**2019-2020 Course Descriptions**

**Visual Arts**

**Visual Arts STUDIO – 101(.5 credit)**

**Drawing, Painting & Ceramics**

This course is designed to give students an introduction to basic skills by engaging them in a variety of individual and collaborative projects. They will include drawing, painting, and ceramic mediums. Students will learn techniques, skills, concepts and vocabulary as they study the elements of art, and the principles of design. Studio 101 will prepare students to move forward with confidence into advanced visual arts classes.

**Mixed Media (.5 credit)**

**Collage, Assemblage & Layered Imagery**

This course will introduce students to materials and techniques to create works of art that can be both realistic and abstract in nature. An exploration of two and three dimensional media will be explored and applied as visual ideas and concepts are developed by students. There will be pertinent vocabulary and historical perspective, as well as creativity and originality encouraged in class.

**Ceramics: Hand Building/Pottery (wheel throwing) (.5 credit)**

This course is an introduction to the physical properties of clay and its use in both functional and sculptural forms. Students will learn the methods of hand-building, pinch, coil and slab, and create original and inspired clay forms. The decoration of each piece and surface treatments will be discussed and explored by students. The works of several noted traditional and contemporary ceramic artists will be introduced in class. Students will learn the basic step by step approach to throwing on the potter’s wheel, using special tools, decorating methods, and glazing techniques. Students will have an active role in stacking kiln and the firing process. A student exhibit will be part of the final requirement for the class.

**Printmaking: The Origins of Graphic Design (.5 credit)**

In this class you will be introduced to a variety of printmaking techniques through demos and then have hands on time to experiment with each. There will also be a project tied to each method we cover. The content of the images you produce for each of these projects will vary between student and teacher directed, but I encourage as many of the aesthetic choices you’ll make in the development of your images be driven by your personal interests and sensibilities as possible.

**3D Sculpture: Design & Create in the Wood Shop (.5 credit)**

In our intro to sculpture course we’ll get our art up off the page and into three dimensions. First students will sketch their way through the often trickiest part of art making - idea generation. We’ll then have to tackle the process of how to turn a sketch into a three dimensional object. This is both a head and hands kind of class, where this semester you’ll be learning to manipulate wood. There will be instruction and practice using the tools safely and effectively. Students will work toward developing a working understanding of wood, it’s nature, and capacity as a medium for expression. Lastly we’ll talk about how to display three dimensional work and put up a show of your pieces. Original work can also be considered for submission to juried shows or competitions.

**Charcoal! (.5 credit)**

Charcoal is probably my favorite drawing medium. In this course you’ll get to experiment with many different forms and applications of this half burnt wood - from powdered, to a variety of lump, chunk, stick and pencil forms. Charcoal can be both a quick and effective way to sketch out ideas and record visual information, or a means to produce dramatic, highly refined, finished artwork. If you’ve ever been curious and/or intimidated to create artwork in charcoal, this is your chance to roll up your sleeves and get a handle on this expressive medium.

**Art of the Portrait (.5 credit)**

In this course people will be the subject of your artwork. We’ll focus on drawing and painting people from both traditional and less conventional methods, in a number of different wet and dry mediums. Yes you will learn how to *see*, and adjust for, those subtle differences that will both breathe life into and help better capture the likeness of your subjects.

*\*\* Pre-requistie Studio 101 or Faculty Recommendation*

**Illustration (.5 credit)**

Have you ever listened to a song or read an interesting story that flooded your mind with visual imagery? This course is designed to help you generate, refine, and execute your personal vision through your artwork, while also introducing you to the challenges faced by illustrators. We’ll explore different types of non-visual material that, through a variety of mediums and in the styles of your choosing, will serve as the point of departure from which you will generate your illustrations.

*\*\* Pre-requistie Studio 101 or Faculty Recommendation*

**Visual Arts STUDIO -102 (.5 credit)**

**Self-Directed: The Student Artist’s Vision**

This course is open to students who have completed at least two courses related to the intended area of study (at least 0.5 credits) and have demonstrated a proficiency in, Drawing, Painting or Ceramics, and are looking to further develop their individual and create a body of finished, portfolio artwork. Students will create an outline project proposal, an overview, a materials list, and a scheduled calendar of completed work by the end of the first week of classes. Advanced Studio is designed to explore 2the personality of the artist and sharpen their media skills. The work in this class will be original in nature yet referencing historical art can be used as inspiration. Each student will create a “portfolio’ during the course and present their work in the group portfolio exhibit at the end of the quarter. The course is designed for students with a serious interest in and commitment to developing their artistic ability.

*\*\* To be enrolled in this class students must have completed Studio 101 and an additional Visual Arts Class.*

**Cinematic Arts**

**Digital & Analog Photography (.5 credit)**

Students who join this course will be introduced to the fundamentals of digital and analogue photography. In the first semester, students will research a photographer of their choosing and participate in various discussions about what creates a successful, compelling photograph. Attention will be given to the varying components of a camera, including the essential steps taken to manipulate a camera manually and effectively. You will be responsible for shooting two rolls of 35mm film, mixing chemicals, developing negatives, and creating enlargements on photosensitive paper with the proper Dark Room procedures. In the winter months, you will take what you learned and apply it to the digital cameras in varying photo assignments. Each student will learn the basics of Adobe Lightroom and Photoshop to enhance your image, and are expected to create a digital portfolio of the work they’ve produced. Your best images will be printed and mounted on display for the Chase community to enjoy.

**Structuralist Film Theory (.5 credit)**

Have you ever experienced a film that has had a profound impact on your life? If so, have you ever wondered why it possessed such an influence over you? By joining this course, you will have the opportunity to answer these questions through the exploration of Structuralism in contemporary cinema. At the start of the semester students will be required to view a collection of critically successful independent films. You will participate in individually written reflections to illustrate the artistic merit of each, as well as identify how they convey meaning through a language evoked by the cinematic codes and conventions of Structuralist film theory. Using this knowledge, you will then go on to assume one of the integral roles of a film crew to produce & direct scenes from existing screenplays, as well as develop your own “Kuleshov Experiment”. You will be introduced to the basics of film editing through these exercises in Adobe Premiere Pro.

**The Art of Filmmaking (.5 credit)**

Do you have a story to tell? Using prior knowledge about Structuralist film theory, each student is expected to write, produce, and direct their own short script, which will be written using Celtx screenwriting software. The class will analyze screenplay form, and how a director translates the words from the page to the screen. You will then go on to build a treatment or “lookbook” for your own story. This will include a comprehensive logline, descriptions of locations and characters, and a summary of the plot and visual aesthetic. Once this is complete, time will be allotted to each of you to develop your short script through the employment of formal techniques such as the close-up, point of view, framing, editing, and the use of sound as they function within particular filmic contexts and systemic languages. Through these collaborative projects, you will continue to develop new skills with color grading and key frames within Adobe Premiere Pro.

*\*\* Prerequisite Structuralist Film Theory*

**Short Documentary Filmmaking (.5 credit)**

Is there an individual in your life that has an interesting past? Do you feel compelled to persuade someone to think a certain way about a divisive topic? Maybe you are fascinated with the way raindrops fall over the rooftops on Chase’s campus. Or perhaps you want to highlight the achievements of an athlete in their senior year. Well, now is your chance! You will help the class to identify the defining characteristics of a poetic, participatory, observational, or expository documentary. You will then select a topic, conduct research, schedule & film interviews, compile your footage and edit together a short documentary using Adobe Premiere Pro.

*\*\* Prerequisite Structuralist Film Theory*

**Salmagundi (Yearbook) (1 credit)**

Join the Salmagundi team and help the class create a meaningful yearbook to be admired for decades to come! Some of your responsibilities will include: capturing high-quality images to highlight important events on campus in each division, graphically designing templates and managing content to meet deadlines. You will begin they year organizing the student/faculty portrait pages, and capturing memories of the autumn athletics and festive holiday events. The second half of the year will focus on designing creative visual & performing arts pages, as well as winter and spring athletics. Each student will also be responsible for connecting with the seniors to collaboratively assemble a collage of their most prized memories. Joining this course build your knowledge graphic design, familiarize yourself with the community around you, and provide you with a platform to sculpt a valuable addition for Chase’s archive.

**Theater Arts**

**Theater Today: On Broadway (.5 credit)**

Students will explore the rich history of early 20th century Broadway theater, setting the stage for a closer analysis of the blockbuster shows gracing the Great White Way today.

**Set Design and Construction (.5 credit)**

Part light construction, part art class, and a whole lot of problem solving, we're going to design and build the structural set pieces for the Chase school plays. Each student will learn how to safely and comfortably use both hand and power tools by framing and doing basic joinery, ensuring the stability of the structures. We will also focus on how the design of the pieces, along with paint jobs, dressing, and other aesthetic qualities can help aid in creating the overall mood desired for the show. We may build some simple props, as is appropriate and needed to the individual performances, but the overall focus of this class will be on the set pieces, their functional design, and ways to make them look and "feel right" for the overall mood of the play.

**Fall Theater & Spring Theater (.5 credit per semester)**

***The Highlander Theater Company is the Chase Collegiate Upper School***

Student driven program which mounts two mainstage productions each year. This class will explore the integral components of mounting presentations in a theater setting as a collaborative group effort by semester. As a signature component of our Arts Department, students are guided by faculty to explore acting, stage management, directing, light and sound design, costuming, house management, box office, marketing, and concessions.

Actors will focus on developing a creative ensemble, applying expressive skills to performance, realizing fully developed characters and relationships, and adapting to a variety of theatrical genres, styles, and circumstances. Auditions take place prior to each production.

Theater technicians will learn how to collect and build props, assemble costumes, hang, focus, and gel lights, move set pieces, manage stage entrances and curtain(s), operate a soundboard and microphones (wireless and wired), and create marketing materials, just to name a few!

**Musical Arts**

**Chorus (1.0 credit)**

This is a performance-based class that is open to all students who enjoy the art of singing. Students will develop their vocal technique, phrasing, diction, ear training, and sight-singing skills, all while learning to sing with others in harmony. The group will perform at various concerts and events throughout the school year, both on and off campus. Repertoire will include classical secular and sacred works, world music, Broadway songs, and contemporary pieces. Students will be encouraged to audition for the CMEA Regional Festival.

**Voice 102 (.5 credit)**

A specialized, smaller vocal ensemble will be created by audition only. This group will focus on more advanced repertoire and harmonizing techniques. Students must be enrolled in Chorus to participate in this course.

**La Vie Boheme (.5 credit)**

Celebrate the Bohemian “struggling artist” lifestyle while comparing Puccini’s beloved opera La Boheme with the blockbuster contemporary musical Rent. See how these two spectacular productions explore friendship, love, and loss in vastly different time periods, but with similar plot twists, musical themes, and even shared lyrics.

**Protest Music (1.0 credit)**

This full year course surveys the music that either helped catalyze or responded to major historical events, beginning with the American and French Revolutions and culminating with the study of worldwide situations in the Digital Age. The final project for this full year course is individualized, giving students the opportunity to look at a current artist with the perspective of a sociologist. No previous theory or history coursework is required.

**The Physics of Music (.5 credit)**

In this semester long class, students will begin with the arithmetic of the vibrating string and move the harmonic structure of intervals and chords as determined by the Ancient Greeks. The course will progress into applications of physics to the fields of acoustics and audio engineering.

*A prerequisite to this course is a full year of physics.*

**The Podcast (.5 credit)**

This semester long course will have limited enrollment and no prerequisite. Students will learn of the consumer options available to a podcaster new to the field, the role of the producer, and the basics of audio engineering through Digital Audio Workstations. The application of the course’s several podcast production assignments to other major or minor academic projects is allowed and encouraged.

**Music Theory 101 (.5 credit)**

This course is intended for students who wish to develop their general music abilities and to incorporate new knowledge into their vocal and/or instrumental studies. These skills include sight-singing, melodic and harmonic recognition, keyboarding, and song forms.

**Band (1.0 credit)**

This course is open to all Upper School students, regardless of experience level. Musicians in the Upper School Band participate in a minimum of three to four performances per semester that take place both in and outside of the regular school day. Any instrument is welcome but for the sake of balance and repertoire, students may be encouraged to introduce themselves to other instruments. Music theory and ear training are built into the ensemble’s technique studies in every class. A collaborative approach to expression, phrasing, and selection of repertoire is developed through the nature of “chamber music” and sectional rehearsals that are built into the course curriculum. Multiple genres of music are performed throughout the course of the year, including but not limited to symphonic, rock, jazz, and folk music.

**Band 102 (.5 credit)**

A specialized, smaller Instrumental ensemble will be created by audition only. This group will focus on more advanced repertoire and chamber music techniques. Students must be enrolled in Band to participate in this course.

**Music Composition (.5 credit)**

The Music Composition course is offered to advanced secondary school performers and serves as preparation for musical studies at the collegiate level. The majority of students’ musical offerings will be composed with the intention of public performance by intermediate and advanced students within the Chase community. As such, a deep understanding of the strengths and limitations in orchestration and a broad knowledge of the formal evolution of Western Classical Music will be consistently reinforced. In addition to an advanced understanding of orchestral and classical choral literature, other genres of music to be explored could include jazz, rock, and classical Eastern literature.

*\*\* AP Theory or success on an entrance theory test is a prerequisite.*

**Classical and Foreign Languages**

**Spanish 1 (1.0 credit)**

*¿Hablas español? Wouldn’t you like to be able to speak Spanish?*

Come learn to speak, write, read, and understand Spanish. Join your classmates in the digital language lab as you watch *El Cuarto Misterioso*, trying to figure out exactly what IS in that mysterious room! Learn to communicate with your peers and others as you reenact and create dialogues. See if you can win the *Simón Dice* game by being the fastest and the most accurate player when learning body parts! How fast can you catch a ball of yarn, identify the color, and toss it off to a classmate? Using your iPad, visit the various Spanish–speaking countries as you yourself become a Spanish speaker. *¡Hasta la vista!*

**Spanish 2 (1.0 credit)**

*¿Te gusta poder hablar español?*

Come learn language skills which you will actually be able to use. Students can ask and give directions, talk about their school experience, be able to order food, etc. With the aid of the iPad we learn about culture, visit famous places virtually, and create visually appealing presentations such as an advertisement for a new innovative product. This course combines new vocabulary and grammar with a hands-on approach to learning Spanish. The class emphasizes the four language skills equally: reading, writing, listening and speaking. Through student-created skits, presentations, dialogues, videos, audio recordings, etc; each student learns how to carry common and usual conversations in Spanish.

**Spanish 2 Honors (1.0 credit)**

*¿Te gusta poder hablar y escribir en español?*

Come learn language skills which will prepare you for pre-AP Spanish. Students can ask and give directions, talk about their school experience, be able to order food, etc. With the aid of the iPad we learn about culture, visit famous places virtually, and create visually appealing presentations such as an advertisement for a new innovative product. The class emphasizes the four language skills equally: reading, writing, listening and speaking in a more rigorous and in-depth way than 2 regular. Through student-created skits, presentations, dialogues, videos, audio recordings, etc; each student learns how to carry common and usual conversations in Spanish. Come and see what you are capable of saying!

*Prerequisite: Permission/recommendation of the Spanish 1 instructor*

**Spanish 3 (1.0 credit)**

*Are you still wondering what is in El Cuarto Misterioso?*

Let’s keep watching that video as we continue our study of different tenses and idioms. On our iPads, let’s visit the Sagrada Familia Cathedral located in Barcelona; just one of Gaudí’s wonders in one of Spain’s most iconic cities. Create a wonderful new home for your teacher and her family! Make it big, make it beautiful, make it a fun place to live and then sell it to your teacher; all in Spanish, of course! *¡Hasta pronto!*

**Spanish 3 Honors (1.0 credit)**

*¡Ven y diviértete con el español!*

You speak choppy Spanish and want to sound more like a native? We would love to learn about your family with a photostory. You will design and build your ideal house and try to sell it to the class. You will become part of a news story on a video produced and edited by your classmates. With the help of the iPads, we will virtually attend many Spanish festivals and fairs such as Easter in Seville. We will start reading authentic short stories, newspapers, etc from different countries. This class will increase your vocabulary and fluency.

*Prerequisite: Completion of Spanish 2 Honors and/or permission of the instructor*

**Spanish 4 Communications (1.0 credit)**

*¡Vamos a hablar en español!*

Come and improve your speaking skills in this project-based class. We will learn about the history of Latin America through authentic articles, movies and youtube videos. With an emphasis on vocabulary and speaking you will prepare newscasts, dialogues, videos, skits and presentations. You will complete and present numerous projects and improve your fluency while increasing your vocabulary. Themes include the Revolutions, the role of women in Latin America, Pre Columbian civilizations, etc. Come and see what you are capable of saying and producing!

**Spanish 4 Honors (1.0 credit)**

*¿Quién escribió esto? Well, let’s find out who wrote that!*

The sky’s the limit when it comes to speaking and writing in Spanish. Come and learn culture as well as language as we focus each unit on a specific Spanish-speaking country and read authentic texts from the Dominican Republic, México, Cuba, Spain, Chile and Perú. We will be using all that we learned in our previous Spanish classes to read some wonderful short stories, poetry, and plays that will keep you guessing right up until the last page! Our discussions will be lively and we will learn to respectfully argue our points in the language. We will cook, listen to music, and take virtual trips to each country. You will be amazed at how much you have learned.

*Prerequisite: Completion of Spanish 3 Honors and/or permission of the instructor*

**AP Spanish Language and Culture (1.0 credit)**

*¿Podremos hacerlo? Of course you will be able to do it!*

*¡Ay de mí!* Look at all you can do! We will build on what you know and you will become even stronger students of the Spanish language. Your vocabulary and fluency will increase as you read and discuss authentic texts, listen to podcasts, radio interviews and songs. Lively conversations will take place in the Language Lab as you create telephone conversations and debate current topics. You will keep a journal where you will write about controversial topics of your choice expanding your debate skills. After the speaking, reading and listening that you have done with your classmates over the course of the year, you will feel *mucha* *confianza* as you sit to take the AP exam.

*Prerequisite: Completion of Spanish 4 Honors and permission of the instructor*

**Latin I (1.0 credit)**

Language, culture, history, architecture, science, art and more!

Explore the world of the ancient Romans as we begin to learn the tongue that provides the English language with over sixty percent of its vocabulary. Learn what daily life was like in one of the most well-known towns from classical times – Pompeii! Western civilization traces itself back to the cultures of Greece and Rome, and understanding the way the people lived provides a context for our modern lives. Let the ancients speak directly to you about the past so that you can better understand the world you live in now. Develop your English vocabulary, improve your understanding of the structure of language, and bring history to life. *Carpe diem! Disce linguam Latinam!*

**Latin II (1.0 credit)**

All Roads Lead to Rome!

Discover the grandeur that was the Roman Empire and visit its far reaches. Learn how ancient Rome expanded to rule over a vast territory stretching from Portugal to the Middle East and North Africa to Britain. Find out how the interaction of cultures throughout this area led to the Western world as we know it today, from modern Romance languages to the architecture of European capitals to the basis for government and law in America. You will continue to improve your ability to understand the language of the Romans with the ultimate goal of reading authentic texts by some of the world’s most well-known authors.

**Latin III (1.0 credit)**

*“Exegi monumentum aere perennius.”* – Horace

The ruined monuments of ancient Rome continue to inspire modern generations, but more lasting than brick and marble and bronze are the works of the great authors and poets of the time. It is now that you will begin to read the very words written thousands of years ago and allow the Romans to speak directly to you about their lives and experiences. As you continue to develop your ability to understand the Latin language, you will discover what drove the Romans to conquer their world, how they went about their daily lives, and what impact their actions have had on all of us to this day.

**Latin IV (1.0 credit)**

*“Omnia mutantur, nihil interit.”* - Ovid

The Roman world continues to exist all around us, in the words we use, in the structures we create, and in the customs that we follow. As the saying goes, “The more things change, the more they stay the same.” Find out just how much like the Romans we still are today by reading an eclectic blend of original texts including contentious court cases, imperial correspondence and emotional poetry. Discover how little human nature has changed over time while delving into topics from all walks of life and making comparisons between the world of the ancients and the world as we know it.

**Latin V (1.0 credit)**

*“Arma virumque cano.”* - Vergil

Read selections from the great poets of the Roman world including Vergil, Catullus, Ovid and Martial and discover the importance of their works from their own time through the Renaissance and into the modern era. Enjoy epic tales of adventure, love stories, mythological exploits and the anecdotes about the Colosseum while exploring the impact of these poems on the art and literature of subsequent ages.

**French 1 (1.0 credit)**

*Parlez-vous français?* In this class you will!

Embark on a journey into the French-speaking world including France, Quebec, Haiti, Morocco and more. Immerse yourself in an upbeat classroom setting where you interact daily with the teacher and your classmates in French on a wide range of topics such as French cuisine, city life, and what French teenagers do for fun. Practice speaking, listening and exploring online in the digital language lab and with your iPad and vText. Vocabulary drawing and a variety of games are frequently a part of mastering the material. Creative projects include: research and recreate a famous Parisian monument, produce and present a PowerPoint “my school year” and performing in group skits. *Au revoir et à bientôt!*

**French 2 (1.0 credit)**

*Parlez-vous français? Ici, c’est très amusant!*

Your journey continues as you delve deeper into the culture and daily life of people living throughout the Francophone world. English is out the window, as we will now be more immersed and actively working towards the goal of proficiency. Collaborate on projects, skits and videos as well as in the digital language lab. Express your opinions in French with classroom debates, daily conversation and periodic compositions. Read and discuss short stories and easy poems *en français*. Expand your knowledge of world geography - *aussi en français*...*Vive la France!*

**French 3 (1.0 credit)**

*“On ne voit bien qu’avec le coeur. L’essentiel est invisible pour les yeux.” - Le Petit Prince*

English is rarely spoken in this highly interactive, student-centered classroom. Collaboration is fostered daily both amongst the students and with the teacher covering new material as well as reviewing and expanding many of the concepts of French 2. Reading longer texts leads to the study of our first major work, The Little Prince. Creativity is fostered through projects such as imagining a new planet for the prince to visit and producing a new digital chapter, writing and illustrating a children’s book on big art paper, and filming and editing commercials with the iPad. *Nous regardons aussi des films!*

**French Conversation and Culture (Level 4) (1.0 credit)**

*Parlons! Partageons! Ecoutons! Regardons des films! Débattons! Faisons des projets!*

What is communication? What forms are most important to us? How can we learn to express our ideas and opinions in a foreign language classroom? How do French people really talk? What role does (or should) the media play in our daily lives? What were the contributions of French people over the past few centuries? Here we speak, we share, we listen, we watch, we read, we ideate, we create, we debate, we present, we write, we play, we act. The atmosphere is relaxing and inviting. Class can be tailored to students’ interest. *Venez nous joindre!!*

**AP French Language and Culture (1.0 credit)**

*“Aujourd’hui maman est morte. Ou peut-être hier, je ne sais pas.” - Albert Camus, L’étranger*

*Nous explorerons le monde francophone ensemble avec plusieurs présentations orales, à travers la littérature, en écoutant des reportages en ligne et en pratiquant et préparant pour l’examen au mois de mai. Vous écrirez des essais sur les thèmes culturels: les Défis Mondiaux, la Famille et la Communauté, la Vie Contemporaine, la Science et la Technologie, l’Esthétique et la Quête de Soi.* Continue what you started in III or IV Honors and challenge yourself in the highest level we offer in French. Have you ever said to yourself: “ I’ve always wanted to read The Stranger”? or, “my senior year needs to reflect more rigor”? If so, *je vous verrai en septembre, prêt à travailler!*

*Prerequisite: Completion of French 3 Honors with at least a 90 for the year*

**Mathematics**

**Algebra I (1.0 credit)**

“When am I ever going to use this in real life?” is the question universally asked about algebra. The answer is that life is full of problems, and algebra provides a set of tools for solving many of them. In this course, students are presented with a menu of challenging activities and work both collaboratively and independently to determine how to apply algebraic concepts appropriately in different situations. Particular emphasis is given to honoring the variety of possible approaches to the same problem, and students are expected to be able to communicate effectively their reasoning both orally and in writing.

**Geometry (1.0 credit)**

“I thought Geometry was just learning a bunch of old theorems and proving stuff.” Not in this course! At Chase, students use both old-fashioned devices (protractors and rulers) and brand-new devices (iPads and SmartBoards) in Discovery Activities to find on their own many of the fundamental concepts of Geometry. Deductive and inductive reasoning skills are practiced constantly and applied in Application Problems that are based on real examples and often involve teams of students taking measurements and working together outside of the classroom. Throughout the course, algebra skills are reinforced by being employed to solve geometric problems.

*Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra I.*

**Honors Geometry (1.0 credit)**

First, read the description above for College Prep Geometry as a start, because everything there applies here. Now, add to that an almost daily model of Observation/Prediction/Discovery followed by in-depth discussions about the resulting definitions, postulates and theorems. Reasoning skills are deepened by a greater emphasis on the various ways to prove geometric ideas, and coordinate proofs and introductory trigonometry are studied in depth. Students truly learn from each other as they are expected to communicate their ideas and discoveries accurately and succinctly.

*Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra I and permission of the department.*

**Algebra II (1.0 credit)**

If math class is like a workshop, then Algebra II is like a toolbox. One constantly collects, organizes, and refines their skills with these tools to help make the world a better place. Algebra II is filled with tools that are refined and perfected, as well as brand new tools to be utilized. These tools can help us predict the future, or find out if that train is ever going to arrive at the station. They help us solve for multiple variables and write coded messages. In Algebra II students analyze why equations behave the way that they do, what effect changing a part of the equation can have, and hone their problem solving skills. Whether you are “a math person” or not, you can succeed with a little elbow grease, so grab a tool and let’s get to work!

*Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra I.*

**Algebra II Honors (1.0 credit)**

If Algebra II is like a toolbox, then Algebra II Honors is like a bigger, faster toolbox. One constantly collects, organizes, and refines their skills with these tools to help make the world a better place. Algebra II Honors is filled with tools that are refined and perfected, as well as brand new tools to be utilized. These tools can help us predict the future, or find out if that train is ever going to arrive at the station. They help us solve for multiple variables and write coded messages. In Algebra II Honors students analyze why equations behave the way that they do, what effect changing a part of the equation can have, and hone their problem solving skills.

*Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra I and permission of the department.*

**Precalculus (1.0 credit)**

“What is the difference between Algebra and Precalculus?” Precalculus ties in many topics from Algebra and Geometry to analytical and practical uses. Students learn not only what goes up, must come down, but where it comes down. Students are introduced to the wonderful world of trigonometry, and need to be careful to follow the law, of sine and cosine. Problem solving is key and one must not be afraid to make mistakes. There are many practical applications that are used and topics that link to Calculus and more advanced math courses.

*Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra II.*

**Honors Precalculus (1.0 credit)**

Do not let the “pre” fool you! Yes, this course is a necessary step toward a calculus course, but students consider calculus concepts throughout the year as they explore changing systems such as a ball being thrown up into the air or the movement of a boat across a river. Students develop coordinate systems leading to an understanding of Trigonometry, polar coordinates, and vectors. Matrices are used to solve real world problems and conic sections help model physical phenomena.

*Prerequisite: Completion of Honors Algebra II and permission of the department.*

**Statistics and Probability (.5 credit)**

“Statistics is used by charlatans to fool the masses.” In these days of a polarized political landscape and spin put on news stories, wouldn’t it be nice to arm yourself with actual knowledge of how statistics are supposed to work and be interpreted? And with Powerball jackpots growing to over a billion dollars, do you understand the reasons why states have lotteries? This course will help you analyze data and graphical depictions of data as well as do your own research. An understanding of statistics and probability is useful in almost any field you choose to pursue in the future.

*Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra II.*

**Mathematical Modeling (.5 credit)**

What does math look like? Modeling links classroom mathematics and statistics to everyday life, work, and decision-making. Modeling is the process of choosing and using appropriate mathematics and statistics to analyze situations, to understand them better, and to improve decisions. Quantities and their relationships in physical, economic, public policy, social, and everyday situations can be modeled using mathematical and statistical methods. When making mathematical models, students will use appropriate technology to make assumptions, explore consequences, and compare predictions with data.

*Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra II.*

**Engineering (.5 credit)**

Engineering is designed to take students through the design and prototyping process. This course will contain knowledge and analytical components. Students will be exposed to some of the major concepts that they will encounter in a postsecondary engineering course. Students will have an opportunity to investigate engineering and high tech careers as well as develop skills and understanding of course concepts through activities and projects. Students will develop problem-solving skills and apply their knowledge of research and design to create solutions to various challenges. Students will also learn how to document their work and communicate their solutions to their peers and community.

**AP Statistics (1.0 credit)**

“Statistics is used by charlatans to fool the masses.” In these days of a polarized political landscape and spin put on news stories, wouldn’t it be nice to arm yourself with actual knowledge of how statistics are supposed to work and be interpreted? This course will help you analyze data and graphical depictions of data as well as do your own formal hypothesis testing. You will understand the power and limits of statistical analysis. This is a fast-paced course that covers all topics required by the college-board and is equivalent to a college level statistics course. Good communication is emphasized so students taking the class should have strong analytical as well as verbal skills. Statistics is used in almost every field, so this might be one of the most fun and useful classes you have ever taken!

*Prerequisite*: *Completion of Algebra II and permission of the department.*

**Calculus (1.0 credit)**

Everything in the universe is changing, from the smallest quantum particle to the largest galaxy. Calculus is the study of change, whether looking at a rate of change at a particular moment in time, being the derivative, or the total change over a collection of moments, being the integral. This course allows students to explore dynamical systems and develop the tools of calculus.

*Prerequisite: Completion of Precalculus or Honors Precalculus.*

**AP Calculus AB (1.0 credit)**

Everything in the universe is changing, from the smallest quantum particle to the largest galaxy. Calculus is the study of change, whether looking at a rate of change at a particular moment in time, being the derivative, or the total change over a collection of moments, being the integral. This fast-paced course covers all AB topics provided by the College Board equivalent to at least the first semester of a college calculus course. Students have the opportunity to explore dynamical systems to develop the tools of calculus and apply them to many challenging problems.

*Prerequisite: Completion of Honors Precalculus and Permission of the Department.*

**AP Calculus BC (1.0 credit)**

Everything in the universe is changing, from the smallest quantum particle to the largest galaxy. Calculus is the study of change, whether looking at a rate of change at a particular moment in time, being the derivative, or the total change over a collection of moments, being the integral. This fast-paced course covers all BC topics provided by the College Board equivalent to at least the first two-semesters of a college calculus course. Students have the opportunity to explore dynamical systems to develop the tools of calculus and apply them to many challenging problems.

*Prerequisite: Completion of Honors Precalculus with at least a 90% and Permission of the Department.*

**Multivariable Calculus (1.0 credit)**

Why limit ourselves to the study of two dimensional space when we are aware of our three dimensional world? And why stop at three dimensions? Many physical phenomena depend on multi-variables, such as the study of electric and magnetic fields that depend on three space variables as well as time. In the field of economics, functions can depend on a large number of independent variables, for example the cost to produce an item may depend on the price of many different commodities. When more variables are added, more geometric dimensions are added, and therefore the more exciting and challenging the problem can become.

*Prerequisite: Completion of AP Calculus BC and Permission of the Department.*

**Science**

**Conceptual Physics (required, Grade 9) (1.0 credit)**

This is an introductory, laboratory-based course that emphasizes a conceptual understanding of the physics behind everyday phenomena. Topics include Newtonian mechanics, momentum, collisions, and energy, electricity and magnetism, heat, sound and light. Concepts are introduced and explored through demonstrations and guided inquiry based laboratory experiments. The mathematical relationships in physics are illustrated to improve conceptual understanding of math and science. The course is blended and includes interactive activities and assignments in both traditional and web-based formats. Numerous real-world applications are explored so that students come away from the course understanding the rules of nature and how things work. In the laboratory, students observe and explore physical phenomena and ultimately design experiments in inquiry-based labs. A balance of traditional low-tech equipment and digital (Vernier) probe-ware is used to appeal to a wide variety of learners.

**Chemistry** **(required, Grade 10) (1.0 credit)**

Chemistry is everywhere. Whether you are an up-and-coming scientist or just curious about the way the world works, understanding the contributions of chemistry gives you a new perspective. In this year-long lab course, we will look at chemistry in everyday life - from fireworks to air bags to energy in food, as well as uncover chemistry’s scientific laws and principles. We will discover the basics of atomic structure, periodic properties, bonding, chemical reactions, gas properties and thermodynamics all within a discovery-based and problem-solving, interactive classroom. Learn the basics of experimental design and then apply your knowledge as you create and execute your own scientific experiments. iPads are used for a variety of applications such as on-line simulations or wireless data collections devices to help enhance all students’ critical

thinking and analytical skills.

**Biology** (**required, Grade 11) (1.0 credit)**

We’ve all experienced that “edge of our seat” moment: an exhilarating roller coaster ride, an unexpected twist at the end of a movie, the final seconds of a championship game that could go either way, or the event that allows us to check a box off of our own personal bucket list. In those moments, each of us is totally engaged in and exhilarated by the process of living. But what, in fact, does it mean to be alive? The study of biology is a natural science concerned with finding the answer to that question. Biologists explore, among other topics, the origin, structure, function, growth, evolution and distribution of living organisms on Earth. In this year-long science course, students will employ critical thinking and problem-solving skills in an effort to help them better appreciate the biodiversity of the planet and the magnificent processes associated with living.

**Advanced Placement Chemistry**  **(1.0 credit)**

Come and be challenged by this college-level course that draws from the foundations you gained from Chemistry. You will design complex experiments, use advanced sensitive laboratory equipment, interpret and analyze experimental data both qualitatively and graphically and, based on those, discover new relationships between variables. We will explore the course’s five “Big Ideas” first by previewing the material using “the flipped classroom approach” and then, during class, by using guided-inquiry collaborative activities, interactive computer simulations and practice problems to fully grasp these concepts. After the Advanced Placement exam in early May, we research and present self-selected chemical demonstrations.

*Prerequisite:* *Permission of the Department.*

**Advanced Placement Physics 1** **(1.0 credit)**

In this honors level algebra-based course, topics are covered in-depth and the material is cumulative. In the first semester, students study kinematics, Newton’s laws, circular and rotational motion and the universal law of gravitation. In the second semester they study simple harmonic motion, momentum and collisions, work and energy, electrostatics, DC circuits, mechanical waves and sound. The course is blended and includes interactive activities and assignments in both traditional and web-based formats. Collaborative work is promoted in problem solving, laboratory experiments, and presentations. In the laboratory, students observe and explore physical phenomena and ultimately design experiments in inquiry-based labs. Experimental methods and techniques of data collection, interpretation, and error analysis are covered. A balance of traditional low-tech equipment and digital (Vernier) probe-ware is used. Students are required to take the AP Physics 1 exam at the end of the year.

*Prerequisites:* *Honors pre-calculus, concurrently; and permission of the Department.*

**Advanced Placement Biology (1.0 credits)**

Fast-paced and demanding, this broad survey of modern biology aims to provide students with the conceptual framework, factual knowledge, and analytical skills necessary to comprehend this rapidly changing life science. Intended to approximate a first-year university course, AP Biology is structured around four main ideas and the enduring understandings within those ideas to ensure that students develop a true understanding of biological concepts rather than simply, an accumulation of facts. Using a wide variety of methodologies that incorporate both traditional and technological resources, students will explore topics including, but not limited to: biochemistry, cell structure and function, metabolic processes, cellular communication, genetics, biotechnology, evolution, and ecology. Students enrolling in this course should appreciate the science of biology as an experience in scientific inquiry intended to further develop their observational, problem-solving and critical thinking skills.

*Prerequisites:* Biology, Chemistry, and *Departmental permission*

**Environmental Science (1.0 credit)**

Environmental Science is the most multidisciplinary field course you can take at Chase. It draws not only from other sciences like Biology, Chemistry and Earth Science, but also connects to History, Geography and Mathematics. We identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made. We also evaluate the risks associated with these problems and examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them. We conduct weekly experiments both in the lab and outdoors using our campus as a “living laboratory”. Students’ weekly research and oral presentations of current environmental events allow us to see how the pressing issues of today connect to the major topics of the course.

**Introduction to Organic Chemistry (Lab-based) (0.5 credit)**

This one semester course will provide students with an introduction to the structure and reactivity of organic compounds (including alkanes, cycloalkanes, alkenes, alkynes, alkyl halides, alcohols, amines, arenes, and some carbonyl compounds). Frequent discussion of current applications and scientific advances will emphasize the increasingly interdisciplinary nature of science today and the vital role chemistry plays. Topics include nomenclature, stereochemistry, reactivity, and conformational analysis. Select organic reactions and their mechanisms will be studied. Synthesis and retro-synthetic analysis will be introduced. In some cases an oral presentation will be required during the semester. Students will have the freedom to choose a current topic or issue to research and present to the class. Frequent feedback will be provided during class discussions and individual conferences. In the lab, students study the properties of organic compounds. They learn techniques for handling, separating, isolating, and purifying organic compounds, including extraction, crystallization and chromatography. They also carry out reactions and isolate products. The course is designed to provide students who are interested in physical or biomedical sciences with a thorough introduction to Organic Chemistry, a required course for many college science majors. *Minimum prerequisite:* *At least 85 average in chemistry.*

**Forensic Science (0.5 credit)**

This one-semester laboratory-based course is designed to instill an understanding of and appreciation for the field of forensic science. Group discussion combined with deductive reasoning exercises and laboratory activities will provide students with a “hands-on” opportunity to learn the methods, procedures, and techniques currently used by forensic scientists, crime scene investigators, and other law enforcement personnel. Topics in this interactive classroom include, but are not limited to: the history of forensic science, observation and eyewitness testimony, crime-scene investigation and evidence collection, forensic pathology and anthropology, examination of trace evidence, latent fingerprint analysis, bloodstain analysis and other basic analytical laboratory techniques. Projects and presentations are an integral part of this course.

**Anatomy and Physiology (0.5 credit)**

Anatomy and physiology is a one-semester project-based, laboratory course that will enable students to develop an understanding of the relationships between the structures and functions of the human body. Students will begin their exploration with an in-depth study of the cell, examine how cells come together to form tissues, learn how tissues are organized into organs, and study how those organs, as components of organ systems, communicate and cooperate with one another within the body. In addition to exploring normal system function, human pathology will also be explored from the subcellular to the organismal level. The course is appropriate for students interested in the life sciences as well as those with career aspirations in the health-care field.

**Robotics (0.5 credits)**

Robotics is a semester-long course for students who are interested in earning credit as part of Chase’s robotics team or those who wish to learn more about constructing and programming of both autonomous and student controlled robots. Enrolled students, as well as club members, will learn how to plan and build a robot to specifications, program on the android platform, and take on community outreach projects. Students will be evaluated on communication, collaboration, problem solving, and team building. Robots are operated using Android phones that communicate between controls and the robot. Students enrolled in the class will compete along with club members in the ‘First Tech Challenge’ and will be required to attend after school meetings, as well as an occasional weekend meeting and competitions held during Semester I.

**Environmental Science and Sustainability (0.5 credits)**

Sustainable development - the use of environmental resources in a responsible way to make sure they will continue to be available to future generations - is one of the most pressing issues facing our generation. It impacts our personal life, our local community, and the world as whole. By addressing some of the key aspects of sustainable development, you will gain the skills necessary for making decisions critical to your future and the future of other living things on Earth. We will participate in a wide range of activities, including hands-on labs, current and historical reading, role-plays, presentations, and debates. We will also frequently use the book *Material World*, which provides a pictorial view of life in dozens of countries around the world.

**Environmental Science and Climate Change (0.5 credits)**

Climate change is arguably the biggest challenge of our time and being able to talk about it from an informed perspective is an essential skill of a global citizen. In this course, we will learn how climate works and how it differs from the weather, what factors cause climate to change across different regions and time scales, and how those factors interact. We will also explore how climate has changed in the past; what models scientists use and how they use them, how they make predictions about future climate; and the possible consequences of climate change for our planet. The course explores evidence for changes in global temperatures, sea levels and oceans’ acidity due to global warming. Most importantly, the course looks at the connection between human activity and the current warming trend and considers both some of the social, economic and environmental consequences of climate change and sustainable solutions. We will participate in discussions, debates, analyze both scientific and popular articles, perform lab activities both inside and outside the classroom, and practice presentation skills.

**Engineering (.5 credit)**

This class will build rockets, planes, boats, cars, and structures. Projects will start with a team idea and advance to conceptual drawings. Using a "Shark Tank" selection process, teams will vote on the projects they will build to scale.

Design, fabrication and manufacturing techniques will be explored based upon the projects selected. Learn how to connect various materials, shape wood and metal. We will learn from construction failures, as we make the things we enjoy.

**Engineering - Large Scale (.5 credit)**

Build big things! This project based class will learn to design and build larger items. Projects will include drawings, models, and final builds. Projects can be designed and constructed by individuals or teams. Builds can be made from various materials including wood, plastic, metal, and or resins.

**Product Design and Fabrication (.5 credit)**

Why do some inventions succeed while others fail. We will use design thinking to improve objects around us. Students will select objects like tables, chairs, boats, gliders, lamps, tools, and analyze the objects for ways to improve the function, appearance, construction, reliability of the item. Then the improved student designs will be fabricated in class. This is a project based class.

**History and Social Studies**

**Germany in the Twentieth Century (.5 credit)**

Few countries or people have had an experience like Germany and the Germans in the 20th Century. World Wars I and II, democracy and the rise of fascism, division and occupation after World War II, and reunification after the opening of the Berlin Wall are just a few of the topics that can be examined. The course will conclude with a look at present-day Germany.

**Post World War II America (.5 credit)**

This semester elective emphasizes the events that transformed American society from the end of the Second World War to the present. Topics to be included include the Civil Rights Movement, Women’s Movement, student movement and the counterculture, the Cold War and Vietnam, and American society in the early years of the 21st century. Films, music, and novels will be examined as will more traditional sources.

**History of the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union (.5 credit)**

This course will look at the Russian Empire in the 19th century focusing on its attempts at reform following the Crimean War, the Russo-Japanese War, and the First World War. Following the abdication of the Tsar and the collapse of Imperial Russia, we will explore the life of the Soviet Union from its birth in the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 to its demise in the early 1990s. After a brief overview of socialist/communist ideology, we will begin to look at major events in the history of the world’s first communist state. These will include the 1917 Revolution, the Civil War, Stalin’s rise to and consolidation of power, industrial and agricultural development in the 1930s, World War II (the Great Patriotic War), the Cold War, and finally the fall of Communism. Throughout the course history will be augmented with film, literature, and art.

**Songs of Protest: Music and History in the Struggle for Change (.5 credit)**

This semester course surveys the music that either acted as a catalyst or was a response to major historical events, beginning with the study of the American and French Revolutions and culminating with that of worldwide situations in the Digital Age. The history of numerous major events will be covered along with the music that influenced the times. The final project for this semester course is individualized, giving students the opportunity to examine an historical event, an artist, and songs through the lens of the time period. No previous music theory or history coursework is required. This is a collaboration between the history and music departments.

[Note: this class would allow students to earn 0.5 credit in EITHER art or history/social studies]

**History of the 20th Century Through Film (.5 credit)**

In this semester-long elective, students will learn to critically view and analyze films in order to understand elements such as authorial point of view, bias, and intended message. Employing these skills, students will view a collection of films that explore the important events and developments of the 20th century. This course will be participation-intensive, and assessments will include written assignments, presentations, and projects.’

**The Art of Propaganda & the Print** **(.5 credit)**

In this semester-long elective, students will learn to use the techniques of printmaking. They will also learn how to recognize and analyze propaganda, and the ways in which printmaking has been employed for propaganda since the invention of the printing press to the present day.

[Note: this class would allow students to earn 0.5 credit in EITHER art or history/social studies]

**Propaganda, Persuasion, and History** **(.5 credit)**

In our globalized world we are exposed to propaganda every day, and critical thinking about propaganda and understanding its intent are important responsibilities of citizenship in the 21st century. This semester elective will explore the history, theory and practice of propaganda from the age of Pyramids in Ancient Egypt to the present day. Through the examination of propaganda in its many forms (i.e. art, literature, music, politics, advertising, film, social media, etc.), we will consider the past, present and future of propaganda in order to understand the complex role it plays in our lives. This course will be both participation- and reading-intensive, and assessments will include written assignments, presentations, and creative projects.’

**History of Western Political Philosophy** **(.5 credit)**

Do you believe that people possess certain rights? As humans? As citizens? In 21st century America, it is easy to take for granted the benefits and stability of living in a modern democratic country, but how did we get here? While the governments of ancient Greece and the Roman Republic may have foreshadowed elements of modern democracy, life for the average person was certainly much different in medieval Europe. This semester elective will explore the ideas, historical contexts, and revolutions surrounding the evolving phases and forms of political system throughout Western history.’

**English**

**English 9: A Study in Becoming (1.0 credit)**

Students explore, study, and develop their own understandings of self-identity, engaging with questions of gender, race, class, and sexual orientation through diverse texts reflective of their readers.

**English 10: Global Literature (1.0 credit)**

The decisions made by humankind in the past have created the society that we currently live in, and the decisions we make today will create the society of our future. How can we learn from our past, take action in the present, and strive towards a future predicated on justice, equality, sustainability, and peace? In 10th grade English, we will engage intellectually with texts and ideas from our forebears and our contemporaries as a means of collectively journeying forward with hope and purpose.

*Prerequisite: English 9*

**AP English Language and Composition (1.0 credit)**

This course requires students to become skilled readers of prose written in a variety of rhetorical contexts and skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Both their reading and their writing should make students aware of interactions among a writer’s purposes, reader expectations, and an author’s propositional content, as well as the genre conventions and the resources of language that contribute to effectiveness in writing. (From <https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/digitalServices/pdf/ap/ap-english-language-and-composition-course-description.pdf>)

*Prerequisites: Students must have*

* *completed 9th and 10th grade English;*
* *an 85% or above in core English courses;*
* *the ability to efficiently read, understand, interpret, analyze, and critically respond to substantial texts through writing and speaking;*
* *demonstrated intellectual curiosity and intrinsic motivation; and/or*
* *English teacher(s) recommendation(s).*

**AP English Literature and Composition (1.0 credit)**

This course engages students in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. Through the close reading of selected texts, students deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. As they read, students consider a work’s structure, style and themes, as well as such smaller-scale elements as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism and tone. (From, <http://media.collegeboard.com/digitalServices/pdf/ap/ap-english-literature-and-composition-course-description.pdf>)

*Prerequisites: Students must have*

* *completed 9th and 10th grade English;*
* *an 85% or above in core English courses;*
* *the ability to efficiently read, understand, interpret, analyze, and critically respond to substantial texts through writing and speaking;*
* *demonstrated intellectual curiosity and intrinsic motivation; and/or*
* *English teacher(s) recommendation(s).*

**Social Media and the Common Good** **(.5 credits)**

Students examine social media from Facebook to Instagram to Snapchat and engage with questions about ethics, morality, brain science, empathy, and the Common Good.

*Prerequisite: English 9*

**Knowledge and Knowing** **(.5 credits)**

Students unpack what it means to know something: the ways of knowing something; the different types of knowledge; what comprises truth, fact, and opinion; and how to spot (and use!) logical fallacies.

*Prerequisite: English 9*

**The Democracy and Ethics of Memory. (.5 credits)**

Students assess what makes something worthy of being remembered and memorialized, investigating questions of one’s right to privacy, the challenges of documentary evidence collection, and the ethics of preservation. Team-taught with the Chase Librarian/Archivist.

*Prerequisite: English 9*

**Global Humanitarian Ethics** **(.5 credits)**

Students consider global crises and devise ethical responses thereto, noting what challenges exist to responding ethically and how global leaders can best sustainably equip persons in need.

*Prerequisite: English 9*

**“Setting, Scenery, Landscape”: Exploring Place in Literature (.5 credits)**

Students will immerse themselves in the real-life locations explored in literature, traveling from place to place as they move from text to text to examine how setting is vital to the stories that unfold within its borders.

**Introduction to Power, Privilege, and Social Justice** **(.5 credits)**

Students explore what are the concerns of social justice, how privilege yields oppression, and how to respond to injustice through well-organized nonviolent action.

*Prerequisite: English 9*

**Special Topics in Social Justice (.5 credits)**

Students advance their knowledge and skills from the introductory course through careful consideration of the fundamentals of organizing, approaches to mobilization, implementation of nonviolent action, and inquiry into historical social movements.

*Prerequisites: Introduction to Power, Privilege, and Social Justice & English 9*

**Race and Racism in America (.5 credits)**

Students unpack the complicated and troublesome history of racial oppression through literary and non-literary texts, asking questions about the origin of the creation of race and practices of racial segregation, alongside contemporary questions of institutional racism and white privilege.

*Prerequisites: English 9*

**To Love and Be Loved (.5 credits)**

Harness the power of richly diverse literary, artistic, and philosophical forms - such as art, music, novels, film, plays, poetry, social media, and philosophical treatises - as a means of exploring the complex concept of love and the role it plays in your life.

*Prerequisite: English 9*

**Graphic Novels and Comics: Where Humanity Meets Heroics** **(.5 credits)**

Dive into the mesmerizing world of visual storytelling, engage with fresh perspectives on complex topics, and luxuriate in the confluence of art + text while exploring ideas that are central to our human experience: identity, conflict, and love.

*Prerequisite: English 9*

**The Struggle is Real: The Literature and Film of Resistance (.5 credits)**

Immerse yourself in the lives of the ordinary-turned-legendary people in our modern age who have become classic symbols of resistance and, in the process, consider your own potential for inspiring positive change in your local and/or global communities.

**LOL: Literature of Laughter** **(.5 credits)**

Savor both the lighthearted and serious nature of satire, parody, irony, farce, and wit throughout time and space while thinking critically about the perspectives and norms that these humorous texts represent.

*Prerequisites: 9th and 10th grade English*

**Film Studies + Literature: Where Text Meets the Big Screen (.5 credits)**

Merging movies with literature, this course explores the confluence of the word and the image as a means of better understanding the world we live in. With a focus on innovation, representation, and technique, we will think critically about the ideas we encounter on the big screen and consider the complexities of visually representing the written word.

**The Literature of Survival (.5 credits)**

How do people respond when they encounter a potentially insurmountable deadly situation, and what can we learn from them and their experiences? Taught by both Ms. Moore and Mr. Lankford, the course partners thrilling survivalist fiction and nonfiction with the hands-on development of real life survival skills.

*Prerequisite: English 9*

**Banned Books (.5 credits)**

Why are books banned, censored, and challenged? And what does this practice reveal about our society, our neighbors, and ourselves? In this course, we will think critically about the power of words and ideas, debate taboo and controversial topics, and develop our own well-informed opinions about subjects that many dare not discuss.

*Prerequisites: 9th and 10th grade English*

**From Ballad to Rock: I hear Literature Singing (.5 credits)**

Discover the intertwining of poetry and rock, literature and song. Discover where history meets your playlist, understand the soundtrack of your life, and the songs of a generation. We will look at ballads, rock anthems, rap, and even a few pop songs to show how music becomes more than a sound when we see how deep its roots travel.

*Prerequisite: English 9*

**Not So Bedtime Stories: Brothers Grimm to Disney (.5 credits)**

Think you know the folk and fairy tales of your childhood? We will look at a variety of tales and uncover the real meaning behind them, as we unravel the tragic life of the ungrateful son and grandma’s gruesome death.

*Prerequisite: English 9*

**Pop Culture and Lit: Form and Function (.5 credits)**

Discover how many of the classic characters of literature have infiltrated into our everyday lives – from the shelves of stores to *The Simpsons* and *Phineas and Ferb.*

*Prerequisite: English 9*

**Get a Clue: Crime Fiction from Page to Screen (.5 credits)**

Holmes, Marple, Bond, and Ryan … just a few names that that found homes in some of the best mystery crime novels and on screens big and small. We will explore these characters and more and look at some of the best screen adaptations.

*Prerequisite: English 9*

**Creative Writing (.5 credits)**

No matter your level of interest, this course will encourage you to develop your skills in writing poetry, fiction, and drama. Students will have the opportunity to practice the art and craft of writing, as well as opportunities to submit finished works in variety of editorial and peer reviewed literary magazines.

**The Play’s the Thing: Experiencing Modern Drama (.5 credits)**

Love the play …. But love modern themes and ideas, as well? We will read and explore the topics of the modern and contemporary play and see how real life comes alive on the page and on stage. *Prerequisite: English 9*

[Note: this class would allow students to earn 0.5 credit in EITHER art or English]