



A Guide to Learning on the Savoy Campus

Developing innovative, compassionate and responsible citizens of the world.



Preparatory Years: Course Descriptions

English 1

English 1 (Grade 9) is a survey of world literature, nonfiction, and current events while focusing on major global issues in the world today. By analyzing the course texts through the perspective of important global concerns, the students will be able to make larger, interdisciplinary connections between fiction, the real world, and their own personal experiences. The students will explore these texts and issues through argumentative and analytical writing, oral presentations, and project-based creative interpretations of the greater meanings and themes based on the course discussions and readings.

English 2

English 2 (Grade 10) is designed as an IB Diploma Program prep-course focusing on individual student interpretation and analysis of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction texts related to important social and environmental issues in the world. The students will examine the modes of discourse in order to address the needs of nonfiction rhetorical analysis as well as formal analytical skills required for fiction and poetry. This course is primarily student-centered yet teacher-led in order to offer the students autonomy while ensuring guided supervised learning needs.

ELA Foundation Writing, Guided Reading, Skills

The goal of the ELA Foundation courses is to give students the opportunity to develop basic communication skills needed to go on to further academic studies in English. Classes focus on conversational and academic topics ranging from school life, nature, community life, health and media. Students will improve listening and speaking skills, as well as reading and writing skills. They will develop their vocabulary and knowledge of English grammar. Throughout the courses, students will practice using the library as a source for finding reading materials, use various registers and text types for writing in English and communicating in English for socializing, studying and working.

ELA Literature and Reading 1 & 2

As students develop proficiency in the English language, they will move through the progression of ELA courses at LAS. The goal of ELA Literature & Reading is to improve student reading ability in English. Classes focus on the reading process and the skills needed to become a good reader including inferring, predicting, and analyzing.

Advanced students will also undertake the study of literary analysis, where the goals are similar to that of mainstream literature courses, but the pace is modified and vocabulary study is emphasized. Assigned texts may include *The Outsiders*, *Go Ask Alice*, *Night*, *Of Mice and Men* & *Catcher in the Rye*, whose characters are teenagers or young adults. The novels are representative of different cultures, time periods, and styles. Projects and activities will give students opportunities to extend their understanding of the different novels studied and their contexts. In analyzing literary works, students will discuss symbolism, theme, character development, plot, narrative point of view, setting, and tone.



ELA Skills 1 & 2

ELA 1 & 2 Skills is an intermediate and advanced level course in English for speakers of other languages. The course is an introduction to English for academic purposes. The focus is primarily on writing and reading skills. Throughout the course students develop an awareness of grammatical structures used in informal and formal communication, including a review of basic tenses and developing complex sentence structure. Students will learn how to write academic essays and other text types, in addition to giving formal presentations. Grammar structures are taught through topics on various global issues. In terms of reading skills, there is a focus on comprehension of informational/nonfiction texts. ELA Skills courses are complemented by ELA Literature & Reading courses, where fiction texts are explored and basic elements of literary analysis are introduced.

Beginner French

This course aims to develop basic communicative proficiency in French language and provide an introduction to the study of French-speaking cultures. It assumes that the students have minimal or no prior knowledge of the language and culture. Major topics include developing communicative skills in the following situations: greetings, daily activities, ordering in restaurants, daily classroom conversation, discussing family relationships, professions and nationalities, shopping, domestic life, and health. Grammar topics include regular and irregular present tense verbs, negation, definite, indefinite and partitive articles, possessive adjectives, agreement of adjectives, interrogatives, forming questions using inversion, demonstrative articles, comparatives, and imperative verbs forms.

Intermediate French

The aims of this course are to develop oral and written communication skills in French through the study of a variety of authentic resources, with emphasis placed on developing oral communication skills and cultural understanding of French-speaking cultures. Major topics include health, media, travel, education, professions, legends and fairy tales. Principal grammar topics include: review of present tense verbs, the passé composé, futur and imparfait tenses, the subjunctive mood, conditional and si clauses, relative pronouns 'qui', 'que' and "dont".

At the end of the course students will be able to express ideas, opinions and emotions both orally and in writing, and shall be able to read, understand and interpret written language for a variety of purposes.

Advanced French/Fluent French

A continuation of the B1 Intermediate French course, this course aims to continue in the development of oral and written communication skills in French through the study of a variety of authentic texts and films. Emphasis continues to be placed on oral communication and cultural understanding, while written skills are also developed through reaction papers to the texts and films we study.

A course primarily aimed at native and near-native speakers, students in this course will further hone their language skills through the study of a variety of texts and films.



Students work includes short research papers, oral presentations, and learning how to write an "explication de texte" for both literature and film. Grammar topics will be discussed as needed to help students communicate clearly.

Beginner Spanish

This course provides students with knowledge of basic communication skills in Spanish and an introduction to the Spanish-speaking world. It assumes that the students have minimal or no prior knowledge of the language and culture. By the end of the year students should be able to do the following in Spanish: express likes and dislikes, talk about school and activities, describe their family and friends, order food in a restaurant, and shop for clothing. A key focus of this course is developing confidence in the learners with listening to and speaking in Spanish. Grammar topics include present tense regular and irregular verbs, agreement of adjectives, basic future tense and an introduction to some verbs in the past tense.

Intermediate Spanish

This course emphasizes effective communication in Spanish in a variety of everyday situations through tasks that incorporate listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Students explore a variety of topics related to Hispanic and Latino culture.

Vocabulary is arranged according to themes including the following: school and extracurricular activities, preparing for an event, getting around in the city, memories of childhood. Grammar topics include a revision of regular and irregular verbs in the present tense, the imperfect tense, the preterite tense, an introduction to the future and conditional tenses, adjectives and pronouns.

ELA Integrated Lab Science 1

ELA science is taught as an integrated course that focuses on language acquisition through the teaching of scientific skills and concepts. Through this course, students will acquire knowledge of the core components of biology, chemistry and physics. Across the disciplines, students will learn about cells, biochemistry, chemical reactions, energy changes, motion and waves. The ELA Integrated Lab Science course mirrors the content of the mainstream program in order to allow students the opportunity to progress and transition into mainstream and IB courses. Through studying Integrated Science at LAS students will become critical thinkers and problem solvers, who have a solid grasp of scientific concepts and their real world application.

ELA Integrated Lab Science 2

ELA science is taught as an integrated course that focuses on language acquisition through the teaching of scientific skills and concepts. Through this course, students will acquire knowledge of the core components of biology, chemistry and physics. Across the disciplines, students will learn about cells, biochemistry, chemical reactions, energy changes, motion and waves. The ELA Integrated Lab Science course mirrors the content of the mainstream program in order to allow students the opportunity to progress and transition into mainstream and IB courses. Through studying Integrated Science at LAS students will become critical thinkers and problem solvers, who have a solid grasp of scientific concepts and their real world application. Students will learn about specific topics which may include inheritance, ecosystems, stoichiometry, organic chemistry, electricity and magnetism.



The ELA Integrated Science course mirrors the content of the mainstream program to allow students the opportunity to progress and transition into mainstream and IB courses. Through studying Integrated Science at LAS students will become critical thinkers and problem solvers, who have a solid grasp of scientific concepts and their real world application. Students will learn and use the scientific method to create and use hypotheses and theories to the scientific process and be able to evaluate problems based upon the scientific process. The integrated nature of the program allows students to explore different branches of science and identify areas for further study at the DP or US diploma level.

ELA Foundations Integrated Lab Science 1 & 2

Science is taught as an integrated course that focuses on scientific skills through fundamental concepts. The course is aimed at progressively developing students and students' academic English by building upon fundamental concepts whilst simultaneously giving them an overview of the core components of biology, chemistry and physics. Specific topics include cells, simple chemical reactions, and Newton's Laws of Motion. Students develop their language and intercultural skills through the exploration of various science topics with the aim of communicating effectively with accuracy and fluency. The course builds students' understanding and use of academic language across the different areas of science including biology, chemistry and physics.

Integrated Lab Science 1

Science is taught as an integrated course that focuses on scientific skills through fundamental concepts. During Integrated Lab Science, students will acquire knowledge of the core components of biology, chemistry and physics. Across the disciplines, students will learn about cells, biochemistry, chemical reactions, energy changes, motion and waves. Students will learn and use the scientific method to create and use hypotheses and theories to engage in the scientific process. The integrated nature of the program allows students to explore different branches of science. Through studying Integrated Science at LAS students will become critical thinkers and problem solvers, who have a solid grasp of scientific concepts and their real world application.

Integrated Lab Science 2

Science is taught as an integrated course that focuses on scientific skills through fundamental concepts. Students will continue to explore the core components of biology, chemistry and physics. Across the disciplines, students will learn about reproductive and inheritance ecosystems and systems, stoichiometry, organic chemistry, electricity and electrical circuits and magnetism and electromagnetism. The integrated nature of the program allows students to explore different branches of science and identify areas for further study at the DP or US diploma level. Students will learn and practice the scientific method to create and use hypotheses and theories to engage in the scientific process. To prepare students for the IB, integrated science has a 'Nature of Science' approach to the content. It is designed to give students an understanding of how scientists approach scientific discovery and communicate their findings with the public. Through studying Integrated Science at LAS students will become critical thinkers and problem solvers, who have a solid grasp of scientific concepts and their real world application.



Chemistry

This course is a preparatory course for IB Chemistry that focuses on scientific skills through fundamental concepts. It introduces students to the rigors and rewards of an in-depth study of the chemical sciences. Students will acquire the knowledge of atomic structure, chemical reactions, experimental technique, stoichiometry, organic chemistry and energy changes. Through studying chemistry at LAS students will develop transferable skills as a critical thinker and problem solver, who has a solid grasp of scientific concepts and their real world application.

Social Studies 1

This course will provide students with a comprehensive understanding of ancient history, covering the period from 2500 BC to 1300 AD. Through the study of geography, history, politics and early economics, students will understand the components of social studies, the importance of creating a well-supported argument based on evidence, and linking a cause to its consequence.

Students will begin by looking at humanity's origins in Prehistory, examining how events such as the agricultural revolution and the formation of early civilizations eventually lead to the emergence of more complex societies. Students will explore and discuss the formation and growth of the classical empires of antiquity, such as Egypt, Greece and Rome. They will examine how the fall of the Roman Empire plunged Europe into a period some have labeled "The Dark Ages." The course finishes as Europe begins to enter the cultural flowering of "The Renaissance," a topic which will begin World History in 10th grade.

World History 2

This course is a year-long survey course covering the Renaissance through early 20th century. It is designed to give a thorough overview of history during this time while also preparing students for the IB. It focuses on several key historic time periods and the interaction between European and other cultures. Students learn how to locate, interpret, and analyze primary sources. The key time periods we look at include: The Renaissance, the Reformation, the Age of Exploration, the Enlightenment, and Imperialism and the rise of Nationalism. Throughout the course students will develop analytical thinking skills necessary for historical study and will apply these skills in research, reading, and essay writing. They will have the opportunity to conduct their own historical research and learn about the process of studying history through multiple perspectives.

ELA Social Studies 1

While covering a number of the same concepts and skills as Social Studies 9, this course emphasizes the acquisition of content specific vocabulary, academic writing in English and creating a coherent and well supported argument in speech and writing. This course will provide students with a comprehensive understanding of ancient history, covering the period from 2500 BC to 1300 AD. Through the study of geography, history, politics and early economics, students will understand the components of social studies, the importance of creating a well-supported argument based on evidence, and linking a cause to its consequence.

Students will begin by looking at the essential components of geography including maps, scale and the evolution of Earth. Students will begin by looking at humanity's origins in Prehistory, examining how events such as the agricultural revolution and the formation of early civilizations



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ELA World History 2

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Algebra 1

LAS mathematics will give students the chance to explore the connections between number, algebra, geometry and data. This course will accommodate every student's experiences and abilities. We are especially conscious that fostering curiosity and developing students' investigation and problem solving skills is important. As we near the IB Diploma Program, we turn our attention to providing the very best preparation and providing students with the information they need to make the right choices. Though this course will prepare students for IB Applications and Interpretations SL, it is also for students who do not wish to enroll in an IB math course in grade eleven or twelve.

Every year students complete at least one investigation that draws on their lesson content and challenges them to investigate and communicate their findings mathematically. This is great preparation for the IB Diploma Program and it gives students a sense of what it means to write about mathematics.

Algebra 1 Extended

LAS mathematics will give you the chance to explore the connections between number, algebra, geometry and data. This course will accommodate your experiences and abilities. We are especially conscious that fostering curiosity and developing your investigation and problem solving skills is important. As we near the IB Diploma Program program, we turn our attention to providing the very best preparation for the program and providing you with the information you need to make the right choices.

Every year you complete at least one investigation that draws on your lesson content and challenges you to investigate and communicate your findings mathematically. This is great preparation for the IB Diploma Program and it gives you a sense of what it means to write about mathematics.



Algebra 2

LAS mathematics will give students the chance to explore the connections between number, algebra, geometry and data. This course will accommodate every student's experiences and abilities. We are especially conscious that fostering curiosity and developing students' investigation and problem solving skills is important. As we near the IB Diploma Program, we turn our attention to providing the very best preparation and providing students with the information they need to make the right choices. Though this course will prepare students for IB Applications and Interpretations SL, it is also for students who do not wish to enroll in an IB math course in grade eleven or twelve.

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Algebra 2 Extended

This course is offered in both the Prep Years Program and during the Diploma Years. This course will give students the chance to explore connections between number, algebra, geometry and data. It will accommodate every student's experiences and abilities. We are especially conscious that fostering curiosity and developing students' investigation and problem solving skills is important. As we near the IB Diploma Program program we turn our attention to providing the very best preparation for the program and providing students with the information they need to make the right choices.

Every year you will complete at least one investigation that draws on your lesson content and challenges you to investigate and communicate your findings mathematically. This is great preparation for the IB Diploma Program and it will give you a sense of what it means to write about mathematics.

Pre-IB Math

This course is for Grade 10 students who are able to comfortably handle the content of Algebra 2 Extended and who demonstrate efficient algebra skills even in complex tasks. We are conscious that fostering curiosity and developing students' investigation and problem solving skills is vital and as such we offer puzzling and challenging questions in pure mathematics. As we near the IB Diploma Program program we turn our attention to providing the very best preparation for the program and providing students with the information they need to make the right choices.

Every year students complete at least one investigation that draws on their lesson content and challenges them to investigate and communicate their findings mathematically. This is great preparation for the IB Diploma Program and it gives students a sense of what it means to write about mathematics.



Music

Music is an arts elective where you will develop your musicality through performance, composition, and listening. Throughout the course, you will work collaboratively and independently through a variety of mediums to demonstrate comprehension, creative thought and skill. Projects will require you to think out of the box, critically reflect and analyze your work, and make informed decisions. Throughout the semester, you will learn music theory, play songs on an instrument, and create music using technology such as GarageBand and Logic Pro X. You will learn to critically think and reflect on the creative process the artists have used to develop the performance.

Design & Digital Media

This is an introductory course to Design through the lens of photography and video. You will learn how to take photos with an artistic eye and use a DSLR camera and then use the photos to create Digital art and Graphic design. You will use industry standard software and learn better design and layout skills in order to create eye-catching designs. You will learn video filming techniques, lighting, sound engineering and other aspects of video production from the initial concept to the final cut. During this course you will also learn about designers and how to use their ideas to improve your own work.

Integrated Arts

Integrated Arts is a multi-disciplinary course that allows students to explore aspects of art, music, and theater. Students will develop skills and basic understanding in the three art areas by creating and working on projects. Students will critically reflect on the relationship between the disciplines and are expected to collaborate with each other to develop their own understanding of the arts. The students are expected to contribute to the LAS arts culture by presenting their work to the LAS community.

Studio Art

This is a foundations course in Visual Arts with an emphasis on learning the Elements of Art. You will be engaged in a variety of techniques including painting, drawing, printmaking, and mixed media/ceramics. The lessons will be enriched with art history, aesthetics, and art criticism. You will learn about the work of artists and designers from many cultures around the world and how to evaluate and integrate their ideas and techniques in the production of your own art works. Students' willingness to take risks in their artwork, their participation in class discussions and art critiques, and their overall responsible behavior within the art room is an asset.

Technical Theater

Technical Theater is creative theater elective course for 9th and 10th grade students who are interested in the design elements of theater. Students will work on set, costume, sound, lighting, and prop design. Students will have opportunities to work on actual LAS productions and collaborate with their peers.



Theater Arts

Theater Arts allows students to explore the traditions of the art form through a wide range of presentation activities. Students will discover the theater arts through readings, monologues, short scenes, movement, and improvisation. The course emphasizes active engagement in the creative process, transforming ideas into individual and collective action.

Recreation & Sports

Recreation and Sports is a course designed to explore how to perform, understand and succeed in a range of sports and activities. Students will learn to play new sports, and discuss and practice the concepts of teamwork, strategy and leadership. They will apply concepts and theoretical knowledge to enhance their abilities, understanding and performance in a variety of activities. Students will explore the meaning and importance of health and fitness, building athletic abilities along with an understanding of how to play and engage in new sports. All content will be designed to provide students with the knowledge and experience to live an active and healthy life.

Exercise & Health Science

Exercise and Health Science is a course designed to explore the human body and build a deeper understanding of our body systems and how they affect us on a daily basis. Specific topics may include Anatomy, Physiology and Kinesiology. We will create projects and experiences that involve physical activities to promote lifelong activity and a healthy lifestyle. Sample projects may include designing a fitness plan to be implemented over a month period, creating healthy meal plans for a specific athletic diet and coaching peers in a variety of activities. Students will develop their understanding of how the human body works and how to keep it healthy. Our ultimate goal is to build a foundation for students to use when making lifelong decisions about creating a healthy and active future.

History's Mysteries Elective

In this year's history elective, we will dive into some of the world's most interesting and perplexing mysteries. Students will also learn historical skills that are essential to their success in the IB, including analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating evidence and sources, learning to defend ideas with facts, argue, justify, and defend reasoning, among others.

Psychology

This course focuses on the study of human behavior. As an introduction to the field of psychology, this course includes consideration of psychological principles, terminology, major theories, careers, methods of experimentation, and practical applications. Special topics include development, criminal psychology, social influence, memory, psychological problems, etc.



Academic Honesty at LAS

We take the idea of academic dishonesty seriously and make our expectations clear to students through the school's social and academic regulations.

As young adults preparing for university studies or entry into the workforce, Diploma Programme students both enjoy the freedom and bear the responsibility of studying a course that emphasizes independence and self-reliance. DP students are, appropriately, less dependent than their PYP and MYP counterparts on the steady intervention of teachers and parents checking to make sure that lessons are understood and assignments are completed on time. On the other hand, DP students experience a set of emotional pressures—the pressure to perform on summative assessments, the stress of the university admission process and time pressures—exerted by a system that can be seen to reward the individual's end result over the work (individual or collective) required to get there.

What does it take to be successful at LAS?

Learning to challenge yourself

Support is readily available to students at LAS, from the Academic Deans and their staff to the dormitories and faculty family's. Students should challenge themselves to push their limits and try new things. In their academics, students will be challenged and meeting that challenge is essential to success.

Finding Interests

Activities and sports at LAS offer a wide variety of opportunities. Making the most of these is essential to student's development as global citizens and in ensuring they have a balanced lifestyle in Leysin.

Making Friends

LAS is a community and lasting friendships between students from many parts of the world are a major part of why alumni return to visit years after they graduate.

Global Awareness

The international nature of the staff and students expose students to cultures and languages from 43 different countries. Cultural and service trips expose students to world issues and the role they play in a global society.

Focus on Earning Strong Qualifications

At LAS, you will be supported in your studies. Your aim should be to make the most of your opportunity. All we ask is that students reach for the stars and make the most of their ability and balance their lives to ensure they are healthy, happy and doing well in their classes. Strong qualifications will be of great benefit in applications to further education.

Preparing for success post-LAS

Your college counselling department will guide you in the process of applications and testing. It is essential for you to be thoughtful and aware of what makes you an excellent candidate for further education. If you prepare in advance through grades 10 and 11, the process of applications becomes much easier.