

# SYA Course Catalog 2023-2024



# SYA COURSE CATALOG 2023-2024

*All SYA students are required to take six courses, including host country Language instruction, the Experiential Language course, English and in almost all cases, mathematics.*

**Please note the availability of all elective courses will be subject to interest and enrollment numbers.**

## **Important abbreviations:**

**H = Honors**

**AP = Advanced Placement**

**FW = Fieldwork course**

## **COURSES OFFERED AT ALL SYA CAMPUSES**

### **English (1 credit YL, 0.5 credit Semester) H**

SYA offers a well-defined and comprehensive English course that prepares students to return to their home school English curriculum or to enter a competitive university program. The SYA English program is distinctly geared towards the study abroad experience and works in tandem with the overall program's mission to create globally aware, divergent thinkers prepared for a 21st-century reality. The SYA curriculum is structured to reflect the various stages of the study abroad experience and facilitates a cultural immersion experience with a series of assignments and readings created with this goal in mind.

SYA English provides a home base for student intellectual and intercultural growth abroad and is specifically designed to complement the immersion experience presented by the host country. Chosen texts challenge students to improve their critical reading and analytical writing skills and cover a variety of literary movements. The readings engage with themes of alienation, isolation, foreignness or self-discovery, as well as the notion of place and identity, both geographic and internal. Texts selected also support the students in contextualizing both their collective and individual experience throughout the program. In addition to working toward becoming closer readers and more successful writers, SYA English students also reflect on the study abroad experience in a more explicit and sophisticated way, through both informal and formal journaling and expository writing.

## MATHEMATICS

All SYA math courses incorporate extensive use of technology, helping students develop graphical and numerical analysis techniques in addition to the traditional algebraic study of functions.

**IMPORTANT NOTE FOR SPRING SEMESTER STUDENTS: In order to enroll in any math course in the spring, the student must have completed the first semester of the same course. To enroll in an AP math course, the student must have completed the first semester of the same AP course.**

### **Advanced Algebra with Functions (1 credit YL, 0.5 credit Semester)**

This course is intended for students who have had one full year of geometry and one full year of algebra. Successful completion of this course prepares students to enter a standard precalculus course when they return to their home school. Concentration is on functions and their transformations. The standard parent functions are studied from the perspective of shifts, domain and range, as well as multiplication and division. Preliminary results from rational functions, inequalities, exponents and logarithms are explored.

### **Precalculus (1 credit YL, 0.5 credit Semester) H**

The Precalculus course is intended for students who have successfully completed an algebra II course. Success in SYA's year-long Precalculus course will prepare students to take the AP Calculus AB course the following year. The course will review and extend the concepts related to functions, including linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, radical, logarithmic, exponential and trigonometric. Extensive use of technology is incorporated throughout the course to help students develop graphical and numerical analysis techniques in addition to the traditional algebraic study of functions. Upon conclusion of their Precalculus course, students will receive advice from their SYA math teacher on the most appropriate math sequence for the following year, depending on their academic performance in this course.

### **AP Calculus AB (1 credit YL, 0.5 credit Semester) AP**

*This course will be offered contingent on sufficient enrollment. Even with insufficient enrollment, this course will be available for qualified and interested students either through a hybrid model or online through our partner, One Schoolhouse.*

*Prerequisite: successful completion of an Honors level Precalculus course or its equivalent.*

This course offers a rigorous introduction to differential and integral calculus, covering all topics included on the Calculus AB topic outline. The course aims to have the students understand the theory that underlies the various rules and applications of differentiation and integration treated in the course. All major theorems are proved and their derivations discussed in class. Students must explore the calculus concepts from multiple perspectives: algebraically, graphically and numerically, and in the

context of a variety of applications. Students are expected to be able to offer clear justifications of their work that show a deep understanding of the fundamental ideas. Students are eligible to take the AP Calculus AB exam in May.

### **AP Calculus BC (1 credit YL, 0.5 credit Semester) AP**

*This course may be offered if there is sufficient enrollment. Even with insufficient enrollment, this course may be offered online through our partner, One Schoolhouse.*

*Prerequisite: successful completion of AP Calculus AB or an equivalent course, with recommendation from home school math teacher and approval by SYA.*

This course is roughly equivalent to both first- and second-semester college calculus courses and extends the content covered in Calculus AB to different types of equations and introduces the topic of sequences and series. The course covers topics in differential and integral calculus, including concepts and skills of limits, derivatives, definite integrals, the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus and series. The course teaches students to approach calculus concepts and problems when they are represented graphically, numerically, analytically and verbally, and to make connections between these representations. Students are eligible to take the AP Calculus BC exam in May.

**Courses listed by campus are found in the following pages.**

# SYA FRANCE

## LANGUAGE COURSES

### **Experiential French (1 credit YL, 0.5 credit Semester) H, FW**

Experiential French is a place-based course that provides students with opportunities to practice their growing language and cultural skills in real-world contexts at school as well as via experiences within the city and region on fieldwork days. This interdisciplinary course begins with an in-depth immersion into the host city and region, focusing on the use of resources of the host country and its unique and challenging learning environments. The immersion continues throughout the course with weekly experiences outside the classroom called fieldwork. This course leads up to a culminating project at the end of semester 1 and builds up to a Capstone project at the end of the year.

### **French Language (1 credit YL, 0.5 credit Semester) H**

The goal of this language course is for students to achieve a degree of fluency and spontaneity in French that enables them to have meaningful interactions with their host families and others in the community. In doing so, students come to know the French people and their culture. The learning process consists of a variety of activities both in and out of the classroom, including speaking with locals, writing in various genres, researching contemporary topics and deciphering news from a selection of Francophone media. Through these experiences, students apply language skills and learn to express their opinions about cultural and social issues that matter to them.

## ELECTIVES

### **Art History (1 credit YL, 0.5 credit Semester) H – FW**

Throughout this course, students will learn about many aspects of art history from the Middle Ages to present-day France. The aim of the course is to help students not only exercise their eyes, but also to develop their analytical skills and critical thinking skills. Part of this course will be composed of field work, in order to take advantage of local resources and better understand the environment in which they are living.

### **Environmental Science (1 credit Yearlong, 0.5 credit Semester) H – FW**

This is an interdisciplinary course that examines how the world works and how people can alter the delicate balance of the earth's life-support systems. It is set up to appeal to a wide range of student interests, relevant to their everyday lives, both in France and at home. The dual goal is for students to analyze current environmental issues globally and locally and to design and implement small-scale scientific investigations using an inquiry-based lab approach with Rennes and the environs as the laboratory.

Through lectures, readings, videos, field trips, discussions and debate, students learn about important environmental issues while conducting scientific investigations. Topics include biodiversity and

environmental systems, demographics and populations, local and global resources of food, water and energy and global changes and sustainability.

*Students who would like to use this course to fulfill a science requirement at their home school are advised to check with their school's Academic Office.*

### **Political Science and Global Issues (1 credit YL, 0.5 credit Semester) H – FW**

This course introduces students to political issues that are currently discussed on the news and in the media. It is designed to enable students to better understand many of the concepts which are shaping the world today such as globalization, fundamentalism, nationalism or terrorism. The themes explored in this course include but are not limited to: education, cultural exception, immigration, the European Union, feminism, political institutions, modern wars, new colonialism and fair trade and local economy. The course looks mainly at how France and Europe are dealing with these issues at the dawn of the 21st century and how their perspective might differ from the rest of the world. Coursework takes place both in and outside the classroom with the opportunity for the students to attend special exhibits, lectures and conferences. Students are expected to participate on a regular basis in class. Students may also be asked to write articles for News Decoder. The course also facilitates the students' participation in collaborative projects with French high school students, members of local organizations, and maybe students from other SYA campuses.

### **French Cinema (1 credit) H - FW**

In this course we will explore the history of French cinema, from its birth in the 19th century to the present day. We will cover the origins of cinema, its technical and aesthetic innovations, as well as the major movements that have marked its evolution. We will learn about many directors and actors, and in doing so, we will explore several key periods of the French society.

We will watch a selection of films in collective projections, and then study them in class, focusing on some of the most striking aspects of each piece.

We will learn to manipulate the instruments of filmic analysis: through close observation of scenes and audio sequences, students will develop critical thinking skills and become more conscious of their role as viewers.

Finally, students will be given opportunities to exercise their creativity and self-expression through practical exercises that will put the knowledge acquired in class into perspective. The creative field of experimentation will be the city of Rennes.

# SYA ITALY

## LANGUAGE COURSES

### **Experiential Italian (1 credit YL, 0.5 credit Semester) H, FW**

Experiential Italian is a place-based course that provides students with opportunities to practice their growing language and cultural skills in real-world contexts at school as well as via experiences within the city and region on fieldwork days. This interdisciplinary course begins with an in-depth immersion into the host city and region, focusing on the use of resources of the host country and its unique and challenging learning environments. The immersion continues throughout the course with weekly experiences outside the classroom called fieldwork. This course leads up to a culminating project at the end of semester 1 and builds up to a Capstone project at the end of the year.

### **Italian Language (1 credit YL, 0.5 credit Semester) H**

The goal of this course is for students to achieve a degree of fluency and spontaneity in Italian that enables them to have meaningful interactions with their host families and others in the community. In doing so, students come to know the Italian people and their culture.

The learning process consists of myriad activities both in and out of the classroom, including speaking with locals, writing in various genres, deciphering news from countless media and researching contemporary topics in order to debate political, ethical and economic topics. Through these experiences, students learn to express their opinions about cultural and social issues that matter to them.

### **Latin Reading (1 credit YL, 0.5 credit Semester)**

*Depending on enrollment, SYA will offer the following course or its equivalent.*

This course is designed for students with a strong background in Latin grammar who have completed at least two years of Latin. It aims to facilitate reading skills to the point in which students can read primary texts in the original language. Emphasis will be placed on reading comprehension and deeper understanding of the texts rather than rote translation. The class affords an excellent opportunity to appreciate some of the classical masterpieces in the original language.

### **Advanced Topics in Latin (1 credit YL, 0.5 credit Semester) H**

*Depending on enrollment, SYA will offer the following course or its equivalent.*

This course is designed for students who are not quite ready to enroll in AP Latin. Prerequisites are a solid foundation in Latin grammar, syntax and vocabulary, some background in rhetorical and metrical analysis, some exposure to Roman political history and at least one year of experience reading authentic Latin texts.

## **AP Latin (1 credit YL, 0.5 credit Semester) AP**

*Depending on enrollment, SYA will offer the following course or its equivalent.*

The AP Latin course focuses on the in-depth study of selections from two of the greatest works in Latin literature: Virgil's *Aeneid* and Caesar's *Commentaries on the Gallic War*. The course requires students to prepare and translate the readings and place these texts in a meaningful context, which helps develop critical, historical and literary sensitivities. Throughout the course, students consider themes in ancient literature and bring these works to life through classroom discussions, debates and presentations. The use of additional English readings from both of these works will complement the Latin readings.

## **Introductory Greek (1 credit YL, 0.5 credit Semester) H**

*Depending on enrollment, SYA will offer the following course as an Independent Study.*

*Course only available for Fall and Year-long students. Students attending SYA in the Spring may enroll only if they are taking Intro to Greek at their home school in the Fall. Prerequisite is one semester of Intro to Greek.*

This course provides an introduction to Ancient Greek language, history and culture, using a combination of traditional and modern methods. The primary text, *Athenaze*, gradually introduces students to all the basic Ancient Greek grammar while reading and learning about the social and political context that led to the Peloponnesian War between Athens and Sparta. Students also read and translate excerpts from Sappho, Herodotus, Sophocles, the New Testament, Homer and others.

## **Greek Reading (1 credit YL, 0.5 credit Semester) H**

*Depending on enrollment, SYA will offer the following course as an Independent Study.*

This course begins with a review of topics from the Greek grammar text, *Athenaze II*, to ensure firm footing before reading Ancient Greek text selections. A thorough outline of Greek literature and mythology will accompany and complete the original texts. The aim of the course is to read, understand and translate a variety of texts, ranging from historians to tragedians to epic poetry. Readings are chosen to suit students' initial skills and progress throughout the year. In addition, students are introduced to speaking Ancient Greek, using the Polis Method developed by Professor Christophe Rico.

## **ELECTIVES**

### **Ancient History Through Art (1 credit YL, 0.5 credit Semester) H, FW**

This course focuses on three ancient civilizations that influenced the local territory: the Greeks, the Etruscans and the Romans. Students read, analyze and comment on written primary sources, archaeological remains and artifacts of the area in order to refine critical thinking skills. Students explore topics in the European tradition by building a chronology and content background combined with student-centered work and research. Students also learn to become more confident public speakers through re-enactments, presentations and group activities, while interacting with Etruscan tombs, Greek statues and Roman ruins as vehicles to better understand modern Italian people, culture and language.



### **Applied Agroecology (1 credit YL, 0.5 credit Semester) H, FW**

This course combines such science disciplines to examine rich agricultural traditions and processes that make Italian food known the world over. With a focus on sustainability, students will experiment to understand the role of food locally. Viterbo's fertile soil, 12-month growing season and rich culinary customs will provide systematic comparisons between age-old practices and the applications of modern science in order to cultivate many of the local products Italy is known for, such as olive oil, wine, bread, cured meats and cheese. Students will ask research questions and employ laboratory methods in order to understand problems that present both local and global challenges. The course methods will concentrate on inquiry, hands-on experimentation, observation, statistical analysis and discovery.

### **Local Global Perspectives (1 credit YL, 0.5 credit Semester) H, FW**

This course introduces students to the most pressing challenges faced by Italy, Europe and the world: economic crises; technological transformations; conflict; human rights and discrimination; migration and demographic change; education, political systems; environmental issues. Students examine these topics through various lenses – local (Viterbo), national (Italy vs. United States) and global– and learn a valuable reality: different cultures view “problems” in very different ways. Coursework takes place both in and outside the classroom. Students have the opportunity to visit national institutions – in Rome and around Italy – as well as to attend conferences outside of Italy. The course seeks to help students better understand the challenges facing all of us.

# SYA SPAIN

## LANGUAGE COURSES

### **Experiential Spanish (1 credit YL, 0.5 credit Semester) H, FW**

Experiential Spanish is a place-based course that provides students with opportunities to practice their growing language and cultural skills in real-world contexts at school as well as via experiences within the city and region on fieldwork days. This interdisciplinary course begins with an in-depth immersion into the host city and region, focusing on the use of resources of the host country and its unique and challenging learning environments. The immersion continues throughout the course with weekly experiences outside the classroom called fieldwork. This course leads up to a culminating project at the end of semester 1 and builds up to a Capstone project at the end of the year.

### **Spanish Language (1 credit YL, 0.5 credit Semester) H**

The Spanish Language course at SYA emphasizes communication in real-world contexts so that students can improve their proficiency level and have increasingly meaningful interactions with their host families and the community at large during their time in Spain. The learning process consists of myriad activities both in and out of the classroom, including speaking with locals, writing in various genres, deciphering news from varied media outlets and having debates and discussions about current events. Grammar and vocabulary are taught and learned in context and communication is emphasized so that students gain confidence in their abilities and are motivated to grow their skills both in and outside of the Spanish Language classroom.

## ELECTIVES

### **Contemporary Art and Its Roots (1 credit YL, 0.5 credit Semester) H – FW**

This course lays a foundation of historical art movements up to the time of Goya and then shifts focus to contemporary art movements such as Impressionism, Cubism, and Surrealism, which began as reactions to or revivals of prior art movements. Students learn to approach Contemporary Art with an open mind and also have the opportunity to do creative exercises in class. Fieldwork in and around Zaragoza plays an important role in the class, including visits to museums and monuments.

### **Environmental Science (1 credit YL, 0.5 credit Semester) H – FW**

This is a place-based course that examines how the world works and how people can alter the delicate balance of the earth's life-support systems. It is set up to appeal to a wide range of student interests, relevant to their everyday lives, both in Spain and at home. Through readings, videos, lectures, discussions, projects and debate, students learn about important environmental issues while conducting scientific investigations. Fieldwork plays a key role in giving students a chance to experience firsthand the topics addressed in class and also allow students to become more involved in the local community. *Students who would like to use this course to fulfill a science requirement at their home school are advised to check with their school's academic office.*

### **History of Spain through the Lens of Its Cinema (1 credit YL, 0.5 credit Semester) H**

This course aims to teach students about Spain's rich and multicultural history while using some of the country's most important films to help students enhance their understanding of the topics introduced. Throughout the course students analyze some of the important historical and political movements in Spain, focusing on the 20th and 21st centuries, and discover their relationship with the rest of Europe, Latin America, and northern Africa. The course also covers the evolution of Spanish filmmaking, from its inception to modern films, with emphasis on the works of Spain's leading directors: Buñuel, Saura, Almodóvar, and Amenábar. Students watch and analyze a number of films that are particularly representative of Spanish cinema and that help them further understand the key moments of Spanish history, and at the same time pique student interest in the exciting and unique characteristics that this art form has in Spain. The course is organized into different modules and student work is assessed through independent and group projects, presentations, essays and exams.

### **Macroeconomics and the Global Consumer (1 credit YL, 0.5 credit Semester) H**

This course introduces students to the basic principles of macro- and microeconomics and their application to national and international public policy. Students examine the development of the contemporary economy and use basic theoretical tools to analyze current issues. Classes consist primarily of discussions, although the course also employs role-playing, films, lectures, case studies and student reports and projects. This course does **not** directly prepare students for the AP Microeconomics or Macroeconomics exam in May.

### **Spanish Civilization and Culture (1 credit YL, 0.5 credit Semester) H – FW**

In this course students explore the cultures and civilizations of Spain via the historical and modern contexts presented in Zaragoza and throughout the country of Spain. The class will focus on both historically relevant and current topics such as nationalism/patriotism, conquest and invasion, and immigration and international relationships, and will be challenged to understand others' cultures and points of view while questioning their own. This course involves a significant fieldwork element designed to challenge students in the broader community.

### **Spanish Theater: Analysis and Performance (1 credit YL, 0.5 credit Semester) H**

This course combines literary analysis and performance by exposing students to Spanish literature from both sides of the Atlantic while also giving them the opportunity to hone their language and acting skills in a fun and engaging way. In addition to reading and discussing contemporary Spanish plays, students in this course are required to participate in either one or two dramatic productions, depending on if they are yearlong students or semester students. One production is performed in December and the other in May.

Students rehearse often and are responsible for all aspects of production: scenery, costumes, music, lighting, and programs. Classes are held during the regular weekly schedule, and additional meetings are added for rehearsals as the date of the performance approaches. No prior experience in theater is required.