Year (1 credit)

Prerequisites:

Grades: 9, 10, & 11

This course is designed to introduce and develop basic singing techniques, sight-reading skills and basic music theory concepts. The teaching methods used in the band class will develop personal skills and discipline that can also be applied in the other academic areas as well as their personal life. Students and parents should understand that The Concert Choir is a performing arts class that requires student's participation in rehearsals and performances scheduled outside of, and in addition to regular daily class meetings. Participation in all performances is required.

Course: Beginning Band

Duration: 1 year (1 credit)

Prerequisites: Must own or be renting an instrument and have supplies

Grades: 9, 10, & 11

The Beginning Band is comprised of students who have little or no previous experience on a band instrument. The following instruments in this class are woodwinds, brass and percussion. In addition to daily rehearsals each student is expected to practice at home on his or her own time. In the Beginning Band, students will be taught fundamental techniques applicable to their instruments, and will be expected to demonstrate these techniques during rehearsal and performance. In addition to those techniques, students will be introduced to basic music theory. The teaching methods used in the band class will develop personal skills and discipline that can also be applied in the other academic areas as well as their personal life. Students and parents should understand that The Beginning Band is a performing arts class that requires student's participation in rehearsals and performances scheduled outside of, and in addition to regular daily class meetings. Participation in all performances is required.

Course: Basic Design

Duration: 1 Year (1 credit)

Prerequisites: None

Grades: 9, 10, & 11

This course is for freshman or any students who have never taken an art class in high school. This is an introduction to the basic elements of art design to expand each student's visual skills, creative capabilities, vocabulary, critical thinking, and creativity. This class will cover basic drawing techniques, color, 2 dimensional design, and 3 dimensional design via:

Drawing

Painting

Sculpture

Printmaking