

2009-10 Elective Description Catalogue

Table of Contents

Computer Science

- AP Computer Science
- Beginning Computer Programming
- Multimedia Productions

English

- American Renaissance
- American Woman
- Creative Writing
- Fairytales, Myths, and Urban Legends
- Gothic Literature
- Journalism
- Literature Through the Camera Lens
- Madness in Literature
- The Culture of Competition
- Visions of Excess

Foreign Languages

- Latin American Studies

Mathematics

- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Statistics
- Differential Equations
- Introduction to Engineering

Performing Arts

- AP Music Theory
- Chamber Choir
- Concert Choir
- Dance
- Directing
- Drama
- Drama 2
- Drama 3
- Flex Aerobics
- Guitar
- High School Orchestra
- Jazz Combo
- Middle School Orchestra
- Middle School Choir
- Music Appreciation
- Non-Performance Dance
- Speech
- Stage Tech and Design

Physical Education

- Capoeira

Science

- AP Environmental Science
- AP Physics C
- Astronomy-Cosmology
- Marine Biology
- Oceans
- Organic Chemistry

Social Studies

- AP Economics- Micro and Macro
- Breaking the Rules: The History of Creative Rebellion in 20th Century Europe
- Criminology
- Economics
- Global Issues
- Human Geography AP
- Law and Order
- Philosophy
- Psychology
- Senior Project
- U.S. Government AP
- U.S. History AP

Theology

- Atheism & Faith
- Bioethics
- Eastern Religions
- Hebrew Bible Survey
- Inquisitions & Witchcraft Trials
- Radical Religion
- Theology Through Literature & Film
- Way of the Earth

Visual Art

- AP Art History
- AP Studio Art
- Art History
- Art Portfolio
- Art Spectrum
- Art of the Ancient World
- Ceramics
- Drawing and Painting
- Glass
- Independent Art
- Metals
- Contemporary Art History
- Photography
- Visual Media

COMPUTER SCIENCE

AP Computer Science A

Course Length: Year Long

Open to Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Beginning computer science, Algebra 2, or teacher's consent.

The AP Computer Science A exam covers roughly the first semester of a college level CS course while the AB covers about an additional quarter's worth of material. This course will concentrate on problem solving using a structured programming methodology and related algorithms. It will also include topics such as abstraction, data structures, in-depth study of algorithms, and a detailed examination of a large case study program. The course will be fast paced and will require a large time commitment from you. The material is not difficult but would require a thorough understanding of the ideas presented and its many facets.

Beginning Computer Programming (or Pre AP)

Course Length: Year Long

Open to Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Algebra II

You will learn to program in Java. The only prerequisite is algebra 2: more specifically, familiarity with variables and simple functions. No previous computing experience is needed. In the first half of this class, you will learn about Java, algorithm design, flow charting, debugging, and elements of good programming style. In the second half, object-oriented programming will be introduced.

Multimedia Productions

Course Length: Semester

Open to Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

You will be introduced to a number of multimedia applications that will focus on creative expression. Students will use Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator to create and edit digital images, iMovie to explore digital video and audio productions, and Flash to create complex Flash animations. Students will also learn at least one dynamic web language and possibly publish their work to the Internet.

ENGLISH

American Renaissance

Course Length: Spring Semester

Open to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

This class will focus on one of the most creative periods in American Literature, the American Renaissance, during which authors began to create a voice distinct from that of England. We will conduct an in-depth study of selected works by the Transcendentalists (Emerson, Thoreau), consider authors who were skeptical of the movement (Hawthorne, Melville), and we will examine the influence of the period on a new era of American poetry (Dickinson, Whitman). We will also read works by Gothic writers like Edgar Allan Poe. Slave narratives by Frederick Douglass and Harriet Jacobs will complete our study, and we will consider many other writers' roles in the abolitionist movement. The course will examine the ways that these authors mirrored and challenged nineteenth-century American culture. Students will read a variety of texts, including novels, short stories, essays and poetry.

American Woman

Course Length: Fall Semester

Open to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

With a focus on North American writers (both male and female), this special topics seminar will explore the phenomenon of American womanhood. We will trace the evolution of the female role in American society, exploring different representations of women in fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and film from the 19th and 20th centuries. From damsels in distress to femme fatales, we will look at characters that conform to and diverge from traditional notions of femininity. Ultimately, students in this course will develop a better understanding of the way gender plays out in literature and society.

Creative Writing

Course Length: Semester

Open to Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Creative Writing isn't just an elective; it's a way of life. In learning to write creative works, you will become more attuned to the sights, sounds, & smells of the world that envelops your own personal narrative. In this class, you will write more than you have ever written before; you will write in class on most days and writing outside of class will vary from one to four pages a week. Though genre emphasis will depend on class interest, we will primarily focus on those elements of writing that are crucial to all effective writing and narrative modes in particular. There will

also be a heavy emphasis placed upon the writing process and revision strategies. We read a variety of contemporary works; selections in the past have included David Sedaris, Denis Jonson, Jonathan Safran Foer, Arthur Bradford, Chris Fuhrman and John Ashbery. Though we will not write analytical essays, you will be expected to articulately critique and respond to works of these authors, works of your classmates and your own work. Finally, we will use other creative mediums, including movies, art, and music to further our creative development.

Fairytales, Myths, and Urban Legends

Course Length: Spring Semester

Open to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Is Cinderella the perfect woman or a pushover? Do the ghost stories we tell around the campfire matter? Is the Big Bad Wolf really bad? The answers to these questions are rooted in a long history of mythology and folklore that remains relevant even today. This course will explore the evolution of storytelling – from early myths to contemporary urban legends. We will begin with a focus on mythology, examining the surprising universality of theme and story across different cultures and times. We will then draw connections to the traditional and modern retellings of the stories we often read (and heard) as children. In particular, we will explore how these kinds of stories – both old and new – can simultaneously promote and subvert cultural values, norms and practices.

Gothic Literature

Course Length: Spring Semester

Open to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Gothic literature will trace the trajectory of literature from the periods of 19th century England to 21st century America. In each country and time period, Gothic themes will be presented through the lens of socioeconomic and political changes as it affected the literature. Each century gothic literature has been a conduit through which people explore their fears and concerns for the emerging world. The class will explore how gothic literature continues to evolve as a form that expresses fear of the new, unknown, and misunderstood. We will consider a wide range of texts, including fiction, poetry, essays, films, paintings, and music.

Journalism

Course Length: Year Long

Open to Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Journalism will serve as an introduction to the processes of journalistic writing, news-gathering, and newspaper production. Special attention will be paid to the

development and reporting of stories meaningful and relevant to the students of Woodside Priory School. This class will also take primary responsibility for the production of the school's newspaper, The Last Minute Press.

Literature Through the Camera Lens

Course Length: Fall Semester

Open to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Many great works have been adapted into the film medium. How has this conversion affected the telling of the story? (e.g., How has the perspective of the camera lens altered our perception? How has the director used music to influence tone? How does 'seeing' the story change it for us?). Some of the movies are derivatives: we'll consider how the screenwriter leverages the original, and what it loses or gains in the process? Not all film adaptations are effective, so for this course we'll aim for film versions that are at least as remarkable as the book.

Madness in Literature

Course Length: Fall Semester

Open to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Through the study and discussion of the literary representations of madness, this course will examine the definitions and the treatment of insanity across the 18th-20th centuries. We will strive to answer the following questions: How do writers represent madness and what do these representations suggest about the nature of madness? What factors drive a person to madness? Where does madness intersect with such issues as love, obsession, religion, gender roles and societal pressures? By what criteria does society define madness and how does it aim to treat it? In addition to considering the madness of characters, we will also look at literature as a way for authors to channel their own neurosis and avoid the outward manifestations of madness, for, according to Freud, those who create art are, in fact, alleviating their own neurotic tension. Through the combined study of psychology, society and literature, we will search for insight into the characters and into the unconscious minds of the authors.

The Culture of Competition

Course Length: Spring Semester

Open to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

American culture has historically deified the athlete. In this course we'll explore how the athlete is an extension of the traditional 'warrior/soldier' archetype. What myths and values are captured in these tales? How do authors use this archetype to develop allegorical conflicts? What characteristics are required to

qualify as an athletic hero? How does language and perspective influence perception?

Visions of Excess

Course Length: Spring Semester

Open to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Visions of Excess is a course that contextualizes identity development in the 20th and 21st century. We will investigate multiple modes of self expression as a response to the shifting excessive landscapes of popular and global culture. Students will read and critically respond to a variety of writers and forms, including memoirs, short stories, essays, novels, poetry, films, TV, and advertising.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Latin American Studies

Course Length: Year Long

Open to Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

In this course we will examine the history, development, and current state of Latin America. **The course will be conducted in both English and Spanish.** We will consider all facets of Latin American society including race, gender, family, geography, economy & resources, political environment, international relations, religion, the arts, and identity in the modern world. Concurrent with our historical analysis we will discuss contemporary issues as they apply to each nation. Upon completion of the course, the student will have achieved a vast understanding of the Latin American world and will increase their knowledge of the Spanish language.

MATHEMATICS

AP Calculus AB

Course Length: Year Long

Open to Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: B in Precalc or a B- in Honors Precalc.

AB Calculus is an AP class that is equivalent to roughly 70% a first year college Calculus course. (it counts as one semester of college credit) It is both conceptual and computational. It focuses on applying big concepts more than it does on just memorizing and using individual facts. Students need to be able to problem solve and think on their feet. Most students find the total work load

comparable to PreCalc but the concepts more difficult. It is not “easier” than BC Calculus but covers less material and therefore moves at a slower pace. The class has a different feel than previous math classes and is graded on a curve to mimic the AP grading standards.

AP Calculus BC

Course Length: Year Long

Open to Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: A- in Precalc or a B+ in Honors Precalc.

BC Calculus is an AP class that is equivalent to a first year college Calculus course. It is both conceptual and computational. It focuses on applying big concepts more than it does on just memorizing and using individual facts. Students need to be able to problem solve and think on their feet. Most students find the total work load comparable to PreCalc but the concepts more difficult. It is not “harder” than AB Calculus but covers more material and therefore moves at a faster pace. The class has a different feel than previous math classes and is graded on a curve to mimic the AP grading standards.

AP Statistics

Course Length: Year Long

Open to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra II

In Advanced Placement Statistics, students analyze data with calculators and computers, conduct classroom experiments, carry out individual and group projects, and perform simulations involving probabilistic concepts. AP Statistics students are active, engaged learners. Often, these students would not necessarily be enchanted by a traditional mathematics course. The AP Statistics course not only accommodates students with a wide variety of interests, it also serves those with a relatively wide range of math proficiency.

Differential Equations

Course Length: Year long

Open to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisite: A in BC Calculus

Differential Equations is a lower division college level class. The course will serve as an introduction to solving ordinary differential equations. We will also look at some of the many applications of the subject. Class activities will include watching videos of MIT lectures on the topics. Students will be expected to have computational proficiency and conceptual understanding.

Introduction to Engineering

Course Length: Year Long

Open to Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: PreCalculus

This class is a year-long exploration of the core skills needed for future engineering and technical studies. The style will be primarily project-based and will emphasize the distinct phases of engineering, including, but not limited to, the following:

- the design process in terms of “client-based” objectives and constraints (we will use a variety of charts, logic trees and matrices)
- decision-making techniques (there actually is a science to this)
- technical writing (proposals, design documentation, product-use instructions, etc)
- technical reading (research, specifications & blueprints to name a few)
- technical drawing (accurately taking measurements and rendering them)
- building and implementation (primarily using the Lego Mindstorms system)
- testing and the redesign process (it might look good, but does it work the way it should?)
- communication and team-work skills (these are the foundation of a successful engineer)

We will be working with Lego Mindstorms to build a variety of robotics-type projects in addition to some real-life-let’s-get-out-there-and-get-our-hands-dirty-type projects. We will also use an introductory engineering textbook for many of the general topics. This course is designed for those who are interested in exploring the possibility for a future in engineering. If you are interested in high-performance cars, interior design, chemical warfare, landscaping, architecture, robotics, biomedics or any number of other fascinating topics...this is the elective for you.

PERFORMING ARTS

AP Music Theory

Course Length: Year Long

Open to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisites: None

Advanced Placement music theory for High School students. Covers history, theory, aural skills, sight-reading skills.

Chamber Choir

Course Length: Year Long

Open to Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: None

Auditioned mixed High School Choir. Specializes in chamber and a cappella vocal music from all musical eras.

Concert Choir

Course Length: Year Long
Open to Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12
Prerequisites: None

All comers' mixed High School Choir. No audition. Covers a vast array of choral repertoire from all musical eras.

Dance*

Course Length: Year Long
Open to Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12
Prerequisites: None

Come learn and develop your skills as a dancer! In this class you will learn the basic fundamentals of dance and performance. Dance styles covered--jazz, tap, modern/technique, core strength training (this includes all of the rudimental calisthenics training such as abs, arm workouts, and at the barre-leg strengthening workouts), hip hop, and tumbling. (*Budget allowing*), outside choreographers will guest teach so you will gain exposure to other perspectives of dance.

If you are a Male who enjoys music, girls, and a fun interactive environment this is also the class for you. Learn to become *gracefully* athletic. The skills you learn on the dance floor will greatly affect your athletic performance in a phenomenal way. If you don't think dance is for boys, think again...

We will take 1 **field trip** each semester. You will also learn professionalism for auditions, and performances, and will get a brief introduction to various cultural dance forms. If you want to have fun, get an awesome work out while fulfilling your PE or performance art requirements, SIGN UP for this class, you will definitely end the year an even better dancer...Guaranteed! Open to grades 10th-12th.

*** UC Approved Course, upon UC approval**

Dance for the Non-Dancer

Course Length: Spring Semester
Open to Grades: 10, 11, 12
Prerequisite: None

Have you always wanted to dance, but don't have a desire to actually perform? Then this is the class for you! In Non-Performance Dance, you are not required to perform. During the semester you will build & develop your strength, flexibility, and self-confidence. In this class you will learn various styles of dance such as: Hip Hop, Breakdancing stances, Tap, Lyrical Fusion, Tumbling, Social Dance, and various cultural dance forms. (*Budget allowing*), outside choreographers will

guest teach so you will gain exposure to other perspectives of dance. We will take 1 **field trip** during the semester. Students in this class can fulfill their P.E. requirement. No previous dance experience necessary. Again, if you love to dance or have always wanted to learn, but don't want to perform, this is the class for you! Open to grades 10th-12th.

Directing (meets same period as Drama 2)

Course Length: Fall Semester

Open to Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Drama Class or Permission of Instructor

Level: Advanced

The Director of a play is responsible for it's every aspect, from the shape of the sets, to the look of the lighting and costumes, to the most important thing: the actor's performances. Students in this class will have the opportunity to direct student actors in the Drama 2 class. Directors will learn how to mine a script for information, to come up with a shape for the show and a concept that supports it, exercises to apply to actors that can enhance their performances, and will be responsible for directing a production that will go up at the end of the semester for two nights of performance.

Drama

Course Length: Year Long (Fulfills UC Arts Requirement)

Open to Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Level: Beginning / Intermediate

This class is designed to give the student actor every conceivable tool they might need in acting a part. Games and Exercises will be used to unlock spontaneity and channel the imagination. Students will learn and develop improvisation skills, rehearse and perform monologues and multiple scenes and, in the second semester, have the opportunity to direct each other in scenes. If you never take another acting class, you should feel comfortable and confident on any stage you wish to be on later in life.

Drama 2

Course Length: Fall Semester

Open to Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Drama Class or Permission of Instructor

Level: Advanced

In this advanced acting course, the students are their own theater company. Using all the acting skills you've gained from previous classes and productions, you will choose, rehearse and perform a play or series of One-Acts. New exercises for bringing characters to life will be learned and utilized. The play will be performed for two nights at the end of the semester for the public.

Drama 3

Course Length: Spring Semester

Open to Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Drama or Permission of Instructor

Level: Intermediate/Advanced

For those of you who have found Shakespeare in class to be boring, that's because he wrote PLAYS and plays were meant to be ACTED! In this class we will be making Shakespeare's plays come truly alive and putting them on their feet. Students will look at and rehearse sonnets, scenes and entire plays. They will be trained in unarmed and sword Stage Combat and perform a choreographed fight scene. We will use games and exercises to bring the language to life and fully "slip into the shoes of the characters. Shakespeare has the darkest, most twisted and most comic characters and situations ever. Join us and watch them come alive.

Flex/Aerobics

Course Length: Spring Semester

Open to Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

In Flex/Aerobics you will increase your flexibility while achieving a great aerobic workout. If you are looking to improve your flexibility, and improve your cardio strength this is the class for you. In this class you will gain a solid core-workout regimen that you can use to condition your body long after this semester course is over.

With stronger flexibility and strengthened control over your body you can prevent injury in any sport or activity. **All are welcome!** So, sign up, and get ready to condition your body, and improve your overall level of fitness. Great music, great work outs every class. Flex/Aerobics will earn you P.E. credit.

Guitar

Course Length: Semester

Open to Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: None

A semester long course for grades 10, 11, 12 focusing on proper classical technique using Suzuki Methods and experimenting with the Electric guitar. Many musical forms and some music theory included.

High School Orchestra

Course Length: Year Long

Open to Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: None

A large High School instrumental ensemble performs works from all musical eras. No audition.

Hip Hop 101

Course Length: Fall Semester

Open to Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

“When I say ‘Hip’, you say ‘Hop!’” That’s right, this class is strictly hip hop! Come learn the basic fundamentals and different variations of hip hop & break dancing. While in this class you will also gain an urban education and deeper understanding of all the elements that hip hop encompasses. (*Budget allowing*), outside choreographers will guest teach so you will gain exposure to other perspectives of hip hop. No previous dance training required.

To go along with your Hip Hop 101 education, you will also learn the basic fundamentals of Rhythm tap/hoofing in the style of Jason Samuels-Smith. In hoofing/rhythm tap you will learn how to use your feet as percussive instruments as well as develop your understanding of improvisation and music. Again, no previous dance training required. Sign up and learn about 2 very important dance styles that have influenced your generation of music and culture. We will take 1 **field trip** during the semester.

Jazz Combo

Course Length: Year Long

Open to Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: None

The jazz combo already exists as a club, and has more of a desire to explore the realms of jazz and funk music. This would be a small, auditioned group of 6 or 7 students, and can take guitar, bass, drums, horns, and vocals in the ensemble. A fantastic recruiting tool...

Middle School Orchestra

Course Length: Year Long

Open to Grades: 6, 7, 8

Prerequisites: None

A larger Middle School instrumental ensemble which performs works from all musical eras. Some training on instrument necessary.

Middle School Choir

Course Length: Year Long

Open to Grades: 6, 7, 8

Prerequisites: None

All comer's mixed middle school choir. No audition. Beginning choral training for middle school students.

Music Appreciation

Course Length: Fall Semester

Open to Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: None

Music in all its vast variety speaks to the heart of humankind This semester long class explores the music of various cultures as well as Western and contemporary music through listening, lecture and discussion. Students will also be introduced to the instruments of the symphony and music elements. No prior knowledge of music is required.

Speech

Course Length: Spring Semester

Open to Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

This class is designed to make one of human's greatest fear "public speaking" a fun, painless and enjoyable process. In this class we will explore and become comfortable with the many aspects of public speaking. We'll look at the mechanisms that help us make sound come out of our mouths and get an idea of the power and range of voice available to each student. Through a variety of fun speech topics, projects and games students will become more and more proficient in organizing their thoughts and expressing them to others through public speech. There is a Job Interview workshop, Stand-Up Comedy unit (everyone's got the funny inside them!) and an exciting student created Final Project as well.

Stage Tech and Design

Course Length: Year Long

Open to Grades: 9,10,11,12

Prerequisite: None

Level Beginning/Intermediate

If the whirl of a saw gets you up in the morning or you like painting on a 30 foot long canvas, check out this class. In this course at first students will learn how to safely and comfortably use all necessary power tools, painting techniques including three-dimensional on a 2-D surface, aspects of safe construction, stage lighting, sound design and stage management. Students apply those skills constructing sets for Priory productions. On the Design side, they will learn to look at a script and come up with a set, lighting, painting and sound design to enhance and express the play. They will learn 3-d modeling techniques and fully

model a show after designing. They may also design and execute full size sets for Priory student productions.

Writing for Theatrical Performance

Course Length: 1 semester

Open to Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Drama Class or Permission of Instructor

If you have characters and situations in your head crying to get out, this is the class for you! This class is focused on helping students create self-produced work to be performed by other actors or the writer. Exercises to release imagination and ideas are used. Examples of classic, contemporary, comedic, dramatic, tragic and political theater writing will be examined. A variety of techniques and exercises will be explored and students will develop a number of theater pieces over the course of the semester that will include monologues, scenes, plays and screenplays. At the end of the semester some of the work will be performed by student actors, allowing the writers to further develop their own unique voice as playwrights.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Capoeira

Course Length: Year Long

Open to Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: None

Capoeira is a martial art. It emphasizes reading your opponent and disguising your movements, evasive dodges, quick strikes and counterattacks.

Capoeira is a dance. Set to music, every movement carries a rhythm and a swing that can lead as easily to flourishes and embellishments as attacks.

Capoeira is culture. Developed in Brazil by African slaves, the character of Capoeira is a rich tapestry of history, folklore, music, attitude and philosophy.

While this class will emphasize the physical aspects of Capoeira, the student will be introduced to all aspects of the art, including the songs, instruments, history, folklore and culture.

SCIENCE

AP Environmental Science

Course Length: Year Long

Open to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisites: Chemistry and Biology are recommended.

What are the life support systems which sustain biological communities and the human population? What is the carrying capacity of the planet? What activities are humans involved in which degrade the planet's ability to support life? Students of APES will spend 2 semesters considering these and other important questions as they prepare for the AP Exam. Over the course of the year, students will study matter, energy, and systems, population and community ecology, human population growth trends, resource use and impacts on water, energy, food, soil, atmosphere, and climate. Moreover, APES students will consider the intersection of natural sciences with human systems and society, as we study current events, economics, and culture. Students in APES will participate in ongoing field studies and periodic labs and demos. Weekly reading assignments from a textbook present basic material; detailed understanding of material comes from outside articles, movies and videos, student research projects, and class presentations. If you enjoy the natural sciences and are interested in the ways in which human decisions and choices are shaping tomorrow's world, then this is a class that you need to take.

AP Physics C

Course Length: Year Long

Open to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisites: Completion of an introductory Physics Course, B grade or better in PreCalculus, B grade or better or concurrent enrollment in Calculus and recommendation of Head of Science Department.

This Advanced Placement course is a college-level, calculus based course in Mechanics. Its objective is to provide students with in-depth understanding of how matter and forces interact with each other and to successfully develop problem solving strategies for real physical problems. Its goal is also to develop the ability for students to learn experimental techniques and analysis. The course work and expectations prepare students to take the AP Physics C (mechanics only) exam. The main topics in this course are Motion, Forces, Kinetic Energy and Potential Energy during 1st Semester and Collisions, Rotation, Angular Momentum, Equilibrium, Gravitation and Oscillations during 2nd Semester.

Astronomy-Cosmology

Course Length: 1 Semester

Open to Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: None

Are you curious about what is going on "out there" beyond our atmosphere, beyond our solar system and galaxy? What evidence is there for extra-terrestrial intelligent life? What was the universe like long ago and which way is it headed? How may it be possible to leap to future centuries someday and yet see the past tonight? What are the physics rules that determine how the universe works?

Where were the atoms of your body the moments the universe or our solar system started?

Interested??? Come find the answers and learn much more.

Marine Biology

Course Length: Semester

Open to Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: None

Have you ever been curious about sea otters or wondered about great white sharks off the California coast? Marine Biology is an introduction to marine life with an emphasis on the San Francisco Bay and California coast. Following a basic description of the marine environment, students will study the diversity of marine life starting from the base of the food web and culminating with marine mammals and other top predators. Animals and plants will be considered from both an organismal perspective (form and function), and an ecological perspective (their habitats and interactions with each other/their environment). Some highlights of the semester include studying salmon, elephant seals, California gray whales, plankton, nekton, and intertidal assemblages. We will also explore the impact of humanity on the world's oceans by studying fisheries

This course will include several field trips and dissections in which students will gain hands-on experience with marine organisms. Field opportunities include tide pooling at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, touring the Southwest National Marine Fisheries Service and Seymour Marine Discovery Museum, exploring the sandy beaches and rocky coasts of Santa Cruz, and much more! The semester will culminate with an oceanographic research cruise in the San Francisco Bay where students will be able to study the hydrology, geology and cultural history of the largest estuary on the west coast and collect plankton, fish, and benthic species for observation and identification! This is a one semester course open to all students who have completed or are currently enrolled in Biology. Dive into discovery!

Oceans

Course Length: Semester

Open to Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: None

Have you ever wondered which waves to surf for the best ride or why coral reefs thrive in crystal blue water? Oceans is an introduction to the science of oceanography focusing on the California coast. Students will begin the semester by studying basic principles of the marine environment through case studies of coral reefs and deep sea fish. Students will conduct a virtual transect across Monterey Bay as well as study hurricanes, tsunamis, waves, tides, and currents. Other highlights include examining waves at the Mavericks Surf Contest in Half Moon Bay and discovering the impact of oil spills in San Francisco Bay.

This course will include several field trips. Field opportunities include visiting Ano Nuevo State Park to view elephant seals and watching the Mavericks Surf Contest to study waves. Oceans will culminate with students participating in a one-day oceanographic research cruise. This year our cruise is aboard the research vessel *Fulmar* operating in the Gulf of the Farallones (27 miles outside the Golden Gate Bridge). Students will work alongside scientists to study the food web of the coastal ocean. This is a one semester course open to all students who have completed or are currently enrolled in Biology. Dive into the fun!

Organic Chemistry

Course Length: Spring Semester

Open to Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: At least one semester of Honor Chemistry or AP Chemistry, or a full year of Regular Chemistry

Since most of the students have very little organic chemistry in any one of the three required chemistry classes we offer, the main objective of this course is to provide students who intend to go to the biomedical field or life sciences with more grounding in organic chemistry. This course emphasizes the basic nomenclature of organic molecules and some common organic chemical reactions. We will explore various relevant industries such as pharmaceutical drugs, polymers (plastics), and artificial food additives. Some related labs like the chromatography of chlorophyll, chemical dyes and colors, food additives and fragrances, photochemical organic chemicals, synthesis of aspirin, and extraction of caffeine from tea will be performed to solidify the theoretical concepts learned and to introduce many necessary lab techniques. Many multimedia and demonstrations will be utilized to better illustrate some concepts. Students will understand and appreciate the relationships between science, technology, and society where they will be highlighted in all units. Since the basic knowledge of chemistry such as chemical bonding is an essential part of this course, students are encouraged to have at least one semester of Honor Chemistry or AP Chemistry, or a full year of Regular Chemistry as a prerequisite.

SOCIAL STUDIES

AP Economics - Micro and Macro

Course Length: Year Long

Open to Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: None

AP Microeconomics - The purpose of this course is to provide a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to the functions of individual decision makers, both consumers and producers, within the larger economic system. It places primary emphasis on the nature and functions of

product markets, and includes the study of factor markets and of the role of government in promoting greater efficiency and equity in the economy.

AP Macroeconomics – This course is designed to give a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. Particular emphasis is placed on the study of national income and price determination, and also develops your familiarity with economic performance measures, economic growth, and international economics

Breaking the Rules: The History of Creative Rebellion in 20th Century Europe

Course Length: Fall Semester
Open to Grades: 11, 12
Prerequisites: None

“Breaking the Rules” will present a history of individuals who rebelled against established beliefs, values, and institutions in twentieth century Europe and the nontraditional and creative tools they used to communicate their rebellious ideas, including music, art poetry, literature, film, drama, dance, and cartoons. Twentieth-century Europe has been chosen as a case study for studying creative rebellion because of the many different political, economic, religious, ethnic, and class cultures expressed and contested in this time and place. Parallels, however, will be drawn with rebellious culture in the United States today, allowing students to apply their newly-acquired understanding of the goals and methods of creative rebellion to exposing and rethinking established beliefs and practices in their own communities.

Criminology

Course Length: Semester
Open to Grades: 11, 12
Prerequisites: None

Criminology provides an introduction to the study of crime. Criminology is primarily concerned with understanding the causes of crime, and so we will examine some of the most influential explanations for criminal behavior. Social context shapes general beliefs and thereby beliefs about crime; thus we will consider how different explanations have emerged about crime within our society while examining how social context contributes to explanations about crime. To develop credible explanations for crime we must understand the nature of crime, and we will examine a range of criminal activity. Using the Bill of Rights as the centerpiece, the class puts an emphasis on guest speakers, field trips, and interactive activities.

AP Economics

Course Length: Semester
Open to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisites: None

The AP Program in Economics aims to develop analytical and critical thinking skills through the hands-on examination of the principles of economics. This year-long course covers both the topics of Microeconomics -- the functions of individual decision makers within the larger economic system -- and Macroeconomics -- the economic system as a whole. This challenging college-level course should prepare students for future undergraduate studies. The AP Economics Program offers a separate test for each topic for the price of a single test. Students are required to take both exams.

Economics

Course Length: Semester

Open to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisites: None

This course introduces the principles of economics, focusing on macroeconomics (inflation, unemployment, economic growth and the U.S. financial system) in the first quarter and microeconomics (operations of the individual firm) in the second quarter. The instructor presents economic theories and their applications as well as topical business issues.

Global Issues

Course Length: Fall Semester

Open to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisites: None

It is tempting to see a course called "Global Issues" and imagine it to be little more than a glorified current events course. In a way, such a description carries some merit, because we will absolutely be spending time trying to decipher the events of the world around us. Get used to reading the newspaper, daily, and watching the evening news instead of Seinfeld re-runs. However, all contemporary conflicts have their origins in the past. As such, the first part of the course will entail a historical re-cap of the 20th century, to make sure our historical understandings are generally similar. We will then move into a more methodical understanding of "global issues," and will conclude the semester with a service learning project that will tackle one of the many issues we are facing. Students in this course are expected to be frequent and active participants, and should be prepared to write analytical essays and think creatively about how they view the world. It is also important to realize that this class will only be taught first semester next year.

Human Geography AP

Course Length: Year Long

Open to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisites: None

The purpose of the AP course in Human Geography is to introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human social organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their science and practice.

Law and Order

Course Length: Fall Semester

Open to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

This course will give students a broad introduction to how our country's legal system works. We will begin the year learning about the law's basic underpinnings: how laws are made, the role of the judicial branch, the structure of the court system, what exactly a "case" is, and how to read a decision, and more. We will then explore some different areas of the law such as family law, corporate law, criminal law, and more. Finally, the second half of the semester will involve two mock trials. First, students will take on the role of lawyers in a trial court (think Law & Order); they will learn how to give an opening, do a direct and cross-examination, and give a closing argument. Next, students will do a mock trial at the appellate level where they will learn to write legal briefs and present oral arguments.

Philosophy

Course Length: Semester

Open to Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: None

Philosophy would be a one-semester elective, open to 10th, 11th, and 12th graders. There would be no prerequisites for the class. I envision the course to be a survey of the various answers humanity has given to two of the most basic philosophical questions: what is right and what is true. In order to answer the first question (what is right?), we would survey the history of ethical thought. This would oblige us to examine Aristotle's virtue ethics, Mill's utilitarianism, Kant's deontology, and Sartre's existentialism. In order to answer the second question (what is true?), we would survey the history of epistemological thought. This would oblige us to look briefly at Plato's allegory of the cave, Locke's empiricism, Hume's skepticism, and Berkeley's theory that inspired The Matrix trilogy.

Psychology

Course Length: Semester

Open to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisites: None

Psychology is an introductory course designed to familiarize students with the basic tenets of both the foundations of psychological thought and the prevalent theories in the field today. The class begins with an exploration of how we learn. Subsequent units are dedicated to psychological schools of thought, the ethics of psychological experimentation, components of sound experimental design, cognitive development, adolescence in American culture, and predominant theories of personality. Students are required to complete an independent, experientially oriented research project. This course encourages self-exploration and personal reflection.

Senior Project

Course Length: Spring Semester
Open to Grades: 12
Prerequisites: None

This course provides seniors the opportunity apply their passions and talents to design and complete an independent-study exploratory project. Students will meet on a regular basis in the second semester while afforded time off campus during the last month of their year to fulfill a pre-approved project of their own choosing. Flexibility is provided for the project to use a wide range of talents, skills and subject matter. The results of the project may be a research paper, performance, exhibition or other original work. At the end of the experience, a presentation in front of the faculty, staff and students will be given. The experience shall be highlighted and its application to the Priory values will serve to sum up the student's overall development at the Priory. Enrollment is limited and based on seriousness of purpose. An ideal candidate for this course must exhibit high level of responsibility, creative thinking, and manage time successfully.

AP US Government & Politics

Course Length: Year
Open to Grades: 11, 12
Prerequisites: None

AP Government & Politics aims to provide students with a better understanding of democratic principles, Constitutional underpinnings, and republican values which provide the foundation for this nation. Once these historical tenets are understood, the course then provides an analytical perspective on government and politics in post-WWII United States. This course involves both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. politics and the analysis of specific case studies. It also requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute U.S. political reality. Students gain tremendous insight into our three branches of government and that what makes this nation tick. The 21st century is complex. This class aims to provide clarity.

THEOLOGY

Atheism & Faith

Course Length: Semester

Open to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

You're invited to explore the pros and cons of belief, atheism and agnosticism. Walk in the footsteps of significant philosophers and spiritual thinkers dealing with the question – To believe or not? Develop your own critical ideas on religious experience, spirituality and faith commitment. Be part of the great debate about what religion has to offer in the 21st century.

Bioethics

Course Length: Semester

Open to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisites: None

Take on the challenges of medical and environmental ethics! Through your own critical thinking, develop positions on the moral issues posed by advances in science and technology. Encounter some of the groundbreaking cases in the field of Bioethics. Meet with some of the experts. Let your own voice be heard on such issues as: Is health care a basic human right? Should access to abortion be restricted by government? Should active euthanasia and doctor-assisted suicide be legalized? Do children have a right to know who their biological parents are? Should there be legal restrictions for the use of human embryos in research and family planning? How do environmental issues impact health? Come share in the debates over these and other cutting-edge questions in Bioethics.

Eastern Religions

Course Length: Semester

Open to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Explore karma, dharma and yin/yang. Set out for the sacred Hindu river Ganges along the eightfold Buddhist path. See the world through the eyes of Confucius. Enter the shrines of imperial Japan through Shinto. Take on the challenges of meditation and understanding the martial arts. Probe Eastern philosophy & spirituality expressed in the thought, art, and music of Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism and Shinto. Enjoy a Buddhist retreat experience at Green Gulch Farm in Marin!

Hebrew Bible Survey

Course Length: Semester

Open to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

For members of the Class of 2010 and other students who have not previously studied the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament: this course is an introductory survey. The Hebrew Bible/Old Testament will be viewed in its historical and cultural setting in the ancient Near East, and will examine how the text was received and interpreted within the Jewish and Christian traditions. The course will examine the content, literary relationships, and evolution of the biblical texts. The role of women in the Hebrew Bible will be considered from social, literary, and cultural perspectives. The course will be multidisciplinary through the tracking of thirty centuries of creative interaction between the text of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and culture, i.e., art, music, literature, and cinema.

Inquisitions & Witchcraft Trials

Course Length: Semester

Open to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

This course explores issues of truth, censorship, freedom of expression and freedom of conscience. The course traces the development of these freedoms through history, philosophy and religious thought. What are the struggles and challenges that individuals and societies encounter to pursue and safeguard their rights to freedom? Visit the halls of the Spanish Inquisition, the Salem witchcraft trials, high school and college newspapers, and the United Nations. Truth and freedom are always on trial!

Radical Religion

Course Length: Semester

Open to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Religion has always had great power to inspire individuals to perform great acts of love, altruism, justice and peace, while also having the capacity to breed extremism in the form of hatred, violence and terror. This dual-nature of religion is an important topic to explore with significant implications for geo-politics, national security, human rights, inter-religious relationships, and for the sake of humanity's spiritual character. The Al-Qaeda terrorist attack in New York City on September 11, 2001 has made the matter of religion's potential for good or for evil one of the most important contemporary issues of our day. In this course we will discuss radical religion's progressive and virtuous strands and its fundamentalist and violent strands. By looking at some of the traditions and Scriptures of the Judeo-Christian, Islamic, and Hindu faiths, we will attempt to unearth the "holy" impetus for the "Jekyll and Hyde" nature of radical religion. Also, by analyzing and comparing the teachings of Jesus, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Mahatma Gandhi, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. we will explore ways that religion can be a dynamic force for good in the world.

Theology Through Literature & Film

Course Length: Semester

Open to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

This course will explore the realm of theological imagination and how it interacts and has been distilled into literature, cinema, and the fine arts. This course attempts to synthesize previously learned theological material and to demonstrate the interconnectedness between theological reflection and the fine arts. The course is divided into four theological themes to stimulate theological inquiry and reflection: Christology, Mariology & the Feminine Face of God, Medieval Theology, and Grace & Conversion.

Way of the Earth

Course Length: Semester

Open to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

The course's subtitle is "Environmental Ethics & the Spirituality of Native Peoples." This course focuses on and examines the spirituality of indigenous or native peoples and their cultures, with special emphasis on the ways that they care for and respect the environment. What can we learn from their experience? The course draws on unique sources from Harvard University's Center for the Environment and the Forum on Religion & Ecology. An important goal of the course is the development and deepening of our own sense of and commitment to Eco-Justice, sharing Earth's resources for the common good of all.

VISUAL ART

AP Art History

Course Length: Fall Semester

Open to Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: None

This course will provide students with a chronological overview of the development of art beginning with Prehistoric art and ending with Post Modernism. The course will survey the development of art through different cultures and time periods. Students will learn to formally analyze works of art using the elements of art and the principles of design. The course will emphasize the comparative analysis of works of art as well as understanding the works within their political, social, and religious contexts. Students will be introduced to artistic terminology and techniques in order to develop the vocabulary necessary to discuss and analyze the works of art through discussion, written assignments, and tests. The course will help students develop critical thinking to draw parallels

between artistic styles, cultures, and time periods, as well as prepare individuals for the AP exam.

AP Studio Art

Course Length: Year Long

Open to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisites: Studio Art 1: Art Spectrum or AP Art History and Studio Art 2: Ceramics, Drawing/Painting, Glass, Metals, Photography or Visual Media Summer homework. Recommendation by Instructor

This is a college level art course with the primary goal to prepare a portfolio of 29 excellent works for the AP test by the beginning of May. This course is also a way to develop your art and yourself as an artist. During this class, you will develop a healthy artistic practice. Be mindful that everything that you create will not be appropriate for your AP Portfolio. All artists make much more work than the ones that they present to the public. Anything that you do will contribute to your artistic ability and understanding. You will participate in the AP Studio Art show in April. The nature of the class and the work will provide you with opportunities for personal growth and exploration that are very different from other classes you may have taken. You will choose one of the following portfolios subjects: Drawing, 2D Design, or 3D Design

Art History

Course Length: Year Long

Open to Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: None

This course will provide students with a chronological overview of the development of art beginning with Prehistoric art and ending with Post Modernism. It will survey the development of art through different cultures and time periods. Students will learn to formally analyze works of art using the elements of art and the principles of design, as well as create their own works of art. (YES- students will have the opportunity to make some art!) The course will emphasize the comparative analysis of works of art as well as understanding the works within their political, social, and religious contexts. Students will be introduced to artistic terminology and techniques in order to develop the vocabulary necessary to discuss and analyze the works of art through discussion, written assignments, and tests. The course will help students develop critical thinking to draw parallels between artistic styles, cultures, and time periods.

Art Portfolio

Course Length: Year Long

Open to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisites: Any one or more of the following Art courses: AP Art History, Art Spectrum, Ceramics, Drawing/Painting, Glass, Metals, Photography or Visual Media. Recommendation by Instructor

The primary focus of Independent Art is preparing a portfolio of 12-15 works for critiques, art shows and admissions portfolios. The structure is very similar to the AP Studio Art course without the pressure of the exam, it allows for a great deal of personal expression. You will be asked to create the art that you enjoy and to have a sense of pride in your work. You will learn to document your work, put up an art show and prepare a portfolio. You will research art history and relate your work in the context of contemporary art. You may work in any media or material for this course. This is a seminar style course with discussions, readings and critiques.

Art Spectrum

Course Length: Year Long

Open to Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: None

Art spectrum is a studio art course that uses the Elements and Principles of Art and Design to build a strong foundation pertaining to all aspects of the visual arts. Students will explore skills, concepts, and art history through a variety of media; both two and three-dimensional, with an emphasis on the development of technical, expressive and critical thinking skills. Lessons in drawing, color theory, painting, ceramics, sculpture, glass, metals, photography and visual media are taught. One of the most important goals of the course is to instill a sense of pride and accomplishment in all students taking the course, while finding passion within the studio arts. This is a great course for someone who is not sure which art class to take. Please note: it is a highly recommended course for those intending to take AP Studio Art in subsequent years.

Art of the Ancient World

Course Length: Fall Semester

Open to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisites: None

This course will span from the Paleolithic period to the 5th century, A.D. Students will build their analytical skills, along with their vocabulary, as they identify works from a variety of different civilizations. More specifically, we will look at religion, politics, and personal expression as a function of Art.

By investigating Art of the Ancient World, students will gain a better understanding of history as well as a better sense of what Art is and how it developed. Artists are not insular, and it is as important to understand the reasons and theory of Art production as it is to know the names, dates, and media of the production. Thus, we will use lectures, discussions, papers,

projects, and debates as our means of understanding and analyzing these various cultures and their artworks.

Ceramics

Course Length: Year Long

Open to Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: None

This studio class covers a variety of techniques with clay including pinching, coiling, slab construction, and working on a potter's wheel. Practice in throwing forms on the potter's wheel, combining hand-built and wheel-thrown forms, glazing these forms, and understanding kiln loading and firing procedures are the subjects in this course. We will work with sculptural ideas developed in various ceramic hand construction techniques and we will explore how the unique characteristics of clay can contribute to the content of the work.

Contemporary Art History

Course Length: Second Semester

Open to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisites: None

This course surveys key artists, movements, theories and themes from the rise of the avant-garde in mid-nineteenth century Paris through modernism with Abstract Expressionism in 1940s New York, through Post Modernism and Architecture, up until present day. We will look at the change of artwork within the context of changing political, economic, social and cultural environments.

Drawing and Painting

Course Length: Year Long

Open to Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: None

This studio art class focuses on developing fundamental drawing and painting skills. Students will develop the ability to perceive and define shape, volume, space, and light both representationally and expressively in various media with increased emphasis on developing composition and content. During drawing units, students will work with pencils, charcoal, pastels, and colored pencils. Color theory will be introduced and investigated as well as: drawing from observation, drawing the human figure, analysis of basic forms, structure, proportion, symmetry, balance, and rhythm. During the Painting units, we will focus on the technical and conceptual basics of painting using watercolor, acrylics and oil.

Glass

Course Length: Year Long

Open to Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: None

Glass is a course designed to enable students to create original works of art that are sculptural, functional, and decorative. The focus of the course is to assist students in applying the elements and principles of fine art and design to their own glass artwork. Students will be introduced to three different ways to work with glass: cold, warm, and hot. Some of the glass objects students will create during the course of the year are: bowls, plates, beads, ornaments, ink pens, perfume bottles, full size flowers, and marbles. In addition to making works of art, students will be expected to build a strong art vocabulary, participate in critiques and discussions, research historically significant glass objects, movements or techniques, and respond to a variety of inquiries related to the curriculum. One of the most important goals of the course is to instill a sense of pride and accomplishment in young artists.

Independent Art

Course Length: Year Long

Open to Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: None

Taking an Independent art class is a great way to push ones self as an artist in a personal way. Proposing individual projects can be fun, challenging and exciting. To be admitted into this course, students must:

- be self motivated and must be able to work independently
 - Meet with Instructor regularly to schedule meetings and deadlines for projects
 - push oneself as an artist
 - work only on art projects during class time- not other homework- this is not free time or a study hall.
 - attend class (Show up to the art room and keep in contact with the teacher, if you have a reason not to be there, you must contact instructor.)
 - Committed to creating projects: 4 per quarter and 1 final per semester =7 finished works per semester.
 - keep a sketchbook and work in it outside of class.
 - be prepared for class with materials and supplies (instructor will assist with ordering).
 - maintain a work area- making sure it is clean when class is over.
- You might need to work outside of class to finish projects on time.

Metals

Course Length: Year Long

Open to Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: None

Metals is a course designed to enable students to create original works of art that are sculptural, functional, and decorative. The focus of the course is to assist students in applying the elements and principles of fine art and design to their

own metal artwork. Some of the metal objects students will create during the course of the year are: belt buckles, boxes, rings, candlesticks, and cast sculptures. In addition to making works of art, students will be expected to build a strong art vocabulary, participate in critiques and discussions, research historically significant metal objects, movements or techniques, and respond to a variety of inquires related to the curriculum. One of the most important goals of the course is to instill a sense of pride and accomplishment in young artists.

Photography

Course Length: Year Long

Open to Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: None

This course is intended to explore photography as an art form which will challenge the student to be creative and imaginative. Students will be expected to master the use of the 35mm camera and have some basic knowledge of both medium and large format cameras as well. Assignments will be given which will require students to carry out the complete photographic process from concept to finished, mounted print suitable for formal presentation. While the course will touch upon color work to some extent, the major proportion of work will be accomplished in black and white. The year will conclude with a student exhibit at the Spring Art and Music festival.

Visual Media

Course Length: Year Long

Open to Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: None

Have you ever walked out of the theater at the end of a movie and then decided to walk back in and see it again? Have you ever seen a movie, television program, or advertisement, and thought to yourself that you could produce something better? If you love to *watch* and enjoy thinking about *seeing*, if you have fun making movies with friends, then Visual Media is the class for you. In this art class open to sophomores to seniors, students look at examples of different visual media, then they produce their own digital videos in response to the videos we've seen in class. Over the course of the year, students will create at least 5 different short video projects: a special effects movie about tricking the eye, a fake advertisement, an animated short, a love story about a missed connection, and a documentary. Additionally, students will learn to create storyboards, shotlists, treatments, scripts, and screenplays, they will use digital cameras, editing software, and sound recording equipment, and students will learn some important lessons in leadership, communication, problem solving, and creative decision making as they work with actors and a film crew. Materials and equipment are provided by the art department; however, if you have your

own laptop with editing software and your own camcorder, you will be encouraged to use these in class.