

CATALOG

New and Notable

ACADEMIC Course Catalog

2024
2025



New and Notable Courses 2024-2025

ENGLISH

Creating Graphic Novels

Graphic Novels span space, time, culture, and medium to tell their stories. In this interdisciplinary class, we will step inside the world of graphic novels and learn the techniques needed to bring this hybrid art form into the world. Through reading, writing, designing, and drawing, we will grow in both visual and textual literacy, better understand the craft of storytelling, and work together to create our own graphic novel while reading the works of artists and writers who have brought this genre to life.

Jewish-Arab Literatures

In this class, students will survey 3,000 years of Jewish and Arab literatures and cultures. The themes covered in the course will include origins of the Jews and Arabs in the ancient world; coherence and diversity of Jewish and Arab experiences; Jewish and Arab narratives and textual traditions; interactions among Jews, Arabs, and other cultures; and tensions between tradition, modernity, and postmodernity. Students will read texts spanning from the Torah, Talmud, and Quran to the most current writings of Jonathan Safran Foer and Riad Sattouf. The genres in which students read and write may include memoir, fiction, biography, poetry, religious texts, researched arguments, and graphic novels.

Man vs. Man: The Literature of War

Much of the world's literature throughout history has dealt with the theme of war and conflict. From ancient texts such as Homer's epic poem *The Iliad* through Shakespeare's *Henry V* to 20th century masterpieces by Hemingway, Vonnegut, and others, the subject of war has inspired writers to look at it in a variety of ways in order to better comprehend human nature. Students will read a variety of texts with an emphasis on placing works in their historical context.

Modern Myths: The Afterlife of Classical Literature in Contemporary Culture

Love, betrayal, war, vengeance—these themes dominate our books and movies, but they have their origins in the myths, poems, and drama of classical civilizations. This course will study the various ways that classical myths, characters, and stories get reinterpreted and adapted in modern media, including in novels, graphic novels, film, and art. The course will focus primarily on Greek and Roman literature but may also include myths from other cultural backgrounds, such as African, Indian, and Asian. Evaluation will be based on reading, class discussion, and writing assignments both brief and long. This class fulfills part of the requirement for the Certificate in Classical Studies—Literature Track.

Reading and Writing Poetry

Although primarily a writing class, students will also read and explicate famous poems written in various forms and from different time periods in order to practice the art of writing poetry of their own and to develop their own voice in verse.

Recycled Writing

Recycled Writing is both a theme and a process for this course. As a theme, students will explore materials like metals and plastics, movements like the Green Party of the United States, and environmental methods like reducing, reusing, and recycling. Students may consider: is vegan leather more sustainable than traditional leather? How does one incorporate repurposed material into everyday life? Can a city ordinance reduce a carbon footprint? As a writing process, students will learn how to reuse and recycle their own writing. Writers develop more efficient and creative processes with time and effort, and students in this course can expect to revise, reimagine, and repurpose their work into new and unexpected forms.

Sports Journalism

The Sports Journalism class introduces students to the basics of journalism through writing about sports. Students write articles covering sports events using the traditional inverted pyramid method of newspaper writing and focusing on the who, what, where, when, why and how of each story. Students will also research and read published sports articles in order to develop appropriate diction and style of writing for their own coverage of professional sports events, including published articles about Eagle Hill School athletics events.

The Butterfly Effect

Like a butterfly that flaps its wings to eventually cause a typhoon, words written across time and space have influence upon other words. All texts are connected by intertextuality, which examines the relationships between books. In this course, students will examine how literature “listens” and “speaks back.” Jesmyn Ward, for example, loved William Faulkner’s *As I Lay Dying* but wrote *Sing, Unburied*, *Sing* as a response to some of his characters. If a Virginia teenager hadn’t read Jack London’s *The Call of the Wild*, Jon Krakauer might never have written Chris McCandless’s biography, *Into the Wild*. By reading Euripides’s *Medea*, how can we have a greater appreciation of Gillian Flynn’s *Gone Girl*? Geoffrey Chaucer and Margaret Atwood, Charles Dickens and Barbara Kingsolver, C.S. Lewis and Neil Gaiman: authors have always been referencing, rewriting, and responding to each other, and students who enroll in *The Butterfly Effect: Books in Conversation* will gain greater understanding of the connections between literary works.

The Literature of Stephen King

In this class we’ll examine literary techniques in the work of one of the world’s most popular genre writers, Stephen King. By considering both King’s short novels and his memoir on writing, we’ll explore how literary craft underpins the success of these best-selling narratives.

The Meaning of Life

Basically, everyone reaches a point in their lives when they ask themselves, “What is life really all about?” or “Isn’t there more to life than what I have been experiencing?” This is a very personal and, at times, a painful question. This course addresses some answers given by historical cultures, diverse religions, schools of philosophy, and even science fiction.

Writing for Publication

Have you started a big story and need time to write with the guidance of an experienced editor? Do you have a completed manuscript that you’d like to get published, but you know it’s rough and you need help

with editing and proofreading? Would you like to be able to share your writing with your peers and a supportive teacher—and hear their constructive criticism? Do you have a great idea for an essay, or a group of poems, or a film script, but haven't started turning that idea into reality? If any of these apply to you, Writing for Publication may be your course. This course invites students to consider as part of their writing aesthetics, ethics, electracy, materiality, and curation across literary forms.

Writing The Past, Writing The Future

The Writing Our Past, Writing Our Future course intends to open a space of curiosity for students to dive into the process of creating contextual knowledge, developing their agency as citizens of a diverse world, and strengthening their voices as writers who contemplate and change the communities around them. By examining and “reading” multicultural artifacts, ephemera, multi-modal texts, and objects from the past and present, students will have an opportunity to imagine how they can impact the future by creating multi-genre texts and building their repertoire of communication styles to strengthen their voices as agents of change.

Writing Popular Culture

In Writing Popular Culture, students will continue to develop writing and critical thinking skills by studying various elements of popular culture. Students will examine media, social media, film, television, advertising, trends, etc., analyzing the social impact of such popular culture elements using critical thinking and writing skills, semiotic analysis, and reference to primary and secondary source documents. Projects may include research, persuasive writing, reflection, creating mock advertisements and social media posts, and analysis, allowing students enrolled in the class to consider the impact that exposure to such content has on their own daily lives and perspectives, as well as how this content influences the world around them.

HISTORY

Southcentral America: Caribbean Coasts

This is a one-term course highlighting the culture and biodiversity of both coastal and inland regions of Costa Rica and Panama. The course will investigate the unique flora and fauna of Costa Rican jungles as well as the diverse marine life inhabiting the shallow coastal waters. Students will have the opportunity to learn about Pre-Columbian history and how early European settlers influenced the current diversity and culture of Costa Rica and Panama. Students will research and discuss the history and construction of the Panama Canal.

MATHEMATICS

History of Mathematics

A discussion and writing intensive course mainly following the text *Mathematics and Its History* by John Stillwell. Students will select a particular mathematical idea or school to study in more depth and create a report of their research to be shared in the course. The course is suitable for interested students in Algebra I or beyond. Students will be required to keep a journal for the course.

PRAGMATICS

Education Foundations

This course introduces teaching as a profession in the American education system. It will offer a variety of perspectives on education including historical, philosophical, social, legal, and ethical issues in a diverse society. The course will include practical application using the school's peer tutoring program, which includes understanding the role of a peer tutor, the relationship between the student and peer tutor during tutoring sessions, the ethics of peer tutoring, and effective study strategies, including the use of assistive technologies. During the course, students will learn theory and instructional practices for peer tutoring, and will participate in and reflect upon role-plays of peer tutoring sessions. Students who take this class will be given priority consideration for peer tutoring positions after successful course completion. Students who are thinking about a career in education and those who would like to be a peer tutor may be interested in taking this course.

Resilience and Well-Being

The Resilience and Well-Being course is designed to assist students in understanding stress and how it impacts their lives. Students are introduced to the protective factors that build resilience and combat stress, in addition to deeper exploration in their daily well-being habits. A variety of strategies and stress-reducing techniques are also introduced, including meditation, box breathing, and journal writing. Other topics include identification of one's emotions, problem solving, and expression. Skills are practiced in class and through structured homework assignments.

READING

Comprehension Imagery

The Comprehension Imagery course covers the multi-sensory, explicit, sequential learning of the art of concept imaging in order to increase the ability to form pictures or movies in one's mind while reading. This skill expands language/reading comprehension, reasoning, critical thinking and expressive language skills. Students who have an underdeveloped ability to picture and remember scenes while they read, dramatically affecting comprehension, memory and critical thinking.

Reading and Writing Technology Tools

In this course, students will be introduced to extensions, apps, and technology websites that assist in reading and writing. The course will introduce Snap & Read, Co:Writer, Learning Ally, and Speechify, as well as other helpful tools depending upon students' academic needs. Any student who would benefit from assistive technology for academic success in reading and writing should consider this course.

Selected Short Stories

The Selected Short Stories course provides an opportunity for students served by the reading department to continue sharpening their vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension skills. Through carefully selected literature, students will continue to foster a love of reading while exploring short stories. This course can be used as a precursor for literature courses in the English department.

SCIENCE

Introduction to Marine Ecology

This course emphasizes the principles, concepts, and terminology involving the study of marine ecology. Human effects on the ocean environment are the central theme of this curriculum. Students will investigate how climate change impacts tropical and polar ocean ecosystems. Plastic pollution and unregulated fishing practices are also investigated. Students will collaborate on real-world solutions that they can participate in to promote healthier ocean ecosystems. Note: this course addresses advanced concepts.

Zoological Oddities

Zoological Oddities is a one-term course challenging students to define what it means to be classified as an animal and then use that definition to seek out the oddballs of the animal kingdom. Students will discover a host of organisms they never knew existed or at least never recognized as being animals like us. A host of unusual invertebrates, both terrestrial and aquatic, serve as the subjects of our investigations. Students will have the opportunity to see how new species of animals are discovered and named and how we may be in a race for time to discover new zoological oddities before they disappear forever.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

Beginning Drawing and Beyond

This course will introduce the basic principles, elements, and practices of drawing, employing a wide range of subject matter and drawing media. The course will focus on perceptually based drawing, observational methods, technical abilities, and creative thinking. The goal of this course is to give students practical drawing methods through drawing different subject matters: animals, figure drawing/character design, still life/props, landscape/worldbuilding, portraiture, vehicle design, etc. This course will also enhance the drawing fundamentals important for further creations like design, illustration, painting, and sculpture.

Eagle Hill Jam

Eagle Hill Jam aims to bring together Eagle Hill's experienced performing musicians and provide a learning experience to improve musicianship and ensemble skills. Musicianship includes developing advanced performance technique, an intermediate understanding of music theory, and an appreciation for the history of music. Ensemble skills include building community, learning productive ways to collaborate with other musicians, and programming interesting recitals and concerts. To develop these skills, students will focus on applying Eagle Hill's core values of honesty, respect, kindness, and purpose to practice, create, and perform diverse music. Students will be assessed on their commitment to daily practice and regular presentations and performances.

Instrument Explorations

In Instrument Exploration, students will develop an intermediate understanding of music theory while exploring a variety of instrument families. This course will focus on the piano and guitar, exploring melodic and harmonic functions of each instrument. Students will also explore electronic instrumentation, the rhythmic percussion family, and a variety of instruments from around the world.

Classroom practice, discussion, and presentations will provide opportunities to evaluate the exploration and understanding of each instrument.

Introduction to Comic Making

This course will cover the comic-making process through three short-length major projects. The first project will ask students to create a one- page, six-panel self-portrait comic using the basic sequential narrative design. The second will require students to find a preexisting text— song lyrics, an excerpt from a movie or animation script, a part of a novel, for example—and then make it into a five-page comic. The final project will ask students to write and illustrate their own original story in a five to six-page format. Students will have more freedom in the final project. Each project will feature a cycle of smaller assignments that focus on the following parts of comic creation: brainstorming, researching, scriptwriting, character design, thumbnails, penciling, inking, lettering, and use of colors/gray tones. The goal of this course is to provide an experience of making comics to give students an overall sense of visual storytelling. Students will become familiar with each phase of creating a comic that can be helpful inside and beyond the classroom as well as for career-building as a professional artist in the future.

Performing Arts Exploration

In Performing Arts Exploration, students will spend time exploring dance, music, and theater in unique ways. The course will begin with a basic review of each discipline. Through conversation, exploration, and creative assignments, students will help determine the different elements of performance their section covers. Topics may include, STOMP!, a capella and chant, improvisation, song and dance games, and scene development. The students' understanding and engagement in the performing arts will be evaluated on class participation, willingness to collaborate and create, and regular presentations.

WORLD LANGUAGES

American Sign Language II

The American Sign Language II course continues the study and practice of basic skills initiated in ASL I with a focus on the development of ASL conversational skills and storytelling. While vocabulary acquisition will continue to be addressed, additional emphasis will be placed on grammatical principles and function as well. Appropriate cultural behaviors and conversational regulators in ASL will continue to be an important part of the class. Readings, activities, and class discussions will familiarize students with deaf culture and social issues related to the deaf community.