

**SAINT MARY'S HALL
UPPER SCHOOL**

2023-2024

CURRICULUM GUIDE

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2023-2024-Scheduling/Academic Planning Timeline

(All dates listed refer to spring, 2023)

January	<p>Teachers begin conversations with students regarding potential recommendations for next year.</p> <p>Form Level discussions to acquaint students with courses for their upcoming year for consideration and Q & A. Discuss June Review.</p> <p>Teachers submit recommendations for students and they are uploaded into Veracross for student review and selection with College Counseling</p>
February	<p>Students meet with College Counseling and Upper School Administration to review recommendations and select courses for next year.</p>
March	<p>June Review applications due</p> <p>Courses submitted and finalized in Veracross</p>
April	<p>Course lists shared with families and students for signatures</p>
May/June	<p>June review applications reviewed with final grades. Any adjustments communicated and finalized.</p>

Graduation Requirements

Departments	Credits
English	4
World Languages and Cultures	3
Social Studies	3
Mathematics	4
Science	3
Fine Arts	2
Physical Education/Athletics	2
Health and Wellness (.25 credit each year over four years)	2
Total Credits Required	23

Enrollment Standards

Students must be enrolled in at least six (6) academic courses, and one (1) Health and Wellness course every semester of their enrollment.

Students who would like to enroll in more than 3 AP Classes must receive signed approval from the Head of Upper School and College Counseling Office.

All students are required to have a free period in their schedule. Enrollment in 8 classes requires a conversation with, and subsequent written approval from the Head of Upper School.

***Please note that a full time student is expected to complete 28 classes in their four year Upper School career at Saint Mary's Hall**

Required Sequence of Study

In order to graduate from Saint Mary's Hall, a student must accumulate a minimum of 23 credits by successfully completing the following:

- Rhetoric, Composition, and Literature I, Rhetoric, Composition, and Literature II, Rhetoric, Composition, and Literature III or AP English Language, Rhetoric, Composition, and Literature IV or AP English Literature
- Global Studies I & II, Global Studies III & IV or AP World History, Modern United States History or AP United States History
- Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II; 4 math credits must be taken while a student is in US
- Physics I, Chemistry I, and Biology I
- Through Level III of a World Language
- Fine Arts classes and performance ensembles
- Physical Education as outlined in the "Athletics" section
- Additional Elective coursework

Course Offerings

The following reflects the courses offered at Saint Mary's Hall for the 2023-2024 academic year.

*Note: All courses must have a minimum number of students enrolled (5) who can take the course at a single period in order for it to be offered.

Unless otherwise noted, courses are yearlong.

ATHLETICS

Graduation Requirement: 2 academic credits in Athletics

ATHLETIC TRAINING

(.5 credit, Fall and Spring Semester, Offered through Health and Wellness and after-school)

Course Description: Students will have the opportunity to learn human anatomy and physiology, basic first aid, taping techniques, treatment modalities, principles related to the care of athletic injuries, basic rehabilitation, and the duties of a student trainer. Students will be expected to participate in all aspects of hands-on training by assisting the Athletic Trainer on a daily basis in the training room after school and also by attending various athletic competitions. Students must complete 80% of the sports season to receive credit for Physical Education.

STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING

(.5 credit, Fall and Spring Semester through Health and Wellness)

Course Description: Weight Training is offered to student-athletes looking to improve strength training, overall health and wellness, sports performance, injury prevention, physical and mental competitiveness, and toughness, along with amplifying strength, agility, and flexibility. This will be achieved through compound weight training movements, including many Olympic style weight training components, dynamic stretching, plyometrics, and agility drills. Powerlifting will be performed, paying close attention to technique and building a solid base before advancing with increased weight. This course will also include isometric

lifting, circuit training, high-volume activity, and body-weight-resistant movements. The course will be tailored to varying skill and physical maturity levels and will incorporate some auxiliary lifting for sport-specific training. A heavy emphasis will be on breaking down each movement in order to master it safely.

ATHLETICS

(.5 credit per season, Teams are formed at the varsity and junior varsity level for most sports. Athletes qualify for teams through tryouts)

Course Description: Competitive interscholastic sports offer practices and athletic events after the regular school day. The athlete must be willing to dedicate commitment, time, and effort to ensure a successful program. Periodic grade checks are done to ensure the academic progress of the student. A student who participates on an interscholastic team receives credit for physical education for that one tri-semester or season. Students must complete 80% of the sports season to receive credit for Physical Education.

NOTE: It is expected that *all* Physical Education classes for credit will be taken at Saint Mary's Hall. The Athletic Director must approve any exceptions and/or proposals for Physical Education Exemption outside of school. These proposals must be turned into the Athletic Director's office by the September 1st deadline.

FALL SEASON

WOMEN

Volleyball
Field Hockey
Cross Country
Cheerleading
JV Tennis

MEN

Cross Country
Football
JV Tennis
Cheerleading

WINTER SEASON

WOMEN

Basketball
Soccer
Cheerleading

MEN

Basketball
Soccer
Cheerleading

SPRING SEASON

WOMEN

Softball
Track
Golf
Tennis
Lacrosse

MEN

Baseball
Track
Golf
Tennis
Lacrosse

ENGLISH

In the Upper School English program, students learn to use inquiry as a process to develop questions about their reading and to examine their own perspectives as they connect with the perspectives of others. The program also expands students' abilities to become rhetorically competent writers who not only consider the views of others but also use writing as a way to formulate and to convey their responses. Ultimately, Upper School English courses cultivate critical literary skills students need for personal satisfaction and lifelong learning.

Graduation Requirement: 4 academic credits in English

RHETORIC, COMPOSITION, AND LITERATURE I

(1 credit; prerequisite is satisfactory completion of eighth grade English)

Major Obligations of Coursework: writer's portfolio; multi-paragraph essays; reading from a wide variety of genres.

Course Description: This course is designed to enhance students' ability to write with style and sophistication through extensive instruction in advanced writing skills, practicing persistence and responsibility in the writing process. Fostering openness and curiosity, the program closely studies selected works of fiction and nonfiction, both as literary achievements and as models for the student's own writing. Students are introduced to the metacognitive concept of rhetorical context to understand how personal, historical, and sociological forces influence a writer's purpose for writing. Regular writing assignments are designed to develop and to engage the students' command of various styles, modes, and methods of writing. Developing metacognition, flexibility, and critical reading thinking about literature and rhetorical skills, students explore various writing methods with emphasis on audience awareness, analysis of the author's purpose, prewriting strategies, writing processes, idea development/point of view, use of concrete details, organizational strategies, and revising strategies, voice and tone, diction,

syntax, grammar conventions, and Modern Language Association guidelines. Practicing responsibility and the importance of developing a community of learners, students will engage in discussions and commit to academic discourse.

RHETORIC, COMPOSITION, AND LITERATURE II

(1 credit; prerequisite is satisfactory completion of RCL I)

Major Obligations of Coursework: extensive reading of a broad spectrum of Western and British literature in all genres; literary analysis of visual representations, paragraphs, and essays; student-led discussions; reflections on the literature studies.

Course Description: This course traces the development of Western and British literature from its ancient bases to its modern illustrations, making connections and exploring why the study of literature is relevant and reflective of the human condition. Students examine historical ideas, trends, events, and cultural developments to strengthen their curiosity, openness, and creativity, with supplemental interdisciplinary studies in philosophy, history, religion, and science. Through extensive instruction in methods of rhetorical analysis, students explore voice, tone, diction, syntax, and literary and language conventions of fiction, nonfiction, drama, and poetry. Advancing metacognition, flexibility, and critical reading thinking about literature and rhetorical skills, students explore various styles, modes, and writing methods with continued emphasis on audience awareness, analysis of the author's purpose, prewriting strategies, writing processes, idea development/point of view, use of concrete details and data, organizational strategies, revising strategies, and reflection. Practicing responsibility and the importance of developing a community of learners, students will lead discussions, individually and in groups, and commit to demonstrating academic discourse.

RHETORIC, COMPOSITION, AND LITERATURE III

(1 credit; prerequisite is satisfactory completion of RCL II)

Major Obligations of Coursework: extensive reading of a broad spectrum of American literature; successful completion of an interdisciplinary essay, an argument essay, a research essay, and the identity and theory symposium.

Course Description: This course is designed to enhance students' abilities to approach and engage with American literature and the creation of the American voice and identity through an interdisciplinary critical lens. Through this lens, students are invited to exhibit curiosity, openness, and creativity by analyzing how social, racial, political, religious, and economic forces empower and oppress one's voice and identity. The course closely studies selected pieces of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry, representing movements in Romanticism, Realism, Modernism, and Post-Modernism with texts by noted and diverse authors. In addition, students will be introduced to and interact with critical theories in feminism, race, and intersectionality. Writing assignments are designed to promote students' abilities to compose arguments, emphasizing idea development, organization, voice and tone, diction, syntax, conventions, and citing sources. While composing written assignments, students practice metacognition and adopt a writing process that includes completing brainstorming activities, thesis outlines, self-assessments, syntax analysis charts, and self-reflection. Students practice these reading and writing skills in a variety of assignments, including writer's notebook entries, jigsaw discussions, docent discussions, evaluative arguments, and a research essay that encourage the development of active readers, sophisticated and flexible writers, and responsible and valuable participants in our community.

AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

(1 credit; prerequisite is teacher recommendation and successful completion of RCL II)

Major Obligations of Coursework: formal process arguments; timed writings (rhetorical analysis, argument, and synthesis); researched argument project (spring semester); critical reading and analysis of nonfiction texts; graded reading responses and discussions; opportunity to participate in the AP English Language and Composition Examination.

Course Description: Aligned to an introductory college-level rhetoric and writing curriculum, the AP English Language and Composition course cultivates the reading and writing skills that students need for college success and intellectually responsible civic engagement. Course reading and writing deepen and expand student understanding of how written language functions rhetorically: to communicate writers' intentions and elicit readers' responses in particular situations. The AP English Language and Composition course focuses on the development and revision of evidence-based analytic and argumentative writing, the rhetorical analysis of nonfiction texts, and the decisions writers make as they compose and revise. Such reading and writing tasks in the course also deepen students' knowledge and control of formal conventions of written language (word choice, punctuation, and syntactical acuity) and the ultimate effectiveness of a piece of writing in a particular rhetorical context. Fostering curiosity and persistence, the course introduces students to the literacy expectations of higher education by cultivating essential academic skills such as critical inquiry, deliberation, and research. Students work towards mastery of developing credible and cogent arguments by metacognitively engaging in consequential conversations on meaningful issues through formal and informal discussions and through reflective as well as analytical writing assignments.

RHETORIC, COMPOSITION, AND LITERATURE IV

(1 credit; prerequisite is successful completion of three years of Upper School English)

Major Obligations of Coursework: thoughtful reading of a variety of world literature; successful completion of several arguments based on reading and personal ideology, a formal research argument on a contemporary research issue, numerous reading responses and student-led discussions, Capstone Credo project.

Course Description: Rhetoric, Composition, and Literature IV provide critical reading, writing, and thinking opportunities to explore the following essential question: How does understanding the source of our beliefs, the nature of our experiences, and the context surrounding our development create a personal credo that could hold true for an entire lifetime? What would have to happen for an individual to change his personal life credo? During this philosophical exploration, students will engage in openness as they examine writers of essays, drama, and novels that have demonstrated their personal views about the human condition based on their personal experiences and the contexts in which they wrote. Harnessing flexibility and persistence, students learn to focus on a writer's purpose, using both writing and reading for inquiry, learning, thinking, and communicating. In order to assist students in the transition from their final high school English course to first-year college composition, students learn to develop strategies for engaging the writing process, to metacognitively critique their own and others' works, and to control such language features as the syntax, grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Writing assessments and products represented in a variety of mediums allow students to develop their own arguments on a variety of social and cultural values as they begin to explore the source of their own beliefs and acknowledge what personal credos they believe will hold true for them throughout their lives.

AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

(1 credit; prerequisite is teacher recommendation and successful completion of three years of Upper School English)

Major Obligations of Coursework: extensive reading of a broad spectrum of historical and contemporary literature, timed writings (prose analysis, poetry analysis, and literary argumentation), researched argument project examining contextual influences on a selection of poems by a single poet selected at the start of second semester; critical reading and analysis of all texts; opportunity to participate in the AP English Literature and Composition Examination.

Course Description: The AP Literature and Composition course, which is the equivalent of a sophomore-level college literature course, guides students to become scholars of literature, confident in their critical analysis of both historical and contemporary works of drama, fiction (short stories and novels), poetry, and the work of literary critics. This course involves the development and revision of evidence-based analytic and argumentative writing and the literary analysis of works of fiction and critical essays. Developing scholarly perspectives on literature, students will leverage explorations of Formalist Criticism, Feminist and Gender Criticism, Queer Theory, Marxist Criticism, Cultural Studies, Postcolonial Criticism, Historical Criticism, New Criticism, Psychological Theories, Reader-Response Theories, Structuralism, Poststructuralism and Deconstruction, and Ecocriticism in literary works delving into the identity of "the other." Employing curiosity, openness, and creativity in all class meetings, students are expected to evaluate literature actively – through formal and informal discussions and through reflective as well as analytical writing assignments, with the ultimate goal of examining and understanding the diverse ways in which authors create complexity and meaning in literary works and with consideration for literary criticisms and theories.

CREATIVE WRITING

(.5 credit, prerequisite is successful completion of RCL II; Offered in the Fall and Spring Semesters, may be repeated for credit)

Major Obligation of Coursework: writing portfolio and/or submissions for publication or contest.

Course Description: This course, open to Form 10, Form 11, and Form 12 students, is designed to help students enhance their expressive abilities in several genres. Students write poetry, essays, and short stories, with a focus on stylistics and developing individual voices. Grades are based on participation, attitude, rough drafts, and final drafts. In the fall, students will focus on poetry and storytelling and create their own original works. At the end of the first semester, students will be expected to create multiple submissions for publication and evaluation. In the spring, students will continue to develop their own voice by working on personal writing in the form of creative non-fiction in quarter three. During quarter four, students will learn about the publishing industry for writers and will be responsible for the construction of the school literary magazine called *The Walrus*.

FEMINISM AND LITERATURE

(.5 credit, prerequisite is successful completion of RCL II, offered in the Fall Semester)

Major Obligations of Coursework: The study of feminist theory, analysis of fiction and non-fiction utilizing a feminist lens, participation in student-led discussions, examination of cultural, historical, and political artifacts, completion of critical analysis essays, and interdisciplinary action project.

Course Description: This course is designed to introduce students to the context of the feminist movement and to feminist theory, encouraging them to examine fiction and non-fiction pieces through a feminist framework. The course aims to foster students to adopt a critical perspective when examining cultural, historical, and political artifacts that have shaped women's identities, exploring issues such as economic marginalization, social movements, and the institutions of family and marriage. Readings will include a range of literature by women as well as selected works of critical theory, illustrating the relationship between interpretation, experience, and identity. Artifacts will be chosen from advertisements, films, art, and television shows that illustrate the changing role of women and the demands placed on them in American society. Throughout the course, students will be empowered to contribute their own voices and experiences to articulate their opinions on society, culture, and the representation of women raised in theoretical articles, literary pieces, lectures, class discussions, and literary analyses. Students will end the semester by collaborating on a student-led interdisciplinary action project that aims to challenge gender norms and biases in favor of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

FINE ARTS

The Tobin School of Fine Arts at Saint Mary's Hall offers a wide range of visual, media, and performing arts. Education in fine arts offers an opportunity for students to cultivate empathy and develop a diverse breadth of conceptual and technical understanding, while fostering in every student an individual point of view. Students learn problem-solving skills in alignment with their discipline, integration of technology, literacy within their given discipline, and the ability to think critically.

Graduation Requirement: 2 academic credits in Fine Arts

DANCE

DANCE

(1 credit for either PE or Fine Arts, may be repeated for credit)

Course Description: This class is a combination of classical and contemporary dance, which will include the basic principles of Ballet and Modern technique for beginning to advanced students. The class will also explore elements of improvisational dance forms and choreography. Each semester is highlighted by a major dance production in which all students are required to participate, *Kaleidoscope*, the contemporary dance production in the fall, and a full-length story ballet in the spring. Dancers are invited to work with a guest choreography for "Jenny's Piece" and to perform at the ISAS Fine Arts Festival. Students must specify during registration whether the course will be taken for Fine Arts or PE credit. There are additional fees associated with this course.

AFTER-SCHOOL DANCE: BALLET AND MODERN

(.5 credit for either PE or Fine Arts, may be repeated for credit; prerequisite is the completion of two Fine Arts dance credits and/or active enrollment in In-School Dance with an A- average)

Course Description: Enrollment in both After School Upper School Ballet and Modern Ensemble classes. There are fees associated with this class.

DANCE FOR FITNESS

(.5 credit for either PE or Fine Arts, Offered Fall and Spring Semester, may be repeated for credit; prerequisite is the completion of at least one year of Fine Arts dance credits and/or active enrollment in In-School Dance with an A- average)

Course Description: Enrollment in at least 5 hours of after-school dance per week. Students may choose from Ballet, Jazz & Musical Theater, Hip Hop, Modern, and more. Athletics attendance requirements are in effect. All students who are enrolled will perform in either a ballet or contemporary dance production near the end of the semester. There are additional fees associated with this class.

INTRODUCTION TO ART

INTRODUCTION TO ART

(.5 credit, Offered Fall Semester: Please note that this is a full year class with students selecting either introductory level Digital Cinema, Photography, Drawing & Painting, or Sculpture & Design for their Spring Semester focus)

Course Description: This course is an exciting rotation of four courses exploring Drawing & Painting, Sculpture & Design, Photography, and Cinema. Throughout a four-week rotation during the first semester, students experience a broad range of instruction from media/visual arts faculty and build a breadth of projects reflective of each discipline. Students enroll in foundations courses in one of the media/visual arts courses of their choice in the second semester. The expectation is that students engage this course for the Fall Semester and continue their year with a Spring Introductory course in Drawing & Painting, Sculpture & Design, Photography, or Cinema.

MEDIA ARTS

DIGITAL CINEMA

(.5, Offered Spring Semester Only)

Course Description: Students in Cinema learn various short-form video styles, including narrative, documentary, music video, experimental, and animation, in a challenging hands-on environment. Students write, shoot, edit, score, produce videos, study film history, learn technical camera skills, and use Premiere Pro for editing and Audition for musical scoring. At the completion of this course, it is expected that the student will have a mastery of all the basic skills required to produce creative, innovative videos, including both technical and aesthetic skills.

ADVANCED DIGITAL CINEMA

(1 credit; prerequisite is successful completion of Digital Cinema or permission of instructor with portfolio review)

Course Description: Students in ADVANCED CINEMA continue to build on the basic production skills acquired in the Cinema course. Students will acquire higher-level skills in Stop Motion animation, cinematography, lighting, and sound. Filmmaking assignments will be coupled with the introduction, and use of Davinci Resolve for Color Grading and After Effects for text and graphic effects. At the completion of this course, it is expected that the student will have a mastery of all the advanced skills required to produce creative, innovative videos, including both technical and aesthetic skills. The student will begin to develop a unique aesthetic voice and a critical approach emphasizing the creative application of electronic media, with a continuing exploration of the history of the moving image.

HONORS DIGITAL CINEMA

(1 credit; prerequisite is the completion of Advanced Digital Cinema or permission of instructor with portfolio review. May be repeated for credit.)

Course Description: This course will approach video as a tool for the exploration of the conceptual and the creative use of video as an art form. The student will develop a unique aesthetic voice and a critical approach with emphasis on the creative application of electronic media, with continuing exploration on the history of the moving image. In addition to aesthetic and conceptual information, the student will develop advanced skills in digital video,

including all aspects of preproduction, production, and post-production. Filmmaking assignments will be coupled with additional study of genres and story ideation. This class is structured as an Advanced Honors level seminar to foster the creation of major video works as part of the film crew. Students are expected to follow a rigorous schedule of professional and artistic research production, postproduction, and critique.

COLLEGE LEVEL STUDIO PRACTICE IN DIGITAL CINEMA

(1 credit; prerequisite is Honors Practice in Digital Cinema or permission of instructor with portfolio review.)

Course Description: Outside shooting time and festivals, to be determined. This course will approach video as a tool for the exploration of the conceptual and creative use of video as an art form. The student will expand their unique aesthetic voice and critical approach with emphasis on the creative application of electronic media, with the continuing exploration of the history of the moving image and film as language. In addition to aesthetic and conceptual information, the student will develop advanced skills in digital video, including professional-level applications of funding, pre-production, production, and post-production. Filmmaking assignments will be coupled with the introduction and use of budget and production planning software. This class is structured as an Advanced College Level seminar to foster the creation of a major Capstone Film by each student. Students are expected to follow a rigorous schedule of professional and artistic research production, postproduction, and critique. Capstone Films demonstrating the totality of student learning will be the result of this coursework.

MUSIC

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA STRINGS

(1 credit; prerequisite is previous participation in a strings ensemble or outside private instruction and consent of instructor)

Course Description: The ensemble will prepare and perform string works, including quartets, small chamber works, and chamber symphonies by some of the most important composers in history. Special attention will be paid to style and musicality throughout different musical periods and to the theoretical and historical aspects of the music being studied.

JAZZ BAND

(1 credit; prerequisite is previous participation in a band program or outside private instruction and consent of instructor)

Course Description: This course aims to nurture the development and growth of the student through the art of instrumental music. Emphasis will be placed on developing a skillful, artistic playing technique with knowledge of music theory and an appreciation of music history. Instrumental technique and tone production are approached through exercises and jazz and concert band literature of different styles, including rock, swing, and Latin rhythms. Students will be required to participate in sectional rehearsals when assigned, campus performances, All-State Band auditions, ISAS Fine Arts Festival/alternate festival performances in the spring, and local solo and ensemble competitions.

VOCAL ENSEMBLE

(1 credit)

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to develop students into well-rounded singers. Ear training exercises, vocal technique exercises and a variety of musical genres (such as Baroque, Classical, Popular Song arrangements etc.) will be explored by the students. Students will perform pieces learned in class at a variety of performances throughout the year both on and off campus. Students will be required to attend and participate in all rehearsals, sectional rehearsals, and performances. Additionally, students are encouraged to participate in the Texas Music Educators Association Region Chair auditions, solo competitions, and the annual ISAS Festival.

MUSIC THEORY

(1 credit, prerequisite is Musical background/Permission of Instructor Required)

Course Description: This class approaches the subject of music theory through the application of fundamentals of music (pitch, tonality, melody, harmony, rhythm) to current trends in music. This will involve an integration of computer technology into the curriculum using a MIDI interface with sequencing, music notation, and music theory software. This will allow the individual student to progress at a rate commensurate with his or her ability and level of interest. Students will not only gain a working knowledge of the rudiments and terminology of music (including notation, intervals, scales and keys, chords, metric organization, and rhythmic patterns), but will advance into various

levels of composition, arranging, and orchestration. Although AP credit is not given for this course, students may elect to take the AP Music Theory examination during the spring semester. Note: This class is an independent study.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND DIGITAL IMAGING

PHOTOGRAPHY DARKROOM

(.5 credit, Offered Spring Semester)

Course Description: Students learn the principles of operating a 35-mm camera, developing black and white film, and making photo enlargements. In addition, the students will explore the visual potential of low-tech cameras and pinhole photography. They will experiment with non-silver, alternative, and post-print manipulative processes. The student can use their own 35 mm film camera and/or a school-provided specialty camera. There is a semester fee for darkroom and art materials. Students must provide their own enlarging paper and film.

ADVANCED PHOTOGRAPHY

(1 credit, prerequisite is one year of Photography Darkroom and the recommendation of the instructor. Open to Forms 10-12 students.)

Equipment required: Digital SLR camera and a portable hard drive.

Course Description: Students learn the principles of operating digital SLR cameras and explore related technical concepts such as aperture and shutter speed. They will learn how to import, organize, and edit photos using Adobe Lightroom. Students will also investigate a variety of photographic genres, such as landscape, portraiture, and abstraction, among others. Students will learn about photographic lighting and composition, as well as how to perform an in-depth analysis of an image.

HONORS DIGITAL IMAGING

(1 credit, prerequisite is one year of visual or media arts)

Course Description: Students will explore advanced photographic editing, graphic design, digital illustration, and web design. They will utilize various software applications, including Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, and Adobe InDesign, among others. The students will complete a variety of design-based projects that challenge their technical skills as well as their creativity. Over the course of the

year, they will develop a portfolio website of their artwork which they can use for sharing their work in a professional fashion. Skills acquired in this course can be applicable to many different educational and/or career paths within the arts.

COLLEGE LEVEL STUDIO PRACTICE IN PHOTOGRAPHY

(1 credit, prerequisite is two credits in Photography courses or approval of instructor)

Course Description: During the first semester, the students will explore a variety of concepts and approaches through investigative projects in darkroom photography, digital media, alternative photo processes, and mixed media. The students will have the opportunity to create work that incorporates ideas and media from other disciplines including Cinema, 2-D Design, and 3-D Design. During the second semester, the student develops a body of work that is an in-depth investigation of a theme. This is concluded with a written artist statement defending the conceptual idea of the student's theme and how it evolved. The students will be responsible for preparing their work for a gallery exhibition at the end of the year.

PUBLICATIONS

YEARBOOK

(1 credit, may be repeated for credit)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Students are expected to attend class daily in order to complete assignments in a timely manner. If assignments are finished, students will be expected to help their peers finish their work so that all deadlines are met on time or early. Must have a strong work ethic and willingness to commit to a working team, as well as a strong interest in design, photography, branding, and writing. All students are welcome as long as they can work independently and contribute to the yearbook team's goal of finishing *La Reata* by the March deadline.

Course Description: The goal of the *La Reata* staff is to make the best possible yearbook for the students, faculty, parents, administration, and staff of Saint Mary's Hall. As a team, the staff will strive to design an award-winning publication that will appeal to students in Montessori through Form 12, parents, faculty and staff, our board, and our administration.

In this class, the yearbook staff plans and puts together *La Reata* to document the school year's events. The team creates a theme for the school year, designs and creates layouts, generates and seeks out photos, writes captions, stories, and headlines, and conducts interviews. Students must attend school functions to document their occurrences properly and show that *La Reata* supports school activities. Attendance, participation, layout design, finding and taking photos, and story and caption writing are all elements used to determine a student's grade.

THEATER, SPEECH, AND DEBATE

INTRO TO THEATER PERFORMANCE

(.5 credit, Offered Fall Semester)

Course Description: This course is an introduction to the world of theater, with a primary focus on the craft of acting. Students will develop acting skills to aid them in performance through acting games and exercises, improvisation, monologue work, and scene study. Students will be introduced to theater history through performing classical and contemporary texts to aid in their ability to understand the role of theater in society. Students will be featured in a class performance for an invited audience.

ACTING I-III

(.5 Credit, Offered Fall and Spring Semester; Prerequisite is Intro to Theater Performance for Acting I. Acting II and III require successful completion of the previous Acting level)

Course Description: Students will learn principles of acting technique by studying and performing theater literature. The class will teach character analysis, movement, vocal production, and audition technique. Student work will be featured in an acting showcase.

ADVANCED THEATER PROJECT

(.5 credit, Offered in Spring Semester; prerequisite is Intro to Theater Performance, Upper School Speech & Debate, or permission of instructor)

Course Description: Students will explore advanced concepts in acting technique, movement, and voice for the actor, scene analysis, playwriting, directing musical-theater, and stage management. Students will develop and present an evening performance at the end of the semester.

TECHNICAL THEATER

(.5 credit, Offered Fall and Spring Semester, may be repeated for credit)

Course Description: This course is a practical introduction to the different aspects of technical theater, as well as theatrical design. The student will be exposed to the terminology, tools, operation, and concepts of technical theater in the areas of light design, sound design, scenic design, stage management, and house management. This will be achieved through classroom study and actual involvement in the production of various shows and events that occur during the semester.

THEATER PRODUCTION

(.5 credit, Offered Fall Semester, may be repeated for credit; prerequisite is auditioning and being cast and/or selected for the production team.)

Course Description: This course is a hands-on approach to learning about theater. It is practical and performance-based, covering many phases of the discipline, including acting, directing, technical theater, and performance. Singing, vocal technique, and dancing are included when musicals are presented. Through the rehearsal process and culminating performance, students will begin to develop toward mastery in voice and bodywork, character development, musicality/tempo, scene analysis, rehearsals, technical theater, production, and design. Attendance at all rehearsals and participation in final performances is required.

THEATER PRODUCTION HONORS

(.5 credit, Offered Fall Semester, may be repeated for credit; prerequisite is one semester of Theater Production as well as auditioning, being cast in a major role, and/or selected for a leadership role on the production team)

Course Description: Theater Production Honors is designed for students who have participated in at least one other Upper School production and have been cast lead or selected for a leadership role on the production team. In addition to expanding on skills articulated in Theater Production, this course allows students to further stretch and develop as theater artists through working on more challenging material. The development of leadership skills is an essential part of Theater Production Honors. Attending all rehearsals and participating in the production is a requirement of the class.

SENIOR DIRECT: INDEPENDENT STUDY IN THEATER TOPICS

(.5 credit, Spring Semester; prerequisite is minimum of two theater credits or permission from Director of Fine Arts and faculty advisory)

Course Description: Advanced students who are interested in an in-depth theater, design, performance, playwriting, directing, or dramaturgy project may work with a faculty advisor to realize their artistic vision in the theater.

SPEECH AND DEBATE I-IV

(1 credit; prerequisite is teacher recommendation for advanced sections)

Course Description: Students will learn concepts in oral interpretation, public speaking, and/or debate through preparation for and regular participation in Texas Forensic League, Tournament of Champions, and National Speech and Debate competitions and performances. Speech-focused students will develop an understanding of public speaking, script analysis/cutting, acting, characterization, and improvisation; and will prepare performances in the following events: Dramatic, Humorous, Prose, Poetry, Duo Interpretation, Duet Acting, Original Oratory, Informative Speaking, Program of Oral Interpretation. Debate students will train to compete in tournaments in the events of Public Forum Debate, Lincoln Douglas Debate, Extemporaneous Speaking, Congressional Debate, Original Oratory, and Informative Speaking. Debate students are taught public speaking, argumentation, case writing, effective rebuttal strategies, cross-examination skills, analytical thinking, and political and moral philosophy. Speech and Debate students are required to compete in at least four tournaments over the course of the year but are encouraged to pursue a more competitive schedule in order to qualify for opportunities at the State and National level.

SPEECH AND DEBATE HONORS

(1 credit; prerequisites are 500 National Speech and Debate Association's honor society points (Degree of Special Distinction or higher), maintain at least an A- average in Speech & Drama / Debate I-III, and have qualified for a post-season tournament: TFA, ETOC, UKTOC, NIETOC, NSDA.)

Major Obligations of the Course: Attend eight tournaments throughout the regular competitive season (should not result in any additional school lost) unless already qualified to TFA State in three +

events. Students enrolled in this class will be required to have three sessions with students in Speech & Drama I-III and/or Debate I-III per quarter to help develop mentorship and alignment.

Course Description: The purpose of the course is to provide advanced training in competitive Speech & Debate skills.

INDEPENDENT STUDY: SPEECH AND DEBATE

(.5 credit, Offered Fall Semester; prerequisite is a minimum of two credits in Speech and Debate and permission from the Director of Fine Arts and Head of Upper School)

Course Description: An independent study course for advanced Speech and Debate students who are interested in directing, coaching and mentoring students during class time and after-school.

DRAWING & PAINTING

DRAWING & PAINTING

(.5 credit, Offered Spring Semester)

Course Description: This course is an exploration of a variety of satisfying media including graphite, charcoal, pastel, ink, block print, watercolor, gouache, collage, and acrylic paint. In this course, students become familiar with materials used in drawing and painting, develop visual literacy, and creative strategies for visual problem solving through design. There is an emphasis placed on the exploration of line, gesture, form, perspective, and color theory. Conversations surrounding the dynamics of composition and space as it relates to pictorial design are an essential part of the course. Approaches to drawing range from direct observation, pictorial invention, and the use of photographic references. All contribute to transformation and creative problem solving. Students gain technical proficiency and creative license throughout this course. Contemporary and historical works of art help set precedents for students to follow. Students are taught how to archive work and establish selections that contribute toward a digital portfolio.

ADVANCED DRAWING & PAINTING

(1 credit; prerequisite is successful completion of Drawing & Painting or Instructor Approval)

Course Description: This course continues the study of drawing, painting, and printmaking with

further emphasis placed on iterations of visual language, the fluid relationship of drawing to painting, contemporary and historical artwork, and principles of composing dynamic space introduced in the previous year. Drawing, painting, and printmaking are the primary focus in the fall semester, while painting in acrylic and oil is explored in the spring semester. Emphasis is placed on perceptual drawing and painting applications, architecture, portraiture, still life, figuration, and landscape. Progress through the year presents opportunities for students to become more self-aware of their specific interests in materials and creative approaches. Coursework is designed further to develop technical proficiency at higher levels while fostering a sense of creative independence, vision, self-reflection, and expression. Interested students will be given directions on how to participate in art events throughout the year and are strongly encouraged to participate. Sketchbook work is assigned and builds connections between guided assignments and personal observations. Students work with the instructor to build a portfolio of archived work throughout both the fall and spring semesters.

HONORS DRAWING & PAINTING

(1 credit; prerequisite is successful completion of Advanced Drawing & Painting or Instructor Approval)

Course Description: This course welcomes self-driven and creatively motivated students and offers students the unique opportunity to develop a more independent voice while working toward a deeper understanding of specific interests in drawing, painting and/or printmaking. In this course, students work to develop techniques further, explore guided concept-driven assignments, and nurture an ever-evolving personal aesthetic. A sketchbook is used throughout the year and builds on studio habits relating to ideation, creative notations, observed studies, and personal journaling. Fulfillment of time outside of class per quarter is required to complete projects. This course offers those students that are interested an opportunity to begin building a professional college portfolio that will go towards college admission, pre-college summer programs, and national competitions. Students will work with the instructor to digitally archive their work throughout both the fall and spring semesters. In addition, students will learn basic professional web-based tools for sharing their artwork.

COLLEGE LEVEL STUDIO PRACTICE IN DRAWING & PAINTING

(1 credit; prerequisite is successful completion of Honors Drawing & Painting or Instructor Approval)

Course Description: This course is the 4th year capstone course for self-driven and creatively motivated students wishing to go beyond traditional guided assignments in pursuit of a more thorough, rigorous investigation. Students have the unique opportunity to propose self-directed projects not limited to size or medium or number of completed pieces. Each student will work with the instructor to set the framework for their proposed project of inquiry. Studio habits developed in the previous years will be utilized to further develop areas of problem-solving, ideation, self-reflection, and execution of design concepts. For each student taking this capstone course, their work will vary from their peers, ranging in traditional portraiture, still life, and landscape to cross-disciplinary forms of expression utilizing digital photography, sculpture, or digital cinema. Work evolves throughout the year, and rhythm is momentous as students work together through critique, self-reflection, and guidance from the instructor. A comprehensive survey of the year's work will culminate in a Senior Thesis Exhibit. Students will professionally document their work for their digital portfolio as well as develop a web-based archive of their artworks.

SCULPTURE AND DESIGN

SCULPTURE & DESIGN

(.5, Offered Spring Semester)

Course Description: This course is an introduction to the concepts, materials, and techniques relating to three- dimension art and design. In Beginning Sculpture and Design, students become familiar with the fundamental skills of art making, develop visual literacy and practice artistic thinking. Students will learn multiple construction techniques, including additive, subtractive, modeling, and assembly methods. Students will explore materials such as metal, clay, wood, plaster, and found objects. Students will have the opportunity to utilize 3D printers and laser cutting while learning the basics of 3D digital design and experiencing furniture building and architectural design. These foundational techniques and media will provide students with the necessary skills to proceed to

advanced-level work. As a class, students will examine the works of leading contemporaries in sculpture, ceramics, architecture, and 3D design. Students will practice dialogue and empathy by evaluating and discussing works of art through personal reflections and critiques. Each student will maintain a sketchbook in which to conduct exploration through sketches, information gathering, and annotations, as well as a digital portfolio for the duration of this class.

ADVANCED SCULPTURE & DESIGN

(1 credit, may be repeated for credit; prerequisite is successful completion of Sculpture & Design or Instructor Approval)

Course Description: This course focuses on the development of creativity, technical skills, and conceptual processes in three-dimensional art and design introduced in the beginning course. Students will have the unique opportunity to explore a variety of advanced sculptural media and techniques, including but not limited to throwing on the wheel, digital design, mold-making, plaster casting, and advanced woodworking. Students will analyze the work of leading contemporaries in 21st-century visual culture. They will evaluate and discuss works of art through personal self-reflections and group and individual critiques. Students will begin learning how to document their own work professionally and how to edit their portfolios using digital applications. Each student will maintain a sketchbook for exploration through sketching and research. Students will begin learning digital photography basics to build their digital portfolios.

HONORS SCULPTURE & DESIGN

(1 credit, prerequisite is successful completion of Advanced Sculpture & Design or Instructor Approval)

Course Description: This course offers students the opportunity to study in-depth areas of their own choosing through individual research and manifest in the creation of both assigned and self-developed projects. The student will use problem-solving and ideation to identify areas of interest. Outcomes may range from traditional craft such as functional pottery to digitally designed architectural projects or mixed media sculpture. This course requires strong self-direction, a studio time investment, and creative motivation. This course is designed to enhance students' creative proficiency, conceptual development as well as knowledge of sculptural media and techniques. Interested students will be

guided through the process of developing a professional portfolio of related works for college admission, pre-college summer programs, or national competitions. The student will work with the instructor to document their artwork through digital photography for their portfolio throughout the course. In addition, students will learn basic professional web-based tools for sharing their artwork.

COLLEGE LEVEL STUDIO PRACTICE IN SCULPTURE & DESIGN

(1 credit; prerequisite is successful completion of Honors Sculpture & Design or Instructor Approval)

Course Description: In this 4th year's capstone course, students have the unique opportunity to pursue a self-directed intensive exploration of a theme or topic through the generation of specific project goals, group critique, professional engagement that will culminate in a senior thesis exhibit. In addition to the students primary media, they will have to opportunity to engage with and utilize other disciplines within the fine arts, including but not limited to Digital Cinema, Photography, and 2D Arts. This course will strongly emphasize developing a personal vision, ambition, and responsibility and using problem-solving skills to integrate form and concept. Students will be encouraged to originate, propose and execute ambitious, potentially long-term projects building a dynamic studio practice. Process development, creativity, and independent goal setting are integral outcomes of this course. Students learn entrepreneurial skills and teamwork in an energetic, rigorous studio atmosphere. Students will professionally document their work for their digital portfolio as well as develop a web-based archive of their artworks.

AP ART HISTORY

(1 credit, prerequisite is Instructor Approval)

Course Description: The AP Art History course is designed to be the equivalent of a two-semester introductory college-level art history survey course. Students will explore topics such as the nature of art, its uses, its meanings, art making, and responses to art. Through investigation of diverse artistic traditions from prehistory to the present, the course fosters an in-depth and holistic understanding of the history of art from a global perspective. Through discussions, projects, readings, and lectures, students will learn and apply visual, contextual, and comparative analysis to engage with a variety of art forms. Please note, students will have the opportunity to take the AP Art History exam in the Spring.

ARTS MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

(1 credit; prerequisite is successful completion of two Fine Arts Credits and application process)

Course Description: The Saint Mary's Hall Arts Mentorship Program (AMP) provides real-world experience for visual and performing student artists with an interest in the field of arts management. Through an application and interview process, selected students work for a local arts organization to broaden their personal understanding of the arts. Under faculty mentorship from arts professionals, students perform their assigned duties at an area art institution for a minimum of sixty hours, typically during the summer. Areas of learning may include curatorial, research, arts management and administration, development and fundraising, production, art handling, and arts education. In addition to the onsite work, students are required to participate in a journal and photographic record-keeping project, write a reflective paper and present a talk. The program cap is limited to seven students annually. Rising seniors receive priority placement in the program. In addition to course credit, participating students receive a stipend of \$595 for their sixty hours of work in the field.

Most Fine Arts classes have additional costs for the purchase of materials and/or to participate in special class-related events. For example, the costs of instruments, dance attire, camera equipment and supplies, tournament registration/participation, music, costumes, and drawing materials are often the responsibility of the student. Please contact the Director of Fine Arts or the instructor of the course for more information.

Cost should never serve as a barrier to participation, and additional funds are available to support families. To learn more about this financial assistance, please contact Associate Director of Admission Joe Muller at jmuller@smhall.org.

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Interdisciplinary study is the process of answering a research question, solving a problem, or addressing a topic that is too broad or complex to be dealt with adequately by a single discipline. Students will draw on the perspectives of multiple disciplines with the goal of integrating their insights to construct a more comprehensive understanding or to produce new knowledge. Students adopt the role of the researcher, determining which disciplines to integrate through exploration in the process. By integrating more than a single discipline perspective in the process of producing knowledge, students gain a diverse understanding of people, places, and ideas by synthesizing research and answering the interdisciplinary question, "So what?"

ECHOES IN THE BORDERLANDS: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDY OF SELENA QUINTANILLA

(.5 credit. Offered Fall Semester)

Major Obligations of Coursework: The study of interdisciplinary research; exploration of Chicana feminist studies; accumulation of a writer's notebook, a reading log, and field research notes; completion of a personal identity map.

Course Description: This course, open to Form 11 and Form 12 students, is designed to explore the life of Selena Quintanilla through an interdisciplinary lens, taking into account the intersections of her identity and her connections to her fellow Tejanos, the borderlands of Texas and Mexico, and the establishment of and reaction against physical and emotional boundaries. Equipped with biographical knowledge about Selena Quintanilla and her impact on borderland identity, students will utilize a Chicana feminist lens to gain an understanding of the borderlands that transcends geopolitical space and adopts a more inclusive position by acknowledging the borderlands' unique history, landscape, culture, identity, language, and music. While undertaking this interdisciplinary study of non-fiction, fiction, media, music, and art pieces, students will engage in self-reflection and discovery exercises, fostering a more inclusive view of group identity as they merge personal exploration with an academic scholarship. The course will conclude with the creation of a personal identity map that will be shared with the community in a poster presentation format.

IDENTIFYING, CULTIVATING, AND EXPLORING LEADERSHIP & CHARACTER

(.5 credit. Offered Fall Semester)

Major Obligations of Coursework: case studies of various leadership styles spanning a variety of cultures and societies; accumulation of a leader's notebook, personal reflections, SMART goals, and purpose and value proposition; completion of a capstone project.

Course Description: The Leadership & Character Course is open to Forms 10-12. This course intentionally engages students to identify and define various types of leadership (conventional and nonconventional) while developing their leadership style. The course will prepare students for active community engagement as they learn their core values and identity. Students will investigate and evaluate leadership styles within various cultures and societies, honing in on aspects that resonate with them and identifying those that do not. Students will be challenged to engage in effective communication skills, develop SMART goals and understand purpose and value proposition while diving into the nuances of building effective teams, management of those teams, and ownership with accountability. Self-care and balance will be engaged as well to mitigate burnout in leadership, create and sustain boundaries, and maintain their leadership passion. The course will culminate in a capstone project designed and presented by the student creating a community project and delineating the leadership styles, character, and detailed plan to bring that project to fruition.

TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

(.5 credit, Offered Spring Semester)

Major Obligations of Coursework: The study of transdisciplinary research, exploration of research methodology, accumulation of library and field research, completion of a literature review and research synthesis essay, completion of a capstone project, and participation in a capstone symposium.

Course Description: This course, open to Form 11 and Form 12 students, is designed to enhance students' abilities to move beyond the divides within academia to engage directly with the production and use of knowledge outside of the academy. Equipped with the knowledge of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research and with exploratory practice with diverse research methodology, students will demonstrate their curiosity, openness, and creativity by crafting a research question and by synthesizing library and field research in pursuit of societal impact and potentially transformative change. As students navigate through the transdisciplinary research process, they will demonstrate persistence, responsibility, and flexibility in their research, with their instructor and faculty advisor (topic mentor) acting as guides. In addition to completing scholarly research, students will engage with their community, consulting expert voices outside of academic disciplines and creating a community action proposal demonstrating metacognition. The course will conclude with a capstone symposium, where students share their research findings with their communities.

UNHEARD VOICES IN THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE: Exploring and Identifying the Power, Contributions, and Experiences of Marginalized Populations in the Discipline of Science

(.5 credit, Offered Fall Semester; prerequisite is the completion of Physics I)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Write reports, create visual representations and presentations of what we've learned in class, additional research, attend guest lecturer series, and group study of the book, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*.

Course Description: This course will incorporate perspectives from traditional science curricula and include contributions from traditionally unheard voices in STEM. This includes contributions from Indigenous peoples and other POC, women, and members of the LGBTQIA+ community. It would also explore some of the difficult lessons that framed our ethical understanding of scientific practice.

MATHEMATICS

The Saint Mary's Hall mathematics curriculum provides a sequential study of the fundamental courses of mathematics, from Algebra I through the BC level of Advanced Placement Calculus and on to post-AP Multivariable Calculus. Advancement from one level to another is based on grades earned in previous courses, test results, and teacher recommendations. Advanced Placement courses and Honors sections are offered for serious scholars ready for a more rigorous study of mathematics.

Graduation Requirement: 4 academic credits in Mathematics

ALGEBRA I

(1 credit; prerequisite is C- or better in Pre-Algebra; students new to SMH may be asked to take an Algebra readiness exam)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Graded homework, quizzes, and tests.

Course Description: After an in-depth study of the structure of the real number system, key topics to be covered will be solutions of linear and quadratic equations, systems of equations, graphs of linear equations, and operations on rational expressions. Problem-solving skills will be stressed throughout the year.

GEOMETRY

(1 credit; prerequisite is successful completion of Algebra I)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Graded homework, quizzes, and tests.

Course Description: Students learn to recognize and work with geometric concepts in various contexts. They build on the ideas of logic and use visualizations, spatial reasoning, and geometric modeling to solve problems. Topics of study include points, lines, angles, triangles, right triangles, quadrilaterals, and other polygons, circles, coordinate geometry, three-dimensional solids; geometric constructions, symmetry, transformations; and non-Euclidean geometries.

GEOMETRY HONORS

(1 credit; prerequisite is teacher recommendation and A average in Algebra I; students may be asked to take a placement exam)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Graded homework, quizzes, and tests.

Course Description: The curriculum of the honors course will expand on that of the regular course. After a unit on symbolic logic, postulates and theorems of the plane and solid geometry are used to illustrate the deductive method in mathematics. The focus of the first semester is on two-column proofs related to parallelism, congruence, and similarity. Students will also use the indirect method of proof in paragraph format. The second semester will include a study of area and volume as they apply to geometric figures and basic algebraic functions, as well as an in-depth study of analytic geometry and an introduction to trigonometry.

ALGEBRA II

(1 credit; prerequisite is successful completion of Geometry; students new to SMH may be asked to take an Algebra readiness exam)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Graded homework, quizzes, and tests.

Course Description: After a review of real numbers, a functional approach is emphasized, stressing graphs, properties, and applications of linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions. Additional topics include systems of equations, radicals and solving radical equations, conic sections, and some mathematical modeling.

ALGEBRA II HONORS

(1 credit; prerequisite is teacher recommendation, B- average or higher in Geometry Honors or A average in Geometry; students may be asked to take a placement exam)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Graded homework, quizzes, and tests.

Course Description: A functional approach is used, with emphasis on non-calculator graphing techniques and analysis of graphs. This fast-paced course includes factoring, equation-solving, graphical transformations, algebraic and transcendental functions, and introductions to matrices, sequences, and series. Students will use graphing technology on some topics.

PRINCIPLES OF FINANCE AND INVESTING

(.5 credit, Offered Fall and Spring Semesters; prerequisite is successful completion of Algebra I)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Classwork, quizzes, presentations, tests, projects.

Course Description: Being proficient in personal finance and investing is an important life skill. From credit to insurance to taxes to investing, it is imperative that students understand the consequences of their choices. Intelligently managing their money, students become citizens that are more responsible. Topics covered will include financial planning, managing liquidity, personal financing, wealth protection, personal investing, retirement, and estate planning. After high school, students face a world filled with possibilities, and the more knowledge they can acquire, the higher the probability that their financial future will be secure.

ADVANCED ALGEBRA with FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS

(1 credit; prerequisite is successful completion of Algebra II)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Graded homework, quizzes, and tests.

Course Description: This course is for students who want a more in-depth look at topics in algebra and their applications to finance and topics important to consumers. Topics from algebra will include systems of equations and inequalities, exponential and logarithmic functions, probability and statistics, and methods for dealing with big data. Applications will relate to taxes, bank accounts, creating and analyzing budgets, investment strategies, issues connected to credit, the cost of higher education, and insurance.

PRE-CALCULUS

(1 credit, prerequisite is successful completion of Algebra II Honors or B- average or higher in Algebra II)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Graded homework, quizzes, and tests.

Course Description: This course is for students anticipating enrolling in a calculus or statistics course at Saint Mary's Hall or in college. Topics include functional analysis of elementary algebraic and transcendental functions, trigonometry, linear algebra, and elementary probability and statistics. Emphasis is placed on problem-solving and real-world applications. The graphing calculator is used extensively throughout the course.

PRE-CALCULUS HONORS

(1 credit, prerequisite is teacher recommendation, B- average or higher in Algebra II Honors or A average in Algebra II; students may be asked to take a placement exam)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Graded homework, quizzes, and tests.

Course Description: This course is for students anticipating enrolling in AP Calculus (AB or BC) at Saint Mary's Hall or a calculus course in college. The topics are the same as in Pre-Calculus, except students will be expected to do their work more independently and work at a faster pace than students in regular Pre-Calculus. A thorough introduction to Calculus is included in the honors-level course. The graphing calculator is used extensively.

CALCULUS

(1 credit, prerequisite is successful completion of Pre-Calculus Honors or B- average or higher in Pre-Calculus)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Daily assignments; weekly quizzes, tests.

Course Description: This two-semester course is designed for those students who wish to take Calculus, but are not prepared to commit the time required for an AP course. The development of the topics follows a less rigorous, more intuitive approach aided by graphing calculator technology. Topics include limits, continuity, differentiability, techniques of differentiation and integration, and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. Various applications of calculus are included throughout the course.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT CALCULUS AB

(1 credit; prerequisite is teacher recommendation, B average or higher in Pre-Calculus Honors or A average in Pre-Calculus; students may be asked to take a placement exam)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Graded homework, quizzes, and tests.

Course Description: Prior to beginning this course work in the fall, all students are required to complete a packet of work over the summer. The AP AB level syllabus provides the framework for this course. Both differential and integral calculus topics are included, as well as a study of elementary functions. A graphing calculator is required for this course. Students are strongly encouraged to sit for the national AP exam in the spring.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT CALCULUS BC

(1 credit; prerequisite is teacher recommendation, B- average or higher in AP Calculus AB, or A+ average in Pre-Calculus Honors with teacher recommendation)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Graded homework, quizzes, and tests.

Course Description: Prior to beginning this course work in the fall, all students are required to complete a packet of work over the summer. This course is for students who have completed Calculus AB the previous year and who wish to complete preparation for the BC Level AP Examination. The material of Calculus AB is reviewed, followed by the precise definition of limits and continuity, advanced

integration techniques, analysis of parametric and polar curves, vector-valued functions, infinite series, and elementary differential equations. A graphing calculator is required for this course. Students are strongly encouraged to sit for the national AP exam in the spring.

COLLEGE LEVEL MULTIVARIABLE CALCULUS

(1 credit, prerequisite is teacher recommendation, C average or higher in AP Calculus BC)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Graded homework, quizzes, and tests.

Course Description: This course is designed for highly motivated students who have successfully completed Calculus BC and who wish to complete the study of topics covered in a third-semester college-level calculus course. Those topics include vector calculus, vector-valued functions, velocity and acceleration vectors to curves in the plane and in space, partial derivatives, multi-dimensional chain rule, gradients, Lagrange multipliers, extrema of functions of several variables, multiple integrals, surface integrals, divergence, curl, and path-independent line integrals.

STATISTICS

(1 Credit, prerequisite is successful completion of Algebra II)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Daily assignments, quizzes, tests, and projects.

Course Description: This course is designed to provide a basic understanding of descriptive and inferential statistics utilizing an engaging and hands-on approach. Topics discussed include displaying and describing data, the normal curve, regression, probability, statistical inference, confidence intervals, and hypothesis tests with applications in the real world. Students also have the opportunity to analyze data sets using technology.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT STATISTICS

(1 credit, prerequisite is teacher recommendation, C average or higher in Algebra II honors with Form 10 standing or C average or higher in Algebra II with Form 11 or 12 standing)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Graded assignments, quizzes, tests, projects, and exams.

Course Description: Advanced Placement Statistics is a college level course designed to prepare students to take the Advanced Placement Statistics Exam. Students cover such topics as: organizing and summarizing data; designing and simulating studies; linear regression and data transformations; the probability basis of statistical inference; confidence intervals, and hypothesis tests for proportions, means, tables, and regression. Statistical software is used, and a graphing/statistical calculator is required. Students are strongly encouraged to sit for the national AP exam in the spring.

COLLEGE LEVEL LINEAR ALGEBRA - DIRECTED STUDY

(.5 credit, Offered Fall Semester; prerequisite is teacher recommendation and successful completion of multivariable calculus)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Students work independently, but under the guidance and supervision of a faculty member, meeting weekly to ensure progress, clear up questions, check homework, and complete assessments. Major assessments include unit tests, quarter exams, and semester exams.

Course Description: Study of linear systems, vector spaces, linear maps between vector spaces, similarity, and diagonalization of matrices, eigenvalues, and eigenvectors.

COLLEGE LEVEL DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS - DIRECTED STUDY

(.5 credit, Offered Spring Semester; prerequisite is teacher recommendation and successful completion of Linear Algebra)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Students work independently, but under the guidance and supervision of a faculty member, meeting weekly to ensure progress, clear up questions, check homework, and complete assessments. Major assessments include unit tests, quarter exams, and semester exams.

Course Description: Study of Ordinary Differential Equations, which are equations whose solutions are differentiable functions. A general survey of linear differential equations, their solution spaces, and their connection to vector spaces

SCIENCE

Science courses are offered to develop scientifically literate and competent individuals. Students are prepared for professional work in science and related fields by receiving a broad background in science. All courses are laboratory-oriented.

Teachers have designed and identified skills and interests that have served students well in Honors and AP/College Level courses. Please speak with the Upper School Department Chair to understand to learn more about this if you're interested in an Honors or AP/College Level course.

Graduation Requirement: 3 academic credits in Science

PHYSICS I

(1 credit)

Course Description: The essential concepts of mechanics, properties of matter, waves, conservation laws, heat, light, sound, and modern topics in physics are covered. Students establish strong working definitions through an integration of these concepts using lab activities and observations of demonstrations.

PHYSICS I HONORS

(1 credit; prerequisite is teacher recommendation and successful completion of Algebra I)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Students need the ability to manage time on extended assignments. Reading, use of basic Algebra to solve physics problems, labs and informal reports, chapter tests.

Course Description: An in-depth coverage of the major areas of physics, emphasizing analytical skills and synthesis of ideas, is provided. Everyday examples are stressed to relate the theoretical and the practical. Hands-on investigations, which promote laboratory skills and communication of results concisely and clearly, are also emphasized. Students learn to realize that Physics applies to the world around them - in the world of art, entertainment, sports, energy, automation, transportation, astronomy, space science and Earth science, medicine, and technology and would realize several jobs rely on an understanding of physics. Students with a strong grasp of mathematics skills

and an ability to synthesize, organize, review, and analyze scientific data have experienced success in this course.

CHEMISTRY I

(1 credit; prerequisite is successful completion of Physics I)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Work completed on time, labs, quizzes or tests.

Course Description: This course focuses on the major concepts of chemistry by looking at contemporary chemical science and societal issues. Frequent, inquiry-based laboratories and student-centered activities will give students a balanced view of Chemistry and help them see how it will serve them in the world in which they live.

CHEMISTRY I HONORS

(1 credit; prerequisite is teacher recommendation and successful completion of Algebra I and Geometry with a B average)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Students need the ability to manage time on extended assignments. Also, inquiry-based labs, tests, and quizzes.

Course Description: Honors Chemistry is a course designed for the student who is interested in a career in the sciences. Topics are covered in a manner that enables the student to move smoothly into the next level of scientific study. Emphasis is on the synthesis of major unifying concepts and the development of laboratory skills. Students who can draw conclusions and apply those lessons towards larger concepts can synthesize and review important course material in notes and can collaborate with peers will find success in this course.

BIOLOGY I

(1 credit; prerequisite is satisfactory completion of Physics I and Chemistry I)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Strong note-taking skills, the practice of scientific research, laboratory practice, data collection, and analysis. Scientific presentations and laboratory reporting in both formal and informal methods. Open communication with the instructor, work completed on time, and self-regulated use of office hours, are encouraged for continued success in this course.

Course Description: Each unit will be introduced through the lens of contemporary events occurring

in the biology field from which to build unit material, offering an authentic and applicable lens into the world of biological science. The approach for the course will be student-centered and experiential-based, allowing for more robust connections, greater engagement, and therefore increased content mastery.

BIOLOGY I HONORS

(1 credit; prerequisite is teacher recommendation and successful completion of Physics I and Chemistry I)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Strong note-taking skills, the practice of scientific research, laboratory practice, data collection, and analysis. Scientific presentations and laboratory reporting in both formal and informal methods. Open communication with the instructor, work completed on time, and self-regulated use of office hours, are encouraged for continued success in this course.

Course Description: Each unit will be introduced through the lens of contemporary events occurring in the biology field from which to build unit material, offering an authentic and applicable lens into the world of biological science. The approach for the course will be student-centered and experiential-based, allowing for more robust connections, greater engagement, and therefore increased content mastery. In addition to the level course work, the honor biology track will include extensions to particular topics to help students better prepare for some of the more challenging areas of study within the AP Biology curriculum. Assessments, reports, readings, and questions will include extension sections that will increase the expectations for time management and potential outside-of-school work time needed.

ASTROPHYSICS

(.5 credit, Offered Spring Semester; prerequisite is successful completion of Algebra I and Physics I)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Some reading, labs, one end of course project about human settlement, short presentations in class about current events in Astronomy related news.

Course Description:

The subject of astrophysics is applying the basic principles of physics to understanding everything beyond the Earth's atmosphere. Since the Universe is a very large place, we cannot study every type of

object observed and theorized to exist in this block. This class will focus on learning the tools used by astronomers and physicists as applied to astronomy without too much emphasis on math. We will learn about how stars shine, how they form and evolve, different types of stars and stellar systems, the interactions between stars and planets around stars, and cosmology. The students also will have an opportunity to investigate any area of astrophysics that interests them and present their research to the class. The students should leave the course with the tools necessary to both understand and appreciate future discoveries in astronomy and astrophysics!

BOTANY

(.5 credit, Offered Fall and/or Spring Semester)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Hands-on plant handling and daily maintenance, regular outdoor activity participation, methodical data collection, and field journaling.

Course Description: Botany offers students hands-on experience in learning about the diversity of plant life. This semester-long course is offered as an elective course offering for Saint Mary's Hall curriculum requirements. It provides students the opportunity to become acquainted with the structure, function, reproduction, and growth of various plant varieties through careful experimentation, observation, and data collection. Additionally, it enables students to recognize the unique features that characterize each plant group, the patterns that link plant groups to each other, and the systems in which they grow. Students will participate in seeding, propagating, rooting, and harvesting their own selected plants, while using the natural Saint Mary's Hall campus landscape as a continuous resource.

PRINCIPLES OF ENGINEERING

(.5 credit, Offered Fall Semester; prerequisite is successful completion of Physics I and teacher recommendation)

Major Obligations of Coursework: An ability to use appropriate safety practices while working with tools and equipment - laboratory and mechanical activities. Applications of science and math concepts to determine the effect of stresses placed on a structure and its components - analogue modeling. Create an understanding of the design process and

an effective utilization of the principles of this approach to problem solving - analytics. Evaluate simple machines for the purpose of providing a foundation of analyses, interpretation, and techniques in skills development - bench testing and process measurements. Synthesize and communicate the results of experimental protocols and tested materials using scientific report practices - project design, production, and presentation

Course Description: Principles of Engineering is a single semester, survey-level course of fundamental engineering concepts. The course endeavors to familiarize students to the major topics encountered in a first-year, university engineering course. Students will have opportunities to advance problem-solving skills and grow an understanding of the subject through applications of analog modeling, investigative projects, and technical design. Individual and collaborative learning situations will challenge class participants to develop their respective creative abilities, interpersonal skills, and presentation proficiencies. Additionally, an outcome of this course is the empowerment of the student to cultivate effective strategies to direct their own learning and mastery of analytical techniques.

COLLEGE LEVEL RESEARCH SCIENCE SCHOLARS

(.5 credit, Offered during the Summer Session with expected 40 hours of lab engagement during the academic year; prerequisite is successful completion of Physics I, Chemistry I, and acceptance into the program through the application process)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Application, Creation of resume and cover letter, 2 week Summer Training course with extended laboratory work, homework, reading of important scientific literature, formal lab reports, quizzes, tests, journal club presentations during the academic year and a final capstone presentation of student research work at the end of the school year.

Course Description: This is a course where students learn about the human endeavor of scientific research, foundational laboratory skills, how to evaluate results using statistical analysis, and how to plan, implement, perform, and communicate research findings.

There are three components to this program: classroom work, an independent research project, and an off-site internship in a certified laboratory. Space is limited in this course, and interested

students must complete an application to be considered.

METEOROLOGY

(.5 credit, Offered the Spring Semester; prerequisite is successful completion of Physics I)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Reading; some online exploration and research about weather in various subcontinents; Labs; Projects exploring how human activity has changed the weather on the Earth.

Course Description: Meteorology-the study of weather- is a grand puzzle. From the swirling winds to the transformation of water vapor into clouds, each meteorological event is a tremendously complex interaction of forces and factors. Embark on a fascinating foray into this complex and enthralling field. Beyond weather forecasting, meteorology is concerned with long-term trends in climate and weather and their potential impact on human populations. An important area of meteorological research these days is climate change and the effects it may cause. We will explore the often surprising workings of the weather in this course.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT CHEMISTRY

(1 credit; prerequisite is teacher recommendation and successful completion of Chemistry I with a B+ average)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Extended laboratory work, formal lab reports, quizzes, and tests.

Course Description: Advanced Placement Chemistry is a college-level course designed to prepare the student to take the Advanced Placement Examination. Students cover such topics as atomic structure, bonding theory, instrumentation, thermodynamics, equilibrium, acid-base theory, kinetics, and organic chemistry. Much of the time is spent in the laboratory to develop skills needed for scientific research. Students who can analyze and interpret lab results beyond linear relationships of variables and design their own procedures in a lab where appropriate find success in this course.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT BIOLOGY

(1 credit; prerequisite is a B average in Chemistry I Honors or A average in Chemistry I, and teacher recommendation)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Extensive reading; collaborative and independent laboratory work, use of College Board AP Classroom resources, ability to manage time effectively.

Course Description: Advanced Placement Biology (Biology AP) is a college-level course designed to prepare the student to take the AP Biology exam. Emphasis is given to a variety of topics within the categories of cellular and molecular biology, organismal biology, and population biology. Preparation for the national AP examination is included. Students comfortable with engaging in formal lab reports, analyzing statistics, and effectively using course resources, including AP classroom, have found success in this course

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

(1 credit; prerequisite is successful completion of Chemistry I, and teacher recommendation)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Summer reading; extended laboratory and field work, extensive use of College Board AP Classroom resources

Course Description: AP Environmental Science is a college level integrated study of ecology and environmental issues. In addition to the fundamental concepts of ecology, students will study a wide range of environmental concerns, connections, and solutions. Topics will include the structure and function of ecosystems, population dynamics, climate, water resources, global food resources, biodiversity, energy resources, and environmental economics and politics. The significant laboratory portion of this course will include fieldwork on water quality, plant and animal population studies, and local environmental monitoring. Students comfortable with producing formal lab reports; including pictures, charts, graphs, captions, and resource citations, have found success in this course.

COLLEGE LEVEL ORGANIC CHEMISTRY

(1 credit; prerequisite is successful completion of Chemistry I)

Major Obligations of Coursework: College Level coursework, completion of formal lab reports, various practice drawing molecules and reactions, tests, quizzes, and formal lab reports.

Course Description: This course is designed to be equivalent to a college-level organic chemistry course. We will study chemical nomenclature, reaction mechanisms, and synthesis of carbon-based compound, acid/base chemistry, stereochemistry, and functional groups. This course is designed for students with a passion for chemistry who plan to study organic chemistry more closely for their intended college major. Students will have a combination of lectures and written practice in drawing chemical structures and will learn various lab techniques. Students comfortable with producing citations for all background information, drawing conclusions for larger concepts, and can conceptualize and visually represent three-dimensional objects should consider this course.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT PHYSICS

(1 credit, prerequisite is successful completion of Chemistry I and completion or concurrent enrollment in AP Calculus AB or AP Calculus BC, and teacher recommendation)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Reading; Labs about one per week; critical analysis of data and errors; Problems and problem solving. Tests one per chapter, One project per semester based on the concepts learned in that semester

Course Description: The AP Physics C Mechanics is a calculus-based, college-level physics course, especially appropriate for students planning to specialize or major in one of the physical sciences or engineering or some life sciences and applied sciences. Students cultivate their understanding of physics through classroom study and activities as well as hands-on laboratory work as they explore concepts like change, force interactions, fields, and conservation. The use of mathematics, including calculus, algorithms, and computers as tools to help interpret and explain physical phenomena, will be emphasized throughout the course. The computer will also be used where appropriate to use and analyze data. Students comfortable with describing the effects of modifying conditions

COMPUTER SCIENCE

INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER SCIENCE: CODING AND PROGRAMMING

(.5 credit, Offered Spring Semester; prerequisite is successful completion of Algebra I with an A or better)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Introductory coding in Python, coding and applications in JAVA Script, introduction to Data Analytics using R

Course Description: The Introduction to Computer Science Course is for those students who wish to gain experience in Computer Science but have little or no formal coding experiences. Students will learn syntax-based programming languages such as Python and JavaScript. Students will also learn introductory data analytics through the application of R. Ultimately, the outcome of this course is to learn fundamental coding, and an appreciation of data analysis and a fundamental knowledge of computer programming skills and technical applications.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT COMPUTER SCIENCE A

(1 credit; prerequisite is teacher recommendation and successful completion of Algebra II Honors or Introduction to Computer Science: Coding and Programming)

Major Obligations of Work: Programming assignments, classwork, quizzes, tests, summer assignment.

Course Description: AP Computer Science A is an introductory college-level computer science course designed to prepare students to take the Advanced Placement Examination. Students develop their understanding of coding through analyzing, writing, and testing code as they explore concepts such as variables, modularity, control structures, and simple data structures. Programming assignments are written in JAVA. Students who have an interest in knowing how and why technology works and possess an attitude of perseverance experience success in this course.

COLLEGE LEVEL DATA STRUCTURES AND ALGORITHMS

(1 credit; prerequisite is successful completion of AP Computer Science A and teacher recommendation)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Programming assignments, classwork, quizzes, and tests.

Course Descriptions: Data Structures and Algorithms is a college-level computer science course in which students study the specifications and implementations of data structures and their related algorithms. Data structures studied include sets, maps, stacks, queues, lists, heaps, interfaces, and abstract classes. Sorting, selection, and searching algorithms are explored together with an analysis of algorithm efficiency. Programming assignments are written in JAVA. Students interested in pursuing a career in the STEM field and who can persevere through challenges find success in this course.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Through a thoughtful framework, the Upper School Social Studies Department aims to inspire lifelong learning in our students, challenging them to interrogate points of view, becoming critically aware and reflective of their own assumptions, and proactive about initiating positive change within themselves and in the world around them. Our students see the interconnectedness of disciplines and engage in meaningful discourse grounded both in evidence and in the language of social science to apply learning to new and unfamiliar contexts. Courses spiral in development of critical thinking skills that equip our students for success in college and cultivate habits of mind that prepare them for fulfillment in life.

Graduation Requirement: 3 academic credits in Social Studies.

GLOBAL STUDIES I & II

(1 credit; prerequisite is successful completion of 8th grade)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Instruction will focus on research, historiography, classical and post-classical history with an emphasis on key historical figures and major concepts. Skill development is an emphasis in Form 9 with the focus primarily on research, reading, writing, speaking, and organizational skills. Students will be expected to maintain course materials, to complete quizzes and unit tests, and to make use of office hours.

Course Description: In the first year of this two-year Global Studies course, students will combine the study of current events with geographic, cultural, and historical topics. The course begins with National History Day, a student-driven investigation of any topic in history using primary & secondary sources to make a historical argument. Students can choose how they present their research in the form of a website, exhibit, documentary, performance, or paper. In the second quarter, the course investigates the development of classical and post-classical societies. The historical scope begins with classical empires and ends with a study of cross-cultural interactions from 1,000-1,500 CE. Students focus on the similarities and differences among the world's faith traditions, the impact of technology and demography, societal systems of structuring authority and gender, and cultural and intellectual

interactions within and among societies. The goals of instruction include helping students to: see global patterns over time, sense where and why change has occurred, develop the capacity to compare and contrast societies, understand the variety of faith traditions across the world, develop an awareness of human similarities and differences, and understand the unique historical contexts that have contributed to culturally diverse ideas and values.

GLOBAL STUDIES III & IV

(1 credit, prerequisite is satisfactory completion of Global Studies I & II)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Students will use their knowledge of the physical and cultural geography of the world and continue their chronological and thematic study from 1200 C.E. through the twentieth century. Instruction will focus on historical facts, major concepts, and skill development with a continued focus on reading, writing, speaking, research and organizational skills. Students will be required to maintain course materials, complete quizzes and unit tests, and to attend review sessions as scheduled.

Course Description: Global Studies III & IV focuses on comparative history and culture from 1300 C.E. to the present. The goals of this second year of Global Studies are similar to those of the first year and, as students progress in their study, they organize new information within the thematic framework introduced in Global Studies I & II. Form 10 students study how societies after 1300 C.E. – 2000 C.E. interacted via trade, war and diplomacy; how each historical era consisted of both change and continuity; how both technology and demography impacted societies; how various faith traditions impacted societies across time; how societies structured status and gender; how intellectual and cultural characteristics defined various eras, and how nation-states have emerged. These themes are the basic threads of the two-year Global Studies course and provide students the concepts and detailed facts requisite for developing a global perspective.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT WORLD HISTORY

(1 credit; prerequisite is teacher recommendation and an A- or higher average in Global Studies I & II)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Throughout the academic year, students will read college-level texts and complete substantial writing assignments.

Course Description: Course content is presented in both a thematic and chronological manner. The course begins with 1200 C.E. as a breakpoint in world history due to the intensification of international contacts among Asia, Europe, Saharan, and sub-Saharan Africa. This AP course, the second year of a globally-focused history, is organized into four chronological units: 1200-1450 C.E., 1450-1750, 1750-1900, and 1900 to the present. Major course themes within each chronological unit include the following: systems of international exchange, war, the impact of technology and demography, and the impact of faith traditions within nations and in cross-cultural exchange, societal systems of structuring authority and gender, and cultural and intellectual interactions within and among societies. These themes are the basic threads of the AP World History course and link what is particular about each historical period into a larger global framework.

MODERN UNITED STATES HISTORY

(1 credit; prerequisite is satisfactory completion of Global Studies III & IV)

Major Obligations of Coursework: This course involves reading primary and secondary sources, oral presentations of historical material and ideas, and the development of essays and projects.

Course Description: Students engage in a survey of U.S. history providing a wide array of examples regarding the formation of an American national identity. Students examine political issues, economic forces, intellectual trends and social movements. The majority of this course is spent in the 20th century and continues into contemporary issues. Analysis of music, film, magazines, and artifacts of many types adds to this humanities-infused examination of U.S. History.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT UNITED STATES HISTORY

(1 credit; prerequisite is teacher recommendation and an A- or higher average in Global Studies III & IV)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Throughout the academic year, students read college-level texts.

Students will complete extended reading, writing, and research requirements each quarter.

Course Description: This course concentrates on a fast-paced study of the United States history from European exploration to the present. Course content is presented primarily in chronological order emphasizing political, social, and economic history. A primary purpose of the course is to prepare students for the AP Examination as well as college-level history courses. Reading assignments are longer and more complex than those to which students are accustomed and include both primary and secondary sources. Students will have the opportunity to take the AP United States History Exam in the Spring.

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

(.5 credit, Offered in Fall and/or Spring Semester)

Major Obligations of Coursework: During the school year, assigned work includes readings about governmental theory from a survey text, a seminar to include analysis of landmark Supreme Court decisions, one project and discussions on current events both national and international.

Course Description: This course will help students understand our current political plan by first examining the original design outlined in the Constitution, and then analyzing the way amendments and court decisions have altered that framework. Students will examine the many complex forces that continue to shape American government. What happens when environmental groups file lawsuits? What are the impacts when corporations donate large amounts of money to campaigns? Presidents have grabbed more power since our founding – how has Congress allowed that to happen? States try to check federal power, but when have they succeeded? Citizens feel the impact of all of this. So do people in other countries who conduct trade with the US or wish to emigrate here. This course helps students understand their own rights, the limits of government, and how to engage in the political process as concerned citizens and future change makers.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

(1 credit, Offered in Fall and/or Spring Semester; prerequisite is successful completion of United States History)

Major Obligations of Coursework: This college level course demands student preparation before class. Assigned readings from the text as well as primary documents required by College Board are expected regularly. In addition, selected pieces in current media will be assigned each quarter. Students will be expected to analyze and discuss complex systems that make up our American political framework. A legal seminar, a polling project, one test per quarter and a final are the major assessments included in AP Government and Politics.

Course Description: This course examines in detail the origins and evolution of the United States government, how it works, as well as the constitutional theories which form the basis of our political system. Additionally, Supreme Court decisions which have and continue to influence the system are studied in depth. Finally, political trends and issues that reflect and impact public policy are analyzed. Students will have the opportunity to take the AP U.S. Government and Politics Exam in the Spring.

ESSENTIALS OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

(.5 credit, Offered in Fall Semester)

Major Obligations of Coursework: This college-level course will require project-based learning, with students working on a project throughout the semester. Students should be prepared to present ideas, give peer feedback, conduct interviews, record individual and team videos, and embrace creating a business idea to expand and research. There are no textbook readings; research and experiential learning are mandatory.

Course Description: This experiential course introduces students to entrepreneurial mindset and skills where they'll learn data-driven entrepreneurial practices, including Lean Startup, customer discovery, and design thinking as they execute individually and in teams on idea generation, customer interviewing, financial modeling, MVP development, and business model design and validation.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ECONOMICS

(1 credit, Offered in the Spring Semester; prerequisite is successful completion of United States History)

Major Obligations of Coursework: This college-level course demands longer and more complex reading and writing assignments than those to which some students may be accustomed. Students will participate in seminars, prepare and deliver oral presentations, and become familiar with the new concepts and mathematics involved in an introductory college-level economics course. Each unit will involve multiple readings and interpretation of narrative and mathematical data. Additionally, students will monitor current economic news using daily editions of national newspapers and/or other electronic news sources.

Course Description: This course follows the guidelines of an entry-level college course in macroeconomics. It studies in detail: the economic choices and functions of the individual, economic decision-making processes, and the roles of both consumers and producers within a capitalist economic system. The role of the market, the interplay between price and demand, and the uses of governmental monetary and fiscal policy are other key elements in this course.

INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY - A

(.5 credit, Offered in the Fall Semester for Form 10-12 Students)

Major Obligations of Coursework: One text is required with reading assigned for each unit of psychology. A lab in Montessori, a research project on an eminent psychologist, occasional reading quizzes and two tests per quarter are standard. One project in the developmental unit and one interview in the nature and nurture unit should be expected. Discussion is heavily emphasized.

Course Description: This course conforms to the core curricular recommendations of both the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) and the American Psychological Association (APA), and is designed to introduce students to the basic concepts and theories of psychology. Students will learn about the stages of human development and how personality, parenting, culture, family and social relationships, can affect development. Students will explore issues pertaining to mental health as well as the causes and treatment of mental disorders. Research on learning, the brain and behavior

modification will be emphasized. Other important goals of this course are to provide a full array of psychological information to assist students in making decisions, and to improve students' understanding of human motivations and behaviors.

INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY - B

(.5 credit, Offered in the Spring Semester for Form 12 Students)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Participating in discussion is a strong feature of this course. Assigned chapters in the text as well as readings from database articles authored by scholars in psychology will be posted and later assessed. One presentation and one independent project will be required. There is no final exam.

Course Description: While this course is limited to seniors, taking Introduction to Psychology-A is not a prerequisite. This course conforms to the core curricular recommendations of both the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) and the American Psychological Association (APA).

Topics unique to *Intro to Psychology-B* include, but are not limited to: a study of consciousness, which includes research on sleep and dreams, sleep disorders and sleep deficit, as well as substances that alter consciousness and how they can be abused. Second, how the brain learns and how memory is formed - why it can fail and how to improve memory are covered. Third, how gender and sexuality are researched, have been viewed historically, and are impacted politically and mentally has focus in the second quarter.

JUSTICE AND POLITICS THROUGH FILM HONORS

(.5 credit, Spring Semester Only; prerequisite is successful completion of two years of Upper School History)

Major Obligations of Coursework – class time will be divided between watching each required film, followed by discussion of the essential questions detailed in the course description. Discussion skills are paramount as well as student generated inquiry as to themes, relevance and impact of the film's deliverables. Several short writing assignments are to be expected in each quarter. One independent project on a film chosen from a selected list is planned in quarter two. There will be assigned readings from a college level text.

*Films have been carefully reviewed and chosen for their value to the course objectives. Some films carry an 'R' rating; therefore, students should consider their readiness to engage the themes presented in the films selected for this course.

Course Description: This honors level course will tap into the art and substance of film to learn about government and power, focusing on issues of justice – social, legal and political. Critical questions we will consider: How much power should the government have? What are the effects of war, and when is war justified? How do the media and their reporting of the news shape society and affect the quality of a democracy? How fair is the criminal justice system? How does government taxing and spending contribute to equity deficits? Lastly, how does the medium of film contribute to things like bias, stereotype, and misinformation? Students will apply critical analysis skills to determine the forces in politics as presented in selected contemporary films and consequently, seek to determine the solutions to these thorny and complex issues facing leaders and citizens.

COLLEGE LEVEL HISTORY OF MODERN AFRICA

(.5 credit, Offered Fall & Spring Semesters; prerequisite is teacher recommendation and successful completion of two years of Upper School History)

Course Description: This college level course surveys the political and economic history of Africa spanning from the late nineteenth to the present. The first section of the course examines the dynamics of imperialism of Africa at the end of the 19th century, especially its socio-economic and political consequences. The second section looks at the rising tide of African nationalism through the first half of the twentieth century. The third section examines postcolonial states, focusing on the politics of development, the Cold War, neo-colonialism, and globalization. The last section examines the prospect for democratization in Africa, analyzes the development of radical Islam, and takes a critical look at the aid movement. History of Modern Africa is an introductory college level course and requires no prior knowledge of African history. The course is structured around discussions, and students are expected to complete the readings so they can contribute to the discussion.

World Languages and Cultures

Saint Mary's Hall offers studies in French, Latin, and Spanish. Through language study, students acquire communication skills and explore languages within the context of their respective cultures. All language courses are designed to: provide students with a heightened understanding of and sensitivity to the nuances and norms of a culture other than their own; develop a second language proficiency and communicative competence in all four language skills—reading, writing, speaking and aural comprehension. AP classes are offered in all languages. All Upper School students must successfully complete a third-year level Upper School language course, and take a world language at least through the sophomore year.

Graduation Requirement: Up through Level III of a language.

French Language and Culture

FRENCH I LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

(1 credit)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Formal and informal oral and written assessments, unit tests, quizzes, auditory evaluations and projects.

Course Description: French I is aimed to introduce students to the French language and culture as well as the French speaking world. French is spoken in the classroom as much as possible in order to strengthen students' aural comprehension and to promote oral proficiency. Varieties of activities encourage students to use simple conversation in everyday situations, and students are expected to master the application of the models of correct colloquial speech. Paired and group activities facilitate the development of communicative skills. Visual aids, videos, and written workbook activities supplement the text. Other activities may include playing *pétanque*, learning about *la galette des rois* (King's cake), creating a poster about a French-speaking country and creating a family tree. Students' performance is formally tested through quizzes, oral presentations, and written tests. Students are encouraged to build self-confidence and to be challenged by participating in different contests such as the National French Contest and La Journée de la Francophonie, both in the spring.

FRENCH II LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

(1 credit, prerequisite is successful completion of French I)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Formal and informal oral and written reports. Unit tests, quizzes, auditory evaluations; major projects per quarter and various reports.

Course Description: French II is an intermediate course. French is spoken exclusively in the classroom. Emphasis is placed on proper pronunciation and further development of aural comprehension, oral proficiency, writing, and grammatical and reading skills. Paired and group activities facilitate the mastery of communicative skills in real-life situations whenever possible. CD's, visual aids, videos, written activities, and workbooks as well as a leveled reader - *Les lettres de mon Moulin* - supplement the text to further develop linguistic and cultural fluency through literature. Students' performance is formally tested through quizzes, oral presentations and written tests. Students are encouraged to participate in different contests such as the National French Contest and La Journée de la Francophonie, both in the spring. These contests help build students' self-confidence and challenge them.

FRENCH III LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

(1 credit; prerequisite is successful completion of French II)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Formal and informal oral and written reports. Unit tests, quizzes, auditory evaluations; major projects per quarter and various reports.

Course Description: French III is an Intermediate/Advanced course. French is spoken exclusively in the classroom. Refinement and further mastery of linguistic models and the completion of the grammatical base will be accomplished. Students become able to use French in realistic, everyday situations, utilizing the four skill areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Paired and group activities are based on real-life situations to the fullest extent possible. CD's, visual aids, videos, written exercise workbooks, and short stories or excerpts from a variety of literary sources as well as a leveled reader - *Poursuite dans Paris* - supplement the text in order to further develop linguistic and cultural fluency. Students' performance is formally tested through quizzes, oral presentations and written tests. Students are encouraged to participate

in different contests such as the National French Contest and La Journée de la Francophonie, both in the spring. These contests help build students' self-confidence and challenge them.

FRENCH III LANGUAGE AND CULTURE-HONORS

(1 credit; prerequisite is successful completion of French II with an A average, recommendation of instructor)

Major Obligations of Course Work: Students will be expected to read and write more frequently and at a more advanced level in addition to all minor and major assessments. Students will be expected to participate fully in class discussions using the target language.

Course Description: French III Honors is an Intermediate/Advanced course. French will be used exclusively in the classroom. It is expected that students enrolled in this course intend to pursue their study of French beyond the third year course. Refinement and further mastery of linguistic models and the completion of the grammatical base will be accomplished. It is also expected that students will achieve a higher level of comprehension and integration of grammatical and vocabulary structures for mastery and production. Students will concentrate on developing the four skill areas of listening, reading, writing and speaking. CD's, visual aids, videos, and written exercise workbooks, and short stories or excerpts from a variety of literary sources as well as a leveled reader - *Poursuite dans Paris* - supplement the text in order to further develop linguistic and cultural fluency. Students' performance is formally tested through quizzes, oral presentations and written tests. Students are encouraged to participate in different contests such as the National French Contest and La Journée de la Francophonie, both in the spring. These contests help build students' self-confidence and challenge them.

FRENCH IV LANGUAGE AND CULTURE THROUGH LITERATURE AND FILMS (with embedded honors option)

(1 credit; prerequisite is successful completion of French III or French III Honors)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Formal and informal oral and written reports. Unit tests, quizzes, auditory evaluations; major projects per quarter and various reports.

Course Description: Students will refine their conversational skills, their comprehension and production of grammatical concepts and increase their knowledge and use of vocabulary and idiomatic expressions. They will practice the four skills tested by the AP Language and Culture examination: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. This course is designed to provide the level of skill practice required in an exit class or a bridge to the AP Language and Culture course. Ancillary materials will include CD's, newspapers, magazines and films such as *Les Choristes* (The Chorus) and *The Phantom of the Opera* to accompany the study of the novel *Le Fantôme de l'Opéra* by Gaston Leroux. Students will also read the famous novel *Le Petit Prince* (The Little Prince) by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. Over the course of the year, students will be asked to present a brief history of a neighborhood and its famous monuments in Paris using Google Street view. Students are encouraged to participate in different contests such as the National French Contest and La Journée de la Francophonie, both in the spring. These contests help build students' self-confidence and challenge them.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT FRENCH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

(1 credit; prerequisite is successful completion of French IV with an A average or B+ in French III Honors and recommendation of instructor)

Major Obligations of Course Work: Students are expected to complete all assignments by dates due. Students are expected to attend class and follow attendance guidelines stated in the Student Handbook. **Summer Reading Recommendation:** Please see Summer Reading on the MS/US Library page on the SMH Portal.

Course Description: Students work towards attaining conversational fluency in everyday, nontechnical situations, the ability to respond to factual and analytical timed questions based on a visual prompt, a level of listening comprehension enabling them to understand most of what a native speaker says in ordinary situations and the ability to make themselves understood by means of the appropriate use of colloquial expressions and circumlocution, an accent that does not hinder comprehension, and the skills necessary to write a coherent, well-organized essay on a topic of current interest incorporating correct grammatical and idiomatic usage. Supplementary materials will include excerpts of films (*Paris, The Class*) audio

recordings, newspapers, and magazines, excerpts from works of francophone authors or short works such as short stories, short novels and AP practice materials. Students are encouraged to participate in different contests such as the National French Contest and La Journée de la Francophonie, both in the spring.

COLLEGE LEVEL FRENCH V FILM AND LITERATURE

(1 credit; prerequisite is successful completion of French IV, or Advanced Placement French Language and Culture)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Evaluation is done through quizzes, essays, exams, oral presentations, and class participation.

Course Description: This course invites the student to explore the world of imaginative and fantasy literature /film via the short story/novel through the vision of French authors and cinema. The class introduces the students to the works of Colette, Edmond Rostand, Guy de Maupassant, Jeanne-Marie Leprince de Beaumont, and Marcel Pagnol. This course also explores the art of narrative film such as *La Belle et la Bête*, *Jean de Florette*, *Manon des Sources*, *Les Intouchables*, *Une hirondelle a fait le printemps*, *Le Goût des autres*, and *Entre les murs*. This course engages students in refining advanced language skills—writing, reading, listening and speaking and leads them in an exciting adventure leading to second-language acquisition through film and literature. Students are encouraged to participate in different contests such as the National French Contest and La Journée de la Francophonie, both in the spring.

Latin Language and Culture

LATIN I LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

(1 credit)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Participation in interscholastic contests is encouraged, but optional. The National Latin Exam is required. Assessment is done by quizzes, projects, and tests.

Course Description: Students will use the Cambridge Latin Course Units I and II. Unit I focuses on the city of Pompeii, and weaves culture and archaeology into a Latin plot-line concerning a typical Pompeian family, and their daily lives leading up to the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius. Unit II follows the fortunes of two characters who survived Unit I

through Britain and Alexandria, Egypt. Language and culture acquisition is reinforced by the extensive use of multimedia resources, including: many short documentaries enhancing the cultural themes of each chapter; video dramatizations of stories; and many interactive activities to aid, consolidate and assess understanding. Readings on Roman and Greek mythology will supplement core course material. Students will have the opportunity to focus on an academic topic such as mythology, history, or culture, and to play competitive Certamen (a classical quiz-bowl) at the local, state and national level. Participation in one Junior Classical League event (either the February Area Convention or the State Convention in March or April) is strongly encouraged. All students take Level 1 of the National Latin Exam in March.

LATIN II LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

(1 credit; prerequisite is successful completion of Latin I)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Participation in interscholastic contests is encouraged, but optional. The National Latin Exam is required. Assessment is done by quizzes, projects, and tests.

Course Description: This course is a continuation of Latin I or IB. After a brief review, students will constantly reinforce and build their reading skills and increase the size of their vocabularies. The text for the course is the Cambridge Latin Course Unit III. The intrigue of the continuous story line returns to Roman Britain and then goes on to the city of Rome itself. The study of Roman culture is extensive. Students will acquire an understanding of the formative developments of the Roman world, e.g. the founding character of the Romans, how the Roman republic became an empire. Individual cultural topics studied at this level include the city of Rome, religion and philosophy, the military and technology, the baths, and the structure of Roman society. Regarding mythology, there is also an emphasis on the nature of the underworld, which is a component of the National Latin Exam syllabus. Select movies are viewed and analyzed, including *Masada* and *Gladiator*. All essential Latin grammar is covered at this level, including the participles, infinitives, and the subjunctive. Participation in one Junior Classical League event (either the February Area Convention or the State Convention in March or April) is strongly encouraged. All students take Level 1 of the National Latin Exam in March.

LATIN II LANGUAGE AND CULTURE-HONORS

(1 credit; prerequisite is successful completion of Latin I with an B+ average, recommendation of instructor)

Major Obligations of Coursework: quizzes and tests, and Participation in Junior Classical League contests and the National Latin Exam. Assessment is done by quizzes, projects, and tests.

Course Description: This course is designed for those students who have completed Latin I at the distinguished level described above. The text for the course is the Cambridge Latin Course Unit III. The continuous story line of the text is replete with adventure and drama as we move through the province of Roman Britain to the city of Rome itself. The study of the cultural material is extensive, and students will acquire an understanding of how the Roman republic became an empire. The study of Roman culture is extensive, and students will acquire an understanding of how the Roman republic became an empire. Individual cultural topics studied at this level include the baths, the military, the city of Rome, religion, and the structure of Roman society. Regarding mythology, there is also an emphasis on the nature of the underworld, which is a component of the National Latin Exam syllabus. Select movies are viewed and analyzed, including Masada and Gladiator. All basic Latin grammar is covered in this course including participles, infinitives, and the subjunctive. At this level, there is an emphasis not just on the development of reading skills and a large Latin vocabulary, but reading fluency and interpretation of Latin texts.

LATIN III LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

(1 credit; prerequisite is successful completion of Latin II)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Participation in interscholastic contests is recommended, but optional. The National Latin Exam is required. Assessment is done by quizzes, projects, and tests.

Course Description: In the first part of this course, students will complete their grammar education and will work to build their reading skills as they transition from textbook Latin to authentic Latin literature. The emphasis is on strategies for reading and discussing the Latin of Martial, Catullus, Vergil, Horace and Ovid. Cultural and grammatical studies based on these authors enhance enjoyment and understanding of the ancient texts read. Broader areas of Roman culture continue to be emphasized. These cultural topics include the last century of the Roman republic,

the nature of Latin poetry, the political and cultural background for Augustus and the Principate, and the geography of the Roman world. There is an emphasis on understanding the formal aspects of Latin literature including the artistry of Latin word-order, and genres of literature.

LATIN III LANGUAGE AND CULTURE HONORS

(1 credit; prerequisite is successful completion of Latin II with an A average or Latin II Honors with a B+ average, recommendation of instructor)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Participation in interscholastic contests and the National Latin Exam. Assessment is done by quizzes, projects, and tests.

Course Description: This course is designed for students who have done well in Latin II and contemplate taking Latin IV or AP Latin the following year. The course objectives are the same as the regular Latin III class; however, the pace is accelerated and there is more reading and discussion of original Latin literature. The focus of the course is on strategies for reading and evaluating the Latin of Catullus, Martial, Vergil, Horace, and, especially, Ovid. Cultural and grammatical studies based on these authors enhance the enjoyment and understanding of the ancient texts. Cultural topics include the last century of the Roman republic, the nature of Latin poetry, the political and cultural background for Augustus and the Principate, and the geography of the Roman world. There is an emphasis on the formal aspects of Latin literature including the artistry of Latin word-order, figures of speech, and genres of literature. Students will also practice introductory conversational skills, building their knowledge of Dickinson College's 1000 most common Latin words, strengthening their ability to produce Latin. This is a pre-AP course.

LATIN IV LATIN LITERATURE THROUGH THE AGES (with embedded honors option)

(1 credit; prerequisite is successful completion of Latin III or Latin II Honors)

Major Obligations of Coursework: The National Latin Exam is required. Assessment is done by quizzes, projects, and tests.

Course Description: The Latin IV course is an advanced reading course, which students who are not going into the AP course may elect to take after completing the Latin III or Latin III Honors course. The bulk of the readings in the course will be drawn from

the Augustan Age and the Early Principate (i.e. the Silver Age), but some attention will also be paid to later non-Roman use of Latin in the Medieval period and the Renaissance. Students who successfully complete this course may progress either to AP Latin or to Latin V.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT LATIN LITERATURE: CAESAR AND VERGIL

(1 credit, prerequisite is successful completion of Latin III Honors with an B+ average or Latin IV with an A average, recommendation of instructor)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Students are required to read through all the Latin passages from Vergil's *Aeneid* and Caesar's *Gallic Wars* listed on the College Board's AP Latin Syllabus. The AP syllabus also requires students to read books 1,2,4,6, 8, and 12 of Vergil's *Aeneid* and books 1, 6, and 7 of Caesar's *Gallic Wars* in translation. Students will write analyses and essays based on the AP Latin passages and the books of Vergil and Caesar required to be read in translation.

Course Description: This course follows the AP Latin curriculum as set forth by the College Board. The material to be read in Latin is from the *Gallic Wars* of Caesar and the *Aeneid* of Vergil. The format of both the course and the AP exam includes sight reading and cultural studies. The College Board recommends, and so we examine, the following seven themes for working with the Latin texts: literary genre and style, Roman values, war and empire, leadership, views of Non-Romans, history and memory, and human beings and the gods. In addition, students read portions of the *Gallic Wars* and the *Aeneid* in English translation (books 1,2,4,6, 8, and 12 of Vergil's *Aeneid* and books 1, 6, and 7 of Caesar's *Gallic Wars*). The texts for the course are *Caesar, Selections from his COMMENTARII DE BELLO GALLICO* edited by Mueller and *Vergil's Aeneid, Selected Readings from Books 1, 2, 4, and 6* edited by Boyd, and the accompanying workbooks.

COLLEGE LEVEL LATIN V MYTH, RELIGION, & HISTORY

(1 credit; prerequisite is successful completion of Latin IV or AP Latin, recommendation of instructor)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Students will complete weekly reading comprehension quizzes, vocabulary quizzes, formal presentations, analytical discussions and essays, and concluding unit tests.

Course Description: This course is a broad survey of Greco-Roman myth and history as it appears in a number of Latin authors. Readings will be drawn from multiple sources and various time periods ranging from archaic Latin fragments all the way through the Latin of the Renaissance. Students will be given a chance to explore in depth the narratives which the Romans constructed to explain their world, as well as the ways in which their myths and literature were adapted and received following the fall of Rome. Texts read in class will include (but will not be limited to) selections from Propertius' poetry, Ovid's *Fasti*, Petronius' *Satyricon*, Suetonius' *Lives of the Caesars*, Augustine's *Confessions*, and Boccaccio's *Genealogy of the Pagan Gods*.

Spanish Language and Culture

SPANISH I LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

(1 credit)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Formal and informal oral and written reports. Unit tests, quizzes, auditory evaluations.

Course Description: Spanish I is a first-year introductory program aimed at preparing students to communicate in Spanish—converse with others, express their own ideas in writing, and read and understand what others have written. The course follows a communicative approach to language learning that emphasizes developing proficiency and communicative competence in all four language skills—speaking, listening, reading, and writing. In addition to helping students to acquire the Spanish language, the course also helps prepare them to interact socially and professionally with native Spanish speakers by helping them understand the cultural assumptions of the Spanish-speaking world, the cultural norms of these diverse societies, and their growing importance in the global community. Each chapter in the program is organized around a cultural or practical theme, with grammar, vocabulary, and culture working together as an interactive unit. Paired and group activities will serve as an opportunity to create an interactive learning atmosphere, in which all learners are fully engaged in grammatical and idiomatic lessons. Students are required to participate in the National Spanish Exam.

SPANISH II LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

(1 credit; prerequisite is successful completion of Spanish I)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Formal and informal oral and written reports. Unit tests, quizzes, auditory evaluations.

Course Description: Spanish II serves as a continuation of Spanish I as it prepares students to better communicate in Spanish: to converse with others, express ideas in writing, and to read and understand what others have written. The course follows a communicative approach to language learning that emphasizes developing proficiency and communicative competence in all four language skills—speaking, listening, reading and writing. Audio and visual aids are used to supplement the materials. Students have access to their textbook online which offers audio and video activities that enhance listening comprehension, speaking and pronunciation skills, as well as additional written practice on grammar structures. Each chapter in the program is organized around a cultural or practical theme, with grammar, vocabulary, and culture working together as an interactive unit. Paired and group activities will serve as an opportunity to create an interactive learning atmosphere, in which all learners are fully engaged in grammatical and idiomatic lessons, students will have the opportunity to work on research projects and make oral presentations to the class. There is also a literary and film study component that is an integral part of this course. Students will read a variety of literary works, and will also study two films in Spanish. Students are required to participate in the National Spanish Exam.

SPANISH II LANGUAGE AND CULTURE HONORS

(1 credit; prerequisite is successful completion of Spanish I with an A average, recommendation of instructor)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Formal and informal oral and written reports. Unit tests, quizzes, auditory evaluations. In addition to the formal assessment, students will also write short story narratives focusing on creativity, grammar structures and style.

Course Description: Spanish II Honors serves as a continuation of Spanish I as it prepares students to better communicate in Spanish in all four-language skills—speaking, listening, reading and writing. In addition to helping students to acquire the Spanish language, the course also helps them understand

the cultural assumptions of the Spanish-speaking world. Each chapter in the program is organized around a cultural or practical theme, with grammar, vocabulary, literary study, film and culture working together as an interactive unit. Paired and group activities will serve as an opportunity to create an interactive learning atmosphere. Students will build on skills acquired in previous Spanish courses to establish a firm foundation upon which to advance their language ability.

Additionally, students venture making projects to reinforce grammatical structures and real-life communication simulations in the target language. Students are required to participate in the National Spanish Exam,

SPANISH III LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

(1 credit; prerequisite is successful completion of Spanish II)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Formal and informal oral and written reports. Unit tests, quizzes, auditory evaluations, and some projects.

Course Description: The Spanish III course consolidates and expands previously acquired content and skills, offering students an opportunity to acquire and enhance their communication, listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills in Spanish while developing an awareness and appreciation of Hispanic cultures. Cultural awareness will be heightened and language proficiency—risk taking, elegance of expression, accuracy of form, and elaboration of thought—will be increased through the use and discussion of authentic texts, literary selections, video segments, cultural vignettes, music, painting, architecture and short lectures. Paired and group activities will serve as an opportunity to create an interactive learning atmosphere, in which all learners are fully engaged in grammatical and cultural lessons. Students are required to participate in the National Spanish Exam.

SPANISH III LANGUAGE AND CULTURE HONORS

(1 credit; prerequisite is successful completion of Spanish II Honors with an A-, recommendation of instructor)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Formal and informal oral and written reports. Unit tests, quizzes, auditory evaluations; major projects per quarter and various reports.

Course Description: This course primarily prepares students for the AP Spanish Language and Culture course and is conducted completely in Spanish. It provides a continuation of language acquisition in the four skills from Spanish II Honors with increasing expectations in language production. While the first semester is mainly dedicated to making a full review of the simple tenses, the second semester emphasizes and deepens into the study of the subjunctive mood (present and past) and its contrast with the indicative tenses, as well as the study of the perfect tenses and the conditional clauses. The students read, summarize, analyze and discuss authentic selections, discuss current events and other cultural topics to increase vocabulary and grammatical accuracy. Students will also develop writing skills and continue reading literary texts. Students are required to participate in the National Spanish Exam.

SPANISH IV LANGUAGE AND CULTURE THROUGH ART AND LITERATURE (with embedded honors option)

(1 credit; prerequisite is successful completion of Spanish III or Spanish III Honors)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Formal and informal oral and written reports in Spanish. Unit tests, quizzes, auditory evaluations. Students will read selected stories pulled from different sources and authentic materials. Spanish IV is an ideal course for students wishing an additional year of language study before entering one of the AP Spanish courses or those who wish to be challenged but not wanting to take on another AP course.

Course Description: The primary objective of Spanish IV is the particular focus on contemporary literature and art as well as written and oral proficiency with refining grammatical comprehension. Mastery of basic grammatical structures and enhanced reading comprehension skills and vocabulary development is based on teaching language through conversations, literary study, as well as film study. Paired and group activities

will serve as an opportunity to create an interactive learning atmosphere, in which all learners are fully engaged creating different art expressions that represent Hispanic culture. Spanish is spoken exclusively in the classroom. Students are required to participate in the National Spanish Exam.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT SPANISH LANGUAGE & CULTURE

(1 credit; prerequisite is successful completion of Spanish III Honors with a B+ average or Spanish IV with an A average, recommendation of instructor)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Oral and written formal and informal reports in Spanish. Unit tests, quizzes, auditory evaluations, literary analysis of major works and film study are integral components of AP Spanish Language & Culture as well as participation in language contests and cultural activities.

Course Description: The AP Spanish Language & Culture course covers the equivalent of a third-year college course in advanced composition and conversation. It encompasses aural/oral skills, reading comprehension, grammar, composition, culture, and literature around the six central themes of the exam: Family and Communities, Science and Technology, Beauty and Esthetics, Contemporary Life, Personal and Public Identities. AP Spanish Language & Culture students are encouraged to take the Advanced Placement Language examination in May; taking the AP exam is optional for seniors. Students are expected to become independent learners as they become more proficient in the language. Extra reading and grammar lessons may be required to meet the demands of this rigorous course. Students are required to participate in the National Spanish Exam.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT SPANISH LITERATURE & CULTURE

(1 credit; prerequisite is successful completion of AP Spanish Language and Culture with a B+ average, recommendation of instructor)

Course Description: This college-level course to literature is designed to introduce students to the formal study of Peninsular Spanish, Latin American, and U.S. Hispanic literature. The course aims to develop students' critical reading and analytical writing skills in Spanish as well as their ability to make interdisciplinary connections and explore linguistic and cultural comparisons. Literary texts are grouped by themes and presented in chronological order within each theme. Students are expected to discuss literary texts and their different historical, socio-cultural and geopolitical contexts in a variety of interactive oral and written formats in Spanish. Additionally, students will analyze themes and features of artistic representations, audiovisual materials and audio sources in Spanish related to course content. The content of the course is determined by the guidelines published by the College Board. AP Spanish Language & Culture Students are expected to become independent learners as they become more proficient in the language. Extra reading and grammar lessons may be required to meet the demands of this rigorous course. Students are required to participate in the National Spanish Exam.

COLLEGE LEVEL SPANISH V A CULTURAL STUDY OF LATIN AMERICA AND SPAIN THROUGH FILM, ART AND LITERATURE

(1 credit, prerequisite is successful completion of Spanish III (reserved only for F11 with A or higher), Spanish IV, Advanced Placement Spanish Language, and/or Advanced Placement Spanish Literature with a semester average of C- or higher)

Major Obligations of Coursework: Evaluation is done through quizzes, essays, oral presentations, and class participation. Several creative writing assignments are also integrated into the coursework.

Course Description: This course offers the opportunity for students to continue developing their Spanish skills in the three modes of communication without the AP extensive requirements. The students will gain appreciation of Hispanic culture through films, art, and literature. Students will discover some unique elements of Spanish culture that will help them to understand their practices and perspectives. Class discussion and presentations, which allow students to improve their fluency, are the predominant class activities and serve as the primary means of assessing student performance. The homework load is limited and consists mainly of reading in preparation for class activities. This course is conducted entirely in Spanish. Students are required to participate in the National Spanish Exam.

***NOTE: The Saint Mary's Hall Upper School Curriculum Guide is subject to change at any time. Final interpretation of the Curriculum Guide and its content will be made by the Head of the Upper School.