



ART

Art I (.5 credit)

An introductory course designed for students who wish to explore a wide variety of media such as drawing, color theory, painting, sculpture, mixed media, printmaking and design. The elements and principles of arts will introduce students to the works of famous artists. This course encourages creativity, problem solving, and the development of technical skills.

Art II (.5 credit)

Prerequisites: Art I

Students will be introduced to the fundamentals of drawing through exploratory projects in a variety of drawing media.

Graphic Design (1 credit)

This is a beginning level graphic design art course that introduces the elements and principles of design, spatial relationships, typography and imagery as they apply to practical visual solutions. The focus will be on finding creative visual solutions to communication problems using Photoshop skills.

Sculpture (1 credit)

This is a basic, exploratory course which introduces students to a variety of sculptures styles and materials. Students will experiment with wire, ceramics, plaster, found objects and much more.

Photo I (.5 credit)

This class is an exploration of what makes a good photograph. Students will learn about composition, camera control, light, and subject matter. Through many creative assignments, students will gain experience using Adobe Photoshop, cameras on their phones, point and shoot cameras, and DSLR cameras.

Photo II (.5 Credit)

Prerequisite: Photography I

This course focuses on refining the skills learned in Photography I. Students will continue to develop visual literacy skills in terms of looking at and reflecting upon their own art, the art of their peers, and the art of well-known photographers. Current world issues will be discussed and connected to the curriculum. In the studio, students will be further controlling the outcome of their artwork through the use of manual settings with projects connected to the school community and the greater Groton community, as well as in depth personal assignments. Students will be encouraged to find topics they are passionate about and create artwork around their independent ideas.

BUSINESS

Accounting I (.5 Credit)

Students are introduced to basic accounting concepts, principles, and procedures. Financial transactions are analyzed, recorded, and financial statements produced for service and merchandising businesses, using both manual and computerized accounting systems. *****This course may be used toward minimum mathematics requirements for graduation.***

Business Management and Entrepreneurship (1 Credit)

This is an introduction to management concepts, theory, and practice. Contemporary trends, issues, and management practices will be included. A project will take students through the process of starting a small business and will illustrate the step-by-step technical and non-technical skills necessary to successfully operate a business.

Honors Personal Finance I (.5 Credit)

Honors Personal Finance I offers an opportunity for students to develop critical skills of analysis, synthesis, and evaluation in a more rigorous and reflective academic setting. Students are empowered to perform at higher levels as they learn the ideas, concepts, knowledge and skills that will enable them to implement beneficial personal decision-making choices; to become wise, successful, and knowledgeable consumers, savers, investors, users of credit and money managers; and to be participating members of a global workforce and society.

Marketing I (.5 Credit)

An introductory course designed to develop an understanding of concepts and strategies needed to communicate information about products, services and/or ideas. Hands-on experience for marketing and business management is gained through Falcon Central, the school store. This course is designed to provide basics for entry-level positions and to prepare students for career opportunities in the business field.

Microsoft Office I (.5 Credit)

This course extends basic skills in Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Access). Students will develop the skills and knowledge necessary to be successful in post-secondary and career settings. Communication and problem solving skills will be emphasized and developed through a project-based learning approach. Highly recommended for all students.

Microsoft Office II (.5 credit)

A continuation of Microsoft Office 2 with more advanced skills in Microsoft Word and Excel integration. We will also learn some advanced business communication/presentation skills using Powerpoint as a tool. An introduction to databases and Microsoft Access will round out the course.

Personal Finance I (.5 Credit)

A must for every student! Practical skills in personal financial literacy that provides a foundation for making informed financial decisions. Students will be introduced to financial concepts and develop skills to be able to survive and prosper in our complex economy. Topics covered will include: income and money management, spending and credit, budgeting, banking and financial services. Basic math skills are required.

ENGLISH



YA Lit (formerly Adolescent Literature) (.5 Credit)

Students will read, write about, analyze, and discuss the common themes, narrative structures, and widespread appeal of stories involving teenage characters. Students will also be expected to read articles on the widely popular adolescent literature market known as "Young Adult Literature."

Children's Literature (.5 Credit)

This course is designed to encourage young adults to look more critically at children's books as well as discuss the themes and purposes of the books. Students will learn how different types of children's books target the varied stages of child development. Students will be given the opportunity to create their own books for children and to serve as volunteers in district elementary schools.

Creative Writing (.5 Credit)

Creative Writing is an introduction to the techniques of writing poetry, short fiction, creative nonfiction, and drama. Students will develop their personal styles while using writing for self-expression. Students will be expected to enter final products into professional and/or student contests as well as the school's literary magazine, to conference with the instructor, participate in writer response groups, research and read contemporary published authors, keep and regularly write in a writer's notebook, and experiment with and revise writing routinely. ***This course may be repeated for credit.***

Fantasy and Science Fiction (.5 credit)

From the pulp serials of the 1920s to the modern film and literary classics like *Harry Potter*, *The Lord of the Rings*, and *Star Wars*. Fantasy and Science Fiction have been among the most popular genres in America for more than a century now. This course will introduce students to the giants of the artform (Asimov, Clarke, Heinlein, Tolkien, LeGuin) as well as modern authors taking the worlds of Fantasy and Sci-Fi in new directions (Wells, Sanderson, Rothfuss, Gaiman, Jordan).

Film Analysis, Composition, and Criticism (.5 Credit)

This course incorporates the reading, writing, listening, speaking and viewing goals of Groton Public Schools to analyze and criticize film from 1896 - present. This course requires careful and consistent participation in class and in presenting written and oral assignments based on the intelligent and engaged analysis of film.

Gaming Narratives (.5 credit)

Why do so many games pose the player as the savior of the world? What is so appealing about playing the villain? Why is a New York plumber who jumps on sentient mushrooms in order to save a princess one of the world's most recognizable heroes? In exploring these questions, we will seek to explore the merits of narrative in one of modern day's most popular forms of entertainment, and to understand how it effectively wields narrative archetypes to resonate with our own values and culture

Graphic Novels (.5 credit)

This course will introduce students to the concept of sequential art as a story-telling medium. This course is designed to supplement skills taught in core English classes, while introducing students to the cultural impact of a new genre of literature. The course will focus on how various cultures influence and are influenced by their artistic mediums, and will involve the analysis of graphic literature from a multitude of cultural backgrounds to show how sequential art and literature functions as a universal medium for story-telling.

Horror Stories (.5 Credit)

An introductory study of the popular genre of horror stories. Students will analyze how horror stories can instill fear, anxiety, and revulsion in a reader. Students will be expected to read, write about, and discuss literary, image-based, and film-based texts on a regular basis. Additionally, students will be expected to read criticism and professional readings on horror stories.

Journalism (.5 Credit)

This course provides study on the foundations and impact of journalism. Students can expect to learn appropriate format, style, and values for news reporting, as well as interview skills, ethics, and understand tenets of investigative journalism and press law. Student writing will be incorporated into production of the school newspaper, *The Scarlet Tanager*.

Oral Communication I (.5 Credit)

This course provides instruction in planning and delivering different types of presentations and speeches, including extemporaneous, impromptu, and oratorical. Students will explore and enhance intrapersonal and interpersonal communication skills. In the first quarter we establish a safe and comfortable environment as students begin to discuss what makes them who they are, the importance of communication, and the different aspects of life that will require communicating effectively.

Poetry (.5 Credit)

This course is designed for students who have a deep interest in the particular conventions and demands of poetry. Students will learn and examine the structure of various poetic forms and will gain an understanding of the special demands of diction, syntax, imagery, symbolism, rhythm, rhyme and other sound elements in poetic forms. Students will be required to read and write a wide variety of poetic forms from different cultures and time periods.

Reading Success (.5 Credit)

This course is designed to increase student academic success and achievement through individual and small group reading instruction. Students receive strategic literacy instruction while concurrently enrolled in College Prep English. Diagnostic assessment tools will be used throughout the semester, so students elevate essential literacy skills. This additional period provides research-based reading and writing strategies to support core English instruction and the ongoing growth of critical thinking skills.

Sports Literature (.5 credit)

Sports can shape the way in which we experience the world around us and reveal what American culture believes to be important. This course will examine the way the ideas, thoughts, and emotions surrounding sports are expressed in writing, as well as various other mediums. Sports provide a connection and outlet to the daily lives of millions around the globe. In this course, we will aim to examine and analyze how sports took on such a large role in our society, and why we are all so drawn in.

Mythology (.5 Credit)

This course will help students learn the stories, characters, and concerns of classical mythology. Works to be studied include *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey of Homer* as well as the Greek myths of creation. The course includes the Greek gods and heroes (Prometheus, Hercules, Jason and the Argonauts), classical love myths (Pyramus and Thisbe, Apollo and Daphne, Echo and Narcissus) and how those stories and themes are reinterpreted in literature throughout the centuries.

Wilderness Literature (.5 credit)

This course focuses on both fiction and non-fiction accounts about wilderness, exploration, and survival in western literature. This course examines the importance of wilderness in shaping western culture, specifically within American culture. The class looks at both historical and contemporary texts, and explores how both people and society have transformed their views of and their relationship with wilderness.

Theater Arts (.5 credit)

This course is an introduction to theater history and the structure and elements of a play. Students will interpret and evaluate a variety of productions. Students will perform exercises in voice, diction, and improvisation.

Yearbook (1 credit)

This course creates the yearbook from beginning to distribution. Students will learn the details involved in creating a high school yearbook, be responsible for the production of each section, adhere to deadlines, take pictures of school-related activities, interview people, market the yearbook to the student body, obtain local business and parent advertisements, and all other tasks related to producing the yearbook and creating a successful business! **Students must attend an interest meeting and complete the online application to be considered for the course. This course can be repeated for credit.**

FOODS & CULINARY SKILLS



Culinary Arts I (.5 Credit)

Prerequisite: Foods I

This course will build on the skills and techniques learned in Foods 1, while exploring the grand cuisines of the world. Focus will be on applying basic cooking techniques and methods to unique ingredients found in different regions of the world. Students will explore different dining practices, ingredients and cooking techniques from places in Europe, Asia, South and Central America, as well as in the United States. Students will create and enjoy dishes while developing teamwork and a successful mindset while collaborating with classmates.

Foods I (.5 Credit)

Students will learn food safety and sanitation, kitchen equipment identification, recipe terminology, measuring, and basic knife skills. Students will explore nutrition concepts and practice food preparation techniques through a variety of beginner level food labs. Students will be introduced to a range of food-related careers, and have the option to earn the ServSafe Food Handler Certificate. This certificate, awarded by National Restaurant Association, is the restaurant industry gold standard in employee training.

Global Citizenship: MYP Personal Project Seminar (.5 Credit)

Global Citizenship is a half-year interdisciplinary course with the aims of teaching students critical MYP approaches to learning skills, helping them become internationally minded individuals, and introducing them to the MYP Personal Project. The MYP Personal Project will be introduced in the Global Citizenship course. This project is a capstone experience for all Fitch High School students and is a way for them to create, research, and execute a project that reflects a personal passion or inquiry project, under the guidance and supervision of the course instructor. Lessons will involve the use of a process journal, effective research techniques, ethical use of source materials, correct citing of sources, and means of reporting and presenting the personal project outcomes at the Expo. *This course fulfills the mastery based learning graduation requirement and is required for all 9th grade students to take.*

Naval Science I (1 Credit)

The primary objectives of this course are to introduce students to the meaning of citizenship, the elements of leadership, and the value of scholarship in attaining life goals. In addition, to engender a sound appreciation for the heritage and traditions of America, with recognition that the historically significant role of sea power will be important in America's future. Furthermore, we strive to develop in each cadet a growing sense of pride in his/her organization, associates, and self. These elements are pursued at the fundamental level.

MATH



INTERDISCIPLINARY



The Academic Success Course - TASC (.5 Credit)

Students participate in short lessons designed to foster academic independence and success. These lessons are grouped under ten topics that encompass successful learning habits in the high school classroom and they can be applied in courses across the disciplines. Additionally, class meeting time includes student-teacher check-ins and independent work time.

Math Intervention (.5 Credit)

Math Intervention is designed to provide intensive support to high school students identified for strategic intervention concurrently enrolled in College Prep Math. This course will help students build their conceptual understanding of content while practicing necessary fundamental skills. Diagnostic assessment tools will be used so students work on the gaps in their learning. This additional period supports the core class and allows the opportunity to preview, review or reteach the standards covered in their core class.

MUSIC



Guitar II (.5 Credit)

Prerequisite: Guitar I or permission of instructor

A continuation of the Guitar I curriculum, students will expand their chord and scale vocabulary, become more fluent in their ability to read traditional notation and employ more advanced guitar techniques. A minimum of two class presentations will be required. Testing is done in both performance and written forms. **Students must provide their own instrument.*

Concert Band/Honors Concert Band (1 Credit)

Prerequisite: Previous enrollment in an ensemble and/or proficiency on a wind instrument. Note: Percussionists must register for Percussion Ensemble.

Explore music traditions, genres, and cultures through performance, analysis, and composition. Both instrument specific skills and ensemble skills are developed in order to express and perform various types of music. A fundamental understanding of Western theory enables students to notate music, create and share their own ideas, and gain deeper understandings of different types of music.

Music Theory I (1 Credit)

Prerequisite: Students who have musical experience through private lessons, enrollment in a music ensemble, or permission of the instructor

Students will investigate music theory and composition concepts at the piano and through a provided workbook. Emphasis will also be placed on Ear Training. This class is for students looking to further their musicianship.

Concert Chorus (1 Credit)

This is a large, performance orientated chorus open to all FHS students. Development of a healthy singing voice in a group setting is the main goal of this course. Basic music theory and sight-singing are also required components. Opportunities include: caroling, festival participation, collaborating with other choirs and travel.

Marching Band (.5 Credit)

Prerequisite: Previous enrollment in an ensemble and proficiency on a wind or percussion instrument. Meets on Tuesday and Thursday nights, and Saturdays during the fall.

The Fitch Falcon Marching Band performs a field show through the art of combining sound, visuals, and motion on a football field. The band is present at home football games and competes at marching band competitions around New England. Emphasis is placed on the further development of musicianship skills and marching fundamentals.

Guitar I (.5 Credit)

Open to any student wishing to learn the fundamentals of guitar. Open chords, bar chords, power chords, scales, Blues progressions, fingerpicking, tablature and traditional music notation are addressed. Testing is done in both performance and written forms. **Students must provide their own instruments.*

Jazz Ensemble (1 Credit)

Prerequisite: Audition Required

The Jazz Ensemble performs a balanced repertoire of traditional and modern jazz styles. Styles include, but not limited to swing, bebop, Latin, and funk. Emphasis is placed on the development of jazz techniques such as phrasing, style, tone, and improvisation. Basic concepts in jazz theory are introduced throughout the year and applied to improvisation skills. Students are required to participate in all school and community concerts. *9th/10th grade students participating in Jazz Ensemble must be registered for any additional ensemble or Marching Band*

Percussion Ensemble (1 Credit)

Prerequisite: Previous enrollment in an ensemble and/or proficiency on a percussion instrument.

Explore music traditions, genres, and cultures through performance, analysis, and composition. Both instrument specific skills and ensemble skills are developed in order to express and perform various types of music. A fundamental understanding of Western theory enables students to notate music, create and share their own ideas, and gain deeper understandings of different types of music.

Honors Treble Choir (1 Credit)

Prerequisite: Audition Required

The FHS Women's Choir is an auditioned chorus for girls, grades 9-12. Emphasis on building a healthy singing voice through the study of repertoire arranged specifically for women. Sight singing and basic music theory are also studied throughout the year. Quarterly concerts are given. Opportunities include: festival participation, community concerts, collaborating with other choirs and travel.

String Orchestra/Honors String Orchestra (1 Credit)

Prerequisite: Previous enrollment in an orchestra and proficiency on an orchestral instrument.

String orchestra will develop individual skills on string instruments through the study of orchestral music literature of many eras and styles. Music will be performed in small groups and in a full orchestra setting in preparation for public concerts.

Honors Jazz Ensemble (1 Credit)

Prerequisite: Audition Required

The Jazz Ensemble performs a balanced repertoire of traditional and modern jazz styles. Styles include, but not limited to swing, bebop, Latin, and funk. Emphasis is placed on the development of jazz techniques such as phrasing, style, tone, and improvisation. **9th/10th grade students participating in Jazz Ensemble must be registered for any additional ensemble or Marching Band.**

SCIENCE

Botany (.5 Credits)

This course details the basic concepts of plant biology with a focus on plant characteristics, structure, unity and diversity, growth and reproduction. Students are acquainted with the origin, structure, development and functions of plant cells, tissues and organs. Current ideas in agriculture, horticulture, medicine, ecology, and conservation issues are discussed. Individual plant experiments as well as group laboratory investigations play a major part of the course experience. Laboratory work includes greenhouse and various field studies.

Environmental Studies (.5 Credit)

This course studies the topics of Wildlife Biology, Forestry, Aquatics and Soil Science. Basic topics in Ecology are integrated throughout the four units of study. Relationships to the local environment (Connecticut) will be emphasized. Through this course, students will develop a better awareness and attitude toward environmental concerns, with the goal of making them better stewards of their own environment.

Meteorology (.5 Credit)

Meteorology, which is a laboratory-based and technology-based course, will promote and cultivate the development of student scientific inquiry and scientific method skills, which are important critical thinking skills. Meteorology is particularly suited to these aims because it is an applied science that readily lends itself to familiar everyday life.

SOCIAL STUDIES

African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Studies (1 credit)

Students will explore accomplishments, struggles, intersections, perspectives, and collaborations of African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino people in the U.S. Students will examine how historical movements, legislation, and wars affected the citizenship rights of these groups and how they, both separately and together, worked to build U.S. cultural and economic wealth and create more just societies in local, national, and international contexts

Current Events (.5 credits)

The purpose of this half credit course is to provide a forum for the open discussion of current events. Particular attention will be paid to events in U.S. domestic and economic policies as well as the United States defense national politics. Current social issues and the impact on contemporary society will also be discussed.

Introduction to Economics (.5 credit)

This course will provide students with an introduction to basic economic principles and current economic issues with a focus on the American economy. Students will learn about different aspects of competition, finance, and interrelated global economic issues. Students will be expected to read, write about, and analyze different theories, current events that pertain to finance, and economic theories.

Introduction to Psychology (.5 credit)

Introduction to Psychology will provide students with a survey of major Psychological concepts and inquiries. Theories concerning psychological disorders, memory, learning, consciousness, the brain and psychological perspectives are investigated. Students will be expected to read, write and analyze topics spanning the Psychology spectrum. Students will also have an opportunity to create authentic work as they explore human mental processes and behavior.

Maritime History I (.5 credit)

Buried Treasure, Whales in the Arctic, and Wolf Packs in the Atlantic: This course explores the history of the United States from a maritime perspective. As a national story it uncovers the growth of America as a world power in maritime and naval history. As a local story, an emphasis will be placed on the contributions of small communities and their contributions to the American experience.

Maritime History II (.5 credit)

This course explores the history of the United States from a maritime perspective. As a national story it uncovers the growth of America as a world power in maritime and naval history. As a local story, an emphasis will be placed on the contributions of small communities and their contributions to the American experience. Students will be given a basic understanding of sailing vessel types and seamanship skills. Topics of study will include whaling, pirates, disasters at sea, and the history of submarines.

World Geography (.5 Credit)

World Geography is a one-semester course that examines the four different regions of the United States including the North, the South, the East, and the West. This course studies geography from the physical, political, and cultural perspective through the five basic geographical themes of location, place, human-environment interaction, movement, and region. The focus of this course addresses geographical skills and geographical literacy including identifying and locating states, capitals, and other locations throughout the United States.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION



Animation (1 Credit)

Animation is one of the largest, fastest growing media and career areas in our world today. Animation is used in every field from advertising and entertainment to medicine. The animation course allows a much larger cross section of our students a course that will support a large diversity of career options.

Architectural CAD I (1 Credit)

This course is designed to help students explore the related fields of architecture, and to assist them in becoming educated consumers of building products and a house. Students will use basic drafting techniques, building codes, CAD software, and modeling to design a residential structure. Architectural CAD is a hands-on learning experience that focuses on technological literacy, academic development, personal development, and career awareness. **Introduction to Engineering Design is a suggested prerequisite for all Architectural courses.**

Graphic Communications (1 Credit)

Students will learn the basic principles and elements of design and the skills used in the print and design industry by taking a project idea through concept layout and composition. Students will create eye-catching brochures, business cards, newsletters, advertisements and many other forms of design media. Students will use computer desktop publishing software, digital photography, and bindery. Laboratory work and classroom instruction help the students explore the many careers in the print and design industry.

Video Production I (1 Credit)

The Video Production course will introduce students to a variety of concepts and projects that reflect the rapid development of the television production industry. The course provides a detailed understanding of video equipment operation, a working knowledge of media/video production techniques, terminology, directing experience, and an overview of professional television studio operation.

Introduction to Manufacturing (.5 Credit)

This is a course that will introduce skills, equipment and knowledge needed in the manufacturing world. An understanding of manufacturing will help students develop a background, skills and understanding of jobs in the manufacturing industry. Students will learn and develop skills in measurement, drafting, blueprint development and presentation.

PLTW Introduction to Engineering Design (1 credit)

Students dig deep into the engineering design process, applying math, science, and engineering standards to hands-on projects. They work both individually and in teams to design solutions to a variety of problems using 3D modeling software, and use an engineering notebook to document their work.

